

TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 21st May 2019

(To be published on the Website, the Notice board outside Terling Stores and in the Parish Magazine)

During the year Anne Marie Blackshaw resigned from the Council and Ian Smith and Anne Fitzgerald did not stand for re election. I would like to thank them all for the contribution they have made. Matthew Tugwell, Stephen Thatcher and Joanne Long were co-opted during the year. They join Sheila Alder, Pauline Bird, Robin Dixon, Alex Dyke and Sarah McNamara. In the recent local election, Louisa Sime did not stand but we hope to co-opt her at the Parish Council meeting that follows. There will be two vacancies outstanding after her co-option.

Councillors served on one or more of the Council's Committees.

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

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

Estate Liaison Officer: P Bird

Health and Welfare: S Alder, S McNamara, J Long

Planning and Highways: R Dixon, A Dyke,

Recreation Ground: A Dyke, A Fitzgerald

Personnel: S McNamara, R Dixon, S Alder

IT and Publicity: S McNamara, A Dyke

Complaints: S McNamara, P Bird

Village Hall Representative: P Bird

School Representative: L Sime

Church Liaison: 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:

Parish Transport Meetings

Highways Conference

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

Thank you to our District Councillors who have awarded grants to the Parish Council towards the refurbishment of the changing cabin, paint for the playground equipment and new notice boards.

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

Nine planning applications were considered during the year.

We met with representatives of the United Reformed Church regarding the future of Terling Chapel. After conducting a survey from residents we applied for this to be registered as a Community Asset but this was refused.

In conjunction with the Rural Community Council of Essex we conducted a Housing Needs Survey which is available to view on the website.

With the help of Councillor Abbott, we continue to attempt to resolve highways issues including repair and replacement of directional signs, potholes and problems with surface water and flooding in Fuller Street. He was also very helpful in getting the works carried out the gabion walls at Terling Ford.

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

We are investigating traffic calming measures.

We continue to benefit from the Essex County Council winter salt bag scheme so that salt for businesses, the school, and the nursery is available if needed.

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.

Environment

We are a member of the Parish Paths Partnership to ensure that the footpaths are well maintained and accessible to all. Some of the footpaths have been re-routed and a new footpath map is being prepared.

We continue to work with Greenfields and the Environment Agency to resolve the continuing 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'd especially like to thank Sheila Alder, Stephen Thatcher 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. 'One off' Saturday green waste and non recyclable waste collections were organised. All issues of fly tipping are reported and dealt with promptly by Braintree District Council. A new dog waste bin was installed in Mill Lane, Terling and Braintree District Council has agreed to install two further bins at the entrance to footpaths in Ranks Green. All reports of dog fouling are followed up with the Dog Warden.

New notice boards have been installed in Fairstead and Ranks Green.

£50 was donated to the Gardening Club towards bulbs for the villages.

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

I would like to thank our Village Handyman, Alan Jiggins, who does so much to keep our villages looking good.

Health and Welfare

The playground is checked weekly and ROSPA carry out an annual inspection.

Essex County Council's Community Initiative Funding Grant enabled us to replace the safety surfaces in the playground in 2018. The equipment has just been repainted by volunteers from the village.

Thank you to Jo Long for organising this and for all the hard work put in by the volunteers.

Thank you to Robin Dixon and Colin Cutler for cleaning the Terling Village sign, which has also been regilded.

The War Memorial is now listed and has just been cleaned. Thank you to those who volunteered to do this job.

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

Our only bus is to Braintree on Wednesdays, although other services such as the Shopper Bus and Dial a Ride are available. On the first Friday of each month the Council hire the Braintree Community Minibus for a trip to Chelmsford. I would like to thank Daphne Parris for helping to organise this, for attending the Passenger Transport Meetings and for all her hard work in trying to keep our 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.

Recreation Ground

The changing cabin electrics have been rewired to the required standard, this was partly funded by a grant as mentioned before. We continue to maintain this facility which is used by Trevor Meredith's

Veterans Team and this season we also welcomed Great Leighs Football Club who play all their home games here.

IT and Communications

Thanks to Colin Cutler our web site is regularly updated and is an excellent source of information. Thanks too, to the Parish News, Terling Stores, Owls Hill Tea Room and the Square and Compasses who all assist with our publicity.

Finance

The Parish Council continues 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 Parish Council has made donations to the Mothers' Union and the Cricket Club.

The accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2019 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.btck.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 and Responsible Financial Officer, Frankie Killby, 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