

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2015 at 5:00 pm in the URC Committee Room.

- Present:** Councillors Nicholas Hinde (Chairman), Andy Bennett and Frances Marshall.
- H15/34 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Apologies had been received from Councillors Richard Freeman and Peter Rose. There were no Declarations of Interest.
- H15/35 **Minutes of meeting held on 9 September 2015**
The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- H15/36 **Matters Arising from the September meeting**
36.1 Recalibration of VAS sign at Willows Green (Item H15/32.4) – The Clerk had contacted ECC Highways and been informed that the VAS sign had been calibrated in accordance with their established criteria.
- H15/37 **Village Centre Traffic/Parking Problems**
Members were pleased to note that the NEPP had agreed to submit the applications made for double yellow lines in Stebbing Road and zig zag lines outside the Prep school to the Uttlesford LHP for consideration in the next financial year.
The application for “Keep Clear” markings over the junction of Braintree Road and Stebbing Road did not fall within their remit and so would need to be resubmitted direct to the ULHP. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit this. Clerk
- H15/38 **Primary School Traffic/Parking problems**
Members were pleased to note that the NEPP had agreed to create a bus cage (white lined box) around the bus stop at Watch House Green in Spring 2016 and that a bus stop clearway (double yellow lines) would then be established in accordance with existing regulations.
- H15/39 **Community Speed Watch**
Members noted that the Clerk was still awaiting the mobile Speedwatch signs. She hoped to arrange a meeting for all the volunteers in the New Year to make the practical arrangements for the commencement of the Speedwatch scheme. Clerk
- H15/40 **Potholes and Highways maintenance work**
Members noted that the VAS sign in Chelmsford Road had been repaired as had the 40mph signs around the Crix Green/Main Road corner. The Village Attendant had cut grooves across the verge outside Thorpes at Frenches Green which appeared to have solved the longstanding flooding problems in this area.
No progress had been made regarding:
- Crix Green/Main Road corner flooding – “Defect raised – standing water”
- 3 broken/faulty street lights at Priory Bridge – 2 repaired and the third is still awaiting a replacement part.
- Damaged triangular ‘pedestrians on carriageway’ sign opposite Silverleys, Gransmore Green – “Inspected. Repair scheduled”
- Footpath 8 blocked by nettles/undergrowth – “Inspected. Repair scheduled”
- Flooding outside URC Hall in Stebbing Road – “Inspected”
- Damaged road surface in Station Road (at the 30mph limit markings)
It was agreed that the Clerk would establish if ECC Highways had any resurfacing work planned for Molehill Green Road and for Rayne Road between Frenches Green and Bartholomews Green, as both these roads were badly potholed. Clerk
- H15/41 **Uttlesford Local Highway Panel (ULHP) projects**
The Clerk had received a breakdown of ULHP actions on all the schemes submitted for the current financial year. No action had been authorised for Scheme LUTT152011 (second VAS sign at Main Road, Willows Green) but funding had been approved for a feasibility study for Scheme LUTT152007 (Braintree Road - safety barriers above Fritch Way bridge). The Clerk had

contacted Highways to point out inaccuracies in both scheme descriptions on the spreadsheet that they had produced.

The ULHP had requested that Parish Council's submit scheme applications for the 2016-17 financial year by the end of January 2016 (see Items H15/37, H15/47.2 and H15/47.3 below).

- H15/42 **Highway Ranger work**
The Clerk was awaiting a response from the Highway Rangers regarding requests for them to undertake the following work around the village: cleaning/repainting certain fingerpost signs, clearing undergrowth and cutting back hedges along the line of the footpath in Station Road (from Flich Green to the sharp bends) and the repainting of the Village Sign.
Members noted that the Village Attendant had cleared undergrowth/cut back hedges from around a number of village name signs and road signs as required.
- H15/43 **Mobile VAS Sign** Clerk
The Clerk would chase UDC as the mobile VAS sign was still not in situ.
- H15/44 **New Street Light opposite the Water Tower**
Members were pleased to learn that the street light column was due to be erected on 10 December followed by connection of the electricity supply 2-3 weeks later.
- H15/45 **New ECC Quiet Lanes Scheme**
The Clerk read out extracts from the ULHP Minutes dated March 2015 (Item HP 26) which indicated that the Panel felt that this was a complex issue and that they needed more information before proceeding with this project. It was therefore agreed to consider the matter again at the next meeting.
- H15/46 **Closure of FKS Schools**
The NPSG had carried out a traffic survey in October 2015 to determine the impact on traffic/parking problems following the closure of FKS Schools. Compared to the previous traffic survey in 2012 it had concluded that the number of cars entering the village had not changed significantly but reduced 'on road parking' had resulted in an improvement to traffic flow. Observations carried out by the Chairman and Cllr Marshall had also reached the same conclusion. The Prep School had put a lot of thought and resources into setting up a new drop off system ("Kiss and drop") and also now provided 3 lanes within their premises, monitored by security staff, for parents to drop off children. All of these measures had contributed to the improvement in traffic flow.
The Clerk would chase NEPP for a response regarding the removal of the zig zag lines outside Edwards and Andrews Houses.
- H15/47 **Possible Future Projects**
47.1 Garnetts Lane additional kerbing/drainage problems – Members discussed the flooding problems in Garnetts Lane, opposite the Book Box, and agreed that the Clerk should investigate the possibility of cutting a drainage channel into the adjacent ditch to allow the water to run off the road. The situation would then be monitored. Clerk
47.2 Extension of 30mph limit at Braintree Road, Watch House Green – It was agreed to submit an application to the ULHP for an extension of the 30mph limit, past the entrance to the new Taylor Wimpey site, for safety reasons. Clerk
47.3 Application for a 20mph zone outside the Primary School – The Clerk had received 2 separate requests from residents to consider a 20mph zone outside the Primary School at peak times to improve safety. The Watch House Green Residents Group and the Felsted Parish Plan also supported this suggestion. It was agreed to submit an application to the ULHP for this scheme. Clerk
- H15/48 **Review of Parish Plan Actions (Roads Section)**
Members studied Page 16 of the Felsted Parish Plan and discussed progress since the last meeting as follows:
"Aim to Reduce Congestion and improve parking"
- More parking restrictions: Application submitted to NEPP and going forward to ULHP for double yellow lines in Stebbing Road and zig zag lines in front of the Prep School (see Item H15/37). NEPP have agreed to create a 'bus stop

clearway' at the bus stop outside the Primary School in Spring 2016 (see Item H15/38). Application to be submitted direct to ULHP for 'Keep Clear' markings on the Braintree/Stebbing Road junction (see Item H15/37).

- Speed limits at Watch House Green – Applications to be submitted to ULHP to extend the 30 mph speed limit at Braintree Road, Watch House Green and introduce a 20mph limit outside the Primary School at peak times.

H15/49

Other Urgent matters and items for the next Agenda

49.1 Chelmer Valley Park and Ride service to Broomfield Hospital –

Members agreed to publicise that 2 buses an hour now run from the Park and Ride to Broomfield Hospital. Cllr Bennett would include an article on the PC website and the Clerk would make sure that this service was publicised in the Doctor's surgery.

Clerk / Cllr
Bennett

49.2 BT Telephone box at Bartholomew Green – The Clerk would ask the Village Attendant to wash/clean this telephone box.

Clerk

49.3 Old Post House, Chelmsford Road – It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the possibility of providing a disabled parking bay for this resident.

Clerk

H15/50

Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm

Next meeting to be held on 9 March 2016

..... Committee Chairman 9 March 2016