

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

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

- Present:** Councillors Richard Freeman, Andy Bennett, Alec Fox and Frances Marshall.
- H19/23 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Rose. There were no declarations of interest.
- H19/24 **Minutes of meeting held on 10 July 2019**
The Minutes were approved and were signed by the Chairman.
- H19/25 **Matters arising from the March meeting**
25.1 New vehicle access created opposite The Bungalow, Causeway End Road (Item H19/15.1) – Members noted that UDC Enforcement had opened a file to investigate this problem.
25.2 Resident’s request for wildflower blocks in grass verges (H16.2) – The full PC had agreed to create a wildflower block in a section of the verge of Braintree Road between Mansard House and Buckcroft. This work would be undertaken in the Spring. Members noted that the result of the current Go Homes planning appeal, for the site at the rear of this verge, may have an impact on this decision going forward.
25.3 Re-instating road markings at Watch House Green (Item H19.1) – Following the resurfacing works on Braintree Road in the summer, Members were pleased to note that all the road markings (yellow lines, school zig-zags and bus stop box) had been re-instated prior to the commencement of the Autumn school term.
25.4 Felsted Primary School works (Item H19.22.1) – Members noted that the builder’s plans to construct their compound across the chase, to the left of the school site, had not materialised.
- H19/26 **Public Forum** – No members of the public were present.
- H19/27 **Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications**
The Clerk had followed up past ULHP applications with ECC and been informed that copies of certain historic e-mailed applications had been lost. Updates were therefore as follows:
27.1 Outstanding application for 2015-16 – Second VAS sign at Main Road, Willows Green – In view of ongoing budget cuts, the ULHP were unlikely to have any unused funds available at the financial year end to implement this scheme. The October 2016 traffic survey had recorded an average vehicle speed of 34.8mph compared to the 35mph minimum criteria. The ULHP agreed to undertake a further traffic survey and reconsider the application in accordance with the latest survey results when they were available.
27.2 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) could not be located by the ULHP so had been re-sent by the Clerk. ULHP had acknowledged receipt.
27.3 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) could not be located by the ULHP so had been re-sent by the Clerk. ULHP had acknowledged receipt.
27.4 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.
27.5 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.
- H19/28 **Highway Ranger work**
Members noted that the Highway Rangers had been requested to repaint the Village Crest (this request was no longer on the system so had been resubmitted by the Clerk), cut back the grass encroaching on the pavement in Chelmsford Road south of Bakers Lane and cut back the hedges at Peaks Hall Lane at Crix Green. Members agreed that the cleaning of signage around the village would now be undertaken by the Village Attendant.
- H19/29 **Potholes and Highway maintenance work**
29.1 New problems to be reported -
Road with no name – Large pothole on northern side of the road near The Green.

Leez priory direction sign – The sign between Hartford End and the village had been turned around by traffic movement.

Pedestrian Crossing outside Prep School - The markings for the crossing in Braintree Road had severely faded and required urgent repainting to maintain the safety of the many schoolchildren who use it daily.

29.2 Signage problems - Members noted the following ongoing signage problems which had been reported to ECC Highways but where action was awaited. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase action on these items as many were longstanding:

- a) Opposite Lower Rays Farm, Molehill Green Rd, Willows Green –30mph sign knocked over
- b) Opposite Silverleys, Braintree 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) – 30mph sign knocked over
- f) Near Bridgehouse Farm, Hollow Road - Hollow Road name sign bent
- g) Between Swards House and A120 bridge, Stebbing Road – ‘Gateway structure’ knocked over on left hand side.

29.3 County Broadband works - Works to install a network of new poles to carry the new broadband service in the eastern section of the parish had been causing serious problems. Cllr Andy Bennett reported that the roadway at Bartholomew Green had been virtually blocked by the contractor’s vehicles (with large vehicles unable to pass). An ECC permit inspector had been called out and he had stopped all work until suitable road closure orders had been obtained. The poles were also being placed close to substantial trees and hedgerows which would require extensive tree works to maintain a clear path for the cables and so impact on the environment even further.

H19/30

Community Speedwatch

Members noted that the speed device had been returned to Essex Police for its annual recalibration check. On its return twice weekly sessions would be resumed with an average of 12 vehicles being reported at each session. One new volunteer was awaiting training.

H19/31

Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

Members noted that regular P3 sessions were now taking place around the village. One member of the Group would be attending a brush cutting course (paid for by ECC) to increase their capacity in future.

H19/32

Other Urgent matters and items for the next Agenda

32.1 Parking problems in Stebbing Road – A local resident had complained of cars parking in dangerous locations along Stebbing Road and Members agreed with her assessment of the problem. The PC had applied to the ULHP for yellow lines to be installed along part of Stebbing Road in 2017 but as there were currently no yellow lines at these locations the cars were not parking illegally and no action could therefore be taken.

32.2 Picnic tables at The Swan – Members noted that the land in front of The Swan building which fronts Braintree Road is actually owned by ECC Highways and is used for much needed short term public car parking. Two picnic tables had been placed on this land and it was agreed that the landlord would be asked to move these so as not to reduce parking capacity.

H19/33

Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 5.47pm.

Next meeting to be held in March 2020 (Date to be confirmed) at 5pm

..... Committee Chairman

March 2020