

## TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017

*(To published on the Website, on the Notice boards and in the Parish Magazine)*

This report is a summary of the work of the Parish Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

Jayne Halfhide, our Clerk since 2009, resigned in May 2016. I would like to thank her for all the work she did to support the Parish Council and to ensure a smooth handover to her successor, Frankie Killby

During the year Reg Hunt, John Payne, Darren White and Sarah Clements resigned from the Council. I would like to thank them all for the contribution they made. We welcomed Gavin Mileman, Anne Fitzgerald, Anne-Marie Blackshaw and Sarah Fruchard who join Sheila Alder, Pauline Bird, Robin Dixon, Alex Dyke, Ian Smith and Sarah McNamara. Councillors serve on one or more of the Council's Committees.

Our Essex County Council and Braintree District Council Representatives are invited to attend all meetings. District Councillors, David Bebb and Daryl Hufton Rees and County Councillor, James Abbott, have attended regularly and we thank them for the work they undertake on our behalf.

We are always pleased to welcome members of the public at our meetings and thank you for your interest. The suggestion box, situated in the shop, continues to be a means of communication.

#### Planning and Highways

Eighteen planning applications were considered during the year.

Our Tree Warden, Angus MacWillson is always on hand to give advice regarding the trees in the parish and I thank him for his work on our behalf.

With the help of Councillor Abbott we are attempting to resolve highways issues including repair and replacement of directional signs and work on the gabion walls at Terling Ford.

We are discussing with interested parties with a view to improving the state of Oakfield Lane.

We joined the Essex County Council winter salt bag scheme so that salt for organisations such as the primary school, the village stores and the pubs can be made available as well as the salt bins for the roads.

I would like to thank the Planning and Highways Committee; Robin Dixon, Pauline Bird, Alex Dyke and Anne-Marie Blackshaw for their work on these issues.

#### Environment

We continue to be a member of the Parish Paths Partnership to ensure that the footpaths are well maintained and accessible to all. We are liaising with Essex County Council regarding the re-routing of some footpaths.

Thank you to the volunteers who attend our regular litter picking sessions, part of our Street Cleaning Agreement with Braintree District Council. I'd especially like to thank Sheila Alder and Sue Poole who lead the litter picking team in Fuller Street. I know that there are many of you who pick up litter as part of your regular walks around the villages and would like to mention a student who regularly litter picks as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. All your help is much appreciated.

Reports of dog fouling are followed up with the Dog Warden and all issues of fly tipping are reported and dealt with promptly by Braintree District Council.

We maintain the various benches and seats in the parishes which are owned by the Council.

Thanks to the Environment Committee; Gavin Mileman, Anne-Marie Blackshaw and Anne Fitzgerald and to our Village Handymen, Daniel and Alan Jiggins who do so much to keep our villages looking good.

### Health and Welfare

The playground is checked weekly and ROSPA carry out an annual inspection. I would like to thank David Anderson who helps with the maintenance of the equipment.

Following advice from Braintree District Council Tree Officer, the oak tree near the playground was trimmed.

We continue to maintain the Recreation Ground and changing facilities which are used mainly by Terling Villa Football Club.

Thanks too, to Debbie Burns who, each week, checks the defibrillator in the phone box on Owls Hill.

I would like to thank Daphne Parris for attending the Passenger Transport Meetings and for her hard work in keeping our weekly bus services running.

The Emergency Plan has been updated and Colin Cutler has kindly agreed to be our local first aider.

Thank you Sheila Alder and Sarah Fruchard, who make up the Health and Welfare Committee, and Trevor Lewis, who spends an enormous amount of time advising us on Health and Safety issues and ensuring that our Risk Assessments are up to date.

Pauline Bird is our Village Hall Council Representative.

### IT and Communications

Thanks to Colin Cutler, our web site is regularly up-dated and is an excellent source of information.

We were awarded a grant to buy a laptop computer, scanner, software and disk storage to enable us to comply with the Local Government Transparency Code.

It is hoped to obtain a grant to install wi-fi in the Village Hall.

Thanks too, to Heather Cutler for the support she gives to us especially in her role as Parish Magazine Editor.

### Finance

The Parish Council continue to pay for the waste facilities at the Village Hall which are also used by the Swimming Club, Tennis Club and the Cricket Club. These include bins for recycled waste.

A poppy wreath was purchased for Remembrance Sunday.

The accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 are available to be viewed by arrangement with the Clerk. I would like to thank the Finance Committee; Ian Smith, Sheila Alder and Robin Dixon and our auditor Maurice Howard.

This is a brief summary of another busy year. Should you wish to know more the minutes of all our meetings are available on the website [www.terlingandfairstead.co.uk](http://www.terlingandfairstead.co.uk) or by application to the Clerk.

It only remains for me to thank my Council colleagues for their support and for their hard work throughout the year and our Clerk, Frankie Killby, who works tirelessly on our behalf and is always on hand to advise and ensure that all runs smoothly and efficiently.

Thank you for your interest and I hope to see you at a Parish Council Meeting in the near future.

*Sarah McNamara*  
*Chairman*

