

TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 23rd May 2023

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

During the past year the Parish Council met ten times.

Pauline Bird and Joanna Long resigned from the Council and Glen Barnes and Charley Dervish were co-opted. They joined Jayne Halfhide, Sheila Alder, Charles Barker, Robin Dixon, 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:

Robin Dixon, Sarah McNamara, Sheila Alder, Stephen Thatcher

Environmental and Footpaths:

Pauline Bird, Joanna Long, Louisa Sime, Jayne Halfhide

Health and Welfare:

Sheila Alder, Sarah McNamara, Joanna Long, Charles Barker

Planning and Highways:

Robin Dixon, Matthew Tugwell, Mark Webster, Jayne Halfhide

IT & Publicity:

Jayne Halfhide, Sarah McNamara

Recreation Ground:

Charles Barker, Matthew Tugwell, Charley Dervish Glen Barnes

Personnel:

Sarah McNamara, Robin Dixon, Sheila Alder

Complaints:

Sarah McNamara, Pauline Bird, Louisa Sime

Estate Liaison Officer: Pauline Bird/Louisa Sime

Village Hall Representative: Pauline Bird/Charles Barker

School Representative: Joanna Long /Mark Webster

Church Liaison: Pauline Bird/Sarah McNamara

Parish Council Advisers

IT: Colin Cutler

Health & Safety: Trevor Lewis

Parish Tree Warden: David Gomer

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.

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

Following the death of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II, a Book of Condolence was opened in the church and a letter of sympathy sent to King Charles III. We received a reply from His Majesty which, with the Book of Condolence, will be kept in the village archives.

Planning and Highways

Nine 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 and repair of potholes.

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 and the A12 widening proposals.

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. I would like to thank Sheila Alder and Heather Cutler for their work in producing a new footpath map which has been distributed to all households in the parishes.

We are concerned about the water quality of the River Ter and are investigating the possibility of testing the water.

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 including a resident of Fairstead Road who has undertaken weekly litter picks as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award. 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. Thanks to the Jubilee Committee who have donated a new bench for the playground. Thank you to Stephen Thatcher, Jo Long and Charley Dervish 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. At the end May Alan is retiring as handyman. We will miss him, but I am pleased to say that he will continue to cut the footpaths.

Health and Welfare

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

A new climbing frame has been installed. Thanks to Charles Barker and Mark Webster for their work in maintaining the equipment.

Thanks to Debbie Burns, Anne Fitzgerald, Sheila Alder, Stephen Thatcher and Jayne Halfhide who, each week, check the defibrillators in the phone boxes in Owls Hill, Oakfield Lane, Fuller Street, Ranks Green and Fairstead. Thanks also goes to Sarah Humphreys for checking the defibrillator at Ranks Green until it was moved to its new location in the phone box just down the road. defibrillator.

Our only bus is to Braintree on Wednesdays.

Colin Cutler is 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 have maintained this facility during the year. Our lease expires at the end of June 2023 when it will be manged by Lord Rayleigh's Farm with a newly formed Terling Football Club in situ.

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 2023 will be available to be viewed by arrangement with the Clerk, once they have been approved.

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.

After seven years in the post our Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Frankie Killby, is leaving us. I would like to thank her for her knowledge, patience and understanding during this time. She will be greatly missed.

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

Sarah McNamara
Chairman
23rd May 2023