



FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Saturday 18th. February 2017 at Foxearth Village Hall at 10.30am

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

There were also 6 members of the public in attendance

17/001: The Chairman welcomed everyone to meeting

17/002: **Apologies for Absence** were received from ECC David Finch & Cllr M. Posen

17/003: **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr P. Cox declared a pecuniary interest in the finance item on the agenda & the Church & PCC

Cllr C. Cox declared an interest in the Church & PCC

17/004: **To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Saturday 12th. November 2016**

Cllr K. Robson proposed and Cllr W. Binks seconded that the above minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. **This was agreed unanimously**

17/005: **Chairman's report**

The Chairman informed the meeting that since the November meeting nothing had happened except that Kevin had been of sick after suffering a Cardiac Arrest in November. He welcomed Kevin back.

Cllr C. Cox gave an update on the war memorial grant. Foxearth Church Heritage Initiative (not the PCC) is in the process of making an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's WW1 Grant for the following project: (1) The restoration of the war memorial (which entails removal of the cross, cleaning & restoration of lettering, raising & underpinning the plinth which is currently subsiding & which is a potential hazard & Health & safety issue). (2) Renovation & repair of the Lichgate, which is also a war memorial.

(3) Improvement & re-grading of the pathway from the Lichgate, via the War Graves Commission memorial to Pte J. Bailey, Nurse Carter's grave; the Memorial Cross & leading to the Church Porch with its brass memorial plaques to the men of Foxearth who took part in the Great War. (4) Provision of a plaque on the grave of Nurse Carter (discussions already underway with War Graves Commission).

(5) Publication of illustrated book entitled 'Foxearth Pals' using local research and interviews with family members.

(6) Commemorative celebrations in the Bernard Ward Memorial Hall (now the Village Hall) to mark the centenary of the Armistice in November 2018 and the restoration of the churchyard war memorials. The maximum award, if successful, is £10,000. Estimates & Quotations for all the above works have already been obtained by myself. The cost for the War Memorial a year ago, was £1700 but this would be increased. A "Faculty fee" from Chelmsford Diocese would be needed. Works need to be completed a year after grant obtained.

The Chairman informed the meeting about the Stafford Park planning application. Babergh DC has delegated authority to BDC. BDC are waiting for the developers to supply further information to BDC. The planning application will be submitted after a 3rd. consultation is completed. BDC planning committee will be looking at the application in the next 2-3 months. BDC was concerned about access. The Chairman informed everyone at the meeting to look at the BDC website for an update on the latest position on Stafford Park.

As DC Iona Parker had to leave the meeting early the Chairman asked Councillors if the DC report could be taken next. This was agreed.

17/010: **District Councillors report**

The BDC budget is being cut by Central Government. BDC is living in uncertain times. The Council Tax will be going up about 3% this year. This year there will be surplus but not in 2018/19 years. BDC is moving to purchase assets. The monies are coming from BDC reserves and these purchases will, hopefully, give BDC an additional income from the assets bought. BDC needs to support Braintree Town centre. The local plan is still going through. A120 consultations on 5 routes extending from Braintree to A12. Are underway and residents were asked to look at the website www.A12essex.com for more information.

The BDC Community Grant scheme. DC Iona Parker informed the meeting that she has about £440 left from this year to distribute. So if there are any ongoing projects then please let her know. Councillors thought of the defibrillator being housed in the telephone box and needing electricity re-connected. Maybe they could apply for some funding for this project?

DC Iona Parker leaves the meeting

17/006: Clerks report

As the Clerk had been off sick since the last meeting there was nothing to report at this meeting.

17/007: The Chairman invited questions and observations from members of the public present. A maximum time of 15 minutes was allowed.

Mrs. M. Waite spoke about the footpath from the Street to Village hall. It is full of leaves, it is wet and dirty. Can something be done about it? ECC to be contacted to see if when they are cleaning the gutters they can sweep the pavements as well.

17/008: **Community Defibrillator.** In the absence of Cllr M. Posen, the Clerk read out a report supplied by Cllr M. Posen. A copy was supplied to the residents at the meeting.

In previous meetings of the Parish Council there has been some discussion about the possibility of the Council arranging for the installation of a community heart defibrillator for emergency use. I undertook to review options, costs, funding sources, etc.

I have made contact with the Community Heartbeat Trust, who specialise in working with communities and Parish Councils to provide community emergency defibrillators.

They have advised me that the cost of installing a suitable defibrillator, as well as supporting the community with training, signage, post-event counselling, etc. is around £2,300.

They have further advised that Lottery Funding is likely to be available to cover the full cost of installing and managing the defibrillator. They have provided me with an example of a successful funding application and are ready to support the Council in the funding application process.

The defibrillator needs to be installed in a location which has an electricity supply. The Community Heartbeat Trust encourage communities to use old BT phone boxes for this purpose.

In the case of Foxearth, however, noting that the phone box has already been decommissioned it is not clear if power would be available, nor if the existing users (Neighbourhood Watch) would support the installation of a defibrillator. An alternative might be to mount the defibrillator on the exterior of the Village Hall, if permission to do this could be obtained from the committee.

For Liston, I am not yet sure if a suitable location for a defibrillator exists, nor if the size of the community is large enough to warrant the installation of a separate defibrillator (the example grant application I have indicates that the one defibrillator will serve several hamlets around the village). The potential of providing a separate defibrillator for Liston thus needs further research, and discussion with the Community Heartbeat Trust and Liston residents.

On the basis of the above,

I propose that the Parish Council decides:

- a) To proceed with the process of applying for funding for a defibrillator in Foxearth, and if successful with the application to purchase a defibrillator and associated equipment and services from the Community Heartbeat Trust.
- b) To liaise with the Neighbourhood Watch and the Foxearth Village Hall Committee regarding the possibility to install the defibrillator either in the phone box or on the exterior of the Village Hall.
- c) To further investigate the need for, and possibility to install, a defibrillator in Liston, and subject to that review being positive, to proceed with the process of applying for funding for the defibrillator in Liston, and if successful with the application to purchase a defibrillator and associated equipment and services from the Community Heartbeat Trust.

I am happy to continue to take the initiative to coordinate this matter, if the Council decides to proceed as I have recommended.

Cllr T. Clayton proposed that Cllr M. Posen continue to take the initiative to co-ordinate this matter and that items A, B & C be sanctioned. This was seconded by Cllr C. Cox. **This was agreed Unanimously.**

17/009: **Essex County Councillors report.** A report from ECC David Finch was read out by Cllr T. Clayton. A full report is below

Parish Update – January 2017

1. At Full Council on 6 December, the Leader of the Council paid tribute to one of the longest serving Members who died on 4 December aged 86. Cllr Joe Pike, Member for Halstead, was first elected to the County Council in 1977 and was made an MBE for services to Local Government in 2012. Tributes were paid to Cllr Pike from both sides of the chamber and all those present stood for a minute's silence, a mark

of respect for someone who treated everyone as equals and acted as a mentor for young Councillors or those new to County Hall.

2. At the meeting on 24 January, the Cabinet agreed to recommend to Full Council for approval the revenue budget for 2017/18 and the capital programme for 2017/18. Part of this recommendation was to take up the Government's offer of a 3% social care levy on ECC's Council Tax. Cllr Finch said that it was not a decision that was taken lightly and he stressed that caring for elderly residents was 'not a choice'. Taking up the levy would mean ECC element of Council Tax for a Band D property would rise from £1,130.13 per year to £1,163.70

3. With regard to the recent decision on the levy on Council Tax, Cllr Finch has been making clear his concerns about the way social care is funded, and has written to Government about the situation. It is widely acknowledged that adult social care funding is at tipping point. While any additional funding into the system would be welcome, this will not provide the long-term solution the County Council needs. Equally, a Council Tax Precept, as agreed by Cabinet, unfairly impacts homeowners and does not recognise the need for broader support and the closer co-operation of health and social care. Importantly too, a reliance upon local taxation cannot fully take into account the level of need in local areas. In Essex, we have an ageing and growing population, and Cllr Finch has said that there needs to be more radical thinking in addressing this issue head on.

4. Libraries transformation has begun a Community Hubs programme which aims to:

Deliver ECC's community footprint across Essex

Enable a "one stop shop" for a range of community services

Reduce cost and increase income where possible

Create spaces that the community will gather, discover new things and enjoy together

Silver End Library is an example of a recent co-location which has recently opened after a move. ECC are very pleased to have secured the use of the Village Hall which is the ideal location for the library. This will allow us to provide services in a location which is already well used by the local community, and will ultimately allow us to build more partnerships and run more activities in the village.

5. The findings of a unique report into the strengths and weaknesses of the Greater Essex economy by a team of 12 leading academics, business leaders and economists were revealed on Tuesday 31st January 2017. The report, compiled by the Essex Economic Commission which is chaired by leading economist Dr Andrew Sentance CBE, has been assembled to provide independent advice and analysis to partners, providing robust evidence to support decision making in the county. The commission is the only one of its kind in the UK, and its initial overview report on Greater Essex reveals that:

Unemployment is below the UK average

Start-up businesses are strong, but not (yet) delivering strong growth

Greater Essex is attracting inward investors and building 'opportunity sectors'

Apprentice numbers are above the regional average

Key assets are seaports and airports, major and rail routes, and proximity to London and the London-Cambridge corridor

It also reveals several areas which could be targeted for improvement, including:

Growth has been slower than the UK average over last 10 years

Gross Value Add per employee is the lowest in the South East and East Anglia Greater Essex has the 4th largest economy in East Anglia and the South East, but growth has been the slowest in the region

Skills performance is improving, but is failing to close the gap with the rest of the UK

The full report and details on the Essex Economic Commission are available at

<http://www.essexgrowth.co.uk/>

6. Residents are being urged to take advantage of a 'once-in-a-lifetime' opportunity to improve the A120 in Essex and boost the local economy. The launch of an eight-week public consultation into five alternatives for a new dual carriageway link for the A120 between Braintree and the A12 took place on Tuesday, 17 January. The five options have been picked for consultation following an in-depth analysis of nearly 70 separate routes. Drivers, residents, businesses and other interested parties can make their views known by filling out the survey online at www.a120essex.co.uk.

Hard copies of the consultation materials will also be available at 11 public information events over the coming months (details at the bottom of this press release). Staff from Essex County Council and consultants Jacobs will be on hand to answer questions. Public information events are scheduled to take place on the following dates:

Monday, 30 January (1pm-8pm) – Bradwell Village Hall

Thursday, 2 February (1pm-8pm) – Silver End Village Hall

Monday, 6 February (1pm-8pm) – Rivenhall Hotel

Tuesday, 7 February (1pm-8pm) – Marks Tey Village Hall

Friday, 10 February (1pm-8pm) – Charter Hall, Colchester

Saturday, 11 February (11am-5pm) – Spring Lodge Centre, Witham

Tuesday, 14 February (1pm-8pm) – Feering Community Centre

Wednesday, 15 February (1pm-8pm) – Civic Centre, Chelmsford

Saturday, 18 February (11am-5pm) – Alec Hunter Academy, Braintree

Wednesday, 22 February (1pm-8pm) – Cressing Sports and Social Club

Saturday, 25 February (11am-5pm) – Coggeshall Village Hall

Even if residents do not have strong views over which route should be chosen they are asked to show support for the improvement of the road by visiting www.a120essex.co.uk.

7. The number of potholes on local roads dropped by a fifth over the last six months following major investment. Following previous improvements to Essex's main roads, additional funding was provided to repair potholes on local roads from July until the end of December 2016.

Pothole numbers on these local roads throughout Essex dropped from 4,954 to 3,961 during this period, despite the extra problems caused by worsening weather conditions. During this time crews fixed more than 3,200 potholes, with fewer potholes developing thanks to a record-breaking road surfacing programme over the summer. The improvements come as the Government has announced an extra £1,869,000 for Essex as part of the national Pothole Action Fund for the financial year 2017/18. With more than 5,000 miles to look after across Essex, it is important that we keep key routes in the best condition possible to keep Essex residents and businesses moving. But this should not be at the expense of our local road network and the Council is delighted to see the push for improvements on local roads has made a real difference. Teams are out on a daily basis fixing potholes across the county this winter. This complements ECC's long-term approach to improving our roads which saw a record 3.24 million square metres of road surface dressing last summer alone. The latest road condition survey, which includes laser survey data from all Essex roads, shows that only 2 per cent (down from 6 per cent in 2013) of priority routes require maintenance, and local roads are down from the target level of 13 per cent to 12 per cent.

8. Residents have the opportunity to see what the Highways teams are doing with weekday tweets of pictures from across the County. Recent pictures have included works being carried out in Maldon, Ongar, Harlow and Braintree as well as news about the recent gritting runs.

To follow the Council and see the latest pictures, go to @Essex_CC on Twitter.

9. Essex Libraries have issued an appeal for donations of any unwanted Lego for use at local libraries, with the launch of library Lego clubs. Lego is always popular but it also has a real educational quality, helping the development of motor skills and creativity, and encouraging children to learn about problem solving skills. If enough Lego is donated, the Council will be looking to launch a series of Lego clubs (which have worked really well in other parts of the country) across the county where children can come together to take part in activities and Lego based challenges. Anyone who would like to donate Lego can do so by taking it to their local library.

17/011: **£50 funding towards Braintree Neighbourhood Watch.**

Cllr C. Cox informed the meeting that Clive Stewart (Chairman of Braintree Neighbourhood Watch) has asked our Parish Council for a donation of £50 to cover Neighbourhood Watch 'freebies'. We did precept £50 each year in the past for any Neighbourhood Watch needs but I don't think we have done this for the last couple of years as there were no NW expenses.

Cllr T. Clayton proposed that a £50 donation be made to Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch. This was seconded by Cllr K. Robson **This was agreed unanimously**

17/012: **Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to be discussed

17/013: **Decisions made by BDC on planning applications**

16/02040/FUL – Brook Hall Brook Hall Lane North Foxearth CO10 7HP

Retrospective application for the change of use and alterations to discussed agricultural outbuildings to form 3 no. dwellings with associated private gardens and car parking spaces.

Application: REFUSED

17/014: **Finance:**
Credit Received: Nil

Chq No.	Inv. No.	Payee	Cost	VAT	Total
s/o	Dec '16	K. B. Money salary	£189.82	£0	£189.82
s/o	Jan '17	K. B. Money salary	£189.82	£0	£189.82
s/o	Feb '17	K. B. Money salary	£189.82	£0	£189.82
798	Dec '16	HMRC Tax on salary	£ 45.00	£0	£ 45.00
799	17/161155	Ladywell Accountancy Services	£ 50.00	£0	£ 50.00
800	30077	A&J Lighting Solutions	£ 78.50	£15.70	£ 94.20
801	70	Mr. P. Cox – Street Cleaning	£ 90.00	£0	£ 90.00
D/D	H13E50D179	E-On Street Lighting	£ 53.69	£ 2.68	£ 56.37
		Total:	£886.65	£18.38	£905.03

17/015: Cllr T. Clayton proposed and Cllr W. Binks seconded that the above cheques/payments be made. **F4 Ab 1**

The RFO then circulated to Councillors the Parish Council accounts and 2016/17 Budget figures

17/016: **Parish Tree Warden:** No report

Date of next meeting/s:

25.03.17: 13.05.17 APM: 20.05.17 AGM: 15.07.17: 09.09.17: 04.11.17

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.25am and thanked everyone for attending

Signed.....25th. March 2017

Anthony Clayton