

Minutes of the Meeting of Terling and Fairstead Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th March 2015 in The Gallery Room at The Square & Compasses, Fuller Street, Fairstead

Present: Mrs P Bird Cllr J Abbott
 Mrs S Alder Cllr M Galione
 Mr A Dyke Cllr T Cunningham
 Mr D White
 Mr R Dixon
 Mr J Payne
 Mr I Smith Mrs J Halfhide (Clerk)
 Miss S Clements 7 Members of the public

15.148 ***Apologies for Absence*** – Sarah McNamara (PB to Chair in SM’s absence), Reg Hunt

15.149 ***Meeting Open to the Public***

Two members of the public enquired about sale details of the pub in Terling. Councillors explained what they could, and referred them to the Receivers.

Residents, who had seen the Agenda item on Broadband provision, commented that County Broadband were not the only wireless providers available, although others were not necessarily able to reach all parts of the Parish.

Richard Ould introduced himself as the new Community Agent for the area.

15.150 ***Minutes of Last Meeting***

SA proposed and AD seconded that the Chairman should sign a copy of the minutes as a true and accurate record. The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2015 were unanimously approved.

15.151 ***Declaration of Interests***

Mr Ian Smith - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests being the Applicant for Planning Application 15/00090/FUL (Agenda item 15.159). The Proper Officer had given IS dispensation to remain in the room whilst the matter was discussed although he would not be permitted to participate or vote.

Mr Alex Dyke - Non-Pecuniary Interest being a representative for Lord Rayleigh wishing to make a comment on the Village Design Statement on behalf of Lord Rayleigh and Lord Rayleigh’s family and Lord Rayleigh’s Farms Ltd interests (Agenda item 15.162).

15.152 ***District Councillors’ Reports***

Cllr Cunningham reported a 0% budget increase on the 2015/16 BDC Precept. BDC was committed to initiatives to bring growth to the area. With up to 14,000 new homes needed in the area over the next two decades, this would bring growth opportunity. Residents should contact BDC if they had problems with missed refuse collections. Purdah would begin on 30th March.

Cllr Abbott reported that the Little Warley Hall Farm appeal process was progressing. The ECC bus service was under review, members of the public could comment on line on the website. ECC had also agreed on a % budget increase. A consultation on Recycling Centers was under way; ECC is looking at charging for their use and was reviewing hours of opening and capacity. Cllr Abbott had received the long list of road repairs for the area scheduled for the next 18 months. Whilst it was impossible to determine when exactly which areas would be repaired, Parishes should receive notification two weeks prior to works commencing.

15.153

Chairman's Report

- Review of Clerk's Contract. SM had met with the Clerk and reviewed her contract. No amendments were deemed necessary.

15.154

Finance

Copies of Receipts and Payments for the current financial year had been emailed to all Councillors. SA proposed that the following cheques/direct debits should be to be approved for payment and signed, seconded by RD. Unanimously approved.

- The following cheques/direct debits to be approved for payment and signed:

12 th Jan	1949 Lord Rayleigh's Farms	£ 20.00
12 th Jan	1950 J Halfhide	£718.79
12 th Jan	1951 Acumen Wages	£ 22.20
12 th Jan	1952 E.On	£ 35.16
12 th Jan	1953 HM Revenue & Customs	£156.58
12 th Jan	1954 Ardleigh Feeds & Fencing	£269.00
12 th Jan	1955 Ritz Inns Ltd	£104.15
12 th Jan	1956 Terling Post Office	£195.74
12 th Jan	1957 J Halfhide	£30.29
12 th Jan	1958 D W Jiggins	£615.00
12 th Jan	1959 Stocksigns Ltd	£106.27
10 th Feb	1960 EDF Energy	£ 48.00
10 th Feb	1961 Braintree Association	£ 18.00
10 th Feb	1962 EALC	£ 40.00
10 th Feb	1963 A H Jiggins	£ 207.70
10 th Feb	1964 Stocksigns Ltd	£ 53.42
10 th Feb	1965 Terling Village Hall	£ 25.60
10 th Feb	1966 Ardleigh Feeds & Fencing	£ 269.00
10 th Feb	1967 HM Revenue & Customs	£ 145.98
10 th Feb	1968 J Halfhide	£ 703.88
10 th Feb	1969 Terling Village Hall	£ 13.40
10 th Feb	1970 D W Jiggins	£ 110.15
10 th Feb	1971 Stocksigns Ltd	£ 53.42
10 th Feb	1972 Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	£9145.20
10 th Feb	1973 J Halfhide	£ 26.52
10 th Feb	1974 Lord Rayleigh's Farms Ltd	£ 20.00
17 th Feb	D/Debit British Telecom	£ 61.58

- Mini internal audit carried out by SM 25th February 2015. The Clerk reported that the routine mini audit had been carried out. There were some minor administrative errors picked up, now corrected.

- The Clerk gave details of the one off additional payment of £248 from BDC (after setting of Precept).

15.155

Environmental & Footpaths

- P3 Scheme 2014/15

DW explained his discussions with Shirley Anglin following confirmation of ECC's proposals for paths cutting for the coming season. ECC had proposed one cut of only some of the paths but DW hoped to get agreement under the P3 scheme for finance for more than this. Cllr Abbott agreed that one cut was not sufficient in this area so dependent on promoting countryside access and agreed to look into this.

15.156

Estate Liaison

Nothing to report.

15.157

Health & Welfare

- Oak: inspection

SA reported that Shawn Taylor, BDC Tree Officer, had visited the Playground to review his recommendation that the Parish Council needed to arrange a climbing inspection every 4/5 years. In light of the work the Council had carried out, relocating the roundabout and moving the fencing, he was prepared to revise his recommendation. He offered to carry out a PiCUS test followed by a ground/climbing survey within the next few weeks. Depending on the results of these tests he would advise of any work which needs to be carried out.

- New Sputnik Roundabout

SA reported that the project had been completed and the Clerk was claiming the grant funding.

- Playground inspection

SA and SC had inspected the playground and found that the safety surface around the springers may soon need replacement. Estimates for this work were around £700 per springer. It was agreed that the Council should wait for the ROSPA report, due in June, before deciding how urgently these needed replacing. AD gave permission for some overhanging branches to be removed near the slide. Litter in the playground was an issue, and it was suggested a new bin be purchased for inside the playground itself. The Health and Welfare Committee would consider this.

15.158

IT & Publicity

- Update on new email addresses for Councillors & Clerk

The Clerk had emailed all Councillors on their old email addresses to confirm the switch over on 1st March. Despite this several Councillors had failed to use the new address. JP stressed the importance of this, and offered to assist in helping the remaining few access their new accounts.

- Wireless Broadband for Parish – Redraw Internet / County Broadband

County Broadband had been unable to attend, but had emailed to report that they had had a relatively good overall Survey response indicating there is clearly a demand for high speed broadband in the area. However there were a number of technical challenges with this project which meant that the total cost of the project would be just over £16,000 and they would need £7,000 from the community to cover the shortfall to cover the whole Parish. JP had asked for more detailed information from County Broadband.

In light of this, the Parish Council would need to go out to tender if it was agreed it would part-fund the project. Redraw Internet had indicated they would not be prepared to tender for a Parish-wide internet provision, but had confirmed they already have partial coverage locally and already supplied fast internet to a few customers within the Parish, and had the capacity to add more. At this stage they would not require any investment from the Parish to connect clients in their coverage area. It was important to note, however, that the technology used to deliver their internet signal requires a line of sight and any obstructions, including trees, hills and buildings, would prevent the signal getting through, so not all potential customers could be offered a service.

Buzcom was another potential supplier which should be considered.

15.159

Planning and Highways

APPLICATION NO : 15/00090/FUL Erection of 1 no. three bed two storey dwelling. Demolition of part of existing cottage and removal of existing garage. Barn Cottage Gambles Green Terling Essex CM3 2QP

The Planning Committee had held a public meeting to discuss this application on 28th February. Its recommendation to the Council was to OBJECT based on the fact that, mindful of this being within the Conservation Area, the intensity of use is too great, and the new building too large. The application fails to satisfy RLP3 and RLP16 in the BDC Adopted Local Plan. RD commented that

the filling of the gap was detrimental to the character of the surroundings and is not in harmony with its surroundings, failing to respect neighbouring amenities. RD proposed the response to BDC be an objection on these grounds. The decision was duly put to the vote:

6 Councillors voted to OBJECT, 1 Councillor voted to APPROVE. The Clerk was asked to respond to BDC with the Council's reasons for recommending REFUSAL.

Ex-Agenda: PLANNING APPLICATION 15/00282/FUL Erection of 2 storey rear extension and front porch. 3 Mill Lane, Terling CM3 2QB. The Planning Committee would give this application due consideration using its delegated powers.

15.160 ***Recreation Ground***

The Clerk reported on the high electricity usage in the Changing Cabin since the last meter read. AD offered to investigate. If thought necessary the Clerk would arrange for the meter to be checked.

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

Residents of Fairstead Road were frustrated that the small verge outside their property had been damaged, repeatedly, by either tractors or lorries. It was noted that this was in fact part of the public highway, and although the Council appreciated their desire to keep the grass in good condition, if vehicles could not pass by without mounting the grass, there was no alternative but for them to mount the bank.

SA reported that the grass bank outside Litchfield House in Fuller Street, the location of one of the Council's benches, was being eroded by cars parking there, lorries and heavy vehicles were damaging the integrity of the bank, threatening the foundations of the bench, and the buttresses of Litchfield House's wall. Cllr Abbott suggested this might be a suitable project to put to ECC's Local Highways Panel. The Clerk would obtain the necessary form.

The national speed limit signs in Fuller Street had been twisted out of place; the Clerk had reported this to ECC Highways.

15.162 ***Village Design Statement***

PB thanked those who had worked so hard to complete the Village Design Statement, particularly Colin and Heather Cutler, and wished to record formally the Council's gratitude. Without wishing to depreciate the efforts of the afore mentioned, AD wished it to be minuted that he had been asked by Lord Rayleigh to state that Lord Rayleigh, Lord Rayleigh's family, Lord Rayleigh's Farms Ltd and the Estate in general were not supportive of the Village Design Statement going forward. They believed that it contained a number of inaccuracies, see it as unnecessary (of little benefit) and it could even be potentially dangerous in the future, in the wrong hands, if used in the wrong way. To this end AD would abstain from the voting to formally adopt the Village Design Statement and formally requested a Recorded Vote.

JP proposed that the Parish Council formally approve and adopt the Terling and Fairstead Village Design Statement (as approved by Braintree District Council) and for the Council to agree to refer to it when commenting on planning applications. The proposal was put to the vote:

Those in favour of adoption: (6) Pauline Bird, Robin Dixon, Ian Smith, Sheila Alder, Sarah Clements, John Payne. Those against adoption: none. Abstentions: (2) Darren White and Alex Dyke.

The Terling and Fairstead Village Design Statement was therefore duly adopted.

15.163 ***Oakfield Lane Bus Stop***

The Clerk had written to residents living in the vicinity of Oakfields explaining that the Parish Council is keen to protect and promote village amenities for the benefit of its parishioners, one being the current bus service which although limited in extent is a "life line" for some. The current service

has been threatened with removal in the recent past and therefore the Council believed that, for its continued survival, it needed to be allowed to operate smoothly. Residents were asked to ensure they do not park vehicles in such a way to obstruct the bus access to the bus stop and turning circle at the junction of Oakfield Lane and Waltham Road as inconsiderate parking has been causing considerable problems and disruption to the service.

Over recent days the parking situation has been monitored, some have not complied with the request. It was agreed that further action would need to be taken.

The ownership of Oakfields Lane was discussed. Cllr Abbott believed ECC Highways would not adopt it. One possible avenue would be to examine the Compulsory Purchase Order for the land to determine where the fault lay for the road not being adopted. The Clerk was asked to try to find the records for this.

15.164 ***Recycling / Waste Bins for Terling Village Hall***

AD proposed the renewal of waste collection agreement with BDC: 1 x 360l recycling bin & 1 x 360l general waste bin costing £549 per annum (to replace existing Trade Waste bin). Seconded by RD. Unanimously agreed.

15.165 ***Clerk's Report***

- Review of Standing Orders (including Complaints Procedure)

The Finance Committee would be asked to review the Standing Orders.

- Review of Clerk's Home Working health and safety assessment

Mr. Lewis had carried out a review of the Clerk's home office, which was found to be satisfactory.

- The Clerk had received from Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) the Grant Claim for £1,153

- Fairstead Church Bench. A family had come forward who wished to make a donation towards the new Fairstead bench, and to pay for an engraving. This was welcomed by the Council on the condition that space be left on the bench for further dedications and possible future donations towards its cost and upkeep.

The Clerk was asked to purchase some more Litter Pick warning signs.

15.166 ***General Correspondence to note***

15.167 ***Information exchange / next agenda items***

Terling Litter Pick - Saturday 21st March 10am Terling Village Hall

Fuller Street Litter Pick - Saturday 28th March.

15.168 ***Date of next meeting, including committees***

Parish Council Meeting: 21st April 7pm, Terling Village Hall (note venue change)

Parish Council Meeting: 19th May 7pm, Terling Village Hall

Close of meeting: 9:15pm