

## TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018

*(To published on the Website, on the Notice boards and in the Parish Magazine)*

This report is a summary of the work of the Parish Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

During the year Gavin Mileman and Sarah Fruchard resigned from the Council.

I would like to thank them for the contribution they made. Abbe Bonham was co-opted during the year but unfortunately she has also resigned as she is moving from the area. Thanks to her too.

I am pleased to report that Louisa Sime has rejoined the Council; she joins Sheila Alder, Annemarie Blackshaw, Pauline Bird, Robin Dixon, Alex Dyke, Anne Fitzgerald, Ian Smith and myself.

There are currently two vacancies, one for Terling Ward and one for Fairstead Ward.

Councillors serve on one or more of the Council's Committees. They are currently

Finance: I Smith, R Dixon, S McNamara, S Alder

Environmental and Footpaths: P. Bird, A Fitzgerald, L Sime, A Blackshaw

Estate Liaison Officer: P Bird

Health and Welfare: S Alder, S McNamara

Planning and Highways: R Dixon, A Dyke

Recreation Ground: A Dyke, A Fitzgerald

Personnel: S McNamara, R Dixon, S Alder

Complaints: S McNamara, P Bird

Village Hall Representative: P Bird

Health and safety Consultant: Trevor Lewis

IT & Publicity Consultant: C Cutler

Tree Officer: Angus MacWillson

In addition to our regular meetings the Clerk and Councillors attended the following:

Passenger Transport meetings

Highways Conference

Annual Policing Conference

General Data Protection Training

Planning Committee meetings

EALC AGM and Conference

Braintree District Council Grants and Funding Exhibition

I am very proud to report that Terling was awarded Essex Village of the Year 2017 by the Rural Community Council of Essex.

Thank you to everyone who nominated me for the Essex Association of Local Councils Councillor of the Year award.

Our Essex County Council and Braintree District Council Representatives are invited to attend all meetings. District Councillors, David Bebb and Daryl Hufton Rees and County Councillor, James Abbott, have attended regularly and we thank them for the work they undertake on our behalf.

We are always pleased to welcome members of the public at our meetings and thank you for your interest. The suggestion box, situated in the shop, continues to be a means of communication.

### Planning and Highways

Eleven planning applications were considered during the year.

Our Tree Warden, Angus MacWillson is always on hand to give advice regarding the trees in the parish and I thank him for his work on our behalf.

With the help of Councillor Abbott, we are attempting to resolve highways issues including repair and replacement of directional signs, pot holes and work on the gabion walls at Terling Ford and problems with surface water and flooding in Fuller Street.

We have met with interested parties, including a representative from Greenfields, with a view to improving the state of Oakfield Lane.

We continue to benefit from the Essex County Council winter salt bag scheme so that salt for the roads is available if needed.

### Environment

We are a member of the Parish Paths Partnership to ensure that the footpaths are well maintained and accessible to all. After consultation, Essex County Council have re-routed some footpaths in the parishes.

We are working with Greenfields and the Environment Agency to resolve a problem with rats in Mill Lane.

Thank you to the volunteers who attend our regular litter picking sessions, part of our Street Cleaning Agreement with Braintree District Council. I would especially like to thank Sheila Alder, Annemarie Blackshaw and Sue Poole who lead the litter picking team in Fuller Street and Ranks Green.

There are many people who pick up litter as part of regular walks around the villages. All your help is much appreciated.

A Saturday green waste collection in February proved to be very popular.

Reports of dog fouling are followed up with the Dog Warden and notices have been put up around the village in problem areas and all issues of fly tipping are reported and dealt with promptly by Braintree District Council.

We maintain the various benches and seats in the parishes which are owned by the Council.

I would like to thank our Village Handymen, Daniel and Alan Jiggins who do so much to keep our villages looking good.

### Health and Welfare

The playground is checked weekly and ROSPA carry out an annual inspection. I would also like to thank David Anderson who helps with the maintenance of the equipment. We have been awarded a grant of £12,500 from the Community Initiatives Fund to improve the safety surfaces.

We continue to maintain the Recreation Ground and changing facilities which are used mainly by Trevor Meredith's Veterans Team.

Thanks too, to Debbie Burns who, each week, checks the defibrillator in the phone box on Owls Hill.

Unfortunately our bus services have been severely reduced due to lack of funds. Our only bus is to Braintree on Wednesdays, although other services such as the Shopper Bus and Dial a Ride are available. I would like to thank Daphne Parris for attending the Passenger Transport Meetings and for her hard work in trying to keep our weekly bus services running.

The Emergency Plan has been updated and Colin Cutler is our local first aider.

Thank you to Trevor Lewis, who spends an enormous amount of time advising us on Health and Safety issues and ensuring that our Risk Assessments are up to date.

### IT and Communications

Thanks to Colin Cutler, our web site is regularly up-dated and is an excellent source of information.

It is hoped to install wi-fi in the Village Hall in the near future.

### Finance

The Parish Council continue to pay for the waste facilities at the Village Hall which are also used by the Swimming Club, Tennis Club and the Cricket Club. These include bins for recycled waste.

A poppy wreath was purchased for Remembrance Sunday.

The accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 are available to be viewed by arrangement with the Clerk. I would like to thank our auditor Maurice Howard.

This is a brief summary of another busy year. Should you wish to know more the minutes of all our meetings are available on the website [www.terlingandfairstead.co.uk](http://www.terlingandfairstead.co.uk) or by application to the Clerk.

It only remains for me to thank my Council colleagues for their support and for their hard work throughout the year and our Clerk, Frankie Killby, who was also appointed Responsible Financial Officer in May 2017 who works tirelessly on our behalf and is always on hand to advise and ensure that all runs smoothly and efficiently.

Thank you for your interest and I hope to see you at a Parish Council Meeting in the near future.

*Sarah McNamara*  
*Chairman*