

TERLING AND FAIRSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Terling and Fairstead Parish Council held on 8th December 2009, at 7.00pm, in The Committee Room at The Square and Compasses, Fuller Street

Present: Mrs S McNamara (Chairman)
Mr C Cutler
Mr R Dixon
Mr T Lewis
Mr I Smith
Mrs S Alder
Mrs P Bird
Mr D White
Mrs J Halfhide (Clerk)
Mr C Marshall (Handyman)
Cllr M Galione
Chief Inspector Alan Gooden, District Commander
PC Jason Corrigan
Community Warden Tony Lynch
13 members of the Public

ACTION

Apologies for absence: Ann Anderson, Hayley Wiseman and Judy Cockburn. Those invited to the buffet but who were unable to attend also sent apologies: Nikki Doubleday, Maria Rumsey, Angus MacWillson, Derek Turner, David Boyle and Carolyn Godfrey.

09.73 Meeting Open to the Public

The Councillors were asked whether a village “twinning” had ever been considered. The Councillors agreed that this would perhaps be worth considering. Terry Blunden continues to work with Greenfields and the Chairman thanked him for his help.

Daphne Parris outlined an idea she has for saving the 341 Thursday bus service which is under threat and she will be speaking to the relevant body. SA pointed out that NHS data which concluded that the Parish was reasonably well placed for access to medical facilities had been based on the assumption that the Parish was on a bus route. The Chairman outlined possible alternatives which had been brought up at the recent Cluster Meeting. PC Jason Corrigan reported there had been only nine incidents since the last meeting, only one being a crime, a dwelling burglary.

Chief Inspector Alan Gooden and a representative from the Police Road Policing unit were warmly welcomed. Chief Inspector Gooden was aware he had been invited in response to concerns raised by parishioners about speeding in the area. He report that whilst there have been no accidents or collisions reported in the last three years, this was not a time for complacency. DW pointed out that whilst no accidents had been reported to the Police, they had most certainly occurred. The Parish was fortunate that local landowners with agricultural machinery had often come to the rescue.

The Road Policing Unit will be implementing a series of “4x100” speed checks in the Parish to determine the severity of the problem. The Clerk would furnish the Police with information as to the worst affected areas.

JH

PC Corrigan will be continuing his speed gun checks as well, he had not yet been able to do Ranks Green or Fairstead but would be out in these areas shortly.

PC Corrigan reported that the Mobile Police Station would be returning on 5th January 2010 from 3-4pm in the Dismals, returning every four weeks.

Chief Inspector Gooden was told about the ongoing issues at Terling Ford, with 4x4

owners driving through the Ford for recreation He agreed to consider the problem and see whether the Police could take any action – one thought was that drivers could be prosecuted for causing damage to the gabion walls, consultation with the Environment Agency would be necessary.

Community Warden Tony Lynch reported that fly tipping was on the increase.

09.74 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes were unanimously approved. It was proposed by TL and seconded by IS that the Chairman should sign a copy of the minutes as a true and accurate record.

09.75 **Matters arising from the meeting**

There were no matters arising other than those being covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

09.76 **Declaration of Interests**

None.

09.77 **District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Galione reported that the Parish Support Grant would not be withdrawn. Cllr Galione drew the Parish Council's attention to the Rural Essex Strategy document, the Social Housing Allocation and "Cutting our Cloth" which details proposals by the District Council for cutbacks.

09.78 **Chairman's Report**

Judy Cockburn had informed the Chairman of her intention to resign as a Parish Councillor due to increased work commitments. Once her letter of resignation had been received the Clerk would write to the Elections Officer at Braintree District Council. JH

09.79 **Sub-Committees Reports**

Finance:

Copies of Receipts and Payments for the current financial year as per the cash book had been e-mailed to all Councillors.

The following cheques were approved for payment and were signed. All invoices had been checked against cheques. The expenditure was approved. Proposed by SA, seconded by DW:

20th Oct 09	1240	J Halfhide, September Salary Clerk	£593.57
20th Oct 09	1241	HM Revenue & Customs, PAYE Tax	£131.78
20th Oct 09	1242	E.ON Electricity, Street Lighting	£29.19
20th Oct 09	1243	Allianz Insurance, Bus Shelter Insurance	£70.53
20th Oct 09	1244	J Halfhide, Clerk's Expenses September	£106.00
17th Nov 09	1245	Terling Village Hall, room hire	£10.50
17th Nov 09	1246	Rural Community Council of Essex, Subs	£55.00
17th Nov 09	1247	Acumen Wages Service	£20.13
17th Nov 09	1248	HM Customs & Excise, PAYE Tax	£44.18
17th Nov 09	1249	J Halfhide, October Salary Clerk	£433.79
20th Nov 09	1250	Essex County Council Ranks Green salt bin	£350.00
20th Nov 09	1251	J Halfhide, October Expenses	£185.99

Is distributed his Receipts and Payments, Budget and Forecast sheet and graph, which he explained.

The Finance Sub-Committee had met to consider the Precept and Budget for 2010-11. With the news that the PSG was not being withdrawn, they propose to leave the Precept unchanged for the next financial year and IS agreed to DW's suggestion that reserves should continue to be held for the possible future replacement of capital equipment.

Football Ground: IS outlined the working group's findings with regards to the proposed Football Ground project. These had been circulated to all Parish Councillors by email prior to the meeting. The total cost would be in the region of £36,000, with a 50% grant funding of £18,000. The ground and facilities would be used by others, not just the Football Club. Alternatively, it would be possible to just refurbish the goal mouths but this would not be sufficient for the Club to return to Terling.

In view of the magnitude of this project it was agreed that the Councillors needed more time for consideration and it was agreed that a decision would be deferred until the next meeting. A trim-trail and basket ball facility would both cost in the region of £5,000 each. Cllr Galione would possibly be able to help in finding grant funding. Lord Rayleigh would need to be consulted and his approval would be necessary.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received a £75 incentive from the Inland Revenue for filing the end of year return on line.

Environmental & Footpaths:

The tractor has been moved to new premises, provided by Lord Rayleigh, which are more secure. Thanks were expressed to the handyman who had worked over a weekend to comply with the deadline to vacate the old premises.

As requested at the last meeting, the Clerk had done some research into various options to improve the security of the tractor equipment and PB had discussed with Alex Dyke the possibility of installing a ground anchor. A tracking device would cost approximately £295 with a £75 fitting fee and annual costs of around £108. An immobiliser would cost approximately £200 including fitting. Smart Water, on an annual membership basis costs £35.88 p.a.

RD proposed that approval should be given for up to £500 to be spent on a tracking device. Seconded by DW. This was unanimously agreed and the Clerk was asked to obtain three quotes. Advice would be sought from the Police – Crime Prevention – for their feedback as to suitable products. It was thought that the insurance for the tractor would be reduced and the Clerk would investigate.

JH

JH

Estate Liaison:

School Green: The Chairman had not been able to speak to Lord Rayleigh but was aware of his views which had been communicated in an email from Alex Dyke. However, this had been an issue which had greatly concerned many people and which had been highlighted in the Village Design Statement questionnaire. RD outlined his proposals for parking protection measures, using a green oak post style which Lord Rayleigh had previously agreed would be in keeping to this important village asset. The existing granite stones, which are buried, could be reset and reused on the bell mouth exits to the public highway. Along the inner perimeter of the Green oak posts would be installed. The proposed total cost of this project would be approximately £1690, which the Parish Council would fund.

It was agreed that Terling School should be consulted, as many parents parked on the Green and safety of the children had been one of Lord Rayleigh's concerns. HW would be asked to speak to Maria Rumsey. The Clerk was asked to prepare a letter to Lord Rayleigh outlining the problem, the needs of the school parents, and the Parish Council's proposals.

HW

JH

Mill Lane Ponding Problem: The Clerk reported that Buzz Hood had kindly determined that the land was not listed as Glebe land in the 1970s audit and had also kindly checked the Title but it is not registered. Greenfields have capped the pipe sticking out of the verge but are taking no further action. ECC Highways are still deciding the best way forward but it is in hand and the Clerk will continue to seek resolution.

JH

Playground Oak Tree : The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Alex Dyke confirming the verbal assurances he gave previously about the tree inspection having been carried out.

River Walk Gate: The Handyman confirmed he had repaired the gate at the end of the River Walk, with Lord Rayleigh's permission.

Bramley Cottages Green – RD had checked with Land Registry as to ownership, to no avail, BDC have again cut the Green and Greenfields are still adamant the land is theirs, Terry Blunden kindly agreed to confirm this.

DW enquired about the current status of the replacement pipe for Fuller Street, which had been brought up at previous meetings. Humphrey's had kindly offered to replace the pipe, after the harvest, it was now too late for this year. The Clerk agreed to refer back to past minutes and to determine how it had been left. It was agreed that this matter would be revisited at the next meeting. JH

Health & Welfare:

The Clerk agreed to call in the pest control experts to deal with the mole problem in the childrens' playground. JH

IT & Publicity:

CC reported on the plans for the Internet Café in Terling Village Stores. Ray and Sarah had been enthusiastic about the idea. CC reported that there should be free internet access, with parental controls, available to all. There will be a fair usage policy. The estimated cost would be in the region of £500 for the hardware, £300 for furniture, and running costs of approximately £590 per annum (public liability insurance, equipment insurance, etc). The planned software would be the operating system and a web browser only. CC agreed to obtain three quotes prior to the next meeting to obtain approval. CC

PC Corrigan mentioned that White Notley had made a computer available to that people could view what was happening in the local and nearby areas. CC agreed to investigate further. CC

Planning & Highways:

Application: 09/01385/FUL and 09/01386/LBC - Mr and Mrs Garthwaite, The Old Rectory, Fairstead. Erection of new games room annex, new access door to existing kitchen and porch link. Comments had been invited prior to 23rd November. The sub-committee had had no comments.

New applications received, under consideration:

Case No:	09/00282/TPO	Date Valid:	12/11/2009
Grid Ref:	576889 E 215165 N	Consultation Expiry:	10/12/2009
Proposal:	Notice of intent to carry out works to a tree in a Conservation Area - Remove Plum Tree		
Applicant:	Mr Sargeant, 3 Viner Cottages Owls Hill Terling		

Case No:	09/01557/FUL	Date Valid:	02/12/2009
Grid Ref:	575339 E 217801 N	Consultation Expiry:	30/12/2009
Proposal:	Erection of extension to existing farm shop		
Applicant:	C Humphreys & Sons Ltd, Blixes Farm Ranks Green		

CC had attended a training session for Parish Councils which had mainly concerned Permitted Development Rights, which had been extremely worthwhile.

CC asked whether it would be possible to reduce the amount of road signage, for example, there are two 30mph signs on either side of the narrow road from Fuller Street which apart from being unsightly in a rural area causes obstruction for the large grain lorries. The Clerk was asked to check the laws on this and add to the next Agenda.

JH

Olive Cowell confirmed at the Cluster Meeting that New Road is going to be resurfaced before the of this financial year so the yellow lines by the school would be re-done then.

09.80 **Councillors' Reports, including Village Hall and School Report**

PB had attended the Village Hall Committee meeting on 26th October. They had expressed disappointment that the Parish Council had not sought their permission before placing the shoe recycling bin outside the hall. SM confirmed that she had definitely sought, and obtained, their permission, beforehand.

The Village Hall Committee had asked whether the Parish Council would consider making a contribution to the cost of replacing the hard-standing, where the bins are sited. SM explained that the Village Hall would need to be very specific about how much funding they were looking for to enable Parish Council to make a decision and Derek Gore agreed to submit an estimate for the cost of replacing the hard-standing for the bins. The Village Hall Council are hoping to resurface the car park but this will be a long term project.

CC agreed to investigate the flickering light in the Hull Lane phone kiosk.

The wreath for Remembrance Sunday, which had been paid for by the Parish Council, was not placed on the War Memorial until 11th November due to a misunderstanding with the Brownies. Rev. Hall was looking for a more solid community representation next year, with a member of the Parish Council being present, as well as representatives from the local farms and the uniformed childrens' groups. The Clerk would progress this in September 2010, in good time for the next Remembrance Sunday Service.

JH

09.81 **Clerk's Report**

Hours worked in October: 64¾. Hours worked in November: 50¼

Anglian Water Pumphouse: The Clerk had spoken to Philip Horn of Savills who had been appointed by Anglian Water to consider the Parish Council's request to use the area near to the Pump House for a possible trim trail. Unfortunately, Anglian Water are not prepared to proceed any further as they foresee too many operational difficulties.

Ranks Green salt bin: ECC Highways confirmed that £350 is for a brand new bin, not a reconditioned one and it is currently on order.

The EALC have approved the bursary towards the Clerk's training. The Parish Council pays in advance for the training and once 50% of the training has been completed they will pay 50% of the bursary and the remainder on completion of the training (total bursary was 75% of the total cost).

The Circulation Folder was handed to CC. It was agreed that a new system would be introduced whereby the Clerk will email on a regular basis the details of the documents she holds for circulation and Parish Councillors should advise her if they wish to see it. It was hoped this would speed up the dissemination of information. Wherever possible documents would continue to be emailed.

JH

09.82 **Terling School's Kenyan Partnership**

SM expressed a personal interest in this project. She outlined plans for her forthcoming visit to Kenya and IS proposed that a £50 donation should be made to put towards the purchase of gifts for the Kenyan children. This was seconded by PB and unanimously agreed. The Clerk would prepare a cheque.

JH

- 09.83 **Review of Standing Orders**
It was agreed the progress of the Complaints Committee with their review of the Standing Orders should be deferred to the next meeting. AA,
SM,PB
- 09.84 **Litter Bin Outside Village Hall**
It was agreed HW should ask the school exactly what their requirements are. HW
The Clerk was asked to find what is happening about the barriers outside the school. JH
- 09.85 **Telephone Kiosks**
The agreements for the adoption of the Terling kiosk are ready for the Chairman to sign. JH
The Parish Council won a £100 runners-up prize in the recent BT competition (the Fuller Street box had been entered). TL proposed, and SA seconded that the prize money should be shared with Vic Roome of The Square and Compasses as he had paid for the kiosk's transformation into an Information Point for The Essex Way. This was unanimously agreed. The Clerk would prepare a cheque for £50. JH
- 09.86 **Risk Assessment Review**
The Clerk's Home Working Health and Safety Assessment is due for review prior to the next meeting. TL/JH
- 09.87 **Stop Stansted Expansion**
The Stop Stansted Expansion campaign had written on 19th October (emailed to all councillors) for request for financial support towards their campaign. TL suggested and it was agreed that they should be asked come to the March Parish Council Meeting to make a presentation and that this should be publicised throughout the Parish so that all interested parties have the opportunity to attend. Local opinion could then be judged more accurately. JH
- 09.88 **Emergency Planning: FloodSax**
The Clerk reported that Braintree District Council will no longer be giving out the traditional sandbags in time of floods. The Parish Council has an opportunity to purchase a supply of the modern alternative to sandbags, FloodSax, at wholesale prices via BDC. It was suggested that the Parish Council should keep a small supply for it to distribute to properties at risk during a flood. DW proposed that a box of 20 FloodSax should be purchased, costing £124 per box including VAT. This was seconded by TL and unanimously agreed. The Clerk would arrange this. JH
BDC's policy change does require vulnerable individual householders to consider more closely their own protection in the event of flooding. The Clerk agreed to advertise the availability of the sacks in the Parish Magazine, giving people the opportunity to buy them direct from BDC. JH
- 09.89 **General Correspondence**
None.
- 09.90 **Any Other Business**
SA asked if the Clerk could write to Terling School congratulating them on their recent excellent SATS results. JH
The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and gave a special mention of thanks to Clive Marshall and Frank Morrissey for all their work for the Parish Council this year.
- 09.91 **Date of Next Meeting, including Committees**
26th January 2010, Parish Council Meeting, Terling Village Hall, 7pm
9th March 2010, Parish Council Meeting, Terling Village Hall, 7pm
The meeting closed at 9pm.

