

TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st July 2008, at 7.00pm, in Terling Village Hall.

Present:

Mrs. S. McNamara
Mrs. A. Anderson
Mr. R. Dixon
Mrs. C. Godfrey
Mr. I. Smith
Mrs. P. Bird
Mr. T. Lewis
Mr. D. White
Mr. C. Cutler (Chairman)
Mrs. S. Alder
Mrs. S. Stewart (Clerk)
Mrs. M. Galione (District Councillor)
Mr. A. Meyer (District Councillor)
1 member of the public.

The Chairman, Ann Anderson, was late for the meeting and it was unanimously agreed that the Vice-chairman, Colin Cutler, should chair this meeting.

Apologies for Absence:

Mr. C. Marshall.

16. Election of Chairman:

The EALC had recommended that the Council should elect two vice-chairmen, to lessen the work-load for the Chairman. Sarah McNamara, was proposed as Chairman, by CC and seconded by SA. Pauline Bird was proposed as the second vice-chairman, by SA and seconded by DW. Both these positions were approved by the full Council.

17. Councillor Vacancy:

Judith Cockburn, residing at Fuller Street, had written to the Clerk, offering to fill the vacancy for Fuller Street. She was interviewed by the Council and formally co-opted at the end of the meeting, approved by all.

18. Minutes of the Meeting held on May 20th, 2008:

These were proposed by SM and seconded by TL, as being a true record of the meeting. All unanimously approved.

19. Matters Arising:

The Clerk had contacted Essex County Council, with a view to the road through Terling Ford becoming a quiet lane. This road does not meet the quiet lane criteria and other methods of traffic calming would have to be sought. Essex County

Council is trialling quiet lanes and if successful, Terling and Fairstead Parish Council could apply for other roads in the Parish. A network of lanes for walkers, etc. is what is required.

The Clerk had spoken to Essex County Council about the dangerous position of the kissing gate on Flacks Green. It could only be moved, if the landowner applies and that is very expensive. PB will speak to Lord Rayleigh, the landlord.

PB

The Chairman had contacted Lord Rayleigh's Farms, regarding asbestos in the buildings on the football field. Lord Rayleigh's Farms is dealing with this.

AA had spoken to the Tennis Club Chairman, about extending the use of the tennis courts, for other activities. It was pointed out that activities would have to be supervised and it would be better to encourage tennis lessons first. The Clerk will write to the youngsters concerned. It was suggested that a combination lock on the court's gate would be a good idea, but the Tennis Club Chairman had said that this had not been successful before.

SS

The Chairman had written to British Telecom, regarding the metal pole on Church Green. The response was that the matter should be taken up with Braintree District Council. Andrew Meyer offered to do this and the Chairman will send him photographs.

CC

The bench, Rose Holden had requested, has been paid for and ordered. The Clerk had not actioned a bench on the green besides Terling Stores, because the Dicksons are hoping to move.

The Chairman of Terling Village Hall Committee had agreed to pay the Handyman's rate of £8.20 per hour for work in the vicinity of Terling Village Hall, to be arranged by David Anderson.

19. District Councillors' Reports:

Margaret Galione:

Braintree District Council is now organizing Task and Finish Groups, to make sure work is carried out.

The Arts Council is looking for volunteers, to become involved.

The plans for Nutshell, Fairstead Road were refused and a second set of plans have been submitted. All Councillors should be informed of the decisions on these.

SS

Lady Newton, Chair of Braintree District Council, will be attending the Church Fete. AA offered to accompany her. She will also attend Terling Swimming Club Gala and the Church Bazaar in the Autumn.

AA

MG, as Vice-chairman of Braintree District Council, offered to attend the Barbecue, behind Garnetts Mead.

Andrew Meyer:

The Parish Council was asked to let him know of any unsatisfactory police responses.

SS

Witham Local Committee has grant money available and the District Councillors will give application assistance.

This Parish Council is dissatisfied with local planning enforcement decisions. AM asked for a list of these, for him to follow up.

RD

Greenfields Housing Association is moving to separate premises.

21. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman expressed concern over bank erosion at Terling Ford.

The Clerk was asked to write to Essex County Council.

SS

The Chairman had reported to the PCSO and the Community Warden, vandalism and knife crime in The Street area. All parishioners should be encouraged to report incidents. The Chairman will put up posters and the Clerk will appeal in the Parish magazine.

CC

SS

22. Councillors' Reports:

CG. Braintree Green Spaces Strategy identified the football field as low quality and high value, which makes it vulnerable to future development. It is not maintained well enough. Braintree District Council will support the Parish Council over this concern.

DW. Interest at Fuller Street has been shown in twelve allotments.

The Parish Councillors unanimously agreed to replace the coronation bench, at Fuller Street, with a Barlow Tyrie bench, costing £292.55, plus fittings @ £31.49, excl. VAT. The inscription is to be kept the same, JUNE ER 1953, carved in the wood. RD will take a rubbing of this.

RD

An inspection of the septic tanks at Fuller Street is due. The water in the road seems to have abated.

Signage for Fuller Street is on order. The Clerk will remind Essex County Council and ask whether the repeater sign in the centre of the hamlet can be made more visible. Permission has been given for the Handyman to trim the tree, hiding the 30mph sign near Six Elms.

SS

Some of the signs have been daubed with graffiti. The Handyman will try to clean them.

CM

RD. RD requested that the Parish Council organize allotment and community orchard speakers, in collaboration with the Garden Club. It was agreed to further this idea and the Parish Council would pay for the speaker. This will gauge the local interest. PB will tell Lord Rayleigh of the allotment interest at Fuller Street,

PB

23. Sub-committee Reports:

Finance:

Copies of the Audit Commission's Annual return form for 2007/8 were distributed, together with supporting notes. IS explained the figures and gave the Parish Council assurances on each point in the Annual governance statement, that the internal control system is in place. It was unanimously approved that the form should be signed as a true record of the financial transactions for 2007/8.

IS presented the Income and Expenditure Account up to June 28th, 2008, copy attached. The financial sub-committee had met and agreed the payments for the garage rent of £60.00 and the subscription to RCCE for £55.00. The minutes of this meeting are

attached. It was agreed that the Cricket Club could still order the equipment approved in 2007/8, but bills must be made out to the Parish Council. Quotations are to be obtained for equipment for the Handyman. A bus shelter for Waltham Road was also discussed. A grant might be a possibility. RD had written draft letters to all sports organizations and particularly to the football club, offering financial help and grant assistance. It was approved that these letters should be sent. The following bills were approved for payment: ROSPA playground inspection- £88.13, playground rent £25.00 per annum. The Chairman will look at the BALC website, before deciding to subscribe.	DW SS CC
Environmental: Most footpaths are now cut, so a bill can be submitted to Essex County Council soon. Some paths needed strimming. Metal brackets, if fitted to the tractor, could carry the strimmer. Two cuts would be needed this year, but cuts will become easier, with experience. Red diesel can be bought at 80p per litre. DW will obtain two quotations for a cutting deck. IS asked that the handyman should submit footpath billing separately. The sub-committee will be meeting next Tuesday, July 8 th , at 7.00pm at The Square and Compasses. Parish paths walks may be organized at a later date. It was decided not to hold a wheely bin meeting for parishioners, as they will be targeted with explanatory literature soon. The Clerk was asked to put in the Parish magazine that help can be provided with putting the bins at the front of properties.	DW CM SS
Estate Liaison: PB. Lord Rayleigh's Farms would be cutting the hedge round the signage in Crow Pond Road. The Old Dairy can revert to agricultural use. TL. C. Humphreys and Sons has agreed that the Parish Council may cut cross-field paths. Six Parish Councillors would like to visit Humphreys' premises and TL will organize this for one Saturday morning in September.	TL
Health and Welfare: The Community Warden's reports have been received. The Chairman took these. The ROSPA children's playground report was favourable- SM took it to study. It was agreed unanimously to replace the spring rabbit with a bouncy horse, costing £278.50, incl. VAT, making sure that it fits the established base. The Chairman will provide photographs.	CC SM CC
IT and Public Relations: No report.	
Planning and Highways: Nutshell, Fairstead Road. Proposed dwelling and detached garage. The Parish Council's comments, which are the same as the	

comments on the first set of plans, have been returned, but the Planning sub-committee will discuss these further and submit a codicil. RD told the meeting that it might be necessary to ask for professional help. It was agreed that as this would have to be done urgently, any financial implications could be approved by the Chairman and the Planning Sub-committee. The Planning sub-committee is working closely with the neighbours. The Clerk was asked to write to Essex County Council about the overgrown hedge, as it's on a bend. RD
CG
DW

Mill House. Erection of first floor side extension and single storey rear extension. No comments, except that the side window should have obscured glass. SS

Broxdell, Fairstead Road. Erection of single storey kitchen extension. No comments, except that some of the papers appear to be missing. The Clerk will ask. SS

Essex County Council had replied to the Clerk's letter, concerning various Highways matters. Owls Hill bank would be stabilized, Potholes would be filled, the barrier at Malvern would be investigated and work would be done on the one at Ranks Green, and signage problems would be addressed soon.

24. Clerk's Report:

The Clerk had worked 57 hours over six weeks.
The Chairman took the circulation envelope.
During the afternoon of the Children's Activity Day on August 18th, Braintree District Council will bring a recycling information vehicle to Terling Village Hall, to answer people's queries.
Terry Blunden, of 6 Hull Lane, has expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor, when a vacancy arises. He represents the Parish at the Greenfields residents' meetings and points out that all the Parish Councillors live in private housing.
The Clerk would like to attend an EALC Risk Assessment course on September 10th. The cost is £52.00, which will be refunded on proof of attendance. This was agreed.
The EALC had sent helpful Councillor leaflets, for those who haven't got them.

25. Village Design Statement:

The narrative has been organized and the final document will be ready soon.

26.1 Correspondence received:

Braintree District Council: The Street Scene department will let us have a reimbursement figure, for cutting the grass at Bramley Cottages.
Braintree District Council: The Council is going to apply to English Heritage for listing status for the phone boxes at the top of Hull Lane and at Fuller Street. Proof is needed that these phone boxes have been in position for more than 30 years.

Braintree District Council: Does this Council wish to take part in the Olympic hand-over ceremony on August 24th?

EALC Courses: Advanced Councillor Training. Freedom of Information and Data Protection Workshop.

EALC: New Councillors' Files. It was agreed to send for two, priced at £12.00.

SS

Governance and Accountability Update. The Chairman will download this.

CC

26.2 Correspondence issued:

Tim Lucas, Greenfields. To thank him for information supplied.

Mrs. C. Strutt. A sympathy card, on the death of Mrs. Fox.

The Community Warden and PCSO. Meeting information.

Tim Gardiner, Essex County Council, P3 Scheme. Invoice for £2000.00.

Andrew Meyer: A request for the return of the Standing Orders copy.

27. Any Other Business:

PB will ask Lord Rayleigh to support the continuation of the business at Terling Stores.

PB

RD commented that when we have wheely bins, we may have to pay for the Green Waste Collection Vehicle, to visit the Parish.

The meeting closed at 11.00pm.

Next Meeting Date: August 12th, 2008, at 7.00pm, in the Committee Room at The Square and Compasses. It was agreed to ask the landlord to provide soft drinks for this meeting.

SS