

TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Terling and Fairstead Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 7.30pm, at Terling Village Hall, Terling

Present: Mrs S McNamara (Chairman) Mrs L Sime
 Mrs S Alder Mr M Webster
 Mr G Barnes Mr R Dixon
 Mrs C Dervish (also attending as a District Councillor)

Cllr Playle

F Killby – Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

29.36 ***Apologies for Absence*** – Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Halfhide, Thatcher and Tugwell.

29.37 ***Declaration of Interests*** –. LS declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 29.50 - East Anglia Green. Cllr Dervish declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 29.48 – Recreation Ground.

29.38 ***Meeting Open to the Public*** – no members of the public present.

29.39 ***Minutes of Last Meeting***

It was proposed by MW and seconded by SA that the Chairman should sign a copy of the minutes of the meeting of 28th February 2023 with the amendments for Minute 29.19 under Cllr Playle's report to read, an increase of 3.5% in council tax with 2% of this ringfenced for social care of vulnerable members of society. ECC is trialling a booking scheme at its recycling depots, unanimously approved.

29.40 ***District and County Councillors' Reports***

Cllr Playle – Reported that Central Government has given £5 million to Essex Highways which will give Highways a budget of £14.5 million enabling it to recruit additional operatives with 12 gangs to be recruited for pothole repairs. The next LHP meeting will take place on 19th April, no current schemes for the parishes. The next round of Locality Fund grants will be available shortly if the Parish Councils has any projects that need support.

Essex Highways and National Highways will be meeting shortly to discuss the proposals for road changes in relation to the infrastructure installations needed to carry out the work on the A12. It is hoped this can be clarified in due course.

LS asked if the bridge road closure could coincide with resurfacing Hatfield Road. RD has received some information on A12 Widening Open Days at various venues from 13 April to 14 May, he will forward to clerk for publicizing to the wider community.

MW reported that the pothole on Hatfield Road was back (this is in Hatfield Peverel's Parish) and that the system for van bookings at the tips was causing problems for same day bookings. Cllr Playle to investigate this issue.

RD thanked Cllr Playle for the information on water sampling for the River Ter.

Cllr Playle left the meeting.

Cllr Dervish – did not provide any update due to the run up to the elections which will take place on 4 May but will prepare her report which will be circulated before the next meeting on 23rd May.

29.41

Chairman's Report

The council would like to record its thanks for the hard work of a resident from Fairstead Road who has carried out six months of litter picking as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award. A further two people will be undertaking this for their Awards.

29.42

Finance

Copies of Receipts, Payments, Bank Reconciliation, Budgets and Forecast for the financial year ending 31st March 2023 were distributed prior to the meeting to all councillors. LS proposed that the following BACs payments/direct debits be approved for payment, seconded by MW, unanimously approved.

3 Mar	BACS	F Killby	Salary	1086.37
3 Mar	BACS	F Killby	Expenses	32.50
3 Mar	BACS	Inland Revenue	PAYE/Tax	347.61
3 Mar	BACS	Essex Pension Fund	Clerk's Pension	419.66
3 Mar	BACS	A H Jiggins	Handyman Services	122.45
3 Mar	BACS	Lord Rayleigh's Farms	Garage/Rec Rental/Grass Cut	111.83
3 Mar	BACS	Terling Village Hall	Room Hire	37.80
3 Mar	BACS	T McGinniss	Repair Noticeboard	234.48
3 Mar	BACS	James Todd	Payroll Services	43.20
3 Mar	BACS	Community Heartbeat	Installation	360.00
31 Mar	DD	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	18.00
31 Mar	DD	EDF Energy	Elec – Rec Ground	534.00
4 Apr	BACS	F Killby	Salary	1072.48
4 Apr	BACS	F Killby	Expenses	101.21
4 Apr	BACS	Inland Revenue	PAYE/Tax	378.11
4 Apr	BACS	Essex Pension Fund	Clerk's Pension	403.03
4 Apr	BACS	A H Jiggins	Handyman Services	116.14
4 Apr	BACS	Lord Rayleigh's Farms	Garage/Rec Rental/Grass Cut	201.83
4 Apr	BACS	James Todd	Payroll Services	31.20
4 Apr	BACS	Brent Barker	Climbing Frame Installation	491.76
4 Apr	BACS	Braintree D Council	Trade Waste Contract	1392.04
4 Apr	BACS	Npower	Street Lighting	74.71
12 Apr	BACS	D Church	Rec Grd Water Repairs	80.00

- CIF Grant Partial Repayment - As the purchase and installation of the climbing frame was less than the Grant provided, there will be an amount to pay back which is likely to take in to account the Parish Council's agreement to match fund the amount. Clerk will inform councillors as soon as the amount is known.

A VAT refund of £3442.07 is due to be credited to the Parish Council for the financial year ending 31st March 2023.

Recreation ground income of £870 was received in April, a further £60 will be invoiced shortly.

Clerk is still chasing EDF Energy to credit the overpayment.

Insurance Terling Tournament - SM enquired if the Parish Council would be willing to fund this again at a cost of approximately £150. This will be approved at the May meeting.

29.43 ***Environmental & Footpaths***

Parish Map – SA reported that the footpath maps had been delivered and asked if councillors could volunteer to deliver maps. There will be a notice about this in the May Parish News and Clerk will put it on the Hub.

Water Sampling, River Ter – RD and SA will examine the information received from Cllr Playle and advise councillors on possible progression of this issue.

29.44 ***Estate Liaison***

LS has held a meeting with the Estate and confirmed that the problems on and around the Dismals that CD had raised and marked on her map, were part of a wider scheme of work to be carried out. It was pointed out that the bridge is quite badly damaged and that a whole layer of bricks is missing.

The possibility of a request for a Men in Sheds building was also raised with the Estate.

Chapel – nothing to report.

Protected lanes – LS is still pursuing this matter with BDC/ECC as a resident living on a protected lane, but there is not a lot that can be done on this matter.

The document for the Car Parking Opposite the Village Hall still needs to be drafted.

LS is organising a meeting with Fern House Surgery for an update.

The Estate raised the question of a Coronation bench or tree. CD stated that this could be arranged depending on the amount left in the Coronation Committee's funds after the Coronation.

RD commented on the condition of the Dismals and requested the clerk ascertain if there are any scalplings still in storage with the Estate. Clerk to pass information on the agreement between the Estate and the Parish Council on this.

The Estate reported that some cherry trees had been planted by the cricket ground for the Coronation.

29.45 ***Health and Welfare***

Defibrillators – Ranks Green is up and running with the library re-installed. SM has kindly cleaned the phone box. CD kindly agreed to look after the library at Oakfield Lane.

Playground - GB reported that the ballast has been removed but the seat still needs to be anchored. The clerk pointed out that this should be done soon as there will be a RoSPA inspection in May. MW has the checklist of RoSPA concerns from last year and will go through these with GB.

The seat on the rocker still needs to be replaced, clerk to purchase.

CD stated that the climbing frame is a huge success with children of all ages.

Benches at Terling Ford Licences - no update.

Emergency Plan – SA and clerk to produce this, the national test on phones was discussed and the potential issues for victims of domestic violence. Some cones (approximately six) and tape need to be purchased for potential flooding issues, these can be stored in the Parish Council garage.

As per Minute 29.44 clerk to invite Men in Sheds to attend a meeting and make a presentation.

29.46 ***IT & Publicity*** – nothing to report.

29.47 ***Planning and Highways***

Road Repairs – see Minute 29.40.

Directional Signs – councillors discussed the condition of the sign at the top of Hull Lane, which is the responsibility of Highways.

BDC Planning Regime regarding delegated powers – nothing to report.

A12 Widening Further Consultation – As per Minute 29.40, RD will provide information to clerk.

20s Plenty Initiative - JH is organising for a representative to attend the Parish Council meeting in May.

Chelmsford Garden Village – nothing to report.

Green Lanes/Protected Lanes – see Minute 29.44.

Update on Engagement with BDC Officers regarding Planning Inspectorate DCOs – RD reported that all officers would be very happy to discuss any matters with the Parish Council.

RD also reported the recent variation on the 18 Hull Lane Planning App was approved on 12th April with the same comments as before.

Chapel – see minute 29.44.

Clerk clarified that TPOs were being passed on to the Tree Warden for comment, as and when received.

29.48 ***Recreation Ground***

RD requested that this be included on the next agenda so that the handover to the Estate can be formally minuted. The Finance Committee will discuss this prior to this meeting.

29.49 ***Longfield Solar Farm***

The Planning Inspectorate has now submitted its report to the Secretary of State who has to make a decision by 18th July 2023.

29.50 ***East Anglia Green – National Grid – general update/current overhead cable replacement and issues***

Nothing to report locally but it was pointed out that another area – Ingatestone had put together a costed proposal for an offshore route which is less than NG costings.

Replacement of overhead cables – there is a significant amount of mud on roads which is very dangerous, and the contractor will be carrying out a road sweep to clean this up.

29.51 ***Area opposite the Village Hall used for parking*** – see Minute 29.44.

29.52 ***Parish Clerk and Parish Handyman Vacancies***

The parish clerk and the parish handyman have both resigned. The vacancies are being advertised on the Terling Hub, the Community website and the Parish Magazine. The clerk's vacancy is listed on the EALC website. The closing date for applications is 15th May. The interview panel for the Clerk's position will be SM, JH, CD, LS, and RD SA?

A Jiggins wishes to retire at the end of May and as there has been no interest in the job to-date, SM wondered if the job could be divided to attract more people. MW has a potential candidate in mind and will investigate.

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

CD – the Coronation invitations have gone out. There is also a list of people outside the community to invite but this is all in hand.

MW – asked if there are any jobs that could be put forward for the 8th May Action Day, eg painting railings by ford, cleaning benches. There will be voluntary stalls in the pub in Terling.

29.54 ***Clerk's Report***

The new local PCSO has been in contact with the Parish Council, she is unable to attend the next Parish Council meeting but asked if there were any clubs/association she could attend. Councillors to provide details to clerk if relevant.

Parking enforcement has been emailed to request a visit to the school as a deterrent for the parking issues.

All council policies will be reviewed at the May meeting.

29.55 ***Information Exchange/next agenda items*** – various items to be approved after the Purdah election period.

29.56 ***Date of next meeting, including committees***

23rd May, 7.0 pm, Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30 pm, Planning Committee Meeting (tbc – if required), followed by Parish Council Meeting, Terling Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 09.08 pm.