



FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th. November 2021 at 9.45am in Foxearth Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Posen (Vice-Chairman), S. Ham, K. Holmes ECC Cllr P. Schwier and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also 2 members of the public present

076/2021 Vice-Chairman welcome The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

077/2021 Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs T. Clayton, Cllr K. Robson, Cllr F. Binks

078/2021 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda

Cllr S. Ham declared an interest in item 088/2021 (d) Grant Application from Foxearth & District Local History Society

079/2021 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Foxearth & Liston Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 18th. September 2021. **All Agreed**

080/2021 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

Cllr M. Posen, informed the meeting that he was taking the chair because the Chairman is currently in hospital, and on behalf of the Parish Council and residents wished Cllr. T. Clayton a speedy recovery.

081/2021 Essex County Councillors report – ECC Cllr P. Schwier

A brief report was given by Cllr P. Schwier

VAS speed signs can be purchased from ECC

Get a group of Parish Council's together to buy local VAS signs

The Clerk to contact ECC Cllr P. Schwier for more information – Locality Fund

The Clerk to report and get re-painted 30mph signs in Foxearth & Liston by ECC Highways

ECC have replaced over 1,000 LED lights in the area.

See ECC Cllr P. Schwier full report at

https://e-voice.org.uk/foxearthandliston-pc/content-centre/item/one?item_id=44632424#itemform

ECC Cllr P. Schwier left the meeting

082/2021 District Councillors report – BDC Cllr I. Parker

No report was given

083/2021 Public Participation Session

The Chairman will invite questions and observations from members of the public present.

A maximum time of 15 minutes will be allowed

A resident raised the issue about deteriorating condition of the 30 mph roundels and "Slow" markings on the highway in Foxearth. They need to be repainted by ECC Highways. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Essex Highways with a copy to ECC Cllr P. Schwier.

A resident raised the issue of Foxearth Church. Attendances at churches is reduced, and the churches in Foxearth and Liston may be closed and decommissioned. What is the future of the two churches, which are community assets? It was agreed that the Clerk will invite a representative of the PCC to attend the next meeting to provide information.

In response to a complaint from a resident asked F&LPC will ask the Village Hall Committee to ensure that they ask people making village hall bookings not to park in Mill Road obstructing the driveways.

084/2021 Footpath update – Cllr K. Robson

No issues to report

085/2021 Highways and Transport issues – Cllr F. Binks

a) Update on the Working party meeting on 4th. October 2021

In the absence of Cllr F. Binks the report below was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting

1. Enforcing the 30-mph speed limit through the village of Foxearth

The B1064 through Foxearth is an apparent 'rat run' with speeding particularly occurring first thing in the morning and in the evening. The road runs from Cavendish to Rodbridge cutting the corner from Long Melford.

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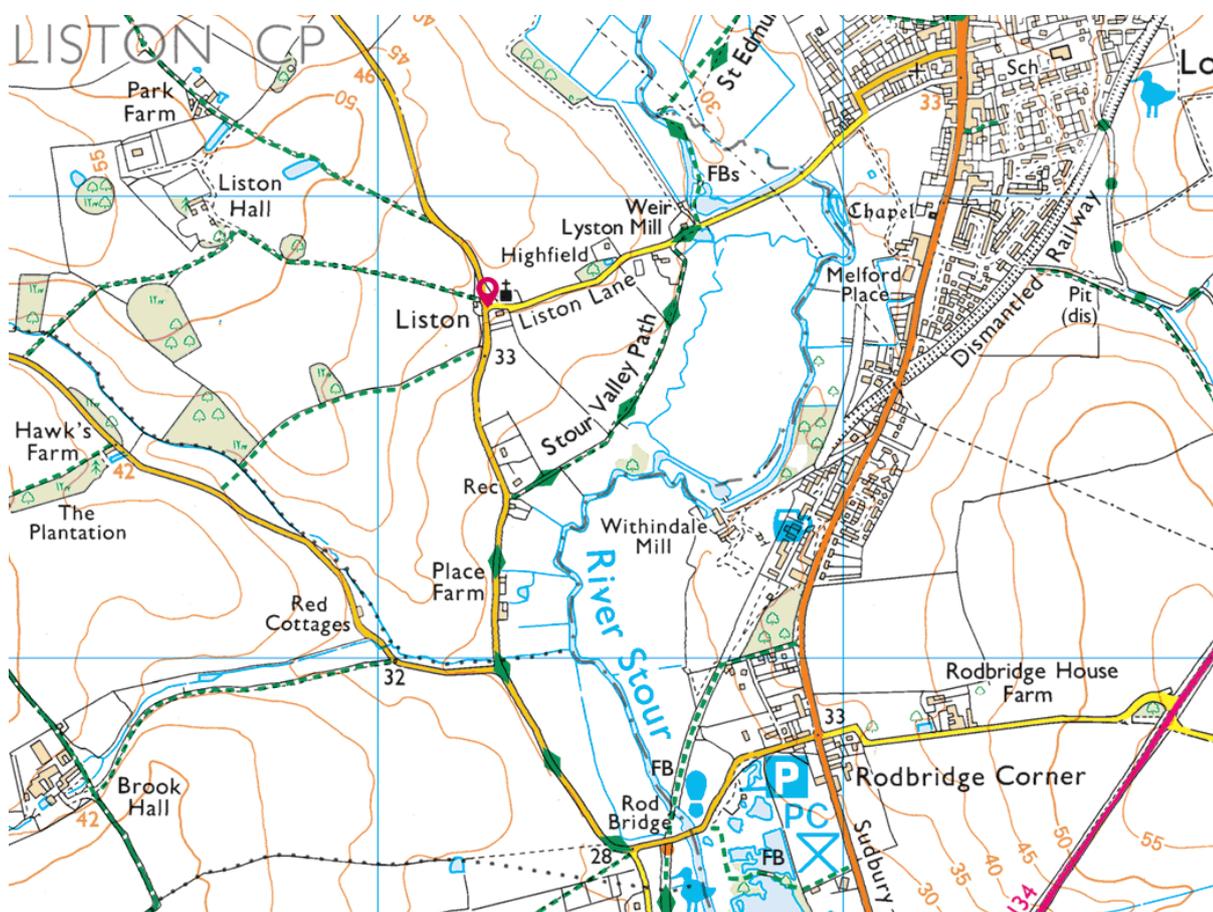
Several options were discussed to curb the speeding. Yet it was decided initially and most urgently that a radar speed sign should be purchased. Although these signs do not enforce the 30mph speed limit it certainly reminds drivers to slow down. Elan City have a radar speed sign which is portable and powered by battery or by solar for £1938.00.

2. Speeding beyond Foxearth and through Liston

The above then lead to the discussion of outside the village boundaries including Halstead Road (B1064) to Rodbridge; (B1064) to Cavendish; Foxearth Road, Liston and Liston Lane, Liston.

Halfway between Foxearth and Rodbridge on a bend cites Red Cottages. They have had 25/30 incidents over the years where cars have been in and through their hedge, in their garden and as far as their front porch. This without mentioning the danger of the owners leaving their properties. This road currently has a maximum speed limit of 60mph as does Foxearth Road through Liston and Liston Lane, which is a designated quiet lane from Liston to Long Melford.

The Halstead Road and Foxearth Road (Rodbridge to Liston) form part of the Stour Valley Path. Both roads are at 60mph with no path, incorporate blind bends and have no lighting. This section of the renowned path is highly dangerous for any walker, cyclist, or horse rider.



This road continues at 60 mph through the small village of Liston; In the middle of Liston, you can find a small green and a Church with gates from small cottages leading directly onto the single tracked road. This junction has a blind turn and is single tracked. Here you could easily meet a 38t lorry driving flying down Foxearth Road to Stafford Park. If you drove towards Long Melford on the single tracked 'Quiet' Lane next to the river the speed limit is still 60 mph. A few weeks ago, a cat was killed by a car and quite frankly it could easily have been a child.

All residents support to apply for a change to the current speed limit.

The first two changes would help the enforcement of 30mph through Foxearth; instead of 60 mph to 30mph it would be 40 mph to 30 mph.

Rodbridge to Foxearth B1064 40 mph

Foxearth to Cavendish B1064 40 mph

Foxearth Road, Liston 30 mph

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Liston Lane, Liston 30 mph

Foxearth Road, Liston also has the issue of 38tonne lorries driving backwards and forwards to Stafford Park. This old factory has only become an industrial estate in the last few years and hence traffic has increased. This type of traffic is highly inappropriate and dangerous for the road conditions and safety of pedestrians and other vehicles. The road is single tracked with few passing places runs through the village of Liston as mentioned earlier. This has resulted in verges being destroyed, no room for pedestrians as the vehicles take up the whole road and screeching of cars and lorries trying to brake as there is no room to pass and no speed limit.

We would ask that the Highways agency could investigate the situation and safety of this access with a view of reducing to 7.5 tonne.

The Highways Department of Essex County Council are currently promoting 'Safer, Greener, Healthier'. In the countryside one would think it was easier however it is not possible to have cycle lanes and lit paths understandably but one advantage of living in the countryside should be one is able to enjoy it. The most current danger to walkers, cyclists and horse riders is the speed of vehicles not adhering to the road conditions. For instance, a 60 mph speed limit on a single track road with limited passing places, through a village, no street lighting, blind bends and 38T lorries screeching to a stop every time they meet a car seems incredulous compared to a village that has a dual tracked road, street lights and hence a given 30 mph speed limit.

There are no disadvantages to reducing a speed limit yet so much to gain.

Conclusion of action required.

Purchase through funding of radar speed sign

Applying for speed limits

Highways Agency to investigate safety of 38T access

Something else that was discussed at the TWP is parking in Foxearth. Residents on Mill Road are struggling to get in and out of their drives due to inconsiderate parking. One resident said a car was left there for a week by a non-resident.

A meeting of the Working Party should be organised soon, to put a plan in place.

A survey information data needs to be conducted by ECC Highways.

The Clerk to place a separate page on the website for Speeding issues.

086/2021 Planning Applications

21/03209/TPOCON - Orchard Cottage, School Street, Foxearth

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area

RESOLVED: SUPPORT the application subject to the tree and conservation officer's approval

21/03155/FUL & 21/03156/LBC - Land Adjacent Lapwing Cottages, Liston Road, Liston

Conversion of the existing Brick Barns; Old Mill, Stables and store and extension to create part 2 storey 4 bedroom detached dwelling.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council is **opposed in principle** to the provision of additional residential accommodation in unsustainable locations, and is concerned about additional residential activity on the character and appearance of this rural location. However, it is acknowledged the building has character and some historical importance, and needs an appropriate use. Our preference would be for at least part of it to be retained for ancillary purposes in connection with the listed cottage.

If permission is granted the Parish Council would not wish to see replacement storage outbuildings provided to serve Lapwing Cottage.

21/03267/TPOCON - High Gables, School Street, Foxearth

Notice of intent to carry out works to a tree in a Conservation Area - Removal of 2 Ash due to on set of chalara fraxinea (Ash die back) in close proximity to buildings and compromise structural integrity. Long term viability very low.

RESOLVED: SUPPORT the application subject to the tree and conservation officer's approval

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087/2021 Decisions made by BDC affecting Foxearth and Liston

No planning decisions have been made by BDC affecting either Foxearth or Liston villages

088/2021 Finance

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October 2021

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October 2021

- b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget 2021/22

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget 2021/22

- c) To approve the payments of Accounts for October and November 2021 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements

Cllr M. Posen proposed and Cllr S. Ham seconded to authorise the October and November 2021 payments. **All Agreed**

- d) To discuss a Grant Application from Foxearth & District Local History Society for £250

Cllr M. Posen proposed that the Grant application from the Foxearth & District Local History Society for £250 be deferred to the January 2022 meeting and ask for a representative to come to the meeting and explain why the money is required. Cllr K. Holmes seconded. **All Agreed.**

089/2021 Budget 2022/23

Councillors discussed and approved the Parish Council budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

Cllr M. Posen proposed and Cllr K. Holmes seconded that a budget of £8427.00p be agreed for 2022/23.

All Agreed

The Vice-Chairman noted that Parish Council had made no increase in the Precept for 2020/21. In the 2022/23 budget an item of spending for a Traffic Calming Scheme has been incorporated into the 2022/23 budget for £500, in response to the significant public interest in traffic issues in the two villages, expressed at the recent public meeting. This money will go towards suitable measures (such as speeding devices) for both villages.

090/2021 Precept 2022/23

- a. To approve the Precept for 2022/23

Councillors discussed and approved the Parish Council Precept for the 2022/23 financial year.

Cllr M. Posen proposed and Cllr S. Ham seconded that a Precept of £7962.00p be agreed for 2022/23.

All Agreed

- b. To authorise the RFO to complete the appropriate Precept demand form to Braintree District Council as and when requested.

Councillors agreed to authorise the RFO to submit the Precept form to BDC as and when required

091/2021 Items for Next Agenda

Possible closure of Liston and Foxearth Churches - PCC to attend

Grant Application from Foxearth & District Local History Society for £250 – Representative to attend meeting

092/2021 Date of Next Full Council meetings – 15.01.22: 12.03.22: 21.05.22 Annual Electors meeting and F&LPC AGM: 16.07.22: 17.09.22: 19.11.22

093/2021 Closure of the Meeting

To Close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

There being no further business the Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 11am and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

15th. January 2022

Tony Clayton