

## FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 8 July 2020 at 5:00 pm using the Zoom online platform

- Present:** Councillors Richard Freeman, Alec Fox and Frances Marshall.  
No members of the public were present.
- H20/01 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**  
Apologies had been received from Cllrs Andy Bennett and Peter Rose. There were no Declarations of Interest.
- H20/02 **Public Forum**  
No members of the public were present.
- H20/03 **Minutes of meeting held on 13 November 2019**  
Members noted that Item H19/29.2 (e) should have referred to a 40 mph sign which had been knocked over. With this amendment, the Minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting held in person.
- H20/04 **Matters arising from the November meeting**  
**04.1 New vehicle access created opposite The Bungalow, Causeway End Road (Item H19/25.1)** – The Chairman reported that this matter had been taken up by the Full Council. ECC Highways had given permission for the temporary vehicular access to remain until January 2021. An application to build residential dwellings on the site had been refused by UDC but an appeal had been lodged.  
**04.2 Request for wildflower blocks in grass verges (Item H19/25.2)** – Members noted that the PC had accepted a quotation to create a wildflower block in Braintree Road, between Mansard House and Buckcroft. However approval for a residential development on the field at the rear of the verge in question, had resulted in the project being postponed until after any building works had been completed.
- H20/05 **Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications**  
The Clerk provided an update as follows:  
**05.1 Outstanding application for 2015-16 – Second VAS sign at Main Road, Willows Green** – The ULHP had previously agreed to undertake a new traffic survey but this had been delayed until at least September 2020, because of the Coronavirus restrictions.  
**05.2 Applications for 2016-17** - The applications originally 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) had not yet been fully considered by the ULHP. However informal indications were that the junction Keep Clear was likely to meet the necessary criteria but that the Primary School 20 mph zone would not meet criteria because the approach to the school already had flashing warning signs in place. Members considered that a 20mph zone would be more effective at slowing traffic than the existing signage and this view would be relayed back to the ULHP.  
**05.3 Applications for 2017-18** - The applications originally 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. However informal indications were that the HGV restriction at Willows Green was likely to meet the necessary criteria but that the settlement pattern at Hartford End would not meet the criteria for a 30 mph speed restriction. In the circumstances Members agreed that a 'gated Hartford End sign' might be an alternative, as it would have a significant visual impact and consequently slow traffic speed. This view would be relayed to the ULHP. Members noted a resident's letter that had been received requesting information on the application to reduce the speed limit to 30mph at Hartford End.  
**05.4 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.  
**05.5 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.  
  
Members noted that the mobile VAS sign (currently located in Station Road) was no longer operational and investigations had concluded that it could not be repaired. The ULHP had been made aware of the situation and a response was awaited.

H20/06

**Highway Ranger work**

Members noted that the Highway Rangers team no longer included suitably skilled staff to undertake the repainting of the Village Crest. It was agreed to advertise in Felsted Focus for a volunteer artist to complete the work, with the PC providing all materials. If no volunteer came forward then a commercial quote would be sought to repaint this important sign.

H20/07

**Potholes and Highway maintenance work**

The Clerk provided an update on Highway works since the last meeting:

**07.3 Pothole on northern edge of the Road with No Name, Bannister Green** – Cllr Alec Fox reported that these repairs had been completed earlier that day.

**07.4 Leez Priory direction sign in Chelmsford Road** – Members noted that the Village Attendant had turned the sign so it was pointing in the correct direction. The Clerk would report that the base of this sign was corroded.

**07.5 Highway signage problems** –

- 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 knocked over and no longer visible because of overgrown hedge
- c) Station Road – Bends sign knocked over
- d) Gransmore Green hamlet sign - Knocked over and now missing
- e) Hartford End (far side of bridge) – 40mph sign knocked over
- f) Near Bridgehouse Farm, Hollow Road - Road name sign bent
- g) UDC had been informed that the ‘gateway sign’ in Stebbing Road (near the A120 bridge) had been knocked over.

Members noted that items a) to f) had all been assessed as ‘routine maintenance’ by ECC.

**07.6 Yellow lines in village centre** – Members noted that the yellow lines from the Stebbing Road/ Braintree Road junction to The Swan crossroads had been repainted. However the faded lines on the pedestrian crossing in Braintree Road remained untouched. The Clerk explained that responsibility for marking lines was split between ECC Highways and the NEPP.

H20/08

**Community Speedwatch**

A new Speedwatch site in Braintree Road, near the Garnetts Lane junction, had been approved and come into operation. All Speedwatch activity had however been suspended by Essex Police in March 2020 because of the Coronavirus situation.

H20/09

**Parish Paths Partnership (P3)**

Members noted that P3 works had been suspended because of the Coronavirus situation. A secondhand brushcutter had been provided to the Group by ECC and this was currently being serviced and repaired to bring it into operational condition. In recent weeks, limited P3 work had been undertaken by a couple, who were both members of the P3 Group, and Members thanked them for their dedication during difficult times.

H20/10

**Other Urgent matters and items for the next Agenda**

**10.1 Cutting hedge alongside footpath to playing field (adjacent to Felsted Memorial Hall)**

– The owner of the newly built property to the east of the footpath had queried responsibility for cutting the hedge. The owner had offered to cut his side of the hedge and the Village Attendant would be asked to include 2 cuts of the footpath side of the hedge in his annual maintenance schedule going forwards.

**10.2 Grass verge outside The Old Telephone Exchange, Chelmsford Road** – During the Gransmore Meadow construction works vehicles had sometimes been parked on the wide grass verge opposite the site, including outside the Old Telephone Exchange. A resident had expressed concern that this would be repeated when the 2 bungalows were built on the neighbouring site. The developers of Gransmore Meadow had tidied and re-seeded the verge opposite at the end of the works and it was agreed to write to the developer and confirm that if any damage were caused to the verge during future works that the same making good process would be followed.

**10.3 Inhabited touring caravan sited in a residential front garden** – Members were not familiar with the rules covering this circumstance and suggested that contact be made with UDC Enforcement to clarify the situation.

H20/11

**Next Meeting**

The meeting closed at 6.01 pm.

Next meeting to be held on 11 November 2020 at 5pm.

