

FELSTED PARISH ASSEMBLY

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly, held on 24 April 2013
at 7:30 pm in the Memorial Hall.**

Present: Councillor Graham Harvey, Parish Council Chairman, the Parish Clerk and Assistant Clerk, Councillors John Moore, Caroline Scott-Bowden, Fiona Hitchcock, Nicholas Hinde and Alan Thawley, County Councillor Simon Walsh and 8 members of the public.

1. Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Cllr Harvey began the meeting by introducing those members of the Parish Council who were present and Mr Adam Pipe of Essex Police.

2. Casualty Reduction in Essex

Mr Pipe is the Casualty Reduction Manager for the County's police, responsible for motorcycle police, commercial vehicle patrols, static cameras and other road safety activities. He described how road deaths in Essex had been reduced over the preceding ten years from 125 per year to 42, and serious injuries from 1,183 to 624.

Much of this improvement had resulted from a change in approach, reducing the use of cameras and increasing engagement with offenders — fixed-penalty notices, court proceedings and advice — aimed at educating drivers and changing their behaviour.

Police had more effective methods of dealing with offences by foreign lorry drivers, such as on-the-spot fines and 45-hour immobilisation of vehicles. A continuing concern was the number of uninsured vehicles — estimated at 40,000 in Essex. Essex Police seize 250 uninsured vehicles per month.

3. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Walsh presented his annual written report, and drew attention to some key points:

- The County Council's budget was to be frozen for the third year running
- 60,000 potholes had been repaired in the year. An extra £11million had been allocated in the previous year, and a further £35million over the next two years
- The winter salt campaign had been successful and would be continued
- The County's Mineral Plan was currently in consultation and Councillors and members of the public were invited to comment, especially about the probable impact on road traffic.

The Chairman thanked Mr Pipe and Cllr Walsh.

4. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported on the Council's activities during the year, and in particular he

- highlighted a vacancy for a Parish Councillor to replace Mrs Leigh Cranfield
- reported routine activities including the reporting of potholes and other Highways issues; the reviewing of all Planning Applications for Felsted; and litter-picking, cleaning and maintenance around the village
- listed projects completed in the last year, including a new seat in the village-centre bus shelter, further improvements to the Playing Field, a reprint of the village footpath map and, with the assistance of Felsted School, the installation of Heritage sign boards.
- The largest such project was the completion of new public toilets on the Playing Field, made possible by fundraising by the Playing Field Group, the WI, local book sales and by a substantial Jubilee Grant from Uttlesford DC
- Ongoing projects included the completion of a Parish Plan and the conversion of two former telephone kiosks to book exchanges.

Cllr Harvey congratulated the organisers of the Village event celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012. He ended with thanks to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, the Village Attendant and his fellow Councillors. He also thanked the many individuals and organisations who contribute to village life during the year, and those who regularly attend Council meetings.

5. **Clerk's Financial Report**

The Clerk gave a summary of the year-end report. The Council's year-end bank balance was comparatively high because a substantial reserve was being accrued for the construction a car park on the Playing Field, and for improvements to the water supply for the allotments.

6. **Reports by the Parish Council's representatives on other bodies** had been circulated before the meeting, and were read by their authors or by the Clerk.

Felsted & Ford End District Nursing Association

Mrs Penny Gant reported on donations agreed for £350 to Farleigh Hospice and £200 to Dunmow Blind and Housebound Club.

Memorial Hall Committee

Mrs E J Read reported on the repairs and refurbishment that the Committee had undertaken in the year, including the updating of panelling, new kitchen appliances, and plans to sand and seal the floor.

Mrs Read was stepping down as Committee Chairman, to be replaced by Mrs Hazel Fox. Mrs Read thanked her committee members, especially her Vice Chairman and Treasurer.

Cllr Harvey thanked Mrs Read for her service to the Hall Committee over many years.

Felsted United Charities

Cllr Mrs C Walker reported donations to Farleigh Hospice, Felsted Friendship Club, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Service and Uttlesford Crossroads. Grants had been made to nine residents of the parish.

The Crix Green Trust

Cllr Harvey reported that no donations had been made, though the possibility of spending some the Trust's £23,000 investments 'for educational purposes' at Felsted County Primary School was under investigation.

The Mission Hall and the adjacent cottage were maintained in good order, and the Trust was obtaining estimates for the construction of a toilet block for the Hall.

The Boteler Education Foundation

Cllr Harvey reported that the Trust had not met during the last 12 months due to the very small income generated by the invested funds. No donations had been made.

Tree Warden

Dr A Hynd reported that despite poor winter weather there had been little damage to trees in the village. A mature Turkey Oak had been removed from the Prep School playground, with the agreement of the UDC Tree Officer.

Footpath Warden

The position of Footpath Warden was currently vacant, but Mr Bryan Grimshaw reported that there had been no major problems with the footpaths in the village during the year. ECC Highways were actively investigating the correct line of Footpath 80 where it leaves Chelmsford Road.

Playing Field Project Group

Cllr Thawley reported that the Sustainability Grant arising from successful completion of the landscaping project funded part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on June 4th.

The new public toilets had been built without cost to Parish Council Tax payers, thanks to a £10,000 grant from Uttlesford DC's Jubilee Fund, £4,000 from the Felsted community through the Felsted Jubilee Committee, £733 from the first Felsted Dog Show, £250 from Felsted WI Jubilee Stall and £300 from Felsted Book Sales. Cllr Thawley thanked these groups, Lucy Beaufriere and Diane Smith for managing the project and PG Bones for rapid completion at a generously low cost.

He thanked the many residents and local working people who had helped to deliver the improvements to the field.

7. Open Forum

Residents queried the lack of progress in naming the unnamed road Bannister Green. It was explained that there were strongly held views both for and against the proposal, and that under current rules renaming would not be permitted without the agreement of all residents.

The PC was asked to express the concern of residents at the inadequacy of policing between 11pm and 5am.

In response to a question it was stated that footpath issues should initially be reported to the Parish Clerk for directing to the appropriate Highways officers.

Concern was expressed at the reported plans of the new tenants of The Swan public house to create a beer garden. Councillors responded that no planning application for this had been submitted. Though a similar application had been refused in 1993.

Chairman23 April 2014