

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 13 July at 5:00 pm using the Zoom online platform

- Present:** Councillors Frances Marshall (Chairman), Andy Bennett, Richard Freeman, Alec Fox, Penny Learmonth. In attendance: Councillor Richard Silcock and Clare Schorah.
- H22/15 **ITEM 1. Public Forum**
There was one member of the public present.
- H22/16 **ITEM 2. Apologies for absence**
There were no apologies for absence.
- H22/17 **ITEM 3. Declaration of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest
- H22/18 **ITEM 11. Speeding in School Road, Bartholomew Green** - The Committee considered the issue of speeding in School Road in Bartholomew Green and has enquired about whether it would be possible to put traffic calming in place. The Assistant Clerk will contact Community Speed Watch to ask for the Speed Watch location at Concord Farm to be reassessed to monitor the speed in this area. *Clerks Note: This item was moved up the agenda due to to interest from the member of the public in attendance.*
- H22/19 **ITEM 12. Speeding in Jollyboys Lane** - The Committee considered the issue of speeding and Road safety on Jollyboys Lane. The Assistant Clerk will apply for 'Children Playing' and 'Riders on Horseback' signs in this location. *Clerks Note: This item was moved up the agenda due to to interest from Cllr Silcock who was in attendance.*
- H22/20 **ITEM 4. Minutes of meeting held on 1 March 2022**
The Minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting held in person.
- H22/21 **ITEM 5. Matters arising from the March meeting**
- 19.1 Faulty mobile VAS sign in Station Road (Item H21/14.1)** The Clerk has checked with a developer who needed to install one as a condition of Planning Permission but it needs to be in a specific location so it can not be changed for a mobile VAS for use elsewhere in the Parish. (22/62). The Clerk and Assistant Clerk will investigate grants available later in the financial year that could potentially assist a purchase of a mobile VAS. The Assistant Clerk will put this on the Highways Agenda in March 2023
- 19.2 Overgrown and uneven footpath surface in Chelmsford Road (Item H21/14.2)** This problem, affecting the pavement south of the Bakers Lane junction, had previously been reported to the ULHP. The Assistant Clerk had contacted Highways Rangers to arrange to get this organised. The Assistant Clerk has now sent the request to the Highways Liaison Officer and will contact Cllr Foley to ask for an update.
- 19.3 Speed Surveys (H21/14.05)** Following on from the Speed Surveys undertaken by Essex Highways in Felsted during November 2020 the Assistant Clerk is liaising with Community Speed Watch to ascertain whether new locations can be added to the rota.
- 19.4 Time limited parking in Station Road (H21/19)** It was agreed that the three car parking spaces owned by the owner of the village shop will be allocated as reserved parking for customers using the shop/post office with a 30 minute maximum parking time allowed within shop opening hours (21/228). There has been a meeting about the signage needed and the shop owner will be working with the village attendant to expedite the necessary signage.
- 19.5 Road closures (H22/13a)** A resident had contacted the Highways Committee about road closures and diversions on quieter roads. The Assistant Clerk contacted him to let him know that any official diversions for road closures will not go through lesser designated roads so any additional traffic on these smaller roads during road closures is not due to officially diverted routes.

19.6 Damaged Bin. (H22/13d) A bin near the bus stop on Braintree Road was damaged in the March storms and the Assistant Clerk contacted UDC waste department to report it to be fixed. The Assistant Clerk will chase this up.

19.7 County Councillor visit ((H22/13c) The following flooding sites were visited by an engineer, Cllr Foley and Cllr Harvey with a view to fix the underlying issues before winter:

- Causeway End
- Milch Hill
- Molehill Green

H22/22 **ITEM 6. Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications**

The Assistant Clerk circulated [this report](#).

H22/23 **ITEM 7. Highway Ranger work**

Members noted that the Highway Rangers team were now willing to meet on site to discuss projects. Assistant Clerk has contacted the team for the Chairman to meet the team to look at the overgrown pavement in Chelmsford Road (see Item above) in the hope of expediting the project. This has been sent to the Highways Liaison Officer and will be dealt with soon. The Assistant Clerk will contact Cllr Foley to ask for an update.

H22/24 **ITEM 8. Highway maintenance work**

The Assistant Clerk circulated [this report](#).

H22/25 **ITEM 9. a) Community Speedwatch Update**

The Community Speedwatch (CSW) group are carrying on with their activities. PCSO Natalie Smith and The Assistant Clerk joined a session at the beginning of June. The Assistant Clerk will write an article for the Felsted Focus outlining the work the group does and asking for more volunteers. They are currently managing about 5 or 6 sessions each month and are still observing incidences of vehicles driving at very high speeds within Felsted. Chelmsford Road has recorded the highest speeds – 48mph in March and April and 51mph in June.

b) Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Update

Over the past year the group has reported 50 faults on our paths to Essex Highways. A few of these have been dealt with but the group has had to check our cross field paths again as many were not reinstated within the allowed time frame. Most have now been done after Highways were alerted, but the same farmers need chasing every year. In recent weeks they have tackled the following:

- Cut the path the other side of the Mill, which is actually in Great Waltham parish but is used by Felsted residents. This is the third time that we have had to do this.
- Cut around the finger post and opened the field access to FP113 on Braintree Road.
- Cut the nettles on FP50 at Causeway End
- Opened up the copse on Station Road, FP55 and cleared vegetation from the finger post.
- Replaced twice the yellow discs on FP17 at Gransmore Green. Someone keeps removing them.
- Cut the section of FP1 from Stebbing Road bridge to the gate in the field. The foliage and nettles were over 6 feet high. This is on the Essex Cutting schedule but as there is no indication of when/if they are going to do it we tackled it ourselves.
- On July 8th we will complete this and also cut FP112 from Stebbing Road bridge to the junction with FP13 Little Dunmow
- On July 13th we are meeting the Flitch Way Group and doing a joint clearance on FP1 At Stebbingford. There is too much work for one group.
- There are a number of waymarks that need replacing but as yet we have not had the authorisation through from Nicky Coleman, despite chasing several times.
- Most of this work has been done by the group, although individual members are always armed with secateurs when they walk and we try to tidy up as we go!

The group is glad that their work is being noticed. They have ordered some more equipment -

another hedgecutter and strimmer. These are battery operated so much easier to carry across fields than the brushcutter which is heavy duty. They have also had to buy some more mixture for the brushcutter which we use where there is very dense growth.

At the Parish Assembly the P3 group asked for advice on how to deal with overgrowth on a section of following of Jollyboys Lane North, close to the junction with Bakers Lane, where the path is bounded by the ditch on one side and brambles on the other and is becoming inaccessible. Cllr Freeman advised that this had been cut back in June in preparation for the Jubilee celebrations so it may be more manageable to maintain in the future.

- H22/26 **ITEM 10. Safety at Thistley Bridge** – The Committee considered the issue of road safety near Thistley Bridge due to overgrown vegetation. The Assistant Clerk has contacted Essex Highways to report this and will apply for a 'Narrow Road' sign for this location.
- H22/27 **ITEM 13. Location of planned pedestrian crossing in Bury Farm Development-** The Committee considered the issue of a planned pedestrian crossing at the new Bury Farm development which will obstruct the entrance to an existing dwelling. The Assistant Clerk will contact Essex Highways to alert them to this.
- H22/28 **ITEM 14 Parking and Speeding (22/96.3 & 96.4)** - The Committee has been asked to consider the issues with speeding in the village and dangerous parking near the primary school. It has recently applied for double yellow lines around the corner of the primary school and there should be a new car park for the primary school as part of the planned development at Sunnybrook Farm (UTT/20/1882/FUL) to make it safer around the primary school. It will also continue to investigate purchasing a VAS. The Assistant Clerk will add this item to the next Highways Committee Agenda
- H22/29 **ITEM 15. Other urgent matters and items for the next Agenda**
a) The Assistant Clerk will report the speed limit signs that need replacing in Willows Green and Hartford End
b) The Assistant Clerk will report a broken pavement in Bannister Green.
- H22/30 **ITEM 16. Next Meeting**
The meeting closed at 6.05pm
- Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 9th November 2022 at 5pm

..... Committee Chairman