

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 9 March 2016 at 5:00 pm in the URC Committee Room.

- Present:** Councillors Nicholas Hinde (Chairman), Richard Freeman and Peter Rose.
- H15/51 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Apologies had been received from Councillors Andy Bennett and Frances Marshall. There were no Declarations of Interest.
- H15/52 **Minutes of meeting held on 9 December 2015**
The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- H15/53 **Matters Arising from the December meeting**
53.1 Village Centre Traffic Problems (Item H15/37) – Members noted that the Clerk had submitted an application to the ULHP for “Keep Clear” markings over the junction of Braintree Road and Stebbing Road.
53.2 Extension of 30 mph limit at Watch House Green (Item H15/47.2) – Following the last meeting, the Clerk and the Chairman had separately visited the site. The existing 30 mph limit was adjacent to the entrance to Felmoor Farm and the proposed new limit was at the entrance to the new Taylor Wimpey development, less than 50 yards away. They had accordingly agreed that it would not be worthwhile to apply for an extension to the 30 mph limit because of the short distance involved. Members endorsed this decision.
53.3 BT Telephone box at Bartholomew Green (Item H15/49.2) - The Village Attendant had cleaned this telephone box, as agreed at the last meeting.
- H15/54 **NPSG Traffic and Car Park surveys**
Members noted the data from these surveys.
The Traffic Survey conclusions were largely as expected but some new ideas had been put forward (mini-roundabouts at Braintree Road junctions with Stebbing and Chelmsford Roads and the suggestion to no longer allow parking outside Linsell’s shop). Members concluded that these suggestions would need to be professionally assessed because of the implications, especially to the commercial premises in the area. Members agreed that the NPSG had compiled an impressive evidence base which would be very useful in future.
The Car Park Survey had highlighted some issues with vehicles being parked for extended periods. A small number of vehicles may have been parked for longer than 24 hours, but these were likely to belong to local residents. Members agreed that most car park users did not abuse the facility and agreed to monitor the situation.
- H15/55 **Closure of FKS Schools – Removal of school zig-zags**
The Clerk had been advised by the NEPP that it would require a formal Traffic Order to remove the school zig-zags from outside Edwards House and Andrews House. Funding for a Traffic Order would need to be agreed by the ULHP. After some discussion it was agreed that the zig-zags outside Andrews House should be replaced with double yellow lines (to ensure smooth traffic flow) but that there was no requirement for a replacement restriction outside Edwards House. The Clerk would inform the NEPP accordingly and complete any necessary applications. Clerk
- H15/56 **Primary School Traffic/Parking problems**
It was agreed that the Clerk would remind the NEPP about the agreed creation of the bus cage (white lined box) around the bus stop at Watch House Green, in mid-April. Clerk
- H15/57 **Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications**
57.1 2015-16 Applications – The Clerk had reported the 4 recent vehicle accidents on the B1417 at Bannister Green Halt to ECC Highways and the ULHP. They had visited the site and concluded that there was insufficient verge width to install a crash barrier around the outside of the bend. They were however proposing to install a row of reflector posts, to align the road after the

bridge and help drivers better identify the edge of the carriageway. They would also be undertaking a 'scrim test' on the road surface to identify any problems.
57.2 2016-17 Applications - All the applications submitted for the 2016-17 financial year will be considered at the ULHP meeting on 4 April (Double yellow lines in Stebbing Road / school zig zags outside Prep School / Stebbing / Braintree Road junction Keep Clear / 20mph zone outside Primary School).

- H15/58 **Highway Ranger work**
 The Clerk had received no response from the Highway Rangers regarding requests for them to undertake various work around the village. The Village Attendant had accordingly cleared undergrowth and cut back overhanging branches along the line of the footpath in Station Road (from Flitch Green to the sharp bends). The Clerk would repeat the request for the Highway Rangers to clean/repaint certain fingerpost signs and repaint the Village Sign.
- H15/59 **Mobile VAS sign**
 The Clerk had spoken to Highways to query what was causing the delay and she had been promised that the mobile sign would be erected on the existing post in Station Road in the next 2 weeks. This location had been used previously when the mobile VAS was shared with Little Dunmow. A new post would be erected at Watch House Green in due course to provide a second location for the VAS sign.
- H15/60 **Community Speed Watch**
 Because of pressure of other work the Clerk had not chased the delivery of the Speedwatch signs but she agreed to do so as a matter of urgency. Clerk
- H15/61 **Potholes and Highways maintenance work**
 Members were delighted to note that a new Leez Lodge signpost had been erected to replace the one knocked down in December 2013. The Village Attendant had swapped over the fingerpost names for Great Leighs and Felsted as these had been transposed when the new sign was erected.
 It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the possibility of digging a drainage channel across the verge and into the ditch at the dip between Crix Green and Bartholomew Green which was regularly flooding. It was also agreed that the Clerk would report that the VAS sign in Chelmsford Road (opposite the Old Telephone Exchange) was only working intermittently – possible battery problem? Clerk
 No progress had been made by ECC Highways 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”
 - Flooding outside URC Hall in Stebbing Road – “Inspected”
 - Damaged road surface in Station Road (at the 30mph limit markings)
 - Missing Bartholomew Green signpost – The Clerk will report this again now the new financial year is imminent.
 Members noted that temporary road closure orders had been granted for road works in Molehill Green Road and for Rayne Road between Frenches Green and Bartholomews Green (see Item H15/40).
- H15/62 **New Street Light opposite the Water Tower**
 Members noted that the street light column had been erected in mid-December but there had been a delay with the connection of the electricity supply. This had been scheduled for 10 February but had not taken place because of illness. It was now scheduled for 14 March.
- H15/63 **New ECC Quiet Lanes Scheme**
 There had been no developments so it was therefore agreed to consider the matter again at the next meeting.
- H15/64 **Garnetts Lane additional kerbing/drainage problems**
 The Clerk had studied the flooded corner in Garnetts Lane (opposite the Book Box) but members noted that because the side of the roadway was kerbed at this point, it would not be possible to cut a drainage channel into the adjacent ditch to allow the water to run off the road.

- H15/65 **Creation of disabled parking bay outside the Old Post House, Chelmsford Road**
 The Clerk had ascertained that it was ECC Highways who were responsible for approving residents disabled parking bays. The resident would need to contact them direct and supply relevant details (vehicle registration/ disabled badge number etc) and they would then consider the request. The Clerk would supply the Chairman with the necessary contact details to pass on to the resident. Clerk / Chairman
- H15/66 **Review of Parish Plan Actions (Roads Section)**
 There had been no further completed actions since the last meeting. This would therefore be considered again at the next meeting.
- H15/67 **Other Urgent matters and items for the next Agenda**
67.1 Molehill Green Road – Signage to prohibit use by HGV's – It was agreed to consider this suggestion at the next meeting but the Clerk would look into the process in the meantime. Clerk
- H15/68 **Next Meeting**
 The meeting closed at 6.03 pm

 Next meeting to be held on 25 May 2016 at 5pm

..... Committee Chairman 25 May 2016