

## TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016

This report is a summary of the work of the Parish Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

During the year we were sad to hear of the death of past Councillor Dick Butcher.

Your Councillors for the year were, 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 as diverse as Planning, Passenger Transport and Data Protection.

Louisa Sime resigned from the Council in February. I would like to thank her for her work as a Councillor, especially regarding the Recreation Ground.

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 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.

During the year we adopted the General Power of Competence as set out in the Localism Act 2011.

#### Planning and Highways

Fifteen 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.

Although many pot holes have been repaired there are other Highways concerns, which, with the help of Councillor Abbot, we are attempting 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. Essex County Council have informally consulted us regarding the possible re-routing of some footpaths. Thank you to the many volunteers who attend our regular litter picking sessions, part of our Street Cleaning Agreement with Braintree District Council. I'd especially like to thank Sheila Alder and Sue Poole who lead a small but dedicated litter picking team in Fuller Street. 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 a student who regularly litter picks as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. All your help is much appreciated.

Three new dog waste bins have been installed during the year. 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.

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

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.

A PICUS test has confirmed that the oak tree is in a good state for an ancient tree.

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.

We have reviewed our position as Guardian Trustees of Terling Village Hall. Pauline Bird is our Village Hall Council Representative.

### IT and Communications

Thanks to Colin Cutler our web site is regularly up-dated and is an excellent source of information. The 'Internet Cafe' computer in the shop was removed during the year. No public interest has been shown in installing it elsewhere.

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

### Finance

During the year the Parish Council 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. These now 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 2016 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 and 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, Jayne Halfhide, 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*