

## TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of Terling and Fairstead Parish Council held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm, (Remote Meeting by Zoom)

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Present: Mrs S McNamara (Chairman) Mr A Dyke  
Mrs S Alder Mr R Dixon  
Mr S Thatcher Mr M Webster  
Mrs L Sime Mr C Barker  
Mrs J Long Mr M Tugwell

F Killby – Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

5 members of the public

25.47 ***Apologies for Absence***- were received and accepted from Cllr Abbott, Cllr Dervish

25.48 ***Declaration of Interests*** – Although no longer employed, AD declared a non-pecuniary interest in all Agenda items relating to his past employer Lord Rayleigh's Farms Limited, Lord Rayleigh and Lord Rayleigh's family, and stated in particular that he would not be participating in any debate relating to Longfield Solar Farm.

25.49 ***Meeting Open to the Public*** –

A member of the public stated that he would like to discuss the situation with the Environment Agency and the River Ter water quality issues. Another member of the public asked if the broken road signs in Fairstead Road and Peg Millars Lane could be removed as they were rotting on the ground.

25.50 ***Minutes of Last Meeting***

It was proposed by MW and seconded by SA that the Chairman should sign a copy of the minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 as a true and accurate record – unanimously approved.

25.51 ***District and County Councillors' Reports*** –

Clerk read a report from Cllr Abbott as follows:

He has had several residents contact him about the fibre cabling. ECC has confirmed that it is an obligation on the company doing the work to inform residents in advance when they will be outside their houses, which has not been fulfilled in some areas. ECC has reminded the company of their obligations.

The "Top 50" potholes work in Terling and Fairstead is completed for Crow Pond Road and mostly for Fairstead Road, except the crew missed the patch of eroded road surface on Fairstead Road just beyond the houses. He has asked them to go back to complete that section. The final road to be done is Ranks Green Road through the hamlet and down to the junction. He wrote to ECC this week to flag that through the hamlet there is now a substantial amount of work to do with deep ruts on the edge of the road as well as potholes. When he gets a date for the work, he will circulate it.

The very large pothole on the bridge over the stream along Braintree Road is clearly well past the threshold for intervention and he has written to ECC to ask them to deal with it. He has also reported a number of other highway defects such as in Terling Hall Road where there are several potholes.

The Local Highways Panel met in March and for Terling the gateway feature scheme submitted by the parish council on Hatfield Road is now approved and will be installed this year.

The fingerpost schemes for Fairstead and Terling which he submitted are still under discussion and he has expressed strongly to ECC that this is taking far too long - years in fact - and that residents and the parish council are rightly concerned that the work now gets done. A bit of progress is that a new fingerpost sign has been put up on Terling Hall Road. Assuming the LHP schemes do get approved then all of the replacement work and repairs needed in the two parishes will be done, except for the ones that have deteriorated since the two LHP schemes were submitted.

These are:

The collapsed sign at the top of New Road – he was told by ECC in November last year that a job had been ordered for a replacement and he has asked why it has not been replaced in the six months since. He called ECC on Friday and again today and is still awaiting a clear answer. He has also asked them to come and collect the remains of the fallen one. The collapsed sign on Fairstead Road (it collapsed in March) was also just left on the ground by ECC despite reports to them and so there was a risk it too would get broken up. He went to have a look at it this week to see if it could be put back, as the sign itself is fine - it had rotted at the base of the post. Luckily the concrete slot was intact so after about half an hour of trimming off the rotten wood and clearing the slot, he got it back in place.

His highways liaison officer has confirmed ECC is continuing to chase the pipework from Oakfield Lane/Waltham Road downslope to check if it is clear. To confirm they have also said that a spur into Oakfield Lane should be possible and as previously discussed, may be there anyway and just needs a new gulley to connect to it.

RD commented that some of the road markings in the parish had all but disappeared. Clerk to ask JA when these would be renewed.

Cllr Dervish did not have a report to submit but offered her assistance to the Council if needed.

25.52 **Chairman's Report** – SM reported that a complaint had been received and in accordance with the Complaints Procedure SM and FK had met with complainants. The next step will be to meet with the Complaints Committee. The Parish Council has also requested advice on this issue from Essex Association of Local Councils. SM attended a meeting of the Braintree Association of Local Councils who are trying to reform, but their objectives are unclear. Clerk reported that the Parish Council had not renewed their membership with this association when it was last in existence in 2016-2017.

25.53 **Finance**

Copies of Receipts, Payments, Bank Reconciliation, Budgets and Forecast for the current financial year were distributed prior to the meeting to all councillors. SA proposed that the following cheques/direct debits be approved for payment, seconded by JL, unanimously approved.

18 Mar	DD	British Telecom	Clerk's Phone Line	44.28
18 Mar	DD	EDF Energy	Elec Recreation Ground	19.00
31 Mar	DD	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	18.00
9 Apr	BACS	F Killby	Salary	861.72

9 Apr	BACS	F Killby	Expenses	577.26
9 Apr	BACS	Inland Revenue	PAYE/Tax	322.25
9 Apr	BACS	Essex Pension Fund	Clerk's Pension	330.25
9 Apr	BACS	Lord Rayleigh's Farms	Garage Rental	25.00
9 Apr	BACS	A H Jiggins	Handyman Services	208.07
9 Apr	BACS	James Todd	Payroll Services	93.60

Clerk clarified that the expenses of £577.26 were for the purchase of the new bench for Terling Ford, Zoom subscription and mileage to complaints meeting.

RD proposed the renewal of membership of NALC and EALC 2021-22 at a cost of £300.76, seconded by SA, unanimously approved.

LS proposed the renewal of the contract with Braintree District Council for 1 x 770L, 1 x 360L and 1000L bin (Terling Village Hall) at a cost of £1299.50, seconded by CB, unanimously approved.

EX Agenda – SA proposed the renewal of Street Cleansing Agreement – a payment from BDC of £822.86 (to cover emptying of bins, litter picks, street sweeping, etc) seconded by CB, unanimously approved. Clerk to clarify if road sweeping comes to Fuller Street as part of the agreement.

25.54

#### ***Environmental and Footpaths***

Rats – Mill Lane – Clerk to chase, no update from Cllr Dervish or Eastlight Homes.

Footpaths – JL had requested some no litter signs at the last meeting and expressed disappointment that these had not been progressed as it would demonstrate that the Council is listening to requests from residents. Clerk to obtain costings for signs. AD pointed out that the location of these signs could be an issue as they would be on Highways or private land.

JL also had another request regarding leaving some parts of the greens uncut to encourage wildlife, particularly bees. SM stated that this was suggested before, but some people wanted the greens to be neat and tidy and also that the greens were private property and not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

F Strutt stated that some fields had already been planted for wild flowers. SA asked if any of this planting would be at Fuller Street. F Strutt confirmed that there would be planting at Three Ashes down towards the river. Clerk stated that BDC are currently looking at a pilot scheme to leave some verges uncut where visibility is good.

CB reported that over 300 pooh bags had been used, clerk has ordered further stock.

Parish Map – The designer/printer for the Parish Map is now unable to continue the work. MT to pass on a name of a printer/designer to clerk.

Water Quality – River Ter – Sewage Plants – The latest letter just received from the EA has been circulated to councillors. RD asked councillors to comment on the letter as the EA has refused to put in monitoring points as requested. Clerk will circulate letter to P Guppy, F Strutt and Great and Little Leighs Parish Council. LS asked if the Council should now consider designated bathing status for Paulk Hall, Papermill Lock and Terling Ford. AD stated that a recent Panorama documentary showed the scale of the problem in the country, but this latest correspondence seems completely disjointed and

contradictory from the previous response which contains the real information, ie are the EA aware they have submitted two varying responses. P Guppy expressed concern that the public are unaware of the issue and children continue to play in the river at Paulks Hall Lane close to the sewage works and that he wanted to publicise this on Facebook. SM stated that the village can be informed together with Great Leighs and that people should be advised to contact EA directly.

Replacement of Litter Bin in Owls Hill – Clerk confirmed that BDC are due to install this soon.

Repair of Noticeboard and Installation of Posts opposite school – CB suggested a work party to get jobs done, FK to get costs for timber if CB can supply quantities, etc.

New Noticeboard at Fuller Street - it was agreed that this needs to be replaced, FK to obtain quotes.

25.55 ***Estate Liaison*** – nothing to report.

25.56 ***Health and Welfare***

New Defibrillator – FK confirmed that an installation date was being organized for the Fairstead phone box. All the signage, etc would be supplied and installed at the same time.

Playground – JL stated that the Rospa inspection is due in May and some work from the last report is still outstanding. CB has some jobs to do. The Council is waiting for the CIF grant to be launched for the replacement climbing frame and sail shades. There have been lots of positive comments about the new tractor play equipment.

Bench, Terling Ford - The new licence and retrospective licences for the old benches have been verbally approved. Clerk is waiting to receive email confirmation. The bench has been ordered.

Oak Tree Survey – Playground – Clerk continues to chase the BDC contact but has had no response to date.

Emergency Telephone Tree - It was agreed this would be carried out on Wed 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 7.00 pm via the Parish Council Whats App contact group.

25.57 ***IT & Publicity*** – nothing to report.

25.58 ***Planning and Highways***

Planning App: 20/00161/VAR – Great Warley Hall, Ranks Green, Fairstead - Removal of Condition 2 'Annex Occupancy Restriction' of approved permission 06/01863/FUL granted 03/11/06 for rebuild of existing barn into 2 bed annex – This went to BDC's planning committee 14 months after it was submitted and has been approved.

Planning App: 20/00462/FUL - Demolition of bungalow and erection of 2 dwellings, The Lincoln, New Road, Terling. - Both residents have submitted a stage 3 complaint and the council has prepared a draft stage 3 complaint for submission. The council submitted a request asking if various conditions had been complied with, BDC's response was that they had not received any complaints and that we should, if there was a problem, complain to BDC Enforcement who will then look into it, ie there appears to be no monitoring due to staff shortage. AD suggested that the neighbours who are affected by the build (ie raised levels and compromised landscaping should complain direct to BDC.

Planning App: 21/00301/HH – Clinton, Fairstead Road, Terling – Approved.

It was confirmed that Blixes Farm has set up a concrete crushing business in Fuller Street. RD to speak to owner re noise/pollution impact on local residents.

- Waltham Road flooding. Council is still waiting to see photographic evidence of the spur that went to 1 Hull Lane. RD to call Cllr Abbott regarding this matter.
- River Hill - Clerk to write to Anglian Water again to ask them to look into this.
- Fuller Street flooding – SA reported that the repairs were started but they are still waiting for them to return to finish the work.
- Road Repairs – see Minute 25.51.
- URC – clerk to chase again for an update.
- Local Plan – no update
- Directional Signs – see Minute 25.51.

Review of Terms and Conditions for Planning Sub-Committee for Approval at Next Parish Council Meeting SM stated that the Council was recently asked for these and there do not appear to be any so the Council needs to think about how sub-committees should be managed, in particular the Planning Sub Committee as it has delegated powers to act on behalf of the Council due to the time lag between meetings. SM felt that the time to sort out these issues would be at the next meeting in May.

25.40 ***Recreation Ground***

Clerk reported that a Great Leighs adult team wished to block book Saturday afternoons. This will be done on a pay for 10 sessions, get one free basis.

25.41 ***Longfield Solar Farm***

The Village Hall is to be used as a venue for a presentation by Longfield Solar Farm, late May, early June. There will be a booking system to attend the display and a presentation. LS expressed concern as to whether or not the batteries were being produced in forced labour camps in China. She is happy to ask this question of Longfield Solar Farm.

25.42 ***Policy for Recording Meetings***

SM stated that Council also needed to put in place a policy regarding recordings as anyone is entitled to record Zoom or in person meetings, and the Council should ensure that a relevant policy is approved at the next meeting. SM to research this and FK will circulate to all councillors.

25.43 ***Councillors' Reports, including Village Hall Report, School Report and Church Liaison***

SA – Fuller Street held a very successful litter pick and wished to record thanks to Vic and Sue for the coffee afterwards.

JL – Terling had a good litter pick, but there were not enough people to cover the routes. JL will review the routes to see if some can be amalgamated. Wheelie bin speeding stickers – would these be a good idea on well used routes where speeding is an issue. Clerk to research if BDC supply these or if not get prices from Amazon, etc.

CB – issue regarding locals/visitors standing in road and sitting on the kerb by the pub and tea rooms. He is very concerned that there could be an accident. The Tearooms have tried to manage this but some customers can be very difficult.

CB held a meeting with Roger Hirst, Essex Police and Crime Commission as he wanted to discuss crime in the community and the lack of support forthcoming from the police. It was agreed that CB be appointed as a representative for the Council to liaise with the police.

AD – announced that he is moving to North Yorkshire in a month's time and would be happy to stand down if anyone wishes to become a parish councillor.

25.44 ***Clerk's Report***

Police Community engagements – C Cutler is passing this information to L Bundy for Neighbourhood Watch, is this something that would be useful for the parish.

Clerk asked CB to check if UK Power Networks have upgraded the Ford light as requested.

The BDC non-recyclable collection is now available for bookings if the Council wish to use it.

25.45 ***Information exchange / next agenda items*** – nothing to report.

25.46 ***Date of next meeting, including committees:*** 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Meeting closed at 22.01.