

TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th October 2007 at 7.00pm. in Terling Village Hall.

Present:

Mrs. A. Anderson (Chairman)
Mr. R. Dixon
Mrs. C. Godfrey
Mr. I. Smith
Mrs. S. McNamara
Mr. C. Cutler
Mrs. P. Bird
Mrs. M. Gallione (District Councillor)
Mrs. S. Stewart (Clerk)
Mr. C. Marshall (Handyman)
Paula Cheeseman (P3 Speaker)
Derek Turner (Parish Footpath representative)
3 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence:

Mr. P. Evans
Mr. T. Lewis
Mr. D. White

36 Meeting open to members of the public:

Frank Morrissey attended the meeting, to offer to tutor another computer course for parishioners. He suggested that this should be soon, so that candidates had not forgotten what they had learnt and can progress. It was agreed to do this in January. The course would be advertised in the next parish magazine, as an improvers' course and Frank would let the Clerk know what subjects it would cover.

SS

37 Minutes of the Meeting held on September 11th, 2007:

These were unanimously approved.

38 Matters Arising:

These will arise during the course of the Minutes.

39 PCSO Report:

An abandoned vehicle had been traced. A drunken driver had been charged. A suspicious white van's number had been taken.

40 Parish Paths Partnership Scheme:

Paula Cheeseman told the meeting that the scheme had been operating for ten years and half the County's parishes are involved in maintaining and promoting their own footpaths. Local farmers are often involved and parishes can govern

cutting frequency. Other duties are cutting bridleways, putting up waymarks and promoting walks. Essex County Council provides 100% funding for maintenance work and 50% funding for promotional work. Training and backing are provided free. "Mid Essex Casuals", a local running club has taken over some of the responsibility for this Parish and we can liaise with them. Work is co-ordinated, so groups do not overlap. The Disability Discrimination Act applies to footpaths too. Financial help is provided by Essex County Council and parishes outline expected expenditure for approval. Parishes keep their own maintenance tools and a manual is issued, including health and safety regulations. Derek Turner pointed out that this parish is fortunate, because Lord Rayleigh's Farms take an active role in footpath maintenance. He added that any work the Parish takes on will require a lot of voluntary effort. It was agreed to ask for support through the parish magazine, to advertise at the Village Design Statement's exhibition on November 10th and to return the agreement form, which IS had completed, putting forward DW and TL, as the main contacts here.

SS
CC
DW
TL

41 District Councillors' Reports:

The transfer of housing to Greenfields Housing Association is in two weeks' time.

The Civil Amenities Site at Witham is becoming too small for the number of houses in the district. Mrs. Gallione will investigate. Black bags will be used in this parish for the disposal of rubbish, for the foreseeable future. A heavy goods collection would be welcomed again and Mrs. Gallione will let the Clerk have contact details.

SS

31 post offices are due to close in Essex. Terling's has had a reprieve, but we must continue to support Terling Stores and Post Office. It was agreed that the leaflet, which CC had distributed to Parish Councillors, would be circulated and Councillors would distribute.

ALL

Bladon, New Road. The submitted plans are going to be discussed at Witham Area Committee and Mrs. Gallione will support the neighbours' objections. There are a number of discrepancies in the supporting information.

42 Chairman's Report:

The Chairman had met Derek Turner and discussed his role and opinions regarding the Parish's footpaths. He has a very good relationship both with Essex County Council and the local landowners. There are 17 miles of footpaths in Terling and 7 miles in Fairstead.

The Chairman told the meeting that there had been some confusion between the Clerk and Associated Surfaces and Materials Ltd., resulting in a larger area than originally agreed being surfaced. It was pointed out that the second area would have needed attention in the near future and the firm had given the Council a favourable deal. The cost was therefore approved, totaling £3628.38, excluding VAT. Just Lamps has informed the Clerk that the delivery date for the replacement street lamp will now be January.

43 Councillors' Reports:

CG and DW had attended a Braintree District Council Planning Enforcement Course, which had been very worthwhile. Enforcement should be the last resort; the planning stages should come first. In the future, officers will monitor applications, which have been granted and would like parish councils to report discrepancies.

CC had attended a Braintree Police Neighbourhood Watch meeting and was impressed with the leader's enthusiasm. The Clerk will put details of the schemes offered in the parish magazine.

SS

CG is working on an Essex Mineral and Waste Development document and is seeking clarification on some points.

CG

44 Sub-committee Reports:

Finance:

IS presented the Income and Expenditure Account for the period to October 29th, copy attached. The second instalment of the Precept had been received.

The football field is still in a disgraceful state and it was agreed to send a letter to Lord Rayleigh, highlighting the dangers and asking if the Parish Council could discuss the terms of the lease, with a view to putting the area to other uses, to avoid the loss of village amenity. Most of the village organisations have spent their agreed donations. The Bellringers will be spending theirs soon and the Cricket Club and Terling School will wait until early next year.

SS

Environmental:

No report.

Estate Liaison:

No report.

Health and Welfare:

The Community Warden's monthly report had been received.

IT and Public Relations:

More information is needed for the web-site.

Planning and Highways:

A Planning and Highways sub-committee meeting has taken place, on October 1st, and minutes have been filed in the Minute book and circulated to Parish Councillors.

The Clerk was asked to write again to Essex County Council, regarding the missing signage. It is now nearly two years, since this was first reported.

SS

CC can access and print A3 copies of plans from Braintree District

Council's web-site and the Planning Sub-committee had agreed that these are adequate for their purpose.

The Clerk had contacted Terling School, concerning the Walking Bus Project. The parent furthering this scheme had left the School and new parents are required to take on the project. SM will take the Council's safety concerns back to the School. Perhaps the PCSO should get involved.

SM

The Clerk had contacted Essex County Council, concerning G and B Finch's use of the bye-way behind Bateman Farm premises. She had been informed that bye-ways across the County are closed for vehicular access, between October and March each year.

Using the probation service for community work was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would make contact, and arrange a speaker, with a view to using the service for litter picking and clearing the football field.

SS

45 Clerk's Report:

Hours- 53.25 over 6 weeks.

The circulation envelope was distributed.

The Handyman asked to buy turfs, for the uneven edges in the Children's Playground. This was agreed.

CM

The Handyman had moved the litter bin at Terling Ford and erected a post for the dog bin, which had been ordered.

The Clerk had arranged with the Tears, at Ford Cottage, for the Handyman to tidy their hedge, when EDF had done the work on the higher branches, in December.

CM

The Molecatcher had estimated that the initial work to eradicate the moles at the Children's Playground would cost £130.00. This was approved.

SS

The salt bins had been checked and salt had been ordered as necessary. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Essex County Council for replacement bins and failing this, the Handyman would paint and repair them.

SS

All areas of the Parish, except Ranks Green, had been covered at the recent litter pick. Ten people had worked over the weekend and 25 bags of rubbish had been collected. Flytipping had been reported at Westocks and Terling Hall.

The new residents of 8 Hull Lane have a number of dogs, which are causing nuisance to their neighbours. The Clerk was asked to write to Braintree District Council, copy to the District Councillors.

SS

The Cubs wreath for Remembrance Sunday is shared with the Brownies.

EALC has sent information on suggested changes to councils' standing orders, as a result of the revised model Code of Conduct, which this Council has agreed to adopt. The Clerk was asked to send copies to all Parish Councillors, ready for approval at the next meeting.

SS

46 Village Design Statement:

The exhibition is ready to be staged on 10th November and the press has been invited. A helpers' meeting will follow on November 14th. The questionnaires will be distributed and a box will be placed at Terling Stores for replies. The houses in

CC
CG

the outlying areas will be sent SAEs. One month will be allowed for replying and then the information will be analysed. This has been more work than anticipated.

47 Cluster Meeting. Hatfield Peverel, Tuesday November 27th, 7.30pm:

Agenda item: Station Road, Hatfield Peverel. Road hazards at the T-junction and turning to the Dairy, opposite the station. The Councillors were asked to give the Clerk other agenda items as soon as possible.

ALL

48.1 Correspondence received:

Essex County Council: Temporary road closure Fairstead Road.

EALC: Courses: Roles and Responsibility.

Risk Management.

Chairman's Day.

Planning Day.

Law and Procedures.

48.2 Correspondence issued:

Patrick Dempsey: Code of Conduct advertisement payment.

Braintree District Council: Rural Services Survey.

Harry Lyall, Bishops Hall Farm: Footpath clearance.

Derek Turner: Thanking for summer footpath walks.

Frank Morrissey: Another Computer Course.

PCSO and Community Warden: Meeting dates.

Internal Auditor: Lubbock Fine's report.

Wicksteed and Wychwood: Unsuccessful safety surfaces quotations.

Square and Compasses Landlord: Request to hold Christmas Parish Council meeting and buffet there.

Lisa Cross, Parish Paths Partnership: Meeting agenda for speaker.

49 Any other business:

The landlord at The Square and Compasses had offered the Christmas buffet for £5.00 per head. This was agreed. Invitations would be sent to Lord Rayleigh, Paul Humphreys, Derek Turner, Angus MacWillson, Alex Dyke, Clive and Mandy Marshall, John Payne, Dick Sterck, Sally Wood, Frank Morrissey, Joyce Lewis, Margaret Gallione, Michael Lager, Nikki Doubleday, Tony Lynch, Heather Cutler, David Boyle, Paul Harrison, Maria Rumsey.

SS

Terling Village Hall report, (PB):

Terling Tots is running at a loss. Is the Parish Council willing to help? Two ideas were discussed. How much does the compulsory training for nursery staff cost?

RD

IS

Could Terling Village Hall management committee give the nursery a "rent holiday", either by deferring the bill or waiving it? It was felt that Terling Village Hall committee should discuss the options and come back to the Parish Council, if necessary. It was approved that the financial sub-committee could make a decision on behalf of the Parish Council, regarding financial help. PB will inform Terling Village Hall committee.

AA

PB

The Hall is to be decorated and the kitchen revamped, to attract usage.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Next Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, December 11th, 7.00pm, Square and Compasses.

Cluster Meeting: Tuesday, November 27th, 7.30pm at Hatfield Peverel.