

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 10 November at 5:00 pm using the Zoom online platform

Present: Councillors Frances Marshall, Alec Fox and Richard Freeman.
In attendance: Clare Schorah.

H21 **Public Forum**
There were no members of the public present.

H21/23 **Apologies for absence**
There were apologies for absence from Councillor Andy Bennett

H21/24 **Declaration of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest

H21/25 **Minutes of meeting held on 14 July 2021**
The Minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting held in person.

H21/26 **Matters arising from the July meeting**

26.1 Faulty mobile VAS sign in Station Road (Item H21/14.1) – The ULHP had indicated that they would be willing to replace the faulty sign but because of financial constraints this would not be in the near future. It was agreed at a Full Parish Council Meeting (Item 21/98) not to purchase a mobile VAS sign in the 2021-22 financial year. The Assistant Clerk will obtain an up to date quote for a VAS sign and ask for it to be put on the agenda for the Full Parish Council meeting in March.

26.2 Overgrown and uneven footpath surface in Chelmsford Road (Item H21/14.2) – This problem, affecting the pavement south of the Bakers Lane junction, had previously been reported to the ULHP. The Assistant Clerk had contacted Highways Rangers to arrange to get this organised. The Assistant Clerk has now sent the request to the Highways Liaison Officer and it should be dealt with soon.

26.3 Speed Surveys (H21/14.05) – Essex Highways undertook speed surveys in Felsted during November 2020 in 4 locations in Felsted. It was found that there was good compliance with the speed limits in these surveys.

The Assistant Clerk had contacted Speedwatch to find out whether it was possible to arrange Speedwatch sessions in those areas to assess the issue further. The Speedwatch Co-ordinator contacted the Assistant Clerk to inform her that Community Speedwatch were able to risk assess up to two new locations for the Felsted rota.

The Assistant Clerk asked for the points at Hartford End and Rayne Road to be considered because they were not being surveyed with a view to assessing for a possible VAS (which the Parish Council are considering buying) so it was decided to prioritise those locations.

The Assistant Clerk will obtain a status on this from the Community Speedwatch Coordinator.

26.4 Time limited parking in Station Road H21/19. This was reviewed initially during the Highways Committee meeting in March and it was agreed to discuss it fully at a Full Parish Council meeting in October (21/228). It was agreed that the three car parking spaces owned by the owner of the village shop will be allocated as reserved parking for customers using the shop/post office. The spaces are on the right hand side of the car park entrance. A 30 minute maximum parking time will be allowed within shop opening hours. The Assistant Clerk will liaise with the Clerk about any signage needed.

26.5 30mph signage (H21/20a) The resident of 23 Station Road has contacted the Clerk to request a 30mph sign outside their house. The house is situated on a bend and the resident has experienced a car accident at this location in the past. The Assistant Clerk has contacted the resident to inform them that the committee acknowledge the seriousness of this issue but they believe that approved developments due to take place in this area will result in significant changes to the road layout and signage.

26.6 30mph signage (H21/20b) The Assistant Clerk has made a ULHP application to lower the speed limit from 40 mph to 30mph between Felsted and Watch House Green.

26.7 Water across the highway (H21/21 b&c) The Assistant Clerk has reported this issue at Station Road and near the brewery site to Essex Highways.

H21/27

Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications

The Assistant Clerk provided an update as follows:

15.1 2016-17 – Double yellow lines in Stebbing Road and school zig zags outside Prep School. This was not validated because “it would not resolve the issues and not therefore be an effective use of budget”. The Highways Liaison Officer will send some information about and pictures of a ‘red route’ implementation around a school in Harlow for the Parish Council to consider as an alternative solution.

The Assistant Clerk has contacted the Highways Liaison Officer to find out whether the Parish Council could appeal this decision and to stress that they have worked with the school extensively to try and alleviate the issues, and to ask for advice on what the next steps should be if the Parish Council did not think a red route was feasible.

15.2 2017-18 HGV restriction on Molehill Green Road – This has been validated.

15.3 2017-18 Gated signage at Hartford End (formerly discussed under ‘Reduction of speed limit at Hartford End to 30 mph heading’) - ULHP had requested up to date photos of the approach to Hartford End on the B1417 to enable them to design a ‘gated entrance’, which have been provided’ and the project is awaiting funding to be completed.

15.4 2019-20 – Installation of double yellow lines for a distance of 10m around the corners of Watch House Green The Assistant Clerk is investigating the status of this application and will reapply for it if it cannot be found.

2021 – 2022 40mph buffer speed limit at Causeway End – This has been validated.

15.5 2021 – 2022 Installation of Deer Warning signs crossing the road between Crix Green and Bartholomew Green – This was submitted in May and will be considered by the Highways Panel.

15.6 2021-2022 Installation of mobile VAS posts in Main Road, Willows Green, Station Road, Rayne Road, Watch House Green, Braintree Road, Watch House Green – This was submitted in May and will be considered by the Highways Panel.

15.7 2021 -2022 Implementation of a 20’s Plenty Zone at Watch House Green around the Primary School - This was submitted in May and will be considered by the Highways Panel.

2021-2022 Reduction of speed limit between Felsted and Watch House Green. This has been sent to Cllr Foley for support and submission.

H21/28

Highway Ranger work

Members noted that the Highway Rangers team were now willing to meet on site to discuss projects. Assistant Clerk has contacted the team for the Chairman to meet the team to look at the overgrown pavement in Chelmsford Road (see Item above) in the hope of expediting the project. This has been sent to the Highways Liaison Officer and will be dealt with soon.

H21/29

Highway maintenance work

29.1 Issues that have been reported since the last meeting

- a) **Overgrown Footpath (125)** (Awaiting Inspection)
- b) **Overgrown Footpath (73)** (Awaiting Inspection)
- c) **Water on the road near the brewery site** (Inspected – no further action will be taken at this time)
- d) **Weeds on the pavement near Linsells** (Inspected – no further action will be taken at this time)
- e) **Water on the road in Hartford End** (Awaiting Inspection – it has been reported a few times on the Essex Highways website)

- f) **Water on the road on Station Road** (Awaiting Inspection)
- g) **Fly tipping** (Reported to UDC who will remove)
- h) **Pothole between Jollyboys Lane North and Memorial Hall** (Reported)

29.2 Larger issues:

- a) **Defective Bridge on PRoW** (Footpath 76) – Assistant Clerk has called Essex Highways about this issue to report how dangerous it is, but it is still awaiting inspection. The Assistant Clerk will contact Essex Highways about it again.
- b) **Pothole in Alderton Close** – This was discussed in the Full Parish Council meeting in November and it was agreed that the Parish Council will arrange to get this pothole filled in.
- c) **Flooding at a property in Cressages Close** – Cllr Foley is assisting a resident with a flooding problem due to blocked drains near their property.

The Assistant Clerk will contact Cllr Foley to inform him of the Highways Issues recently reported and ask for his assistance in getting these problems (in particular any flooding issues) resolved.

H21/30

a) **Community Speedwatch**

The Community Speedwatch group are carrying on with their activities and are managing between 4 and 6 sessions a month. They are seeing a high number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit, in August the highest noted speed limit was 46mph at Chelmsford Road, in September it 49mph at Chelmsford Road and in October it was 53 mph at Rayne Road.

b) **Parish Paths Partnership (P3)**

An update was provided to the committee.

Most of the work conducted recently has been undertaken by individuals, cutting back where necessary to allow walkers to access paths.

The P3 group has recently undertaken a large and successful project working on the footpath behind the Memorial Hall. The path is now completely clear and allows walkers to walk along the field edge rather than encroach on the school field. They worked with Felsted School who helped to clear the mass of brambles and foliage, which was much appreciated.

The P3 group have had the following challenges in their work.

- They have found that few of the defects which have been advised to Essex Highways over the past year have actually been addressed, and these have now disappeared from the online recording system.
- There is not an inspector allocated to their area.
- Few of the paths have been reinstated by farmers following cropping. The paths which have not been marked will be reported.

They do appreciate the work done on FP 59 from the gravel path to the edge of the field. The Assistant Clerk will find out if it is now possible for the section from Priory Bridge to the path to be cleared.

The group would like to remind residents that if they find problems with the paths, then they are happy to assist. The Assistant Clerk will arrange a website update to communicate to residents that they should report any incidents to Essex Highways online in the first instance, but they can also email the P3 group, who may be able to help.

H21/31

30mph signage

The Committee were asked to consider whether using speed awareness stickers on wheelie bins may help alleviate speeding. The Parish Council and Uttlesford District Council do not object to wheelie bins having stickers on them so the Assistant Clerk will arrange to have information for residents put on the website.

H21/32

Other urgent matters and items for the next Agenda

It was noted that a road in Bannister Green is breaking up and the Assistant Clerk will report it to Essex Highways.

H21/33

Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 5.55pm

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 5pm

..... Committee Chairman