

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 25 May 2016 at 5:00 pm in the URC Committee Room.

- Present:** Councillors Nicholas Hinde (Chairman), Andy Bennett, Richard Freeman and Peter Rose. Richard Silcock and Bryan Grimshaw were also present.
- H16/01 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Apologies had been received from Councillor Frances Marshall. There were no Declarations of Interest.
- H16/02 **Minutes of meeting held on 9 March 2016**
The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- H16/03 **Matters arising from the March meeting**
03.1 Garnetts Lane flood problem (Item H15/64) – The Clerk had reported the problem to ECC Highways.
- H16/04 **Richard Silcock – Parking problems outside Linsells shop**
Richard Silcock explained that vehicles were parking outside the shop for long periods and were therefore preventing customers from stopping to go into the shop. This was adversely affecting his trade. The Council had discussed this problem at the April Council meeting and wished to support the village shop. They agreed with the principal of installing short term parking bays (say 30 minute limit with no return within 2 hours) but queried the effectiveness unless there was regular enforcement. Such measures could also take a long time to get approved because of funding restraints at ECC. It was agreed that Richard Silcock would discuss the problem with neighbouring businesses, the Church and the British Legion. He would also consider placing a restriction on the 3 parking spaces adjacent to the shop premises off Bury Chase, signing these as being for “Customers Only”.
- H16/05 **Closure of FKS Schools – Removal of school zig-zags**
Members were very pleased to note that, following a request from the Clerk, the NEPP had removed the school zig-zags from outside Edwards House and Andrews House on 21 April.
- H16/06 **Primary School Traffic/Parking problems**
Members were pleased to note that NEPP had marked the bus stop cage (white lined box) around the bus stop at Watch House Green and erected signage prohibiting parking within the marked box. The Parking Enforcement Officers had been asked to initially warn drivers but not issue tickets to people parking on the bus cage. However the Council considered that normal enforcement action should now be resumed and that the Enforcement Officers should also stop vehicles mounting the kerb and actually parking on the Green. Clerk
- H16/07 **Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications**
07.1 2015-16 Applications – Members noted that the ULHP meeting on 4 April 2016 had “approved funding of £5000 to undertake a feasibility study into measures on the approach to the old railway bridge”. The other 2 projects submitted (second VAS sign at Willows Green and extension of speed limit from Crix Green to Frenches Green) were placed on the reserve funding list.
07.2 2016-17 Applications – The ULHP meeting on 4 April did not approve funding for any of 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).
- H16/08 **Highway Ranger work**
The Clerk had still received no response from the Highway Rangers regarding requests for them to repaint the village crest and clean/paint the fingerposts. In the circumstances it was agreed to ask the Village Attendant if he would be able to carry out this work. It was also agreed to ask the Village Attendant to cut back the hedges and branches obscuring the speed limit and other signs around the village as required.
- H16/09 **Mobile VAS sign**
Members noted that the mobile VAS sign had been erected in Station Road but it

had stopped working after 2-3 weeks. The Clerk had now established that it was necessary to purchase a special battery charger and second battery for the device so that the sign could be regularly charged. She was awaiting details from the ULHP regarding these items and where they could be purchased.

H16/10 **Community Speed Watch**
Because of pressure of other work the Clerk had not been able to progress this matter. She had endeavoured to find a volunteer to run the scheme but without success. Members agreed that the Clerk would ask the 6 trained volunteers if one of them would be willing to run the scheme. Clerk

H16/11 **Potholes and Highways maintenance work**
The Village Attendant had cut a drainage channel across the verge and into the ditch at the dip between Crix Green and Bartholomew Green and this had greatly improved the flooding problem.
ECC Highways had resurfaced the damaged road surface in Station Road (at the 30mph limit markings) and had also carried out extensive repairs to the road surface of Molehill Green Road and Rayne Road (between Crix & Frenches Gn). No progress had been made by ECC Highways regarding:
- Crix Green/Main Road corner flooding – “Defect raised – standing water”
- Damaged triangular ‘pedestrians on carriageway’ sign opposite Silverleys, Gransmore Green – “Inspected. Repair scheduled”
- Flooding outside URC Hall in Stebbing Road – “Inspected”
- Missing Bartholomew Green signpost – The Clerk had chased this but been informed that the criteria had not been met for funding to replace the sign. It was agreed that the Clerk would report a pothole in Stebbing Road near the pumping station. Clerk

H16/12 **New Street Light opposite the Water Tower**
Members were pleased to note that the new street light in Garnetts Lane was now fully operational.

H16/13 **New ECC Quiet Lanes Scheme**
The Clerk had studied all ULHP Minutes between March 2015 and April 2016 and there had been no further mention of the proposed new Quiet Lanes scheme. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should ask County Cllr Simon Walsh (Chairman of ULHP) if this project was likely to be taken forward. Clerk

H16/14 **Proposal to prohibit HGV’s in Molehill Green Road**
Members agreed that this single track road with passing places was completely unsuitable for HGV traffic. After some discussion it was agreed to ask ECC Highways to consider erecting an advisory sign instructing HGV drivers not to follow their Sat Nav directions into Molehill Green Road but to continue via Crix Green instead. If necessary the PC would be willing to pay for and erect the signage to alleviate this problem. Clerk

H16/15 **Review of Parish Plan Actions (Roads Section)**
Further Parish Plan Actions had been completed as follows:
1. The mobile VAS sign had been re-erected in Station Road and in due course a second post would be erected for it at Watch House Green.
2. The bus stop cage had been created at Watch House Green to ensure that the bus stop was kept clear and so improve traffic flow, especially at peak times.

H16/16 **Other Urgent matters and items for the next Agenda**
16.1 Mill Road closure order on 12 June for Queens 90th Birthday street party – This was noted.
16.2 Jenny Burrett (Prep School Head) – Members noted that Jenny Burrett would be leaving the Prep School at the end of the Summer Term and it was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of appreciation for all she’s done within the village and offering her best wishes for the future. Clerk

H16/17 **Next Meeting**
The meeting closed at 6.25 pm. Next meeting to be held on 14 September 2016 at 5pm

..... Committee Chairman 14 September 2016