



## **FEERING PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015-16**

**Welcome** to our Annual Report for 2015-16, informing you about what the Council has been doing during the past year and including plans for the year ahead.

### **CHAIRMANS REPORT from Cllr Michele Lakin**

At the Parish Annual Meeting in May 2015 I was elected as Chair and Helen Edwards Vice Chair, for the first time in many years I can report that this year there has been no change of Parish Councillors and I would like to thank each one for the professionalism and commitment they give to their responsibilities as Councillors. I know they have the best interest of the village when attending meetings and representing the Council.

This year, Councillors attended twelve Council meetings, as well as representing Feering at over thirteen other organisations both locally and at District and County level. The Planning Committee has met fifteen times and considered many diverse applications. The Council remains grateful to Jane Palmer, our Tree Warden, who continues to provide advice on all local issues relating to trees, and also to Mark Leslie who represents the parish on passenger transport issues. Our thanks also go to Graham Adams, the village handyman and grass cutting contractor, who tidies and maintains the village to such a high standard.

### **PARISH OFFICE**

After our Parish Clerk, Martique, left our employ in early January, we were lucky to gain Kevin Money our new clerk. Kevin has been working as a clerk with other Parish Councils and is a qualified CiLCA. (Certificate in Local Council Administration). His experience as a clerk has made the transition a lot easier for the Council. I would like to thank Kevin for his help and support. As part of health and safety measures the Council has made a number of improvements to the parish office – the cupboards have been tidied up and old minutes were taken to the Essex records office for Archiving, files from the shelves have been stored in the loft for safe keeping and it's nice to see a tidy office. In addition, the CCTV has been upgraded and both the clerk and Feering Community Centre administrator have been issued with personal safety alarms. Crime has not increased merely a precaution!

### **TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS**

Volume and speed issues remain high on the Council's agenda and the Council supports The A12 Village Traffic Action Group, supported by 5 Parish Councils and the Heritage Society to lobby for road improvements in the area. The group has been regular contact with Priti Patel MP to open the channels of communication regarding any scheme approved by the Essex Authority in respect of the A12. Local hauliers and businesses have also been written to for their views on current traffic problems. More recently the Council have been invited to attend the A120 forum,

the forum discusses the best way forward on how to engage with the public for consultation on a proposed new A120 route.

### **PLAYPARK**

Back in the summer we had the misfortune to receive a ROSPA report which condemned the play equipment on the mound area, the equipment unbeknown to the Council had started to rot from underneath and was considered unsafe, the Council had no choice but to remove the equipment, the area now looks smart as it has been turfed although has limited play value. Quotes received to replace the equipment are approximately £29,000, grants have been sought with limited success, unfortunately Feering is not considered to be disadvantaged enough to attract funding and the Council will therefore have to reduce the purchase of equipment to match available funds. Feering Parish Council would like to thank Simon Gibbs for his hard work in maintaining the playing field to its current high standards. We are sure his efforts are recognised by the village and specifically appreciated by the football teams and school who play and train on the pitches.

### **LOOKING FORWARD**

The Council have a number of projects they wish to complete. We would like to install new play equipment on the mound and have been successful in obtaining a grant from the Community initiative fund for £10,000, together with monies in the playpark budget the Council hope to complete the project very soon

A second project which has been ongoing for some time is to replace the fence along the footpath 16 which is now extremely worn, all the posts will need replacing. We wanted to replace the fence in the 2015/16 financial year, a grant was applied for but yet again we were turned down. Funds have now been allocated from reserves.

The Parish Council continue to support the Neighbourhood Plan group the A12 vehicle traffic action group and the Feering Community Association.

There is still one vacant position for a Parish Councillor. Anyone that has an interest in the village and can offer freely their time at least one Tuesday a month please contact our Parish Clerk Kevin.

### **AT THE 2016 AGM OF THE FULL COUNCIL**

Cllr Paul Lees was elected as Chairman and Cllr Michele Lakin was elected as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Councillors were also elected onto Committees / Working Parties and Representatives. These appointments can be found on the Parish Council website

All Councillors can be contacted via the Parish Office 01376 572882 or by email at [clerk@feeringparishcouncil.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:clerk@feeringparishcouncil.wanadoo.co.uk)

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Group has been meeting monthly for just over a year now and has been gathering evidence towards a plan which will help shape our village for the next 15 years. A Neighbourhood Plan becomes a statutory document used to decide planning applications and is our best hope of getting our voice heard in Braintree's planning policy.

To date we have had two open days to gather feedback and compiled a Vision Statement, Village Character and an Affordable Housing Needs Survey. We have sought information from Essex Wildlife and Environmental Agencies and had general joint meetings with Kelvedon on subjects that pertain to both villages (although we are submitting separate plans). We have attended a few networking meetings through the RCCE with Coggeshall and surrounding areas.

The long awaited figures for Feering with Kelvedon should be published this month and hopefully this will focus our efforts to come up with the best solution to our village's needs in the future. We welcome new members to join the Committee and/or our focus groups?

## PRECEPT

The amount of money the Council needs to raise to run the Parish for next year has been set at £38660. Braintree District Council reduced the Parish Support and Council Tax Grant again for this year. With all the other grants the Council has a further income of £13790 making a total income for 2016/17 of £52450

The general running costs have increased and money allocated towards the Neighbourhood Plan and replacement fencing are attributable factors. Additionally, warm and wet weather conditions encouraged mole activity on the Playing Field and the Council has had to draw from its reserves for prevention measures.

The Precept enables the Council to light and maintain 29 Parish-owned street lights, clear up increasing volumes of litter, empty all litter bins in the village, and maintain bus shelters and seats. Feering Parish Council also pays for the Manned Refuse Lorries that visit the village for nine months of the year.

The Council manages and maintains the Playing Field, the Play Park and the Skatepark. It is also responsible for keeping the footpaths in Feering clear and passable, including the rafted path.

Funding towards this is obtained from the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme run by Essex County Council, though this will reduce for 2016/17.

Additionally, the Council maintains the parish office and pays for the salary of the part time Parish Clerk. The Council also pays for contracts for Parish Handyman services and maintenance of verges throughout the village and the maintenance

### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup>. MARCH 2016**

	2014/15	2015/16
BALANCES b/fwd.	45,555	55203
PRECEPT	36614	38660
TOTAL OTHER RECEIPTS	18055	13790
TOTAL INCOME	54669	52450
STAFF COSTS	13858	13579
LOAN INTEREST/CAPITAL REPAYMENTS	0	0
TOTAL OTHER PAYMENTS	31163	27707
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	45021	41286
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	55203	66367
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	55203	66367
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	823150	814258
TOTAL BORROWINGS	0	0
BANK ACCOUNTS AS AT 31.03.16		
COMMUNITY ACCOUNT		1860
TRACKER ACCOUNT – SKATEPARK		4888
TRACKER ACCOUNT No. 1 (BPA)		41947
TRACKER ACCOUNT No. 2 (BUSINESS RESERVES)		16188
PLAY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS		127
PLAY EQUIPMENT REFURBISHMENT		1001
VILLAGE SIGN ACCOUNT		301
PETTY CASH		55
	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>66367</u></b>

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS** take place every third Tuesday of the month (Except for August) at 7.30pm in the Parish Office. The agendas and minutes of the Full Parish Council and sub-committees can be found on the Parish Council website at <http://www.essexinfo.net/feeringparishcouncil>

### **MANNED REFUSE LORRIES**

The refuse lorries will visit Feering at the following places dates and times throughout 2016  
They are:-

	TIME	DATE		TIME	DATE
Glebe Gardens	1000-1100	16 04 16	Hanover Square	1100-1200	16 04 16
Rye Mill Lane	1000-1100	14 05 16	Bottom of Feering Hill	1100-1200	14 05 16
Glebe Gardens	1000-1100	11 06 16	Hanover Square	1100-1200	11 06 16
Rye Mill Lane	1000-1100	09 07 16	Bottom of Feering Hill	1100-1200	09 07 16
Glebe Gardens	1000-1100	13 08 16	Hanover Square	1100-1200	13 08 16
Rye Mill Lane	1000-1100	10 09 16	Bottom of Feering Hill	1100-1200	10 09 16
Glebe Gardens	1000-1100	08 10 16	Hanover Square	1100-1200	08 10 16
Rye Mill Lane	1000-1100	05 11 16	Bottom of Feering Hill	1100-1200	05 11 16

### **THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION POINT**

This is situated within the Parish Office is open most weekday mornings from 10-12noon for information about local services, activities and groups. To obtain clear recycling sacks and dog bags are also available from the Parish Office

### **CROWN ESTATES OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION**

At the FPC Planning committee meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>. May 2016 the recommendation to Full Council was to OBJECT to this application.

Councillors constructed a very detailed response to BDC and this response can be found on the FPC website ([clerk@feeringparishcouncil.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:clerk@feeringparishcouncil.wanadoo.co.uk)) and also, in time, BDC website.

### **FEERING PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE**

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