

TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Terling and Fairstead Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7.30pm, (Remote Meeting by Zoom)

Present: Mrs S McNamara (Chairman) Mr A Dyke
Mrs S Alder Mr R Dixon
Mrs P Bird Mr M Webster
Mrs L Sime

Cllr Bebb

F Killby – Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

5 members of the public

SM opened the meeting by stating that prior to the last two meetings it was decided to record the Zoom meetings to assist in minute taking. The recording from the first meeting recording was deleted after the minutes were approved, and it was repeated for the last meeting. The Parish Council had not been informed that the meetings were recorded. We have requested advice from EALC who stated that it was in order to delete these recordings once the minutes are approved as they are the true record of the meeting. This has raised some issues about sharing recordings and therefore it has been agreed that this meeting will not be recorded. SM suggested that an item be placed on the next agenda to discuss this issue for future meetings.

25.28 **Apologies for Absence**- were received and accepted from Cllr Abbott, Cllr Dervish, Cllr Long, and Cllr Tugwell.

25.29 **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.

25.30 **Meeting Open to the Public** –

F Strutt – had received a request from a resident to put up signs about littering. The Estate feels that signs blight the landscape and would probably make no difference to the offenders, but wanted to pass this information on to the Council if they want to pursue it. The Estate has applied for and been given 100 trees by Woodland Trust to plant along roads so members of public and parish can appreciate them.

SA asked which roads, F Strutt stated they would mainly be on the road to Hatfield Peverel to replace the ones that did not survive the last planting.

25.31 **Minutes of Last Meeting** –

It was proposed by SA and seconded by MW that the Chairman should sign a copy of the minutes of the meeting of 26th January 2021 with the following amendment: Minute 25.2 Budgets - should read - AD queried if the proposed grant income of £6,000 for 2021-22 was in lieu of reciprocal proposed capital improvement expenditure for new playground equipment of £10,000 at the Playground. ST confirmed that this was correct and that the £6,000 grant was an estimate of CIF Funding for the new playground equipment – unanimously approved.

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

Cllr Bebb - joined the meeting briefly to say goodbye. His only comments were: Council tax is set at 0% increase for this year. Section 1 of the Local Plan has been adopted, now waiting for Section 2.

Cllr Abbott – The Clerk read the following report from Cllr Abbott.

Essex County Council met to set its budget for 2021/22 recently. The council tax rate will not be changed but a social care levy of 1.5% will be applied.

The financial situation at County Hall remains complex and challenging due to the impacts of Covid (offset to a significant extent by Government support) and the structural budget gap. As a result, there will need to be further savings in the next few years and borrowing is increasing.

There was increased funding for the Climate Change agenda and mental health support.

Highways Panel budgets are to be restored, something Cllr Abbott has been calling for at both BDC and ECC for several years alongside colleagues. It means more schemes can be progressed, and hopefully more quickly. Cllr Abbott is particularly keen to see longstanding scheme requests funded and delivered, including the fingerpost replacement/repairs. The next Braintree LHP meeting will be held on 25th March 2021.

Cllr Abbott has reminded ECC for the second time, since the Highways Surgery meeting, where they said they would forward information to him to share with the parish council regarding the pipes and drainage that exist now and historically at Waltham Road where the flooding takes place.

Cllr Abbott has corresponded with the Clerk about benches at the Ford. ECC says that the current and future benches will need to be permitted.

Cllr Abbott wrote to the Environment Agency following the last parish council meeting to add to the requests regarding the water quality in the River Ter and about an issue with the River Brain. The EA replied to say that pollution should be reported on their 'hotline' and that the River Brain was not their responsibility, when clearly it is as it is a Main River (and they have since confirmed this). He will write to the EA again to say that by emailing them and having made contact he is asking what their intentions are to improve water quality in the River Ter.

Cllr Abbott continues to forward details of road closures (lots are due soon for broadband work) and to report potholes, including recently re-reporting the clusters along Terling Hall Road.

25.33 ***Chairman's Report –*** Nothing to report.

25.34 ***Finance***

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

8 Feb	BACS	F Killby	Salary	771.06
8 Feb	BACS	F Killby	Expenses	18.89
8 Feb	BACS	Inland Revenue	PAYE/Tax	237.03
8 Feb	BACS	Essex Pension Fund	Clerk's Pension	282.61
8 Feb	BACS	Lord Rayleigh's Farms	Garage Rental/Grass Cutting	100.00
8 Feb	BACS	A H Jiggins	Handyman Services	219.32
8 Feb	BACS	Anglian Water	Water Recreation Ground	16.03
8 Feb	BACS	RCCE	Subscription	72.60
8 Feb	BACS	BHIB	Tractor Insurance	95.20
8 Feb	BACS	Redlynch	Playground Equipment	1668.00
8 Feb	BACS	Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator Pads	46.80
8 Feb	BACS	EALC	Conference Charges	120.00
18 Feb	DD	British Telecom	Clerk's Phone Line	42.80
18 Feb	DD	EDF Energy	Elec Recreation Ground	19.00
3 Mar	BACS	F Killby	Salary	777.68
3 Mar	BACS	F Killby	Expenses	619.82
3 Mar	BACS	Inland Revenue	PAYE/Tax	242.32
3 Mar	BACS	Essex Pension Fund	Clerk's Pension	285.79
3 Mar	BACS	Lord Rayleigh's Farms	Garage Rental	25.00
3 Mar	BACS	A H Jiggins	Handyman Services	145.51

Clerk clarified that her expenses of £619.82 were made up of the purchase of the new bin to replace the broken one in Owl's Hill, replacement glass for the phone boxes and Zoom monthly subscription.

Clerk also clarified that after consultation with C Cutler, it was not necessary to have an Arrowmail subscription so this will not be renewed at the end of the year.

25.35 *Environmental and Footpaths*

SA proposed approval of continuation of the P3 footpath cutting initiative with Essex County Council – funding of £1379.30, seconded by AD, unanimously approved.

Rats – PB reported several complaints from residents due to the number of rats in the Mill Lane area. She has advised them to write direct to BDC as it is not a Parish Council matter. Clerk has contacted BDC and also Eastlight Housing who are going to inspect

the site. AD recommended speaking to Cllr Dervish about the problem to see if she can help. Clerk to action.

Footpaths – PB expressed concern that horses are using the footpaths and carving up the headlands. F Strutt stated there are some bridleways but they do not have permission as far as he is aware. PB also stated that it is very boggy by the cricket meadow and wondered if there a surface that can be put down.

Parish Map – Clerk is trying to organise a Zoom meeting with the designer.

Water Quality – River Ter – Sewage Plants – RD stated that no updates had been received from the Environment Agency since the letter of 24 February 2021. SA stated that the monitoring point set up by them is very far away from the problem. RD suggested writing to request they monitor the water at Paulk Lane and Terling Ford. F Strutt reported that the Estate had been randomly selected by EA to set up a monitoring station near the north west corner of Sandy Wood. AD felt that the wording of the letter from EA admits liability. Clerk to send a copy of the EA letter to F Strutt.

Replacement of Litter Bin in Owls Hill – This has been purchased and BDC will install it and also move the bin near the noticeboard to the bench opposite on the green.

Repair of Noticeboard and Installation of Posts opposite school - CB is organising.

25.36 ***Estate Liaison*** – see Minute 25.30.

25.37 ***Health and Welfare***

New Defibrillator – Clerk has costings from various companies for a new defibrillator cabinet. It was agreed that Community Heartbeat Trust should supply the cabinet as they are partners with BT. They can also install the cabinet in the phone box.

Playground – SA asked that thanks be recorded to CB for doing such a fantastic job replacing the two rockers. JL is obtaining quotes for a new climbing frame. A Jiggins is going to complete the fence repairs.

Terling Ford - Clerk reported that the new bench needs a licence as do the old benches. Clerk to action. JL to organise volunteers to paint the railings when the weather improves.

25.38 ***IT & Publicity*** –

C Cutler reported that Gigaclear are working in the parish, however their published status does not match their actual progress. CC confirmed that individuals pay for this service.

25.39 ***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 – RD reported that this was registered a year ago and is still not determined, clerk has contacted BDC again for a response. SM suggested contacting Cllr Dervish to see if she can help move this matter forward.

Planning App: 20/00462/FUL - Demolition of bungalow and erection of 2 dwellings, The Lincoln, New Road, Terling. - A Stage 2 complaint has now been submitted. Two of the neighbours have asked the planning committee to consider writing a letter about various

conditions of the planning approval and how they are being enforced or policed. RD has a copy of the neighbour's Stage 2 response and their Freedom of Information Request to BDC. BDC has assessed this and said that it would take 1,075 hours of officers' time to provide this information and that it would not be in the public interest. RD to discuss with MT and AD.

Planning App: 20/02068/FUL – Demolition of house and erection of replacement dwelling – Rosemead, Fairstead Road, Terling – RD reported that this is going before BDC's Planning Committee this evening with their recommendation to approve. A statement has been submitted as there are significant issues that have not been addressed.

Planning App: 21/00301/HH – Clinton, Fairstead Road, Terling - Single-storey rear extension – The Planning Sub Committee is happy to support this application.

- Waltham Road flooding – This is an ongoing issue, the Council understands that these drains have been or are being cleaned but it is not certain if a CCT survey will be carried out at the same time. A search of the Land Registry shows that there has been extension of boundaries and it has been referred to the Cabinet Member for Highways. RD and AD met with Cllr Abbott at the location prior to his meeting with the Cabinet Member.
- River Hill - RD took photos of the water leak as Essex Highways were unable to locate the leak. Clerk to forward.
- Fuller Street flooding – SA reported that there was a leak close to her house which Anglian Water repaired in conjunction with Gigaclear. The water leak outside the pub has disappeared, however there is water on the roads in other parts of Fuller Street, mainly near the garage, but it is not clear if it is a water leak, a spring or water off the fields.
- Road Repairs – RD stated that the repairs recently carried out are coming away after just a week of being down. SA took photos of Sandypits to send with her online fault submission to Essex Highways as the work recently carried out is appalling.
- United Reformed Church – FK has contacted to request update.
- Local Plan – no update
- Directional Signs – see Minute 25.32
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- Directional Signs – see Minute 25.32

25.40 ***Recreation Ground***

A team from Great Leighs would like to book the pitch for Saturday afternoon. F Strutt to enquire if this is appropriate with the Estate. Clerk to contact D Goodwin to see if they want to book the pitch as they have a local connection. A Jiggins to fix broken fence.

25.41 ***Longfield Solar Farm***

The Parish Council has a meeting booked with Longfield Solar Farm for an update as a statutory consultee. This is not a public meeting but the Parish Council will report on this in due course on the community website and on the Terling Hub. The meeting is booked for 25th March 2021 at 7.30 pm.

25.42

Neighbourhood Watch Update

C Cutler provided an update from NHW. The members are very active and vigilant and if there is reasonable suspicion a lot of people turn out which seems to be getting the message across. They have seen off quite a few people and distributed information and updates to every household and on the website on security, etc. SM asked that thanks be recorded to all the volunteers.

25.43

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

SA – A litter pick was held in Fuller Street where they collected seven sacks of rubbish, SA and RD attended the Climate Crisis Conference with EALC and asked if the Clerk could chase up the notes as they had not been received. The Conference message was that something has to be done, but what can be done as a Parish Council. Some examples included planting trees and wildflowers, electric car charging points, cycle parking, refill shops, swap boxes, local produce markets, community orchard, taking into account the environmental impact with every consideration. There is a lot of help available; the Essex Climate Action Commission has a budget of £250,000 plus £5m. Giki Zero is a free carbon footprint calculator which might be of use to school children who will get their parents involved. She wondered if anybody would be interested in moving this forward. JL has said she would be interested, and parishioners could also get involved. LS was interested as her daughter is involved in a project on climate change. SM suggested promoting in the school newsletter and on the hub. Clerk to liaise.

PB - had received two complaints of dog poo on Church Green.

RD – asked if a meeting was appropriate before the Longfields presentation, but SM stated that this was not necessary as they were presenting an update to the Parish Council.

25.44

Clerk's Report

A litter pick will be held in Terling and Fuller Street on Saturday 17th April 2021, 9.30 in Fuller Street and 10.00 in Terling.

25.45

Information exchange / next agenda items – nothing to report.

25.46

Date of next meeting, including committees: - 20th April and 25th May 2021

Meeting closed at 20.55