

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2016 at 5:00 pm in the URC Committee Room.

- Present:** Councillors Nicholas Hinde (Chairman), Andy Bennett, Richard Freeman, Frances Marshall and Peter Rose.
- H16/32 **Public Forum**
No members of the public were present.
- H16/33 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
There were no apologies or Declarations of Interest.
- H16/34 **Minutes of meeting held on 14 September 2016**
The Minutes were approved and were signed by the Chairman.
- H16/35 **Matters arising from the September meeting**
35.1 National Survey of Speed Limits (Item H16/22) - The Clerk briefly outlined the data, published in June 2016, in the Department of Transport Free Flow Vehicle Speed Statistics: Great Britain 2015. This was noted by members.
35.2 Parking Enforcement contract for 2016-17 (item H16/30.1) - Members noted that the contract had been renewed (September 2016 until July 2017) and that Felsted School had once again agreed to pay half the cost of these additional enforcement visits.
- H16/36 **Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications**
36.1 Applications for 2015-16 – Members agreed that the Clerk should request an update on the feasibility study relating to safety improvements at the old railway bridge above Bannister Green Halt. Speed surveys had now been undertaken for the other 2 projects submitted. The results for the Crix Green to Frenches Green speed limit extension were not yet available but the Main Road, Willows Green figures had shown that the mean speed of vehicles was 34.2mph (6193 northbound movements per day). The qualifying criteria for a VAS sign was 35mph but it had been proposed that the scheme would be submitted to UDC Cabinet for approval even though it was marginally short of meeting the criteria.
36.2 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-Braintree Road junction Keep Clear / 20mph zone at Primary School) were still awaiting full assessment by the ULHP.
36.3 Applications for 2017-18 – An application for an HGV restriction on Molehill Green Road had already been submitted. The Clerk read out a request from a resident for the speed limit at Hartford End to be reduced to 30mph for safety reasons. It was agreed to make an application to the ULHP for this, as traffic volumes would increase substantially with the conversion of the former brewery site to residential units.
- H16/37 **Highway Ranger work**
Members were pleased to note that the Highway Rangers were continuing the process of cleaning and refurbishing the village fingerposts and were currently working on the fingerpost outside Cock Green Mill. The standard of the work was quite exceptional.
- H16/38 **Mobile VAS sign**
Members were pleased to note that the mobile VAS sign was now fully operational. The Clerk had purchased a battery charger for the mobile VAS sign in Station Road at a cost of £60 plus VAT. ECC Highways had provided 2 further batteries and the Village Attendant had agreed to be responsible for charging the batteries and swapping them over every 14 days. Members noted that the VAS sign had been activated 9600 times in the last 14 day period.
It was agreed that the Clerk would remind the ULHP with regard to establishing a second site for the mobile VAS sign at Watch House Green.
- H16/39 **Potholes and Highways maintenance work**
Members noted that the following works had been completed:
- Stebbing Road – In excess of 20 potholes had been filled between the B1256 and the railway bridge
- Stevens Lane – Missing name sign replaced on grass triangle at southern end
- Bartholomew Green – Missing fingerpost replaced
- Little Green Road – Fingerpost re-erected

- Footpath 62 – Broken footbridge repaired at rear of cemetery
- Gransmore Green – Pothole repaired outside first house on left hand side

The following highway problems had all been inspected and a ‘defect raised’ but because of a low priority rating no timing for the repairs could be given:

- Crix Green/Main Road corner flooding
- Damaged ‘pedestrians on carriageway’ sign opposite Silverleys, Gransmore Green
- Faded white lining at Ravens Crescent
- Rotted post on triangular ‘School’ sign at JBLN/Braintree Road junction
- Potholes in Garnetts Lane.

The Clerk would report the following new problems to ECC Highways: Mud on road outside the Brewery development site at Hartford End, road breaking up at Stebbing Road/Braintree Road junction, VAS sign opposite the Old Telephone Exchange in Chelmsford Road continuing to operate intermittently and lorry damage to the verge in Hollow Road, opposite Bryteg, after topsoil had been laid to fill holes caused by builders vehicles.

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the Village Attendant to clear brambles obscuring the footpath sign on the track to Sunnybrook Farm in Braintree Road, to refix the hamlet name sign for Cock Green outside Brick House Farm (Cllr Freeman would assist if required) and to give the new fingerpost in Bartholomew Green a further top coat of white paint to protect it from weathering.

- H16/40 **Proposal to prohibit HGV’s in Molehill Green Road**
The Clerk had submitted an application to the ULHP and indicated that the PC might be willing to pay for and erect the requested signage.
- H16/41 **Review of Parish Plan Actions (Roads Section)**
One further Parish Plan Action had been completed since the last meeting now that the mobile VAS sign in Station Road was once again operational.
- H16/42 **Other Urgent matters and items for the next Agenda**
None.
- H16/43 **Next Meeting**
The meeting closed at 5.40 pm.

Next meeting to be held on 8 March 2017 at 5pm

..... Committee Chairman 8 March 2017