



Minutes of the FEERING ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY held in the OAK ROOM of FEERING COMMUNITY CENTRE on MONDAY 14th. MAY 2018 at 8pm

Present: Councillors present: Cllr P. Lees (Chairman), Cllr M. Eddolls (Vice-Chairman), Cllr. R. Carpenter, Cllr. L. Blackburn, Cllr M. Bonner, Cllr H. Edwards, Cllr K. Evans, ECC/DC R. Mitchell and Kevin Money (Clerk to the Council).

Members of the public 21 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr C. Newton

2. Approval of Minutes of 2017 Annual Parish Assembly

M. Eddolls proposed seconded by K. Evans. All agreed

3. Chairman's Report and Presentation

As was predicted 2017-18 has been a challenging year for the Parish. However, due to the increase in the precept last year, prudent management of the finances and improved efficiency, the Parish has been able to keep, as promised, any further precept rises below inflation. We continue to maintain services for the parish and improve the facilities to the community despite the reduction in income from local grants.

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has again and will continue to keep Councillors busy as well as those who volunteer from our community. The NP is the voice of the Parish and your views are invaluable, we as a Council have objected at all planning stages so far to the proposed substantial development that is earmarked for Feering. However, as Councillor Blackburn says in her report, the NP is a way for us all to have a big say in any potential development and once the plan is adopted, this will become part of the legal structure of Braintree District Council.

Once the draft plan is completed, it will go out to all members of the parish. There will also be a referendum, giving the community the opportunity to vote to adopt the Plan, which will have been written to reflect the views of the community.

The Parish Council have installed a defibrillator on the outside of the community centre. We have also obtained further funding to install a mobile defibrillator in the community. We are, at present, negotiating on the best location. Any suggestions from the community for its location would be gratefully received.

Continuing the health front, we have installed several pieces of fitness trail equipment over at the park that are designed for older age groups. As obesity is a national problem we felt that there must be free facilities in the village to assist people to improve their lifestyle. I urge all community members to think about their wellbeing and use these facilities, as well as the extensive footpath network which we keep clear and accessible for villagers.

As the community are aware, Feering Primary School is in the process of becoming an academy and due to the unique circumstances of the land ownership and access



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at the school a great deal of time and energy is being spent on ensuring that the community assets remain in the community's hands. So far, the negotiations have been positive. We hope that negotiations will be concluded and agreements in place within the next couple of months.

As a Council we feel that it is important to develop a 3-year parish development plan which we would like all community members to contribute to. Councillors are already accessible through the Parish Clerk at the office Tuesday to Thursday, but we are proposing to have a monthly councillor surgery, so parishioners can meet with a councillor to discuss all things Feering. We are also improving the website and other methods of communication to ensure community concerns are heard and addressed, as swiftly as possible. Please look and 'like' our Facebook page as we will be posting updates here also.

I would like to thank our maintenance team at G.G. Adams, for maintaining the village, helping us to win **Best Kept Village in Essex** last year. As a team they carry out any minor repairs that have been needed as well as getting out in the worse winter weather to salt were possible.

I must also thank the other Councillors for their efforts in ensuring we get the best we can for Feering. Apart from attending the 11 Parish Council meetings a year they also sit on various sub-committees covering Planning, Playing Fields and Neighbourhood Plan to name just a few. They also attend meetings at Braintree District Council and at Essex County Council as well as at other organisations to ensure our village's voice is heard.

This year Michelle Lakin left the Council after many years' service, the Council would like to thank her for all that she contributed to the community through the Council.

The Council continues to be 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 rail passenger transport issues.

Looking to the future of Feering, the council will continue to represent the views of the Parish and engage with the community, *YOUR VIEWS* as parishioners are invaluable to us as a council. Please do join us at our Monthly Meetings and have your views on Feering and the future of our village heard.

Challenges over the last year

Grave financial position

2018/19 kept below inflation. Grants obtained

Prediction for 2019/20 again keep Precept to inflation.

Maintaining and enhancing services of the village

NP great effect

More fitness trail on recreation ground

Further increase in equipment

Feering school is becoming an academy. Legal Fees spent to retain the assets of the Council.



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Councillor surgeries are hoping to be piloted out on a regular basis.

4. Questions from the public regarding the Chairman's report

No questions

5. Update on District Issues

Cllr R. Mitchell

Ask for his report

Questions from the public regarding the District/ECC Councillors report

Cllr R. Mitchell took questions from the residents.

- Monks Farm proposal
- Rivenhall Incinerator
- Sweep around Copford
- Archaeological survey being carried out in Inworth Road
- Parish Council noticeboard

6. Neighbourhood Plan

First, the Neighbourhood Plan Committee would like to send a big thank you to all the people who completed the Feering Parish Community Survey. The information you gave is vital to the committee in supporting the evidence needed to formulate the objectives and policies that will go to make up the Feering Neighbourhood Plan. This will then give the village a say in how we plan the future. Our exhibition in February saw a good turnout of villagers who viewed the data that had been collated and gave us further invaluable feedback. The information that has been gathered is also available on the Parish website and a hard copy is available to read at the Parish office for those of you who do not have a computer.

During the year we have engaged in talks with Braintree District Council to express our concerns on various matters and to evaluate their thoughts, we will also be arranging a meeting with Crown Estates soon for the same reason. We have liaised with Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan and Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan Committees where there are matters that are of concern to all villages and share common concerns, issues and solutions.

As has been stated before, there are still several hurdles to go before we get our Neighbourhood Plan formally adopted. It cannot be said enough that a Neighbourhood Plan is our only hope to guide the future development, regeneration and conservation of our village.



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Please look out for our stand at the Feering May Fayre and leaflets that will be coming to you over the next few months to keep you updated. Additionally, please visit our Facebook Page 'Feering Neighbourhood Plan' where updates are also posted.

7. Questions from the public regarding the Neighbourhood Plan report

- A resident thanked all the Neighbourhood plan committee for all their hard work.
- A resident spoke about the Kelvedon NP in conjunction with Feering NP

Questions from the Residents

- Who is responsible for the upkeep on Footpath 16
- Brilliant idea to have the Annual report and helped the attendance to the meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed.....March 2019
Paul Lees