

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 13 March 2019 at 5:00 pm in the URC Committee Room.

- Present:** Councillors Nicholas Hinde (Chairman), Andy Bennett, Richard Freeman, Frances Marshall and Peter Rose. Two members of the public were also present.
- H19/01 **Public Forum**
01.1 Speedwatch Group – It was suggested that the PC should finance the installation of speed cameras on key routes in Felsted to address the speeding issue. Members responded that whilst such cameras were likely to be effective, only the Police could install speed cameras and the PC had no power to do so. Such cameras were usually installed at accident black spots so the criteria would not be met in Felsted. Members noted that a further Speedwatch site had been applied for near the Braintree Road/ Garnetts Lane junction. The Chairman recorded his thanks to all members of the Speedwatch Group for their time and effort. Cllr Andy Bennett suggested that regular updates be placed on the PC website detailing the number of vehicles reported to Essex Police by the Group.
01.2 Footpaths - The P3 co-ordinator provided an update on the condition of various footpaths as follows: Footpaths 69 and 110 (Jollyboys Lane North to Bannister Green) had still not been re-instated after sowing. This had been reported to ECC but no action had been taken to date. Footpaths 116 and 44 at Bannister Green and Footpath 108 at Cock Green had all been re-routed and the new routes were now clearly marked. Bridleway 79 (Mill Road to Chelmsford Road) had been cleared by the Uttlesford Footpath Group and was much improved. Footpath 80 at Trewint, Chelmsford Road – The temporary closure had been renewed as the building works on the site were ongoing. The Committee agreed to continue to actively monitor progress at this site.
- H19/02 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
All members were present. There were no Declarations of Interest.
- H19/03 **Minutes of meeting held on 12 December 2018**
The Minutes were approved and were signed by the Chairman.
- H19/04 **Matters arising from the December meeting**
04.1 Clearing of culverts in Station Road (Item H18/36.1) – The drain opposite Glendale, Station Road which was full of silt had been reported to ECC Highways.
- H19/05 **Parish Paths Partnership (P3)**
Members noted that the first working group had taken place on 27 February and this had concentrated on vegetation clearance. Unfortunately approval was still awaited from ECC for the first schedule of works but future working groups would be arranged as soon as this was obtained. It was agreed to supply photos and details of future work undertaken by the P3 Group to Cllr Andy Bennett for the PC website.
- H19/06 **Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications**
06.1 Outstanding application for 2015-16
Main Road, Willows Green second VAS sign – This scheme would be held in reserve in case unused funds were available at the financial year end.
06.2 Applications for 2016-17 - The applications submitted for the 2016-17 financial year (Double yellow lines in Stebbing Road / school zig zags outside Prep School / Stebbing Road-Braintree Road junction Keep Clear / 20mph zone at Primary School) were still awaiting full assessment by the ULHP.
06.3 Applications for 2017-18 - The applications submitted for the 2017-18 financial year (HGV restriction on Molehill Green Road, reduction of speed limit at Hartford End to 30mph and installation of a second post, at Watch House Green, for the mobile VAS sign) were awaiting full assessment by the ULHP.
06.4 Application for 2018-19 - The application submitted for the 2018-19 financial year (for a third post for the mobile VAS sign to be sited facing west within the 30mph zone outside Felsted Primary School) was awaiting full assessment by the ULHP.
06.5 Application for 2019-20 – The application submitted for the 2019-20 financial year (to install double yellow lines for a distance of 10m around the corners of Watch House Green to prevent parking and ease traffic congestion) was awaiting full assessment by the ULHP.

H19/07

Highway Ranger work

Members noted that the Highway Rangers had been requested to repaint the Village Crest, cut back the grass encroaching on the pavement in Chelmsford Road south of Bakers Lane and to cut back the hedges at Peaks Hall Lane at Crix Green. It was agreed that the Clerk would produce a schedule of signs requiring cleaning and request that this be undertaken by the Highway Rangers too.

H19/08

Potholes and Highways maintenance work

Members noted that the Village Attendant had erected the bollards to prevent vehicles parking on the corner of Watch House Green (near the post box) and he had also re-dug the gullies across the verges of Rayne Road in the dip near The Vineyard and opposite Thorpes at Crix Green. Two new batteries had been sourced and purchased for the VAS sign in Station Road. It was agreed to ask the Village Attendant to look into the possibility of digging out the gullies outside Helpestons Manor and The Molehill in Hollow Road to alleviate flood problems.

Members noted the following ongoing signage problems which had/would be reported to ECC:

- a) Opposite Lower Rays Farm, Molehill Green Rd, Willows Green –30mph sign knocked over
- b) Opposite Silverleys, Rayne Road, Gransmore Green – ‘Pedestrians on carriageway’ sign partially knocked over
- c) Station Road – Bends sign knocked over
- d) Gransmore Green hamlet sign - Knocked over and now missing
- e) Hartford End (far side of bridge) – 30mph sign knocked over
- f) Near Bridgehouse Farm, Hollow Road - Road name sign broken
- g) Between Swards House and A120 bridge, Stebbing Road – ‘Gateway structure’ knocked over on left hand side

The Clerk agreed to check if road repairs at Bartholomew Green were shown as imminent on the ECC Interactive Map.

H19/09

Community Speedwatch

Following the transfer of data processing of the Speedwatch Logs to the main Police computer, all sites were again operational. The Group were undertaking 2 sessions each week but had recently recorded significantly lower numbers of speeding vehicles, hopefully because more drivers were now adhering to the speed limits. The Clerk would calculate how many motorists had been reported to the Police in total, for inclusion on the website.

H19/10

Other Urgent matters and items for the next Agenda

10.1 Faded yellow lines in Station Road outside Linsells - The Clerk would report that these lines needed repainting urgently as they were barely visible.

10.2 Overflowing litter bin beside Telephone Box at Bartholomews Green - The Clerk would check who was responsible for emptying this bin and make the necessary arrangements.

10.3 Installation of a zebra crossing in Stebbing Road – Felsted School requested support from the PC for their request to install a zebra crossing on Stebbing Road, at their own expense, for the safety of pupils. Well over 1000 pupils crossed Stebbing Road, from the main school campus to the Riche Hall, daily for their meals and this posed a significant safety issue. The PC had always supported the construction of a crossing and agreed to obtain further background information from Felsted School and write to the Chairman of ECC Highways, Kevin Bentley requesting him to reconsider the matter.

10.4 Request for litter bin where Flitch Way crosses Stebbing Road (Tin Bridge) -

Members considered the request but because this was not an official parking area and was on private land, they decided that it was not a suitable site for a PC litter bin. They suggested that the Flitch Way Group should be approached instead.

10.5 New vehicle access created opposite The Bungalow, Causeway End Road - The Clerk informed members that a vehicle access had been created across the ditch without the benefit of the necessary permissions from ECC Highways. ECC had been informed and were investigating the problem.

H19/11

Next Meeting

The Chairman thanked everyone for their input and noted that this would be the last Highways Committee meeting during the current Parish Council term.

The meeting closed at 6.18 pm. Next meeting to be held on 10 July 2019 at 5pm.

..... Committee Chairman

10 July 2019