



# TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Jayne Halfhide

Phoenix House · Fairstead · Essex CM3 2AT

Telephone: 01245 233 213 · Email: tandfpcclerk@hotmail.com · www.terlingandfairstead.org.uk

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 17th May 2011

I begin my report with a tribute to our Village Handyman, Clive Marshall, who sadly died in October. Clive had worked for the Parish Council for several years, and whilst much of his time, certainly in the spring and summer, was spent on his tractor cutting the footpaths it seemed that he could turn his hand to almost anything. Whatever problem we had, from cleaning the War Memorial to repairing seats Clive had a solution and it was done efficiently and without fuss. His local knowledge was invaluable especially when we were setting up the P3 Partnership for the footpaths. We miss him and our thoughts have been with Mandy and her family during the past months. Clive's sons have installed a seat, bought by the Parish Council in his memory, in the Children's Playground. We hope you will enjoy sitting on it. Happy memories.

This report is a summary of the work of the Parish Council for the year ending 31st March 2011. The Parish Council met 13 times, including meetings called to discuss the future of the Rayleigh Arms, Parish Council members have an area of responsibility and serve on one or more of the Council's committees or working parties. Ward Councillors are invited to attend all meetings. Our District Councillor, Margaret Galione, has been consistent in her attendance and we thank her for all the work she has undertaken on our behalf. Our County Councillor, Michael Lager, is in contact with our Clerk and receives copies of minutes of our meetings.

We are always pleased to welcome members of the public at our meetings and thank you for your interest. Monthly surgeries were held for a trial period but were not popular and ceased after six months. The suggestion box, situated in the shop, continues to be an effective means of communication.

Representatives from BAA Stansted attended a meeting to tell us about flight movements at Stansted and to inform us about future plans for the airport.

PC Jason Corrigan and PSCO Nikki Doubleday regularly attend meetings to report on the policing of the Parish. They follow up any issues which give us cause for concern. The role of our Community Warden, Tony Lynch, now focuses on environmental issues. Sally Austin, our Village Agent keeps us informed of services available for people in rural communities and Terry Blunden is our Greenfields Representative. My thanks to you all.

Representatives of all Village organisations were invited to the September meeting and, as a result, donations amounting to £1525.75 were promised.

### Planning and Highways

Eleven planning applications were considered during the year and there has been much interest in the development of the Rayleigh Arms site. Following a public meeting a Working Group, led by Alex Clarke, was formed. The Group has been extremely active, launching the 'Save our Pub' campaign and meeting with interested parties. I would like to thank Alex, Louisa Sime and their colleagues for all they have done, and continue to do.

Highways matters, including road signs and cutting back vegetation are always with us. The severe winter weather increased the pothole problem. It is frustrating for us all that, despite constant liaison with the Highways' Department, many of our roads are still in need of repair. We won't give up!

An ongoing concern for many villagers was the erosion of School Green due to careless parking. We hope that the new posts will improve this important area of the village.

I would like to thank the Planning and Highways Committee, Robin Dixon, Pauline Bird and Colin Cutler for their work on these issues.

### Environment

Environmental issues are a major part of the work of the Parish Council.

We continue to be a member of the Parish Paths Partnership to ensure that the footpaths are well-maintained and accessible to all. Thank you to the many volunteers, led by Victor and Sue in Fuller Street and Trevor and Joyce in Ranks Green who attend our litter picking sessions, part of our Street Cleaning Agreement with Braintree District Council. Thanks too to Ray and Sarah who assist with the organisation in Terling. I know that there are also many of you who pick up litter as part of your regular walks around the villages. Your help is much appreciated.

All issues of fly tipping are reported and dealt with promptly.



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Thanks to the Environment Committee, Darren White, Trevor Lewis and Louisa Sime, the Tree Warden Angus MacWillson and to our Village Handymen, Daniel and Alan Jiggins. Your work is much appreciated, especially at this time of year when the villages look so beautiful.

## Health and Welfare

The Parish Council have taken over the lease of the Football Field which will be regularly cut by the Handymen. New goal posts have been purchased and will be erected in the near future. The old pavilion has been demolished and we are liaising with members of Terling Football Club who are working towards building a new pavilion with a view to bringing the club back to play in the village. In the meantime we hope that those wishing to have a 'kick about' will enjoy the facility. I would like to thank Lord Rayleigh and Alex Dyke for their support for this project.

The Children's Playground continues to be maintained and has regular safety inspections. The see-saw seats have been replaced. In August the Parish Council funded a Children's Activity Day in the Village Hall.

Opinions of the community were sought regarding the use of the phone boxes. The lights have been replaced and are now low energy and vandal proof.

Largely due to the enthusiasm of Daphne Parris we have weekly buses to Braintree, Witham and Chelmsford. I would like to thank Daphne for her hard work in keeping these services running.

Thank you Ann Anderson and Sheila Alder who make up the Health and Welfare Committee, Hayley Wiseman our School Representative and Pauline Bird, our Village Hall Committee Representative

## IT and Communications

Thanks to Colin Cutler, who is responsible for IT and Communications, our web site is regularly up-dated and is an excellent source of information. The Internet Café was opened in 2010 in the shop. An Events Board has been erected in the shop, funded by the Parish Council, which is a good way of finding out what is happening in the village. Thanks to Colin and to Ray Pond and Sarah Elliot for their help and support.

## Finance

Due to careful planning and cautious spending the precept for the financial year ending March 2012 will remain unchanged. Unaudited accounts are currently available to be viewed by arrangement with the Clerk. I would like to thank the Finance Committee, Ian Smith, Sheila Alder and Robin Dixon.

The Parish Council have considered a number of consultation documents circulated by Braintree District Council, Essex County Council and other organisations and have ensured that the views of the parish were submitted for consultation. These included the Braintree District Council Rural Services Survey 2010 and the Rural Housing Policy.

Members of the Council have attended meetings and training sessions during the year. Our Clerk has commenced her CilCA training with the Essex Association of Local Councils which will enable the Parish Council to operate to best practices.

This is a brief summary of a busy year. Should you wish to know more the minutes of all our meetings are available on the website or by application to the Clerk.

In January Hayley Wiseman resigned from the Council. Hayley, who was born and brought up in the village, always had a great deal to contribute to discussions and formed excellent relationships with the school.

Colin Cutler has decided not to stand for re-election but will continue to be our Web Master and IT Adviser. Colin has made an enormous contribution over the years, not least as Vice- Chairman. I would like to thank both Hayley and Colin for their contribution to the work of the Council. We will miss them both.

It only remains for me to thank my Council colleagues for their support and for their hard work throughout the year and to thank Jayne Halfhide, our Clerk, who continues to work far beyond the call of duty to ensure that all runs smoothly.

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

Sarah McNamara



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## **NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR**

We welcome Reg Hunt onto the Parish Council following the uncontested election in May.

Colin Cutler decided not to stand for re-election for the Parish Council. The Parish Council would like to thank Colin for all his hard work as a Councillor. Colin was co-Vice Chairman and must be thanked for his work on the Planning Committee and for his tremendously hard work with all things IT and publicity related. The Internet Café owes its success to Colin. Colin has kindly agreed to continue to look after the website, for which the Parish Council is very grateful.

## **TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – WALTHAM ROAD, TERLING – AT 09:30-15:30 HOURS, 7TH JUNE 2011**

Please be advised that a Temporary Road Closure has been approved at the above location. The road will be closed from its western junction with Terling Hall Road for a distance of approximately 200m in a generally northerly direction. Where possible access to emergency and residents vehicles will be maintained but may be subject to delay whilst the works area is made safe. The alternative route will be via Terling Hall Road, Gambles Green Road and vice versa.

**FLY TIPPING** See it – report it! Please report fly tipping to Braintree District Council's Green Heart team: Tel: 01376 552525 Text: 07797 803203 or On line: [www.braintree.gov.uk/greenheart](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/greenheart). Please try to give as much information as you can so they are able to respond to your report as quickly and easily as possible. All the information is treated in the strictest confidence.

## **ROAD CHANNEL SWEEPING**

Braintree District Council will be Channel sweeping in Terling and Fairstead on the following dates:-

Terling 06&07.06.11 – 19&20.09.11 – 30.12.12 & 03.01.12 – 17&18.04.12

Fairstead 08.06.11 – 14.09.11 – 21.12.11 – 28.03.12

The Parish Council has been asked if it could ensure residents could park elsewhere on these dates so that the sweepers have clear access to the road channels. Thank you in advance for this.

## **ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT – NEW CONTACT NUMBER**

A reminder of the new contact number for reporting problems on the Highways, including the reporting of potholes. Tel: 0845 6037631 The Parish Council continues to lobby ECC Highways about the state of our roads but it would add considerable weight to our argument if you could also report problems direct to them.

## ***Dates for Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings: Everyone welcome***

\* **Parish Council Meeting** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 7pm in The Committee Room at The Square and Compasses, Fuller Street.