



FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Zoom meeting held on Saturday 25th. July 2020 at 9.45am.

Present: Cllr T. Clayton (Chairman), Cllr M. Posen (Vice-Chairman), Cllr K. Robson, Cllr K. Holmes, BDC Cllr I. Parker and Kevin Money (Clerk to the Council). There were also 1 members of the public in attendance. (Kelvin Hastings-Smith)

015/2020 Chairman welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the procedure of this meeting. The Chairman then did a roll-call of Councillors at the start of the meeting, to make sure that they can see and hear the Chair, and that the Chair can see and hear them.

016/2020 Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr W. Binks

017/2020 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

018/2020 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Foxearth & Liston Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the F&L meeting held on 25th. January 2020. **All Agreed**

The minutes will be signed when the Clerk next meets up with the Chairman

019/2020 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

Well what a strange few months since our last meeting and thankfully our part of the country has been spared from the worst effect of the virus. I would like to thank Pam Pluck and her team for organising the volunteer service in Foxearth as I hear that they have done a splendid job in assisting those in need of support. The good people of Liston have also rallied round and offered help where it was needed.

I would like to pay tribute to Ken Nice, who after an astounding 30 years of service as the Village Correspondent, has decided to hang up his pen and take a well earned retirement. He will continue to be an active member of the local history society. A notice has been placed in the Parish News for anyone wishing to fill his very large shoes to come forward.

An unfortunate consequence of coronavirus was that it raised its ugly head just after the go ahead was given by the PCC to commence work on the village memorial, hence work has not yet started probably due to the contractors backlog of work but hopefully we shall see some progress in the not too distant future.

This spring, Essex County Highways actually complied with our request not to cut the verges in Liston and I must say as a result the profusion of wild flowers has been a joy to behold and after being allowed to seed they should look even better next year.

I keep my fingers crossed that we will be able to hold our next meeting in the village hall as usual.

020/2020 Essex County Councillors report. No report was given on the night but a report has been received by the Clerk. It reads

Action taken to date:

Shielding:

Within 48 hours we set up a distribution and call centre in Essex. Local government staff and thousands of the volunteers who signed up via the newly created Essex Welfare Service were the first authority to begin reaching out to and supporting people in Category B. As of today, 5444 residents have been supported by EWS and 978 Emergency Food Deliveries have been made.

Howe Green:

One of our central priorities as part of the response to the crisis has been to move older people out of hospital settings as quickly and as safely as possible for their safety and for the effective operation of hospitals across Essex.

Thanks to funding from MHCLG, within a period of just two weeks we have created a new 76 bed facility in Essex as step down care. That facility has started admissions this weekend.

Securing PPE using our strategic partners:

Thanks to a strong, 30-year relationship with colleagues from Jiangsu Province in China, we were able to secure 200,000 protective face masks to support critical need across the social care sector in Essex and neighbouring counties.

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We have also been dealing with various companies in the UK who have contacted us about providing supplies of PPE.

Infection control in care homes:

We moved quickly in terms of our approach to managing infection in care homes, in readiness for government's change in approach towards tracing and containing spread of the virus, going above and beyond PHE guidance.

The county council, with the NHS and Public Health England (PHE), have stepped up prevention and outbreak management and now cases seem to be declining. We know and are aware of best practice in prevention and stopping outbreaks and are ensuring that care homes can do this - including PPE, reduced staff rotation and minimising visitors.

We have developed local hubs across Essex to ensure strong regular links with care homes.

Essex undertook a national pilot with PHE on testing all staff and residents in care homes with few or no cases. Lessons around how to deal with staff who are positive but have no symptoms have proved important. Now a national testing portal has been set up and all care homes can access this for testing. The council is supporting this by working through the local hubs to ensure the right people tested at the right time and the appropriate action is taken.

Coronavirus Community Facebook Page:

For a number of years, we have been at the forefront of community mobilisation via Facebook. Very early in the outbreak of coronavirus in Essex we activated our network of Facebook Community Group administrators and set up Essex Coronavirus Action, a page that has 36,000 people following it and posts viewed millions of times. Through this page, we've recruited thousands of volunteers for the newly created Essex Welfare Service and shared vital public health messages through our network of other community groups. Our work has been recognised by Facebook who are using it as a case study of good practice.

Care Technology:

This is a difficult and challenging time for the care sector. With vulnerable older people shielding, a depleted care workforce and limited PPE we have been forced to innovate to ensure our service users are receiving the care they need.

Alongside moving our equipment contract to 7 days a week we extended our Care Technology pilot across the whole county. This includes installing digital technology that allows care workers to 'visit' up to 2,000 service users remotely, rather than requiring a physical visit. It is of significant benefit to us during lockdown, helping us to safeguard the vulnerable even further.

Country Parks and Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC):

Essex County Council made the decision to close their Country Parks to help limit the spread of coronavirus and with the health and safety of our visitors and staff in mind. This difficult decision followed national guidance around gatherings and social distancing and was put into place after unfortunate scenes of overcrowding in our car parks, and large groups in our open spaces were unable to maintain social distancing.

Local residents can however still access nearby Essex Country Parks via public rights of way.

All Essex Recycling Centres were closed on Monday 23 March until further notice. The decision was made in response to strict government guidelines urging people to stay in their homes to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. There were issues around social distancing at the sites to ensure the safety of both staff and residents as well as the government advice to avoid unnecessary journeys.

Schools and Adult Community Learning (ACL):

Since the start of the crisis schools have remained open to the children of key workers and to vulnerable children.

The figures from Essex schools as of Monday 4 May were:

- Number of schools open: 455
- Number of students attending school: 3,729
- Essex's total school population age 5-18: 214,488
- Percentage of pupils attending school: 1.7%

In terms of schools that are open this varies from day to day. Some are open every day, others not at all, whereas some are opening a few times a week.

ACL the County Council's in-house adult education service usually delivers courses in its nine Centres, as well as in different out-centres at the heart of the communities. Due to the impact of COVID-19, ACL has been making sure that there is as little interruption to learning as possible. It has successfully moved swiftly in transferring its classroom offer to online, where appropriate. It has not currently been possible to Minutes of the Parish Council Zoom meeting held on Saturday 25th. July 2020

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move certain more practical based courses online so ACL tutors are engaging in other activities, such as producing video clips, blogs and articles to keep people engaged and motivated. Tutors are also keeping in contact with learners using social media and emails. These innovative approaches also importantly extend to learners on Supported Learning programmes, with learners on accredited programmes still being supported by their tutor where appropriate with regular phone calls and contact, and many engaging well with online learning.

Budget:

As you might imagine the current situation is making demands on the ECC budget. To date, we have incurred the following additional costs:

PPE	£2m
Residential care	£18.6m
Domiciliary care –	£11.4m
Emergency mortuary facility	£10m
Home adaptations	£1.2m
Payment for increased costs for residential and domiciliary care due to Covid 19 (i.e. buying PPE)	£7m

Recovery:

On Monday, following the statement from the Prime Minister, government guidance was released about the steps towards easing lockdown. We are working on the implications of this for our services and will provide you with news on that soon.

Other news:

The first meeting of the Essex Climate Action Commission took place virtually on 12 May, when it was agreed that there was an urgency to proceed at pace and to be bold in tackling the climate challenge. The Commission discussed the opportunity to build on the gains that have emerged as a result of Covid 19 – how the public are engaging more with the natural world, walking and cycling more (greener forms of transport) and more people are working from home, including in jobs where this hadn't been thought possible.

They also discussed the challenges arising from Covid-19 –single use plastics making a reappearance, the carrier bag being used more, and the number of home deliveries being made. The commission recognised the important of public safety while balancing the need for responsible purchasing and not losing the momentum that has been made in the fight against plastic and waste.

The Commission will consider six pillars of work, looking at how ambitious, positive solutions and behaviour change can impact on the carbon output of the following:

- Green Infrastructure
- Adapting to a changing climate
- Transport
- Built Environment
- Energy and Waste
- Community Action

The Commission also considered how planned new developments across Essex should be used to test and pilot new ways of working, particularly around waste and transport. Transport was considered to be one of the biggest challenges, but also where some of the biggest gains could be made.

The Commission will next meet in July with a proposed interim report on recommendations to the council being produced for October.

Essex Housing:

Essex Housing have announced that Air Sourced Heat Pumps (ASHPs) will be installed as part of all new developments.

An ASHP is a system that transfers heat from outside to inside a building, or vice versa. In domestic heating use, an ASHP absorbs heat from outside air and releases it inside the building, as hot air, hot water-filled radiators, underfloor heating and/or domestic hot water supply. The same system can often do the reverse in summer, cooling the inside of the house. When correctly specified, an ASHP can offer a full central heating solution and domestic hot water up to 80 °C.



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021/2020 District Councillors report. Cllr I. Parker informed the meeting that

- Local Plan – Examination in Public in January. Inspector issued letter in May found plan could be made sound if 2 garden communities were removed from the plan leaving just one. At next BDC meeting to adopt Inspectors recommendation.
 - Inspector informed BDC that the housing projection has been reduced. Which could be up to half reduced. He asked if this makes a significant difference to BDC
 - BDC has asked for an extension to work out new figures affecting BDC
 - All information will be published on BDC website / local plan
 - Cllr Parker cannot comment on the Solar Farm at Pentlow Hill as she is on the BDC planning committee. In constant contact with Pentlow PC.
 - COVID-19 virus affected BDC badly and have issued many Government grants to local businesses. Additional reduction in revenue to BDC have affected the budget and funds. BDC are supporting the 4 leisure centres after receiving requests for financial assistance. A spike in COVID-19 in the area mainly coming from Care Homes in the Area.
 - BDC Councillor grant scheme is continuing this year.
 - Local Government reorganisation will be coming in this year including all tiers.
- Cllr I. Parker then took questions from Councillors
Cllr I. Parker left the meeting

022/2020 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 written comment from the public regarding the footpaths. All the footpaths have been cut and is a pleasure to walk them. Kelvin Hastings-Smith congratulated the PC for their comments on the retirement of Ken Nice. The Chairman was asked to compile a letter of thanks to Ken.

023/2020 Broadband update – Cllr M. Posen

Short update and a positive one. CBB have finally completed their outside works and are installing the inside works in the village. It is working well and from a personal situation it was installed fine. Liston have access to Gig clear and is working well. Just a few properties still need connecting. BT have sited a Green box on the outskirts of the village. Keep Broadband report on Agenda for next meeting

024/2020 Footpath update – Cllr K. Robson

A couple of footpath issues were reported to ECC following an extensive walk of the footpaths.

A footbridge by Borley is in a dangerous state and has been reported. Cllr K. Robson is still looking for a private contractor to undertake footpaths clearing etc.

Any resident can report footpath issues to ECC using the portal at

<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx>

025/2020 Planning Applications

- a) Pentlow Hill Solar Project

This project has been sent to BDC and is being validated. Further information will be sent to Councillors in due course. After lengthy discussion it was agreed to consult with the residents of Foxearth & Liston to gauge their views on the proposed project.

Cllr K. Holmes informed the meeting that all Planning “Uses classes” have been revised. Various businesses have been taken out of “Uses Class”.

026/2020 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications

027/2020 Finance

1) Bank balances as at 30th. June 2020 and 2020/21 budget account previously circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors noted the Bank balances as at 30th. June 2020 and 2020/21 budget account

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- 2) Councillors to agree retrospective payments of April, May and June 2020 finances (previously circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting). **All Agreed**
- 3) Councillors to agree payments of July 2020 finances (previously circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting). Cllr K. Holmes proposed and Cllr M. Posen seconded. **All Agreed**
- 4) To Complete and, if agreed, sign the Certificate of Exemption. Cllr. T. Clayton proposed and Cllr M. Posen seconded. **All Agreed**
- 5) To Receive the Internal Auditors report for 2019/20. Councillors noted the report.
- 6) To Complete and, if agreed, sign the Section 1 Annual Governance Statement of AGAR 2019/20. Cllr. T. Clayton proposed and Cllr M. Posen seconded. **All Agreed**
- 7) To Complete and, if agreed, sign Section 2 – Accounting Statement of AGAR 2019/20. Cllr. T. Clayton proposed and Cllr M. Posen seconded. **All Agreed**

Items for Next Agenda

Date of Next Full Council meeting VIA ZOOM – 19.09.20 subject to the Village Hall not reopening:
21.11.20 (Precept & Budget meeting)

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.10am and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

Tony Clayton

19th. September 2020