



FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Saturday 26th. January 2019 at Foxearth Village Hall at 9.45am.

Present: Cllr M. Posen (Vice-Chairman), Cllr K. Robson, Cllr W. Binks and Kevin Money (Clerk to the Council) also in attendance was 1 member of the public

001/2019 Chairman Welcome - The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

002/2019 Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr T. Clayton, Cllr P. Cox, Cllr C. Cox, ECC Cllr D. Finch & BDC Cllr I. Parker.

003/2019 Declaration of Interest

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

No Councillor declared any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the Agenda

004/2019 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 10th. November 2018

Cllr W. Binks proposed and Cllr M. Posen seconded that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. **All Agreed**

005/2019 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

Nothing to report except for items which are on the Agenda

006/2019 Essex County Councillors report – Cllr D. Finch

In the absence of Cllr D. Finch the Clerk circulated his report. It read:-

Essex County Council is the most efficient/effective Council of its size in the country and ranks seventh overall.

- Consultancy iMPower surveyed 150 upper-tier councils, with ECC 7th. for spending money effectively and getting the best results for residents

- ECC has improved its productivity/effectiveness, moving up from 23rd. place last year

The results are drawn from an analysis of performance in six key areas: children's social care, older people, disability, health and social care, housing and homelessness, waste and recycling.

- Reports of potholes decreased by 45% in Essex between 2015-2017

National figures released by the RAC in December 2018 showed Essex bucking national trends, where reports have been increasing. The figure reflects our hard work in tackling potholes, with extra funding/resources deployed to clear the backlog particularly following the 'beast from the East' cold snap at the beginning of 2018.

- ECC is the best social work employer

ECC places great emphasis on training and career progression for social workers through the Essex Social Care Academy

The Council has created a stable workforce with limited use of agency staff, which has been in part due to the introduction of a high-quality programme of support in employment.

We are committed to making our social workers feel valued and positive and achieve positive outcomes for vulnerable children, families and adults.

- Broadband rollout (EI 4m investment)

As of November 2018, 115,000 properties have been enabled (phase 2 of the rollout continues).

Delivery will reach its peak over the next nine months.

Just 3% of Essex (26,000 properties) has no existing or planned superfast coverage.

- Devolved funding to Parish Councils

Parishes have been invited to take part in a pilot where they would undertake devolved highways functions, including grass cutting and special verge maintenance, weed control, tree and hedge cutting, minor footway repairs, installing/maintaining signs, winter salt bags, maintaining bus stops/shelters, and maintaining public rights of way.

15 Parish Councils have expressed an interest in taking part in the pilot.

- Essex's Youth Offending team does 'Outstanding' work with young offenders

HM Inspectorate of Probation announced in December that the service was 'outstanding', its highest category. Many aspects of its work to prevent reoffending were found to be 'impressive', and the service was praised for its consistent approach despite covering one of the largest areas in the country.



FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Dame Glenys Stacey, HM Chief Inspector of Probation, said: "The arrangements for youth offending work and the focus given to it by strategic leaders are clear and well understood. The work is led well by both strategic leaders and operational managers."

- Schools and skills success

94% of ECC schools are rated as good or outstanding. We are supporting the training of young people in Essex through apprenticeships and academic study, working in conjunction with further education providers and universities, to ensure we are producing people with the right skills to help grow the Essex economy.

- Reducing unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments

Working with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hurst, we have seen a 40% reduction in unauthorised Gypsy and traveller encampments.

- Essex Housing

We are successfully bringing former public sector land into use for housing. Our flagship scheme is Goldlay Gardens in Chelmsford, which has 23 private homes and 23 specialist flats for young people with learning disabilities.

- Children's Services

In January we were given an overall grade of 'Outstanding' by Ofsted following an inspection in November. ECC has been recognised in parliament and by the Children's Minister, Nadhim Zahawi MP, as being the leading light in children's services. Mr Zahawi has visited Essex to look at how we provide services and achieve excellent outcomes for costs which are below national averages • We anticipate we will shortly be offering evidence to the MHCLG Parliamentary Select Committee on Children's Services funding.

ECC Budget 19/20

Despite our efforts, inflation, price increases, population growth and greater demand for services means we need to increase Council tax by 2.99% and use the 1% Social Care precept. Taking these increases into account, the council tax for a band D property will be £1270.44: this is an increase of £0.94 pence per week.

There are major road improvements planned in conjunction with the development of housing across the County and the County's Capital programme is £249 million – major elements are £117 million on highways £87 million on Schools and £14 million on Broadband.

The Council's organizational strategy is focused on the following Key areas of focus for 18/19 and 19/20.

- a. Enable inclusive economic growth
- b. Help people get the best start and age well
- c. Help create great places to grow up, live and work
- d. Transform the council to achieve more with less

Should Councillors want a copy of the 173-page Strategy I will be happy to provide an electronic copy!! As always, I'm happy to deal with any issues or problems discussed at your meeting.

The Clerk was asked to contact ECC to add F&L name to the devolution pilot scheme

007/2019 District Councillors report

No report was given

008/2019 Clerk Report

- a. Local Services Fund

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Local Services Fund could be applied to which might provide funding of up to £5,000 per year for three years and could, for example, fund the employment of a handy-person for the parishes. Cllr M. Posen proposed that the Clerk submit an expression of interest by the 1st. April for funding for a handyman. Seconded by Cllr W. Binks seconded.

All Agreed

The Clerk informed the meeting that he was told that BDC has now reached its 5-year plus Housing needs. This needs to be confirmed by BDC Cllr I. Parker.

009/2019 Public Participation Session

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

A resident asked about an email the clerk had received about the removal of hedgerow and a substantial number of trees beside Footpath 7. Cllr K. Robson responded by saying that he had a look at footpath 7 first thing on Saturday morning and was fortunate enough to meet the person who is doing the work.



FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

He said that the intention was for the hedge to regrow and that he had left the major root system in place on one side of the ditch or other as seemed best. This appeared to be the case in many places, although clearly a lot of roots had been dug up as well. He admitted that it looked 'rather brutal' but was quite sure that it would be good for the hedge in the long run. It's a coppice hedge and had gotten fairly tangled apparently. I'm no expert but he sounded very open about everything.

He also mentioned that the land owner has asked him to extend the ditch at the southern end through 90 degrees which would cut the line of the footpath. I told him this couldn't be done without consulting ECC over bridging or rerouting the path. He felt the work was unnecessary and would use my information to hopefully persuade a change of mind. I left him my number for future contact.

Representation of this issue has been received from residents and the PC footpath officer will undertake a review and report back his findings at the next meeting.

Speeding through the village. The Clerk was asked to enquire about the cost of purchasing a "SID" sign. Cllr M. Posen proposed setting up a working party comprising of Councillors and volunteers to deal with traffic issues in Foxearth and Liston villages. Cllr K. Robson second. **All Agreed**

Volunteers are required to join the Speedwatch team. Any person interested then please contact the Clerk

010/2019 Defibrillator update – Cllr M. Posen

The defibrillator is up and running. Training in the village has been organised by the village hall committee and this will take place in February '19.

011/2019 Broadband update – Cllr M. Posen

I have asked County Broadband to give me an update on their plans to bring Fibre broadband to Foxearth, and I would like to report what they have told me.

County Broadband have appointed a Project Manager, Gavin Ashkettle, and he is focused on getting the Foxearth and Pentlow designs finalised and the build plans ready to go.

There have been some delays due to potential issues with finding a location for the mast which is required to provide the wireless link into the village. However, they have three potentially viable solutions and are in discussions with the relevant parties to agree a suitable outcome.

A review has been made of all of the designs for both Foxearth and Pentlow and whilst this has meant initial delays, County Broadband believe that it will reduce the speed of the actual build and as such the overall completion is still anticipated for spring 2019.

In addition, residents will have noticed that Gigaclear have started installing cables in the roads around Foxearth and Liston. I understand that Gigaclear will be providing service to the majority of properties in Liston, possibly as early as mid-2019. However, as far as I know, Gigaclear do not currently appear to be planning to offer service in Foxearth. I will provide a further update on this if I am able to find out more.

012/2019 Footpath update – Cllr K. Robson

See Public Partition session

Cllr K. Robson informed the meeting about horse riding on the village footpaths by the Church to Weston Hall. Cllr K. Robson informed the meeting that he will erect additional signs to read "No Horse Riding".

The Clerk was asked to email residents to assist in cutting the footpaths

013/2019 War Memorial

In the absence of Cllr C. Cox, the Clerk read out her report. It read:-

There is still an impasse regarding the War Memorial but I have managed (at no cost to the Parish Council or PCC) to get a special memorial headstone erected to Nurse Ileene Carter in Foxearth churchyard.

014/2019 Planning Applications – No planning applications had been received by BDC

015/2019 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications – No decisions have been made by BDC affecting Foxearth or Liston



FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

016/2019 Finance

- Bank balances as at 31st. December 2018 and 2018/19 budget account

Councillors noted the Bank balances and 2018/19 budget account

- Councillors to agree payment of January & February 2019 finances

Cllr K. Robson proposed and Cllr W. Binks seconded that the January & February '19 payments be authorised. **All Agreed**

- Councillors to agree Budget/Precept figures for 2019/20 previously discussed at the November meeting

Cllr W. Binks proposed and Cllr K. Robson seconded that the Precept figure for 2019/20, previously discussed at the November meeting, of £6791 be accepted. **All Agreed.**

This equates to a reduction in the Precept of £209 giving a Band D property at tax base of £43.86p (Reduction of £1.87). The Vice-Chairman and the Clerk then signed the BDC Precept form.

017/2019 Items for Next Agenda

Setting up working party for traffic issues in Foxearth & Liston

Local Services Fund - EALC

Date of Next Full Council meeting

23.03.19, 25.05.19 (Annual Electors meeting followed by AGM), 27.07.19, 21.09.19, 23.11.19

There being no further business the Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 10.45am and thanked everyone for attending

Signed.....2nd. March 2019

Tony Clayton