

Minutes of the Meeting of Terling and Fairstead Parish Council held on 29th June 2010, at 7.00pm, in The Committee Room at The Square & Compasses, Fuller Street.

Present: Mrs S McNamara (Chairman)
 Mr R Dixon
 Mr T Lewis
 Mrs A Anderson
 Mrs S Alder
 Mr C Cutler
 Mrs P Bird
 Mr D White
 Mrs L Sime
 Cllr M Galione

Mrs J Halfhide (Clerk)
 PC Jason Corrigan
 2 members of the public

ACTION

Apologies for absence: Ian Smith, Hayley Wiseman, Sally Austin

10.19 **Meeting Open to the Public**

PC Corrigan responded to concerns from members of the public about speeding in Terling, particularly at peak times close to the school. He confirmed that he would be using the speed guns and would speak to the Police Traffic team again to highlight the problem. The high speed of some agricultural vehicles was also a concern. Taxis have been parking on the yellow zig zag lines outside the school. PC Corrigan had approached the drivers them but had been unable to issue a penalty as it would appear from signs there that parking was allowed for "pick up". This would be investigated further.

JH

A school bus which parks on the New Road/Crow Pond Road/Fairstead Road junction in the mornings is a hazard and PC Corrigan agreed to attempt to speak to the driver to suggest a safer stop.

There had been one reported burglary in the past month.

The Chairman welcomed guests from BAA, Graeme Wade, Head of Airport Communications and Duncan Smith, Flight Evaluation Manager. There followed a presentation outlining BAA's current operation at Stansted and how it affected Terling and Fairstead. The current 19 million passengers per annum was expected to increase to 35 million passengers per annum. The infrastructure was already in place to support this increase. Mr Wade explained that BAA takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously and whilst growth is expected it would be achieved responsibly with careful environmental management. Maps were handed out showing the noise preferential route swathes based on radar data for both arrivals and departures. Mr Wade provided information on a flight tracking tool – WebTrak which is an online self service enquiry system showing Stansted aircraft flight tracks, heights and aircraft types. Stansted has three categories of funding available to the community, two of which would be applicable to Terling and Fairstead. These support sports clubs, pre-school nurseries, Brownies and Guides, youth, environmental and volunteering projects.

The Landlord of The Square & Compasses updated the Parish Council on his septic tank problems; they had recently installed a Grease Guzzler.

10.20 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2010 were unanimously approved. It was proposed by AA and seconded by SA that the Chairman should sign a copy of the minutes

as a true and accurate record.

10.21 **Matters arising from the meeting**

There were no matters arising other than those covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

10.22 **Declaration of Interests**

None.

10.23 **District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Galione had attended a full Council meeting on 28th June. The proposed work to build a bridge over the car park at Witham station would be commenced next year. BDC would be ceasing the free swimming for the over 60s and children on 31st July. A new care home, Helen Court, in Witham would be opening in August.

10.24 **Chairman's Report**

Nothing to report.

10.25 **Sub-Committees Reports**

Finance:

Copies of Receipts and Payments for the current financial year to date had been e-mailed to all Councillors.

The following cheques were approved for payment and were signed. All invoices had been checked against cheques.

25th May	1299	EALC - Clerk's Training	£ 75.00
7th June	1300	Terling Village Hall- Hall Hire	£ 10.80
7th June	1301	Chelmsford Electrical - Ford Light repair	£ 243.19
7th June	1302	Daniel Jiggins - Handyman Jobs	£ 197.67
7th June	1303	J Halfhide - Clerk's Expenses May	£ 112.07
7th June	1304	HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE	£ 180.25
7th June	1305	J Halfhide - Clerk's Salary May	£ 569.81
7th June	1306	Aon Limited - Annual Insurance Premium	£1064.52
7th June	1307	Acumen Wages - Annual Return Filing	£ 29.38
21st June	1308	Unicorn Kiosk Restoration – kiosk repair	£1280.75
21st June	1309	Playsafety Limited – ROSPA Inspection	£ 91.66

The expenditure was unanimously approved. Proposed by TL, seconded by SA.

Approval was unanimously given for the Chairman to sign an agreement for a trade waste bin for Terling for Village Hall - £699.13 p.a. Proposed by CC, seconded by AA.

Approval was unanimously given for the Chairman to sign a new licence agreement with Lord Rayleigh's Farms for rental of tractor storage - £20 pcm. Proposed by AA, seconded by SA.

Approval was unanimously given for the Chairman to sign a licence agreement with Lord Rayleigh's Farms for the use of the Doctors' Surgery - £5 pcm. Proposed by CC, seconded by AA. It was suggested that the licence be for 12 months, with a six months break clause. The Clerk would request this.

Approval was unanimously given for the Clerk to claim with effect from to 1st April 2010 a car allowance of 65.0p per mile as set out by the NJC. Proposed by RD, seconded by PB.

Approval was unanimously given for the renewal of Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) membership - £55 pa.

The District Council's proposal to remove the Parish Support Grant in 2011 was discussed. At a recent Braintree Association of Local Councils meeting which AA and LS had attended, Cllr Butland had repeated his proposals to remove the PSG as part of the District Council's process of reducing expenditure. This was seen by the parished areas of the

JH

District as unfair as they would be burdened by paying Council Tax for services which are provided free to the unparished areas by BDC. Parish Councillors asked for clarification on this issue before they could comment further. The Clerk was asked to contact the EALC to ascertain all the facts and Cllr Galione offered to investigate further.

JH

Parish Councils had been advised, when setting their budgets for 2011-12 to do so based on the premise that the PSG would be discontinued.

The Clerk reported that the EALC had refunded the cost of her recent Risk Assessment course (£57).

Mr Maurice Howard was currently conducting internal audit.

The Clerk had received notification from HM Revenue that an Employers' NIC incentive payment been awarded for filing the 2009-10 Employer Annual Return on line - £75.

There had been an overpayment of £40.93 made in 2009-10 which would be deducted from the June payment.

Environmental & Footpaths:

The sub-committee had met on 15th June. Lord Rayleigh's Farms had indicated they would be willing to reinstate all the definitive paths on their land but that this would mean they would not also be able to offer the alternative paths which had been established several years ago, and which were enjoyed by the local community. Whilst it was accepted that this was regrettable, the Parish Council felt that it had no choice in the matter and that LRF would have to reinstate all the definitive paths, as was the law. This was not simply a local issue affecting the local community but a statutory requirement for landowners and the Parish Council did not have the power to make any other arrangement with landowners. The paths were being increasingly enjoyed by walkers from far afield whose only point of reference was Ordnance Survey maps.

It was agreed that the new handyman was doing excellent work around the Parish.

Estate Liaison:

Nothing to report.

Health & Welfare:

AA reported that the play area safety inspection report had been carried out by ROSPA. There were a few low risk problems which would need monitoring and some medium risk ones which would require appropriate action within reasonable resources; most of these related to trip hazards.

IT & Publicity:

CC reported that finding an internet provider had not proved straight forward due to hidden costs but had finally settled on Plus Net at £327 for one year. This expenditure was unanimously approved, proposed by RD and seconded by AA. The internet café area was nearing completion, the furniture had been selected and the line was being ordered. It was agreed that the launch date would need to be publicised. If there was sufficient demand for training it was agreed that Frank Morrissey should be asked to hold some sessions, perhaps at the school, as previously.

A survey is being conducted by the Rural Broadband Partnership in conjunction with Essex County Council and the EALC to determine the speed of Broadband in rural areas. CC advised Councillors that he would be emailing them a link to the test programme to determine their connection speeds.

CC

The website has some new photographs of Fairstead Church taken by a member of the public who has an interest in old Essex churches.

Planning & Highways:

RD reported that the former thatched cricket pavilion was not listed or conditioned by any planning permission and there had been no controls in place to prevent its demolition. Regarding the new pavilion there had been an amendment in the building control department at BDC and the change from thatched to slate roof had been accepted. With regards to the storage containers on the site it had been decided by BDC Planning that due to their isolated location and the fact they did not impact on the immediate amenity it would be de minimus to proceed with enforcement action to remove them.

With regards to The Nutshell, Fairstead Road, the developer had explained to BDC Planning Enforcement that the excess hardcore on the site was needed to stabilise the piling rig. Once the piling has been completed the excess hardcore would be removed or used in the fabric of the new building. BDC has advised the developer to look at obscuring the mounds of hardcore to reduce the temporary impact on the amenity. BDC will continue to monitor the situation.

Planning Application Refused: 10/00615/FUL. Hayrons, Waltham Road Terling. Erection of extensions to existing dwelling.

Other issues which had arisen, and which needed the Planning sub-committee to meet to address concerned Section 106 contributions, the Core Strategy draft document and the Rural Housing Policy and Practice document.

RD/CC/PB

The HGV restriction in Birds Farm Lane affecting the agricultural operations was being addressed by ECC Highways. Alex Dyke had been in communication with Olive Cowell.

RD had carried out a survey of the condition of The Street, Terling, a copy of which had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. The Street had not been resurfaced for 25 years and was now in need of a complete resurface. CC was asked to take some photographs which could be included in the report to send to ECC Highways.

RD/CC

As had been requested at the last meeting, the Clerk reported that she had written to ECC Highways detailing all the broken, missing and incorrect road and directional signs in the Parish and was awaiting a response.

10.26 Councillors' Reports, including Village Hall and School Report

Following the Braintree Association of Local Councils meeting which she had attended, AA reported that decision making powers on all housing and major planning projects were being returned to local councils. A new BDC initiative "Home on the Farm" was being launched to create affordable housing out of redundant farm buildings. Cllr Butland had explained the dire state of the Council's finances and had stated that they would be looking at their statutory obligations and would only fund those; all other expenditure would be cut.

Potholes continue to be a concern; the Clerk had explained she had again reported them. The installation of the new chevron sign near the Boreham Road junction outside Fuller had not been completed. The Clerk had already reported this.

10.27 Clerk's Report

Hours worked in May: 85¾. Hours worked so far in June: 65

Two anonymous suggestions had been received in the new "Suggestions Box". It was agreed that these should be published, along with the Parish Council's comments, as follows:-

Suggestion: *I would like to see the Community Payback Scheme run by Braintree District*

Council being used in our Village, like others. They can clear up churchyards, carry out litter picks and could paint parts of the Village Hall which looks like it needs a coat of paint.

Parish Council's Comments: The Community Payback Scheme has already successfully been used to clear the vegetation in the cemetery in Terling. There are certain restrictions which might prevent using the scheme for some projects but whenever possible it was hoped it could be used again.

Suggestion: Why is Andrew Meyer still a District Councillor? He does not live in the Village. It's a joke. He does nothing for us. Why are we paying his expenses? For What?

Parish Council's Comments: District Councillors do not need to live in the village which they represent, but they do need to live within the District. Regrettably Mr Meyer has not attended any Parish Council Meetings although he is always invited and receives the agenda and copies of the minutes. He is an elected Councillor and the next elections are to be held in May 2011. It is up to the electorate to decide whether or not to re-elect Mr Meyer. We are extremely fortunate to have Mrs Margaret Galione as a District Councillor. Mrs Galione works tirelessly on our behalf. With regards to Mr Meyer's expenses we have asked our Clerk to contact the Monitoring Officer at Braintree District Council to ascertain whether these are available for scrutiny.

The Clerk had received a letter from BDC introducing the Green Heart of Essex Campaign, a two year campaign to improve their services including issuing more fines for people seen dropping litter, not removing their dog mess and fly-tipping. The Clean Team will be working 7 days a week to keep the district clean and tidy.

Parish Councils are being invited by BDC to apply for funding under a new Community Wildlife Programme to help improve rural environments.

10.28 **Football Field Project**

CC reported that the Football Club had removed the old goals on the football field. They had previously told the Parish Council that they intended to be playing at Terling again by next season. The time had now come for action to be taken, the Parish Council was still willing to support their return to the village but time was running out. It was agreed the Club should be sent a letter asking them to make a commitment by the end of July. If they did not intend to progress the project then the goal posts should be reinstated quickly.

JH

10.29 **School Green Project**

Quotes had been emailed to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting detailing the various options and costings for the School Green project.

It was agreed that the optimum length of the posts would be 1.4m, set 700mm into the ground. The preferred material was green oak, set 1.5 metres apart with the existing granite slabs being recovered and reset around the bell mouth exits to the highway. This had already been approved by Lord Rayleigh. The cost of this would be approximately £2,250, £450 of this was cost of resetting the existing granite stones. RD proposed that this expenditure be approved, seconded by LS. Number of votes in favour: 8. None against. One abstention. The expenditure was duly approved. The next step would be to meet the contractor on site.

JH.

PB agreed to seek Lord Rayleigh's permission for similar treatment to the area to the rear of Owls Hall. It was suggested that here the existing granite slabs should be reset and new stones measuring approximately 300m should be installed. The cost of this would be £510.

PB

10.30 **Telephone Kiosks**

Payment for the repair of the Ranks Green kiosk was needed in full before the repair works could commence. The cheque had been sent and the Clerk was waiting to hear when the

work would commence. The Clerk would claim the repair costs on the Council's insurance. JH

10.31 **Terling Inn**

It was noted that the pub was on the market with Christie & Co for £650,000, excluding part of the car park. The licence had been withdrawn from the premises. It was agreed that it would be desirable to hold a public debate and that the Parish Council should facilitate this to ascertain the opinions of the wider community and to determine what action the community would like to see taken. The Clerk would arrange an evening meeting to be held at the Village Hall before the end of July. JH

10.32 **General Correspondence to Note**

The Clerk had received from a letter from Priti Patel, MP for Witham stating she would be happy to discuss with the Parish Council any particular local issues and establish a productive working relationship. The Clerk was asked to invite her to a forthcoming meeting. JH

10.33 **Any Other Business**

It was hoped that the Parish Council Surgeries to be held on the first Saturday of each month would be operational for 7th August at the Doctors' Surgery in Terling. PB and SA agreed to be in attendance for an hour between 10am and 11am. The Clerk would make the necessary administrative arrangements. PB/SA
JH

10.34 **Date of Next Meeting, including committees**

Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 3rd August, 2010 at Square & Compasses, 7pm
Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 14th September, 2010, Terling Village Hall, 7pm

The meeting closed at 10:10pm.