

## FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>. November 2015 at Foxearth Village Hall at 10.30am

Present: Cllrs C. Cox (Chairman), T. Clayton, K. Robson, M. Posen, P. Cox & Kevin Money (Clerk to the Council).

There were also 7 members of the public in attendance

**15/79: The Chairman welcomed** everyone to the meeting and went on to say that before the Public participation session she would give an update and report of what has been happening since the last meeting

**15/80: To ratify the co-option of Richard Morris onto the council.**

The Clerk informed the meeting that Richard Morris had now supplied all contact details that were missing from his "register of Interest" form. The co-option has been confirmed by BDC and Cllr Morris is duly elected as a Councillor for Foxearth.

**15/81: Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were not received from Cllr David Finch ECC and Cllr. Richard Morris

**15/82: Declaration of Interest:**

Cllr. C. Cox and Cllr P. Cox declared an interest in the Street Cleaning and Foxearth PCC Both Cllr K. Robson and Cllr T. Clayton informed the Council that they have now fully completed the Register of Interest and have sent it to BDC for updating.

**15/83: 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 Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>. September 2015

Proposed by Cllr P. Cox & Seconded by Cllr T. Clayton. **Councillors agreed unanimously**

**15/84 Chairman's report and update**

**Liston:** Thanks to a generous donation from Mr & Mrs W. Binks, Liston has now been provided with a new glazed, oak noticeboard. The grateful appreciation of the Parish Council, on behalf of all residents, for this kind donation and initiative, will be recorded in the Minutes by the Clerk and will be accompanied by a personal letter of thanks. Grateful thanks are likewise expressed to Mr & Mrs N. Barker, for ensuring that the greens & verges near the church are kept in good order. This will also be formally and personally acknowledged.

**Single Occupancy Discounts:**

There has been a request from Braintree District Council to remind all parishioners who are currently or are intending to claim Single Occupancy Discount in respect of their Council Tax that they must sign and return the form recently sent to them. BDC are concerned at the number of fraudulent claims that have been made in the past, which inevitably have a cost implication shared by all charge payers. Failure to return the form may result in investigations by BDC's Fraud Team. Anyone who has not yet received a form, or needs one, should contact BDC's Revenue Dept.

**Transport:**

A new initiative, Demand Responsive Transport, is being proposed for parishes in north Essex, after a successful pilot scheme in the Dengie Peninsular. This will replace the current limited bus services within our parish from April 2016. The new service can be booked up to 2 hours in advance of travel, by telephone, from a chosen pick-up point (which can be a person's home) to any destination within our zone DRT3 (Bulmer to White Colne) and also to our local market town, named healthcare facilities and train station (Sudbury). Minimum number of passengers will be 1, with appropriate sized mini-buses or taxi-cab. Holders of concessionary bus passes will travel free (after 9am & all day Saturday) others will pay according to distance. (e.g. less than 2 miles £2 single adult, £3 return adult, more than 5 miles £5 single adult, £8 return adult. Children under 16 will be half fare, Family groups of 2 adults + 2 children, children travel free). The proposed service will run 6am.-8pm Monday-Saturday.

**Fire Service & Essex Police Volunteering Initiative:**

Parish Safety Volunteers are required for a new Essex Initiative to be trained to take on the responsibility for arranging & conducting home safety visits within the parish. The volunteers will deliver fire & crime prevention advice, local support services advice and the installation of smoke detectors directly into homes of those in need. There will be a careful interview & vetting procedure and a requirement to attend various training

courses. Details & more information will be placed in the Watch Box outside Foxearth Village Hall.

**Trees & Street Lighting:**

South Anglia Circle Housing Association have undertaken to send out their Neighbourhood Estate Officer to visit the site adjacent to 10 (a/b) Claypits with regard to on-going concerns relating to overhanging trees. It is noted, however, that some of the trees concerned are currently the subject of a planning application for removal.

Following enquiries by the Clerk, it appears that there is now some confusion regarding ownership of the land on which the electricity pole outside 8 Claypits stands. The Clerk will be contacting the Highways authority & SSE to ascertain responsibility for removing the tree branches which are preventing maintenance of the lamp holder attached to the pole.

**Hearing Loop:**

The Village Hall trustees have now installed a hearing loop within the Village Hall. The Parish Council have received a letter of acknowledgement and thanks from the Village Hall Treasurer for the grant of £1500.

**15/85 Highways report from the Chairman**

A missing street sign for Huntsmans Lane had been reported and concern has been expressed regarding the visual impact of some proposed verge markers between Claydens & Rose Cottage, along Huntsmans Lane. A proposal to include Liston Lane in the Quiet Lane scheme is being considered by ECC.

**15/86 Flooding update given by the Chairman**

Following a recent CCTV survey of the culvert from Mill Road/The Chase and along School Street, it was reported that, owing to several collapses of the brickwork and blockages at various points, it would not be possible to re-line the existing brick culvert as proposed. The engineers were currently drawing up a scheme to by-pass the culvert and provide a new drainage pipeline system. It was hoped to complete the works during this current financial year.

**15/87 Clerks report**

The clerk informed the Council that a complaint has been received from Mr. Clive Waite. The Council acknowledged this complaint, which has been circulated to Councillors, and that the Council, at this meeting, would not be making a formal response. It was decided that the Clerk would formulate a response and send it to Mr. Waite. The clerk informed the Council about the BDC local plan. The Councillors agreed that there was no desire to alter the village envelope but requested that this item be placed on the January agenda.

**15/88: Public Participation Session:**

A resident asked if a defibrillator could be purchased for the village. This was thought to be a good idea and the clerk was asked to contact the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) to find out about costings and whether a grant could be obtained.

The footpath and hand rail in Mill Lane is dangerous. Cllr Robson is to look into this.

**15/89: Essex County Councillors report.** In the absence of Cllr David Finch no report given

**15/90: District Councillors report.**

Cllr Iona Parker informed the meeting that the Government has brought forward a bill to enable devolution to cities and counties. The leaders of all 15 local authorities in Greater Essex (the County Council, the District Councils and the 2 Unitaries – Southend and Thurrock) have signed a letter expressing interest in the principle of devolution for Greater Essex. Devolution would bring greater influence over matters than affect the county. The application will focus on economic growth with particular emphasis on housing, infrastructure and skills and training. Detailed discussions are taking place between civil servants and other partners and the intention is to produce a final draft of the submission in January 2016. There is a long way to go but positive noises have been received from Government so far.

The Council is proceeding with the development of its new local plan which covers the period up to 2033. Independent experts have been consulted on housing need in the district and have advised that 845 houses need to be built a year to meet demand. Approximately 330 sites have been put forward by landowners for development. These sites can accommodate about 3 times more houses than are needed. Officers are currently assessing the sites to see which would potentially be suitable for housing or employment. They are also gathering evidence on other areas such as landscape value,

employment need, need for affordable housing, flood risk and open space requirements as well as consulting with neighbouring authorities and other organisations on infrastructure requirements to support the increase in population. Please see the BDC website (planning and building and then planning policy page) for an interactive map showing the sites put forward across the district including this area and for the evidence base.

I should warn you that the council is now starting to suffer severe pressure on its budget. Funding from central government will be cut again and we are concerned that the cuts which will be announced in the autumn spending review will be significant. We also anticipate an increase in our costs in a number of areas including pensions, IT and recycling (some councils are now having to pay to have their recycling taken away rather than receive a payment for it).

BDC has launched a Business Growth Loan Fund. Loans of £5,000 to £100,000 are available to businesses located in or moving to the District for capital investment. Please contact me for further information or see the website.

A number of councillors, including myself, are very conscious of the poor broadband speeds in the rural parts of the district. We are pressing Superfast Essex and BDC for action and hope to meet with the Cabinet Member in November to see what support can be given to improve broadband speeds in rural areas. Essex CC are conducting a review of the bus network in the county and are proposing to replace the bus services in this area with Demand Responsive Transport. The buses will be replaced with mini-buses. They will not run a regular service but can be booked like a taxi. They can collect passengers from a place of their choosing (including their home) and take them to the major towns and health facilities. Each parish must have an Open space action plan. If any new houses are built permitted in the parish, the developer must make a financial contribution to the action plan.

As you know I am on the planning committee therefore I cannot comment on planning applications prior to committee meetings. If I am deemed to have pre-determined an issue or could be perceived as having pre-determined an issue, I will not be able to sit on the committee. Please however note that I do keep a close eye on all planning applications in my ward and do read information that is posted on the website.

**15/91: Planning Application/s:**

**15/00068/NMA** – Tuckers Mill Road Foxearth CO10 7JF

Application for a non-material amendment relating to approved application 15/00766/FUL - Proposed demolition of existing bungalow and erection of a replacement dwelling - Amendment to roof from flat roof to pitch roof – **This application has been withdrawn – see below**

**15/00351/TPOCON** – Lower Hall Mill Road Foxearth CO10 7JF

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Remove 2 larger lower branches from 1 Ash and 1 branch affecting the small newly planted Beech tree, Fell to ground level another Ash tree, Reduce the longer untidy branches from 1 Beech by 4-5 metres, raise the crown by 1 metre and remove 1 lower branch over the border and reduce the height by approx. 2 metres to shape

**The Council has No objections to this application**

**15/00366/TPO** – 1 Orchard Cottages The Street Foxearth CO10 7JG

Notice of intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 8/06 - Fell 1 Norway Spruce.

**After a discussion with the owners the Council has No objection to this application**

**15/00367/TPOCON** - 1 Orchard Cottages The Street Foxearth CO10 7JG

Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Crown reduce 1 Eucalyptus, the tree currently stands at 20 metres approx. reduce the height of the tree by 4 metres back to natural target points and crown lift by 4 metres

**The Council has No objections to this application**

**15/00371/TPOCON** – High Gables School Street Foxearth CO10 7JE

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Remove 2 Laylandii trees and Pollard 5 trees by approx. 3 metres or to appropriate growth points

**The Council has No objections to this application**

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

**15/00068/NMA** – Tuckers Mill Road Foxearth CO10 7JF

Application for a non-material amendment relating to approved application 15/00766/FUL - Proposed demolition of existing bungalow and erection of a replacement dwelling - Amendment to roof from flat roof to pitch roof

**Decision on Planning Application/s**

**15/01003/LBC & 15/01002/FUL** - Park Farm Foxearth Road Liston CO10 7HT –

Change of use of listed barn to residential dwelling with associated access, garaging/parking and amenity space - **Application GRANTED**

**UPDATE REGARDING STAFFORD PARK APPLICATION 15/00565/OUT**

The Parish Council has received further information of the planning application and the clerk was asked to contact BDC planning department to ask for an extension on the comment date.

Cllr. K. Robson left the meeting

15/92: Grant application/s received by the Clerk – No grant applications had been received

**15/93: Finance**

**Credit Received** – 25.09.15 2<sup>nd</sup>. Instalment of BDC precept £3201.00p

Chq 773 Kevin Money Clerk Salary September / October '15 £379.44p

Chq 774 HMRC Tax September / October '15 £89.80p

Chq 775 A&J Lighting Solutions £126.00p

Chq 776 K. B. Money Clerk Expenses £14.48p

Chq 777 EALC Transparency Code Briefing £15.00p

Total amount of cheques above £624.72p

Bank balance as at 31.10.15 £5,989.56p

Cheque number outstanding 770 £200.00p – Bank balance £5,789.56p

Bank Balance after above cheques £5,164.84p

The above cheque for payment was proposed by Cllr P. Cox Seconded by Cllr M. Posen.

This was carried unanimously

15/94: Approval of Budget & Precept for 2016/17

The Councillors look at the budget figures presented by the RFO and decided to have this item on the January agenda for final approval once all the information has been received from BDC

15/95: Parish Tree Warden

Mr Alan Fitch, Tree Warden, agreed to take on the additional role of liaison with the Stour Valley & Dedham Vale A.O.N.B. for the parish of Foxearth & Liston

**15/96: Re-naming of private road and provision of name plate.**

Mr Alan Fitch informed the council that, following permission of the landowner, a sign indicating 'leading to' will shortly be erected on private land. This avoids the need to re-name the lane in question

**15/97: Review of current F&L email and IT policy**

Cllr M. Posen informed the Council that the "Terms of Reference" had been produced and an update report will be given at the January meeting. The T&R was proposed by Cllr. C. Cox and Seconded by Cllr T. Clayton. **This was carried unanimously**

**15/98: Review of improving telecommunications and broadband in F&L**

Cllr M. Posen informed the Council that the "Terms of Reference" had been produced and an update report will be given at the January meeting. The T&R was proposed by Cllr. P. Cox and Seconded by Cllr T. Clayton. **This was carried unanimously**

**15/99: Date of next meeting/s**

23.01.16: 19.03.16: 21.05.16 AGM on Saturday at 10.30am

There being no further Council business the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.45pm and thanked everyone for attending this meeting

Signed.....23<sup>rd</sup>. January 2016

**Corinne Cox - Chairman**