

TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 19th May 2015

(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 31st March 2015.

During the year, sadly, the deaths were announced of Ann Anderson and Dick Sterck. They had both served on the Parish Council for many years and will be remembered for their long service to our community. Terry Blunden, our Greenfields Representative and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator has also died. He worked extremely hard on our behalf. We miss them all.

Your Councillors are, for Fairstead, Sheila Alder, John Payne and Darren White and for Terling, Pauline Bird, Sarah Clements, Robin Dixon, Alex Dyke, Reg Hunt, Ian Smith and Sarah McNamara. We serve on one or more of the Council's Committees and also attend meetings and courses on subjects such as Planning, Police Liaison, Passenger Transport and Law and Procedures.

Our Essex County Council and Braintree District Council Representatives are invited to attend all meetings. Our District Councillors, Margaret Galione and Tom Cunningham and our County Councillor, James Abbot, 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 an effective means of communication.

Planning and Highways

Over twenty 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.

Potholes continue to be a major problem on roads throughout the parish. There have been many other Highways concerns, which, with the help of Councillor Abbot, we have attempted to resolve with Essex Highways.

I would like to thank the Planning and Highways Committee, Robin Dixon, Pauline Bird, Reg Hunt and John Payne for their work on these issues.

Environment

We continue to be a member of the Parish Paths Partnership to ensure that the footpaths are well maintained and accessible to all. Thank you to the many volunteers, led by Sheila Alder and Sue Poole in Fuller Street, Trevor and Joyce Lewis in Ranks Green and Jayne Halfhide in Terling, who attend our litter picking sessions, part of our Street Cleaning Agreement with Braintree District Council. I know that there are also many of you who pick up litter as part of your regular walks around the villages and would especially like to mention Alex Halfhide who regularly litter picks as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. All your help is much appreciated. Reports of dog fouling are followed up with the Dog Warden 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. The seat by Fairstead Church has been replaced.

Thanks to the Environment Committee, Darren White, John Payne and Louisa Sime, and to our Village Handymen, Daniel and Alan Jiggins who do so much to keep our villages looking good.

Health and Welfare

I am delighted to report that the Parish Council has received grants from the Essex Environment Trust and the Community Initiatives Fund to replace the sputnik in the Children's Playground. Thanks to Sheila Alder and Sarah Clements who prepared the applications.

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 continue to maintain the Recreation Ground and changing facilities which are used mainly by Terling Villa Football Club.

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

I would like to thank Daphne Parris for attending the Passenger Transport Meetings and for her hard work in keeping our weekly bus services running.

The Emergency Plan has been updated.

Thank you Sheila Alder and Sarah Clements who make up the Health and Welfare Committee, and 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, and Pauline Bird, our Village Hall Council Representative.

IT and Communications

John Payne has worked to give Councillors designated email addresses for Council business.

Thanks to Colin Cutler our web site is regularly up-dated and is an excellent source of information. The Internet Café in the shop continues to be popular as is the Events Board. Thanks to Wendy Hill for her help.

The Council continue to investigate ways of improving broadband speeds in the parishes.

After many years of hard work the Village Design Statement has been adopted by Braintree District Council and the Parish Council. Thanks to all who contributed but particularly Colin and Heather Cutler. You can read it on the website.

Thanks to the IT Committee Sarah Clements, Alex Dyke and John Payne.

Finance

During the year the Parish Council awarded a grant to Terling Cricket Club and continued to pay for the waste facilities at the Village Hall which are also used by the Swimming Club, Tennis Club and the Cricket Club. A poppy wreath was purchased for Remembrance Sunday.

The accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2015 are available to be viewed by arrangement with the Clerk. I would like to thank the Finance Committee, Ian Smith, Sheila Alder and Robin Dixon.

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 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, Jayne Halhide, 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

