

Minutes of the Meeting of Terling and Fairstead Parish Council held on 4th March, 2014 at 7.00pm at Terling Village Hall

Present: Mrs S McNamara Mrs P Bird
 Mrs J Cook Mrs S Alder
 Mr Reg Hunt Mr J Payne
 Mr Robin Dixon
 Cllr M Galione Mrs J Halfhide (Clerk), 11 members of the public

ACTION

- 13.154 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received, and were accepted, from Cllr Tom Cunningham, Cllr James Abbott, Mr Ian Smith, Mr Darren White, Mrs Ann Anderson.
- 13.155 **Meeting Open to the Public**
 Ranks Green residents thanked the Parish Council for its support in their objections to retrospective Planning Application: ESS/60/13/BTE Little Warley Hall Farm, Ranks Green and the Chairman in particular for addressing the ECC Development and Regulation Committee on 28th February.
 Alex Dyke reported that the Estate had been in discussion with Cllr Rodney Bass and the ECC Highways team regarding the flooding at the rail bridge near Berwicks. After investigations ECC had confirmed the problem had nothing to do with the Estate, despite reports in the local press to the contrary. Remedial action had been delayed as the source of the problem was on Railtrack land. Whilst in discussions with Cllr Bass Mr Dyke had highlighted the pothole problem in the Parish, particularly those in Rolls Lane, Waltham Road and Sparrows Lane, which had been reported to Highways months previously. The ECC Highways team had concurred that they were extremely dangerous but despite this it was noted that no action had been taken. Also discussed was the on-going problem of HGVs needing to access the area for the farming operations and only having an options of the restricted route via the railway bridge at Berwicks, via Birds Farm Lane or the via the centre of Terling.
- 13.156 **Minutes of Last Meeting**
 PB proposed and JC seconded that the Chairman should sign a copy of the minutes as a true and accurate record. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2014 were unanimously approved.
- 13.157 **Declaration of Interests**
 None declared.
- 13.158 **District Councillors' Reports**
 Cllr Abbott had emailed a report advising that, contrary to earlier reports, the ECC Council Tax change is zero (not 1.49% increase as previously announced) and the settlement includes increased funding for highways maintenance and local flooding "hotspots". Along with other Councillors Cllr Abbott is pressing for this to translate into a much improved service from the contractor Ringway Jacobs.
 The budget setting at County Hall also confirmed the reductions in funding for Children's Centres and to the Youth Service, although ECC says it hopes to keep most of the Youth Service but with community and volunteer delivery.

The Clerk read a report from Cllr Cunningham in which he commented on the

recommendations from the Boundary Commission. As expected, the current Black Notley and Terling ward will cease to exist, with Terling and Fairstead being part of a two member ward with Hatfield Peverel on a council of 49. Some £45,000 per year will be saved in having fewer Councillors. Council Tax has been cut by 1% on the BDC precept. There will be an increase in parking charges but the 10p charge after 3pm remains in BDC car parks.

Cllr Galione reported that her work on the Task and Finish Group continued. Any issues with train services could be addressed to her.

14.159 **Chairman's Report**

Nothing to report.

14.160 **Committee Membership**

Mr John Payne was appointed to the following committees: Planning & Highways, Environment & Footpaths and IT & Publicity.

13.161 **Finance**

Copies of Receipts and Payments for the current financial year had been emailed to all Councillors. 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 PB, and unanimously approved.

14-Jan-14 1794 A H Jiggins - Handyman Jobs	£121.16
14-Jan-14 1795 Bringy Furniture Ltd – laminating	£5.00
14-Jan-14 1796 TMC Pest Control - Mole Treatment	£45.00
06-Feb-14 1797 Oakley Services - Village Hall Heating	£459.60
06-Feb-14 1798 J Halfhide - Clerk's Expenses January	£8.83
06-Feb-14 1799 EDF Energy – Electricity Rec Ground	£96.63
06-Feb-14 1800 EALC - Councillor Training	£67.00
06-Feb-14 1801 Lord Rayleigh's Farms – Rec Ground tap	£50.70
06-Feb-14 1802 J Halfhide - Salary & Office Allowance	£704.35
06-Feb-14 1831 HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE Tax	£174.85
06-Feb-14 1832 Acumen Wages - Payroll	£ 22.20

- Approval of up to £2,000 for planning advice for application ESS/60/13/BTE. Proposed by RH, seconded by SA. Unanimously agreed.

13.162 **Environment & Footpaths**

Nothing to report.

13.163 **Estate Liaison**

Nothing to report.

13.164 **Health & Welfare**

SA reported that the Committee was seeking views on the replacement for the Sputnik roundabout. SA had placed a notice in the Parish News but there had been no response to date. The equipment was expected to be in the region of £5,000 and SA was still looking at grant funding opportunities. The Clerk had booked a ROSPA inspection, to take place in the summer. SA and JC had carried out an inspection of the playground and had highlighted some areas in needs of maintenance. The Clerk agreed to ask the handymen to attend to as many of these as possible before the ROSPA inspection.

JH

- 13.165 **IT & Publicity**
 It was agreed that JP should install free software on the Internet Café PC to determine usage. The annual cost of the internet café is approximately £440. SA and SM commented that the facility had been very popular and much appreciated when parts of Fairstead had been without phones or power for several days in the recent storms. It was agreed that the internet café was not ideally located; lack of privacy was sometimes an issue, but it was accepted there was limited space in the Post Office and there was no other suitable alternative venue. JP
- 13.166 **Planning & Highways**
 - Application: 13/01264/FUL 1 Sebbys Garden, Owls Hill. Revised plans for replacement porch & extension. The Planning Committee had responded using its delegated powers.
 - Application: 13/01224/FUL – (Retrospective) application to retain detached outbuilding and its use as an annex ancillary to the residential use of Barleyfields as a single dwelling house. BDC planning officers had asked the Parish Council to reconsider its objection. After discussion it was agreed, unanimously, that approval of such an application would set a dangerous precedent and that the Clerk should respond to BDC accordingly. JH
 - Application ESS/60/13/BTE – (Retrospective) Circular storage tank at Little Warley Hall Farm, Ranks Green. Refused at Committee.
 - Traffic Calming measures - SID volunteers. JP would be advertising for volunteers in an attempt to resuscitate the initiative to gather raw data necessary prior to requesting traffic calming measures. JP
 RD would consider representation under the new emerging local plan and would explain this to the Parish Council at a future meeting. RD
 The Clerk reported that the Fuller Street road would be closed for up to two days from 10th March for the removal of telegraph poles. The diversionary route was via Hatfield Peverel and Boreham Road. The Clerk was attempting to get ECC Highways to agree to the shorter route via Fairstead Hall Road and Ranks Green (i.e. the route used on the previous closure day). JH
- 13.167 **Recreation Ground**
 An outside tap has been installed.
- 13.168 **Councillors' Reports, including Village Hall Report, School Report and Church Liaison**
 RD had been in communication with Eddisons regarding the pub in Terling. SM had received a request for appropriate signage to alert drivers to the sharp right bend at Norrells – the Clerk would request this from ECC Highways. PB had received complaints about blocked street drains in The Street – the Clerk would report these. PB expressed concerns over litter, residents did not seem to be picking it up even when it was immediately outside their own properties. JC reported that Mrs Rumsey would be leaving Terling Church of England School on 4th April. The Parish Council would write to wish her well. SA had reported potholes in need of repair and drain problems in Fuller Street. The Clerk confirmed she had reported the missing Fuller Street and 30mph signs. JH
- 13.169 **Clerk's Report**
 Hours for January 70¼, Hours for February 66.
 BDC will be re-routing domestic refuse collections from February 2015 and have asked Councillors and residents to comment on any restricted areas which may assist in their

planning.

JC offered to discuss school the Living Memorials tree project with the school, to commemorate the WW1 centenary.

13.170 **Village Design Statement**

Heather Cutler had prepared a draft of the diary of engagement. The Clerk would need to visit the Essex Records Office to clarify some dates.

JH

13.171 **Adoption of Standing Orders**

The Finance Committee had met and had drawn up new Standing Orders in line with the NALC model. SM proposed that they be formally adopted by the Parish Council. Seconded by JC. Unanimously agreed. The Standing Orders were duly adopted. The new Standing Orders would be placed on the website.

JH

13.172 **Electoral Review of Braintree District**

Details covered previously under District Councillors' Reports. The consultation period runs to 14th April.

13.173 **Risk Assessment Review: Clerk's Home Working Assessment**

The Clerk would ask Trevor Lewis to carry out the review and to advise accordingly.

JH

13.174 **General Correspondence to Note**

SA reported that the Always Welcome Club had thanked the Parish Council for the grant.

13.175 **Information Exchange / next agenda items**

Terling Community Litter Pick: 10am Saturday 29th March 2014 meeting at Terling Village Hall.

JH

13.176 **Date of Next Meeting, including Committees**

Tuesday 15th April Parish Council Meeting at The Square & Compasses, Fuller Street, 7pm in the Gallery Room

Tuesday 20th May Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, 7pm at Terling Village Hall.

Close of business: 8pm