

Minutes of the Meeting of Terling and Fairstead Parish Council held on 11th December 2012, at 7.00pm in The Gallery Room at The Square & Compasses, Fuller Street, Fairstead

Present: Mrs S McNamara Mr R Dixon
 Mrs P Bird Mr T Lewis Cllr M Galione
 Mrs S Alder Mrs J Cook Cllr T Cunningham
 Mr R Hunt Mrs L Sime 6 members of the public
 Mr I Smith Mr D White Mrs J Halfhide (Clerk)

ACTION

12.120 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received, and accepted, from Ann Anderson.

12.121 **Meeting Open to the Public**

12.122 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

JC proposed and TL seconded that the Chairman should sign a copy of the minutes as a true and accurate record. The minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2012 were unanimously approved.

12.123 **Declaration of Interests**

None

12.124 **District Councillors' Reports**

Cllrs Galione and Cunningham reported that the District Ward's boundaries were in the process of being redrawn by the Boundaries Commission with a view to reducing the total number of Councillors in the Braintree District. Terling and Black Notley are currently over-represented by 15%. It was expected that Parishes would be kept together but Polling Districts would be re-drawn. Wards may in future cross Parliamentary boundaries. Changes will come into force for the 2015 election. Cllr Galione outlined the Welfare Reforms. If any members of the public have concerns Cllrs Galione and Cunningham would be able to advise.

Essex Highways have admitted they had not forecasted for the early December snow and had not gritted the main roads in time, which had led to chaos, especially on the A12. Town Centre gritting also had not commenced until 3am by which time it was too late.

12.125 **Chairman's Report**

Nothing to report

12.126 **Finance**

Copies of Receipts and Payments for the current financial year had been emailed to all Councillors. IS distributed his Receipts and Payments, Budget and Forecast sheet and graph for the year to date which he explained and this was then discussed. IS expected the Council would end the year with approximately £32,000 reserves.

The budget for the 2013-14 financial year was discussed and IS proposed that the Precept be set at £14,515, the same as the current financial year. In real terms this represented a decrease. The budget was discussed and unanimously approved. SA seconded that the Precept be set at £14,515. Unanimously agreed.

JH

The following cheques were approved for payment and were signed. All invoices had been checked against cheques. JC proposed that the expenditure be approved, seconded by RH and unanimously approved:-

26th Oct 1655 Lord Rayleigh's Farms - Rec Ground	£240.80
26th Oct 1656 Terling Village Hall - BDC Activity Day	£ 95.54
26th Oct 1657 A&J Lighting Solutions - Ford light repair	£101.40
26th Oct 1658 Terling Village Hall - Meeting Room Hire	£ 14.50
7th Nov 1659 J Halfhide - Salary & Office Allowance	£586.50
7th Nov 1660 HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE Tax	£170.12
7th Nov 1661 RCCE - Planning network fee	£ 35.00
7th Nov 1662 J Halfhide - Clerk's Expenses	£ 84.00
7th Nov 1663 Lord Rayleigh's Farms - Garage Rent	£ 20.00
7th Nov 1664 RCCE - Planning Training	£ 25.00
7th Nov 1665 Lord Rayleigh's Farms - Rec Ground	£108.00
20th Nov Ddebit British Telecom - Clerk's Phone Line	£ 61.94
4th Dec 1666 Lord Rayleigh's Farms - Garage Rent	£ 20.00
4th Dec 1667 H Wiseman - Poppy Wreath	£ 17.00
4th Dec 1668 Sarah Elliott - Internet Café	£ 68.40
4th Dec 1669 Acumen Wages Service – Payroll	£ 21.00
4th Dec 1670 A H Jiggins - Handyman Jobs	£ 97.60
4th Dec 1671 EDF Energy - Electricity Rec.Ground	£ 55.61
4th Dec 1672 Colin Cutler - Internet Hosting	£ 59.82
4th Dec 1673 J Halfhide - Clerk's Expenses Nov	£ 44.79

DW proposed that a Chairman's allowance of £120 be paid. Seconded by JC.

Unanimously agreed.

SM would undertake the internal audit for the quarter ending 30th September with the Clerk.

SM/ JH

12.127 **Environment & Footpaths**

Renewal of the P3 Service Level Agreement was discussed and IS proposed that it be renewed for 2013-14. Seconded by PB. Unanimously agreed.

JH

The Chairman thanked the handymen for their work with the cutting programme. The P3 agreement was explained to members of the public present, in response to queries.

12.128 **Estate Liaison**

TL reported that he had received a very large number of complaints from Ranks Green residents about an obnoxious smell coming from a slurry pit behind Warley Hall Farm. Braintree Environmental Health Officers were investigating. It was agreed that TL and RD would try to arrange a meeting to hopefully resolve the problem. The Clerk was asked to add this issue to the next Agenda.

TL / RD
JH

12.129 **Health & Welfare**

SA reported that some of the play surfaces would be replaced in the 2013-14 financial year and that the cost of this had been included in the budget. She and AA would provide the Council with a report and costings for the project.

SA / AA

12.130 **IT & Publicity**

The Clerk reported that the new owners of Terling Stores were making arrangements to reconnect the broadband line but until then the internet café was off line. The Chairman thanked Ray Pond and Sarah Elliott for having permitted the internet café to be installed in the Stores, and for all their help.

12.131 **Planning & Highways**

- Application: 12/01526/LBC The Herons, Fuller Street – removal of internal partition wall. No objection.

JH

- Terling School - Highway safety concerns resulting from parking issues and speeding

vehicles. Mrs Rumsey outlined the School's concerns resulting from inconsiderate and dangerous parking by parents. With no safe place for children to cross the road, parking on the yellow lines, children exiting cars on the road side, parking on the bend and speeding vehicles she expressed fears that unless urgent action was taken there was a very real risk of a child being injured. She had already expressed her concerns to the Police, as had the Council. It was agreed that a Community Speedwatch, suggested by PSCO Doubleday at a previous meeting, should be set up. Community volunteers would be needed and the Police would then have to train them and risk assess a suitable site. The Clerk was asked to advertise for volunteers. JH

Other measures were considered including requesting a reduction in the speed limit. It was noted that when this had been requested previously the Council had been informed it was an urban, not rural focus.

- Speed Control measures Junction New Road, Fairstead Road, Crow Pond Road. Raw data, such as that obtained by a Community Speedwatch would be required and then the Council could put together some proposals for consideration by Essex Highways. Extra signage was not considered worthwhile as signs were generally ignored. Speed Indicator Devices had already been considered but with no available electric connection point they were not feasible at the desired locations. The cost was also prohibitive.

DW reported that the large school bus was struggling to negotiate the bends in Fuller Street. The Clerk was asked to ascertain the procedure to bring about the reduction in the weight limit on rural roads. JH

Ex-Agenda: At the Local Highways Panel meeting on 22nd November members considered a recommendation from BDC's Local Highways Liaison Group to devolve responsibility for undertaking minor highways work to Parish Councils using their own resources. Any unallocated ECC funds could be given to the Parishes to support this work. The Parish Council had been asked if could consider whether this is something it would be willing to undertake. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should respond in the affirmative, subject to confirmation of the details. JH

12.132 **Recreation Ground**

RD proposed that the Recreation Ground Sub Committee be given delegated powers to enable it to take necessary actions between meetings thus avoiding the need to seek full Council's approval. Approval would still be sought for all major expenditure. Seconded by IS. Unanimously agreed.

A suspected water leak at the changing cabin was being investigated.

12.133 **Councillors' Reports, including Village Hall Report, School Report and Church Liaison**

RD had attended a RCCE Planning Seminar on 22nd November.

PB had received complaints about a Hull Lane road sign in need of attention. The Clerk would report this. JH

PB reported that the drainage works in The Dismals had made a considerable improvement to the area surrounding the Village Hall. Grants were being applied for the car park project. Cllr Galione commented that she was disappointed to learn that the MiCommunity application had been refused.

The recent Crittall window replacement at Terling School had been completed.

12.134 **Clerk's Report**

Clerk's hours for October: 65¼ and November: 57¾.

- 12.135 **Internet Café Risk Assessment Review**
Still pending, subject to the broadband reconnection. JH /TL
- 12.136 **Village Design Statement**
The Chairman thanked Paul Harrison for having led the presentation of the VDS at Terling Village Hall on 24th November and Colin and Heather Cutler for their considerable work on the project. The community had been asked to comment on the draft, with copies available at Terling Stores and on line on the website.
RD would prepare a letter to be sent to the business in the Parish asking them to comment. RD / JH
The Parish Council would prepare a grant application to fund the next phase of the project. JH
Formal approval for this application would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- 12.137 **Register of Community Assets**
RD requested that a sub committee be formed and offered to Chair it in order to progress the preparation of a Register of Community Assets. SA, JC and LS offered to join the sub committee. RD
- 12.138 **War Memorial**
The Clerk was asked to contact the War Graves Commission to seek advice on the cleaning of the war memorial and to then ask the handymen to proceed with the work. JH
The Council agreed it would like to support research into the names of the fallen commemorated on the Terling memorial. The Clerk was asked to seek a volunteer from the community who might be willing to carry out the work. The Council might be able to fund the project. JH
- 12.139 **Terling Ford**
The Clerk had circulated a report by email to the Council and proceeded to summarize its contents. The Council agreed that, following legal advice from the EALC and NALC seeking a Registration as a Village Green for the Ford was not advisable.
Debate then ensued as to the various alternatives and it was agreed that doing nothing was not an option to protect the area around the Ford. MP Priti Patel would be asked to support the Council. RD and RH would consider various proposals and prepare some drawings. JH
RD / RH
- 12.140 **General Correspondence to Note**
The Clerk reported that Noakes Farm Lane will be closed for two days from 9th January for overhead BT cabling work.
- 12.141 **Information Exchange / next agenda items**
The Chairman wished Ray Pond and Sarah Elliott good luck for the future and thanked all those volunteers who support the work of the Parish Council throughout the year.
- 12.119 **Date of Next Meeting, including Committees**
Tuesday 15th January 2012, Terling Village Hall. 7pm.
Tuesday 19th February 2012, Terling Village Hall. 7pm.
- The meeting closed at 8:40pm