



FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Saturday 27th. July 2019 at Foxearth Village Hall at 9.45am.

Present: Cllr T. Clayton (Chairman), Cllr M. Posen (Vice-Chairman), Cllr K. Robson and Kevin Money (Clerk to the Council). There were also 2 members of the public in attendance

062/2019 Chairman welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr D. Finch, BDC Cllr I. Parker & Cllr W. Binks

063/2019 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

064/2019 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 25th. May 2019.

Cllr M. Posen proposed and Cllr K. Robson seconded. **All Agreed**

065/2019 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

Nothing to report since last meeting and no updates which are not on the agenda

066/2019 Clerks Report

1) To agree the new Co-Option policy for the Council (previously circulated to Councillors)
Cllr M. Posen proposed to adopt the new co-option policy. Cllr K. Robson seconded. **All Agreed**
Councillors then discussed the way forward to co-opting residents onto the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to produce an advertising leaflet to go into the Parish magazine, resident email and PC website.

2) Councillors to agree 2020 meeting dates (subject to village hall availability)
25.01.20: 21.03.20: 23.05.20 (Annual Electors meeting followed by PC AGM): 25.07.20: 19.09.20:
21.11.20

Cllr T. Clayton proposed to accept the meeting dates for 2020 (subject to VH being available). Cllr M. Posen seconded. **All Agreed**

3) Closure of "essexinfo.net" website as from March 2020

The Clerk informed the meeting of the closure of essexinfo.net website as from March 2020
The Clerk to investigate a future website facility. However, he has spoken to the ex-Chairman of EALC who has informed the Clerk that EALC is in contact with ECC to rescind this closure of the website. Councillors are concerned about this issue. The Clerk was asked to contact ECC Cllr D. Finch to ascertain the future of the essexinfo.net website.

067/2019 Essex County Councillors report

In ECC Cllr D. Finch absence the Clerk circulated his report

Key Messages: 2019/20 – Summer Edition

1. Balanced Budget for 2018/19

As you know, delivering a balanced budget has always been the number one priority for Essex County Council under my Leadership. I'm pleased to be able to say that last year's budget was indeed balanced, thanks to the excellent work of the Cabinet Members and Council staff.

2. Savings in the budget for 19/20

Looking ahead to next year, we are on track to make the £72m of savings required to deliver another balanced budget. The declining financial support from central government means this budgetary pressure has increased year-on-year. We are strongly lobbying Essex MPs and Government Ministers to make sure the next Government Spending Review has a long term, fully funded settlement for Local Government so we can deliver the public services our residents need.

3. New Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

We made a few changes to our Cabinet in May of this year, and in particular I'd like to highlight the appointment of Tony Ball as the Cabinet Member for Economic Development. Tony brings a wealth of experience to the role and has a vision to transform the economic potential of the county – attracting inward investment and great jobs for our citizens.

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



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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.

5. Reducing Air Pollution

We’re working hard to improve air quality in the county – we have set up a working group led by Cllr Simon Walsh, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

6. Reducing Plastic Use

In December last year the government launched its new resources and waste strategy which aims to eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds (including plastic waste) by 2050.

ECC is doing its own part – we have established a specialist team in the county for just this issue, who have started by removing as much single-use plastic from County Hall and replacing them with more environmentally friendly alternatives. This work should be completed by September of this year.

We are also working closely with the city of Chelmsford, to do the same in the Business Improvement District (covering the city centre) which is home to more than 400 local and national businesses. We hope to roll out the programme across the county once we have successfully set up in the area.

7. Healthy Living

ECC is exploring ways it can help people make healthier choices around the food they eat, exercise they do, and other things that contribute to better health.

8. Footways

Administration is investing additional money in footway repair, recognising the concerns of residents in this area. £700k of additional funding and using £1m from the DfT grant we received in November.

9. Essex 2020

Next year the Council will be launching a programme of events to celebrate Essex’s history as a home to arts and sciences of all kinds – there will be things for all the family up and down the county, throughout the year, and I look forward to be able to provide more information as we get closer to 2020 itself.

10. Housing Infrastructure Bids

We have submitted more than £500m of infrastructure funding bids to support infrastructure improvements in Essex linked to our growth aspirations. We strive through this process to win funding for key infrastructure upgrades ahead of new housing developments being built across the county.

11. 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.

- a) 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
- b) The council is passionate about delivering value for money and its performance has been nationally recognised through the iMPower report. But the council doesn’t sit back on its laurels, and is doing further work to develop ways of monitoring its productivity levels across all services to ensure it remains one of the best authorities in the country
- c) ECC have only increased Council tax in 4 out of the last 9 years (including 2019/20)

12. 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

13. Reducing unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments

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

14. Essex Local Delivery Pilot funding

ECC being awarded over £10m by Sport England (with Tendring, Colchester and Basildon) for piloting ideas to increase sport and physical activity

- The Essex Local Delivery Pilot (LDP) which is tackling population levels of physical inactivity across the county secured the maximum grant of £10.68m from the funder Sport England.



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- The LDP is governed by the Health and Wellbeing Board, and one of the seven priority projects for the Essex Partners and Essex Assembly.
- The LDP is using whole system change to hardwire the value of physical activity into key agendas including health, planning, transport, social care, and the built environment.
- Initial testing will mainly take place in Basildon, Colchester and Tendring, and the learning from the pilot will be shared across Essex through replication and scaling.
- The LDP lifespan is currently until 2025.

15. Gang related crime prevention

An additional £500k has been allocated to the Police and Crime Commissioner to support multi-agency work on gang related crime prevention in this year's budget. Discussions are ongoing between ECC and the Police as to how this fund is to be used.

16. Mental Health

An additional £1m has been allocated to mental health in this year's budget. Cabinet Members are currently in conversation on how best to use this additional funding

17. Digital Community Engagement

ECC is working with community leaders in social media to bring together Facebook Administrators of Community Pages from across Essex. We are supporting locally devised and delivered projects led by local community-based Facebook groups with small grants of a few hundred pounds that can be very quickly accessed. We are working with the Essex Association of Local Councils to help them to also work in this way.

While we are keen to help to address issues locally identified by Facebook groups, we have been delighted that most of the projects align well with our own priorities including around mental health, loneliness, physical activity and domestic violence.

A lot of work has been done but we see this as the start of a journey and want to expand this approach across the whole of the county. We are very keen to work with all local communities in this way and would be keen to see groups led by Facebook administrators or similar social media leads covering all of Essex.

18. Essex Housing update

Essex Housing has undertaken an ambitious programme to build affordable housing that supports the provision of specialist accommodation for people with learning difficulties across the county. The team also works on projects to construct public buildings such as schools and have achieved recognition from industry experts; winning the 'Community Benefit' award for the eastern region from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

19. Homelessness

As a sign of ECC's commitment to tackling homelessness and its causes across the county, an additional £250,000 has been allocated to pay for mentors to help support up to 50 people at risk of rough sleeping and 150 people at risk of losing their homes.

This will allow us to build additional capacity into the existing programmes working with targeted groups in clearly identified areas of need, with the flexibility built in to respond dynamically to changes in demand. The programmes are:

- Horizon who work with some of the county's most chaotic individuals providing a highly intensive and focused intervention services. It works with the customer to support them in making the life changes needed to break negative cycles of: rough sleeping, poor mental wellness, substance use dependency, offending behaviour and unemployment. This has been shown to be extremely successful in turning around the lives of the most entrenched individuals.
- Essex Floating Support which is a county wide homeless prevention service working with families and individuals assisting them to live independently and to prevent episodes of homelessness.

068/2019 District Councillors report

Cllr I. Parker submitted a report which read:-

- On Thursday 1st August there is to be a special meeting of full Council to seek approval to submit an additional sustainability appraisal for section 1 of the local plan to the planning inspector. This follows two meetings of the local plan sub-committee which also looked at other evidence such as evidence on viability and transport. The North Essex Authorities (Braintree, Colchester and Tendring) have looked at alternatives to the 3 garden communities as required by the inspector and have reached the conclusion that the 3 garden communities still represent the best way to deliver the balance of housing needed in the plan period (2013 to 2033) and beyond.

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- At the meeting of full Council on 22nd July the Council, like other authorities, declared a climate emergency and will be setting up a working group to look at how the Council can reduce its impact on global warming and how it can encourage others to do the same.
- The Council also agreed to ask Essex CC to look at how it can manage verges to protect wild flowers and wildlife whilst maintaining road safety.
- Braintree DC is setting up a rough sleeper outreach service in the district in partnership with an organisation called CHES.
- We have recently published the results of the customer satisfaction survey for 2018/19. 80% of respondents felt the Council ran things well and 61% thought it provided value for money. These figures are well above national average.
- There is no news yet on the Stafford Park appeal.
- Can I remind you that when giving their views on planning applications, the parish council should state clearly whether they object or have no objection. This is taken into account when deciding whether applications should go to appeal. I know that some PCs do not always make it clear whether they object.

069/2019 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

Is Gigaclear coming to Foxearth as there has been a gap in the Foxearth Area. Cllr M. Posen then went on to say that his report into broadband is below.

070/2019 Broadband update – Cllr M. Posen

Cllr M. Posen has spoken to County Broadband and was informed that there have been delays in crossing landowner's property.

Cllr M. Posen was informed that work will start in August – Foxearth may be connected in October or November.

071/2019 Footpath update – Cllr K. Robson

The cutting schedule has taken place. Footpath by the nature reserve has been strimmed.

Environment agency has strimmed along Liston Weir.

072/2019 Planning Applications

19/00911/FUL - Foxearth Fisheries Glemsford Road Foxearth Essex CO10 7GA

Siting of two log cabins to be used as tourist accommodation with construction of associated parking and access.

F&L Decision: Support this application

073/2019 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications

No decisions made by BDC affecting either Foxearth or Liston

074/2019 Finance

- Bank balances as at 30th. June 2019 and 2019/20 budget account previously circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting

Councillors noted the Bank balances and Monthly Budget account

- Councillors to agree payment of July & August 2019 finances (previously circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting)

Cllr M. Posen proposed and Cllr T. Clayton seconded to authorise the July and August '19 payments.

All Agreed

Items for Next Agenda

Date of Next Full Council meeting - 28.09.19, 23.11.19

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15am and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

28th. September 2019

Tony Clayton