

TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th August 2008, at 7.00pm, in the Committee Room, at The Square and Compasses.

Present:

Mrs. S. McNamara (Chairman)
Mr. R. Dixon
Mrs. C. Godfrey
Mr. I. Smith
Mrs. P. Bird
Mr. T. Lewis
Mr. D. White
Mr. C. Cutler
Mrs. S. Alder
Mrs. S. Stewart (Clerk)
Mrs. M. Galione (District Councillor)
PCSO Nikki Doubleday

Apologies for Absence:

Mrs. A. Anderson
Mrs. J. Cockburn
Mr. C. Marshall
Mr. A. Lynch (Community Warden)

It was agreed that the Handyman should be bought a box of fruit. A card was signed.

SS

28. Meeting open to the Public:

There were no public in attendance.

29. Andrew Goldsmith, Anglian Water. New Water Main:

The water main, which runs between Cressing and Terling, is now thirty years old and causing problems. Work has commenced at Cressing to replace it, with high density polythene, 12 inch diameter pipes. The work should be finished by March 2009, with little traffic disruption, because of coming across the fields. The work is environmentally friendly and on connection, there will be no need to turn off Terling's supply; Fairstead's will be off for three/four hours. Ranks Green and Fuller Street are not included, as their supplier is Essex and Suffolk Water Board. Mr. Goldsmith was thanked for attending.

30. Minutes of the Meeting held on July 1st 2008:

These were proposed by CC and seconded by CG, as being a true record of the meeting, with the following alterations: 17. Delete Fuller Street, insert Fairstead. District Councillors' Reports- No. 20. 22. Insert "if" after "development". 25. Delete "final", insert "research". All unanimously approved.

31. Matters Arising:

These would arise during the course of the meeting.

32. District Councillors' Reports:

The two Braintree District Council planning officers, named in the Clerk's letter are self-employed and have not been involved in planning applications in this Parish. The Parish Council wished to place on record dissatisfaction with the Nutshell application decision. Much time is spent by the sub-committee on planning applications and it is felt that their comments are ignored. Mrs. Galione agreed to set up a meeting for the Planning sub-committee and CC , with Alan Massow, Senior Policy Planner, the Chief Executive and Graham Butland, the Leader of Braintree District Council.

MG

Braintree District Council is addressing rural isolation problems.

33. PCSO's Report:

There have been a number of acts of vandalism and theft in the area, some drink and drug related and one serious assault.

The PCSO will visit the owners of "Longford", where damage was caused to a fingerpost on July 18th, by a vehicle which failed to stop.

34. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman thanked the retiring chairman, Mrs. A. Anderson, for her hard work and dedication.

35. Sub-committee Reports:

35.1 Finance:

Copies of expenditure and income for this financial year as per the cash book were distributed to all Councillors. Also distributed: IS's forecast and budget, the Internal Auditor's report, and the Action Plan, discussed with him by IS and the Clerk. Thanks was recorded to IS and the Clerk. IS reviewed the Audit and auditor's comments and told the meeting that Financial Regulations must be in place by the end of September, the Clerk's contract of employment must be updated, the Clerk should be deemed the Responsible Financial Officer and the Fidelity Guarantee insurance should be increased to £30,000.00. A financial sub-committee meeting will deal with these. A list of payments, showing VAT, will be distributed for approval at every meeting. TL is working on risk assessment updates. It was proposed by IS and seconded by CC that all this be approved and the Council agreed unanimously. The handyman's pay will be discussed by the financial sub-committee. The Clerk was asked to find out how long he anticipates being off work.

IS, RD,
AA
TL

SS

It was agreed to pay the following: CC- £131.27, for Village Design Statement expenses. Bidwells for the professional planning letter, approved at the last meeting- £235.00, Street Lighting Maintenance Agreement- £57.58, Copy of Local Council Finance- £15.95, 2 Councillor files, one for CG and one spare- £12.00 each, The Square and Compasses for room hire at the same rate as Terling Village Hall, essential handyman garage security

repairs, to conform with insurance regulations- cost unknown.
A cheque signature change is necessary to include the new Chairman. The Clerk will organize a new mandate form. SS

35.2 Environmental:

DW presented an expenditure and income sheet for the Parish Paths Partnership to the Council. The Clerk was asked to find out why Essex County Council had not paid £2000.00 for 2008/9, invoice submitted on June 6th. The footpath cuts are now complete and an invoice can be submitted for £5762.38. It was agreed to purchase a trailer in this financial year, but only when a suitable garage is available and there are none at the moment. Quotations had been obtained, but DW was asked to price a second hand one and bring the figures to the next meeting. It was agreed that a cutting deck could be purchased now, costing £1305.00 and a hedge cutter in 2009. SS
SS
DW
DW

CG had details of a veteran tree hunt, being undertaken by Braintree Wildlife Advisory Group and she hopes to further this idea, consulting with Angus MacWillson and David Gomer. CG

35.3 Estate Liaison:

Lord Rayleigh's Farms would want £150.00 pa. in advance for each allotment. The Clerk will write to David Bebb, Braintree District Council, for advice, as it is possible that more than 6 parishioners would like allotments and no allotments are shown in Braintree District Council Policy Document. SS

Lord Rayleigh is committed to keeping Terling Stores open for parishioners. C. Humphreys and Sons has invited the Parish Council to visit the premises on either 20th or 27th September.

35.4 Health and Welfare:

No report, except for the Community Warden's monthly report.

35.5 IT and Public Relations:

CC and DW will liaise on a web-site extension. CC
The Essex Chronicle had visited the Parish and the resulting report had been very favourable. DW

35.6 Planning and Highways:

Nutshell, Fairstead Road. It is hoped to encourage the neighbours to appeal against the decision to grant the application.

Concern was expressed that Rileys is serving alcohol outside permitted hours and to under-age customers. SS

CG is monitoring the hedgerow in Waltham Road, which appears to be dying. Photographs have been taken. CG

Correspondence had been received, regarding a pilot scheme, "Lets make Potholes History", which is being carried out in Braintree District. Defects will be acted on, much faster by using the hotline, 08456037631.

The Clerk had written to Essex County Council Highways Department on various matters and had received a reply, which was mainly positive. When the Braintree Road is closed for repairs, from

September 1st-5th, which has been advertised on the notice boards, the erosion at Terling Ford will be addressed at the same time. Some hedge encroachment on the highway had been dealt with and several more will be reported from this meeting. Essex County Council had offered to move the 30mph repeater sign on the bend at Fuller Street onto the island in the middle of road, but the Councillors unanimously agreed that this would look unsightly.

SS

36. Councillors' Reports:

PB: Village Hall lettings. Hire increased by 10%; Terling Tots by 8%. Extensive kitchen refurbishment is planned. This will be very costly. The Parish Council was asked to contribute. The finance sub-committee will discuss this.

IS
RD
AA

CC: Trees are in need of cutting back round the street lamp on School corner. PB will ask Lord Rayleigh.

PB

DW: September 3rd - electricity will be switched off between 9.00am and 5.00pm in Fuller Street and Ranks Green. The Clerk was asked to put this in the Parish magazine.

SS

The bench has been ordered for Fuller Street and can be delivered to Willow Cottage.

DW

Lichfield House- sewage problems. The owners have requested that dye should be run through the effluent to identify which property is at fault.

SA. A request to support fund-raising, which is being organized for Fairstead Church.

37. Clerk's Report:

The Clerk had worked 79 hours over six weeks.

The Chairman took the circulation envelope.

Bramley Cottage grass. For four cuts per year, Braintree District Council would pay £140.00, per annum. This was agreed and a new street cleaning partnership agreement was signed to reflect the extra work.

The bench donated by Mrs. Holden in memory of her husband had been insured and she had been thanked.

An extensive clean by Braintree District Council had been requested in the railway bridge area of Terling Hall Road.

Children's Activity Day, August 18th, Terling Village Hall. Numbers at the moment are poor and the Clerk is promoting it. Councillors are reminded that when this was booked in March, the arrangement was that the Parish Council would pay for the hire of Terling Village Hall for the day.

SS

The Handyman has put doors on the front of the Fuller Street notice board.

38. Village Design Statement:

The report on the research findings should be ready for publication in September and another workshop is planned.

CG
CC

39.1 Correspondence received:

BT: An agreement is being formulated, for Parish Councils to consider, regarding retaining rural phone boxes.

EALC: Annual General Meeting-September 24th.

EALC: Budget and Precept Course-September 30th.

EALC: Market Town Event- September 3rd.

Terling Bellringers and Carpet Bowls Club would like to take up the Parish Council's offer to promote their organizations' activities.

39.2 Correspondence issued:

Election and Monitoring Officers, Braintree District Council- appointment of Judith Cockburn to the Parish Council.

Sports Clubs. Promotion offer.

Football Club. Support offer.

Gardening Club. Allotment speaker.

BT: Phone box buying.

Jo Cousins and Veronica Lodge: Tennis Club membership

District Councillors: The use of Agency Staff in Braintree District Council Planning Department.

Councillor Andrew Meyer: List of unsatisfactory planning enforcement decisions.

Lappset UK: Spring mobile horse order.

40. Any Other Business:

Bus Shelter, Oakfield Lane. CG had obtained much information, including suitable grant applications. It would be better to use wood, not glass in the construction. An information pack has been ordered.

CG

The meeting closed at 10.30pm.

Next Meeting Date: September 30th, 2008, at 7.00pm, in Terling Village Hall.