

TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Terling and Fairstead Parish Council held on Tuesday 24 October 2023
at 7.30pm, at Terling Village Hall, Terling

Present: Mrs S McNamara (Chairman)
Mr R Dixon
Mrs L Sime
Mrs J Halfhyde
Mr M Webster
Mr G Barnes
Mr M Tugwell
Miss T Curtis (Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer)

2 members of the public

30.07 ***Apologies for Absence*** – Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Alder, Cllr Dervish, Cllr Tugwell and Cllr Playle.

30.08 ***Declaration of Interests***

Cllr Barnes declared an interest in all matters relating to the Village Hall. Cllr Sime declared an interest in all matters relating to National Grid Norwich to Tilbury.

30.09 ***Meeting Open to the Public***

The Chairman invited the members of the public to speak but they declined and confirmed they had no comments.

30.11 ***Minutes of Last Meeting***

It was proposed by MW and seconded by SM that the Chairman should sign a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 12th September 2023, unanimously approved and the minutes were duly signed.

30.12 ***District and County Councillors' Reports***

In her absence TC confirmed that Cllr Dervish is looking into the s106 at Braintree District Council regarding Longfield.

In his absence a member of public noted that the replacement sign at Fairstead has been incorrectly placed and Cllr Playle confirmed he is investigating.

30.13 ***Chairman's Report***

Nothing to report.

30.14 ***Finance***

Copies of Receipts, Payments, Bank Reconciliation, Budgets and Forecast for the financial year ending 31st March 2024 were distributed prior to the meeting to all councillors. The following BACs payments/direct debits be approved for payment.

6 th Oct	BACS	F Killby	Salary	£810.96
---------------------	------	----------	--------	---------

6 th Oct	BACS	F Killby	Expenses	£67.50
6 th Oct	BACS	Inland Revenue	PAYE/Tax	£202.76
6 th Oct	BACS	Essex Pension Fund	Clerk's Pension	£436.69
6 th Oct	BACS	T Curtis	Salary	£464.69
6 th Oct	BACS	Alan Jiggins	Handyman Services	£63.57
6 th Oct	BACS	Lord Rayleigh Farms	Garage Rent	£36.00
6 th Oct	BACS	James Todd	Payroll Services	£34.32
6 th Oct	BACS	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	£378.00
6 th Oct	BACS	Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator	£106.74
6 th Oct	BACS	Npower Commercial	Street Lighting	£116.57
6 th Oct	BACS	Terling Village Hall	Room Hire	£8.40

RESOLUTION

To also resolve that the current and future parish clerks be permitted to join the Essex Pension Fund as per the resolution at Appendix 1.

TC explained that our current resolution lodged with the Essex Pension Fund did not allow new entrants and so this needed to be updated. The wording used in the Resolution allows all future clerks to also join the pension fund.

All Finance matters proposed by SM, seconded by GB and unanimously approved.

TC also noted that an application had been made for TC to join the banking mandate.

30.15 ***Environmental & Footpaths***

Parish Map – The map continues to be well received. There is currently one donation outstanding.

River Ter – RD confirmed that he is in the process of getting some further kit to do a wider community project with this.

Land Owner Deposit Lord Rayleigh Farms – LS confirmed that she had spoken to LRF who confirmed that there are no changes. RD and TC thought that they had seen one amendment coloured mauve. A working party of JH, RD and LS will review this.

30.16 ***Estate Liaison***

LS confirmed that there had been some issues with younger people and anti-social behaviour at The Dismals. LRF are taking action.

LS confirmed that David Brien had asked her to see if the Council had any feedback regarding parking on Church Green. MW declared an interest.

RD felt that roadway parking was less safe than parking on the Green especially as the road narrows. It is understood that it is two or three cars overnight. The Council concluded that

it had no further comment and it was for LRF to take any action it deemed fit. LS to feed back the comments.

LS confirmed that a deadline of Christmas was in place regarding the parking area opposite the village hall.

RD raised a question with LS and asked whether it was possible to see the 10 year woodland management plan as mentioned on the website. LS to check.

30.17 ***Health and Welfare***

Defibrillators – The Oakfield Lane defibrillator was collected at the weekend previous to the meeting. A report was made that it is back in place and in working order. Both the Clerk and the nominated warden for the defibrillator received an email. TC to speak with Alan Jiggins to check all boxes for working lights as it was mentioned that it was hard to see to put this back in place.

A member of the public confirmed he can arrange for defibrillators via a charity he works with. There are plans for the Church to have one outside. CD has been looking into this.

Playground – GB has a list from the ROSPA report and will review. TC to forward the full ROSPA report to GB

Emergency Plan – CD is arranging for some leaflets to be dropped off.

Village Hall Bins location/labels – Appendix 2

It was agreed that bins need to be locked and this shall be via a combination lock. The Council reviewed the current position and options as per Appendix 2. MW suggested that we could just have 2 bins as if there is no fly tipping there should be more capacity. It was also considered that the winter use is much smaller and it could then be monitored.

SM suggested the bins are placed next to the bottle banks. Users will need a light but most users would have a light on their phone or car.

It was agreed the small bin should be dispensed with for now and to change the larger two for lockable bins. This will be reviewed as we head into the summer months.

Men in Sheds – RD explained the initiative and RD wants to arrange a talk. RD suggested using village hall to meet as a ‘shed’ and will aim to arrange for someone to come to the January meeting if possible.

30.18 ***IT & Publicity*** – SM thanked TC for the posting on the hub. TC confirmed she would continue and expand this.

30.19 ***Planning and Highways***

Planning – The Planning Committee meeting had occurred prior to this meeting. RD will prepare a synopsis on comments to be submitted to BDC. SM confirmed that she put an agenda through the door of the applicant and the immediate neighbours at Mill Lane.

Road Repairs – It was noted that the Hatfield Peverel potholes appeared to have been completed but not the one just after the station bridge on the left of the road heading towards Terling. RD confirmed that he had an incident with a pothole and he was investigating further.

Directional Signs – Cllr Playle is investigating.

A12 Widening Further Consultation – The Planning Inspectors report has gone off to the Secretary of State. Decision due February time.

20s Plenty Initiative – Motion Appendix 3. JH confirmed it had not been possible to get a speaker on the subject. It is proposed that we put forward a motion to show our support as a Parish. There was a majority in favour from community engagement with just 2 dissents. Clerk to write to ECC with our motion. RD noted at EALC conference that the Chief Constable also supports scheme.

Proposed by JH, seconded by MW. LS abstained in the vote but all other members agreed. TC to investigate next steps.

30.20 ***Longfield Solar Farm***

Section 106 agreement – RD updated the position to say he is in discussion with Tim Havers at Braintree District Council with regard to the progress of the s106. Once we know the process/progress a working group can be set up.

RD attended the Essex Association of Local Councils AGM and he confirmed that the Chief Fire Officer gave a talk. He would like to talk to us about fire protection and security regarding batteries at the Longfield site. There is no urgency at present and is to be reviewed once work has started at the site.

30.21 ***National Grid Norwich to Tilbury***

LS left the meeting due to her interest. The members of Public also left the meeting.

It was noted that Priti Patel our MP supports the off shore grid. RD noted that no application has been made yet and the main statutory consultation is to come.

30.22 ***Area Opposite the Village Hall used for Parking***

SM asked whether we are happy to proceed if questions answered or are we saying we should not do this.

MW felt uneasy but if questions are answered that should not be a problem. Feels there are potential consequences/what ifs.

TC to give legal advice in her position as solicitor.

TC to meet RD, LS, MW, JH and SM. TC then suggested meeting with LRF to discuss any issues arising.

30.23 ***Parish Handyman***

MW has not received a response for breakdown as to handyman role. MW has a possible candidate. MW pointed out a waste carriers licence is required. TC will ask if Alan Jiggins can confirm. What is needed is the locations of all grass that needs cutting, how often, location of the bins and the checking of the playground excluding the paths. TC to also check with Alan who maintains the tractor.

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

JH nothing to report.

GB nothing to report.

RD – has written to Anglian Water under the Citizens Science scheme. The scheme gives out chemical testing kits.

RD and TC had a meeting with Jeanne MacWillson from the village hall recently. The insurances were checked against each other and there is currently no double insurance . RD suggested a provision for budget for non recoverable items under the terms of the insurance policy.

MW – Mentioned the Rural Prosperity Fund. TC to find out if fund is closed.

LS – nothing to report.

30.25 ***Clerk's Report***

TC noted that it had been a steep learning curve in stepping into the role but she hoped she was picking it up well. TC has had training on Budget and Precept and Code of Conduct. The New Clerks' training due Wednesday 25th October has been postponed due to a broken boiler at Essex Association of Local Councils.

30.26 ***Information Exchange/next agenda items***

Nothing to add.

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

The next meeting will be in Fuller Street at the Square & Compasses on 5th December at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 21.10

Appendix 1

RESOLUTION

Terling and Fairstead Parish Council propose that the following resolution is passed following a 7 day public notice which was published on 16 October 2023 :-

As required by legislation it is resolved that the post of Clerk will be eligible for membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme operated by Essex County Council.

Appendix 2

Bins

We currently have the following bins and collection schedule to 31/03/2024

1x1100L Paper&Cardboard W\C 25/10/2023 – 31/03/2024 Monthly collection – 6 collections £56.65

1x360L DMR, 25/10/2023 – 31/03/2024 Fortnightly collection - 12 collection £70.85

1x1100L DMR, 25/10/2023 – 31/03/2024 Fortnightly collection - 12 collection £168.69

The 360L DMR bin is not lockable. If we would like all bins to be lockable we would need to upgrade to a second 1100L DMR bin.

To save costs we could choose to have the bins emptied on a monthly basis as there is greater capacity.

Appendix 3

MOTION

Terling and Fairstead Parish Council:-

- Supports the 20s plenty for Essex campaign;
- Calls on Essex County Council to implement 20mph in Terling, Fairstead, Fuller Street and Ranks Green; and
- Will write to Essex County Council to request 20mph speed limits on streets throughout Essex where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.