

## FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 8 November 2023 at 5:00 pm using the Zoom online platform

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

H23/27 **ITEM 1. Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present.

H23/28 **ITEM 2. Apologies for absence**

There were apologies for absence from Penny Learmonth.

H23/29 **ITEM 3. Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

H23/30 **ITEM 4. Minutes of meeting held on 12 July 2023**

The Minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting held in person.

H23/31 **ITEM 5. Matters arising from the July meeting**

**1 Mobile VAS sign (H23/17.1)** The PC considered the recommendation of the Highways Committee to purchase a VAS and noted that it may be possible to apply for funding to help to purchase a VAS sign later in the year (23/89). The Clerk and Assistant Clerk will continue to investigate funding for this.

**2 Overgrown and uneven footpath surface in Chelmsford Road (H23/17.2)** The Assistant Clerk reported this through the Essex Highways 'report a Problem' webpage. After investigation Essex Highways will not take any further action on it. The Assistant Clerk has reported to the County Councillor and the Highways Liaison Officer who has re-reported it. The footpath looks like it requires siding which will be costly and difficult to carry out safely. The Assistant Clerk will contact the Highways Liaison Officer about this problem to find out whether making an application under the ULHP to make the pavement accessible would be feasible. (Clerks Note: The Clerk contacted Essex Highways about this issue after the meeting. It has been reported again, and Essex Highways believe the problem is related to overgrown hedges. The Assistant Clerk has sent further photos of the vegetation to assist Essex Highways with expediting the work.)

**3 Speeding in School Road, Bartholomew Green (H23/17.3)** – There is concern about speeding near Concord Farm in Bartholomew Green. The Community SpeedWatch (CSW) Officer will not risk assess it as a CSW location because there isn't a footpath and it is a 40 mph speed limit. CSW have made enquiries to the Police to find out about doing additional and a speed survey has been undertaken which indicates good compliance with the speed limit.

**4 Traffic Congestion in Felsted Village (H23/22)** – Felsted School has implemented new staggered drop off arrangement for students to improve traffic congestion in Felsted village.

**5 Traffic in Watch House Green (H23/23)** – The Assistant Clerk contacted the County Councillor and the Highways Liaison Officer about the issue with speeding cars in Watch House Green.

H23/32 **ITEM 6. Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications**

[This report was circulated.](#)

H23/33 **ITEM 7. Highway maintenance work**

[This report was circulated.](#)

H23/34

**ITEM 8 a) Parish Paths Partnership Update**

The P3 group has been busy over the summer and early autumn clearing footpaths throughout Felsted. The volunteer coordinator has submitted 5 applications to install waymarks in Felsted and are waiting for approval to install them. A footbridge installation on footpath 59 has been approved. A number of unmarked cross field paths have been reported and the group is currently working on clearing around waymarks. The volunteer coordinator is also checking faults reported during Covid to check that they have been rectified.

**ITEM 8 b) Community SpeedWatch**

The SpeedWatch Group has been meeting between five and seven times a month. Chelmsford Road seems to be an area of the highest recorded speeds – 49mph in August, 53mph in September and 51mph in October. They have been joined by the PSCOs in some sessions, which has been very effective. The Speed Watch group are pleased that a new volunteer has recently completed training and joined the group.

The volunteer coordinator has noticed that there has been a pattern for increased speeding in Felsted since 2021. From 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022 29% of speeding cars were driving at 40mph or greater, whereas from 01/04/2023 to 31/10/2023 41% of speeding cars were driving at 40mph or greater. The Assistant Clerk will find out whether it is possible to have a speed survey undertaken at the Chelmsford Road location.

H23/35

**ITEM 9. Speed Surveys**

Speed surveys were undertaken during September 2023 in School Road and Braintree Road. Essex Highways believe that both surveys indicate good compliance with the speed limit. Cllr Marshall questioned the Braintree Road speed survey, which did indicate that approximately 40% of cars exceeded the speed limit. The Assistant Clerk will contact Essex Highways and query what factors in a speed survey indicate good compliance with the speed limit.

H23/36

**ITEM 10. Parking Restrictions in Stebbing Road**

It was agreed to apply to alter the parking restrictions in Stebbing Road to reflect the timings for the start and end of the Felsted School day to ensure a better traffic flow throughout the village.

H23/37

**ITEM 11. Traffic Congestion in Felsted Village**

A resident contacted the Parish Council concerned about traffic congestion in Felsted village particularly at the beginning and ending of the school day. The Assistant Clerk will ask the Clerk to put the s.106 funding issue considered at the June 2023 Full Parish Council meeting (23/142.1) back on the Parish Council agenda to investigate whether this could improve the traffic congestion in Chelmsford Road.

H23/38

**ITEM 12. Traffic in Watch House Green**

A resident has contacted the Parish Council concerned about the speed limit outside of the Clifford Smith Drive Estate. It was agreed to apply to extend the Watch House Green 30mph speed limit to include the entrance to Clifford Smith Drive.

H23/39

**ITEM 13. Other urgent matters and items for the next Agenda**

The Assistant Clerk received correspondence from a resident concerned about the condition of cross field footpaths in Bannister Green. The Assistant Clerk will find out the location of the footpaths and will report to Essex County Council Highways.

The Assistant Clerk will investigate the ownership of Jollyboys Lane North with a view to asking Essex County Council Highways to take responsibility for the maintenance of the road.

H23/40

**ITEM 14. Next Meeting**

Meeting closed at 6.01pm. Next meeting to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

..... Committee Chairman 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023