

TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 17th May 2022

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

During the past year the Parish Council met seven times.

Alex Dyke resigned from the Council and Jayne Halfhide was co-opted. She joins Sheila Alder, Charles Barker, Pauline Bird, Robin Dixon, Joanna Long, Louisa Sime, Stephen Thatcher, Matthew Tugwell, Mark Webster, and me. I would like to thank them all for their work.

Councillors served on one or more of the Council's Committees:.

- Finance S Alder, S Thatcher, R Dixon, S McNamara
- Planning & Highways – R Dixon, J Halfhide, M Tugwell, M Webster
- Complaints - S McNamara, L Sime, P Bird
- Personnel – S McNamara, R Dixon, S Alder

Councillors with a special interest:

- Environmental & Footpaths – P Bird, L Sime, S Thatcher, J Halfhide
- Health & Welfare – J Long, S Alder, S McNamara
- Recreation Ground – M Tugwell, C Barker

Representatives are appointed for the following:

- Estate Liaison – P Bird
- Terling School – J Long
- Terling Village Hall – P Bird
- Terling and Fairstead Churches – P. Bird
- Neighbourhood Watch – C Barker

We have consultants for the following:

- IT & Publicity - C Cutler
- Tree Warden – D Gomer
- Risk Assessments – T Lewis

After many years Angus MacWillson resigned as Tree Warden. I would like to thank him for his help and advice.

In addition to our regular meetings members of the Council attended the following:

A12 Widening Webinar

Essex Association of Local Council's Health and Welfare meetings

Stansted Airport Forum

Community Policing

EALC AGM

Water Quality meeting with representative from the Environment Agency

Rural Community Council of Essex AGM

Meeting with Highways Liaison Officer

Local Plan

EALC Climate Crisis Conference

Equality and Diversity Training

Longfield Solar Farm Zoom Meetings

Our Essex County Council and Braintree District Council Representatives are invited to attend all meetings. Essex County Councillor Ross Playle and District Councillor Charley Dervish regularly attend and I would like to thank them for the work they undertake on our behalf.

They have awarded grants to the Parish Council towards repairing the Fairstead Phone Box door and a new defibrillator for Fuller Street. C Humphreys and Sons have donated defibrillators for Ranks Green and Fairstead. Thanks to them all. Cllr Dervish has also awarded the Parish Council a donation to purchase Jubilee medals for children living in Terling and Fairstead.

We also received a grant from the Essex Community Fund for a defibrillator for the Oakfield Lane Phone Box.

One complaint was dealt with according to the Complaints Procedure.

We are always pleased to welcome members of the public at our meetings and thank you for your interest.

Planning and Highways

Sixteen planning applications were considered during the last year.

With the help of Councillor Playle, we continued to attempt to resolve highways issues including repair and replacement of directional signs, potholes and problems with surface water and flooding in Waltham Road, Terling and in Fuller Street.

The Parish Council has taken a full part in the formal consultation period for the proposed Longfield Solar Farm and will consult with and keep parishioners informed regarding East Anglia Green National Grid proposal.

Environment

The Parish Council is a member of the Essex County Council Parish Paths Partnership to ensure that the footpaths are well maintained and accessible to all. Some of the footpaths have been re-routed and a new footpath map is being prepared.

We continue to work with Eastlight Community Homes and the Environment Agency to resolve the continuing problem with rats in Mill Lane.

Thank you to the volunteers who attend our regular litter picking sessions, part of our Street Cleaning Agreement with Braintree District Council. I would especially like to thank Sheila Alder, Stephen Thatcher Sue Poole and Victor Roome who lead the litter picking team in Fuller Street and Ranks Green. There are many people who pick up litter as part of regular walks around the villages. All your help is much appreciated. All issues of fly tipping are reported and dealt with promptly by Braintree District Council.

We maintain the various benches, seats and telephone boxes in the parishes which are owned by the Council. A new 'Buddy Bench' has been installed at the Ford. Thank you to Stephen Thatcher, and Jo Long for overseeing the Phone Box Libraries in Terling and Ranks Green and to Victor Roome for looking after the Phone Box in Fuller Street.

I would like to thank our Village Handyman, Alan Jiggins, who does so much to keep our villages looking good.

Health and Welfare

The playground is checked weekly and ROSPA carry out an annual inspection.

Thank you to Jo Long and Sheila Alder who have obtained a grant for a new climbing frame. Thanks too, to Charles Barker and Mark Webster for their work in maintaining the equipment, and to the various councillors who removed and disposed of the old climbing frame, thereby saving the Council the cost of this work.

Thanks to Debbie Burns and Jayne Halfhide who, each week, check the defibrillators in the phone boxes on Owls Hill and in Fairstead, and also to Mrs Sarah Humphries who checks the Ranks Green defibrillator.

Our only bus is to Braintree on Wednesdays.

The Emergency Plan is being updated and Colin Cutler is our local first aider.

Colin is also the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and I would like to thank him and the team of volunteers who liaise with the police to help prevent crime in our villages.

Thank you to Trevor Lewis, for advising us on Health and Safety issues and ensuring that our Risk Assessments are up to date.

Recreation Ground

We continue to maintain this facility which has been used by a youth team from Hatfield Peverel, who will also be using it for the next season.

IT and Communications

Thanks to Colin Cutler who regularly updates our pages on the Terling and Fairstead Community website, which in itself is an excellent source of information. Thanks too, to the Parish News, The Village Hub and Terling Stores who all assist with our publicity.

Finance

The accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2022 will be available to be viewed by arrangement with the Clerk, once they have been approved. I would like to thank our auditor Maurice Howard who has carried out many audits for the Parish Council, but is unable to help this year due to family ill health. We will be appointing a new auditor for the 21-22 financial year.

The Parish Council continues 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.

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.btck.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 and Responsible Finance Officer, 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
Chair
17th May 2022*