



FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Saturday 19th. September 2020 at 9.45am via Zoom. This meeting was held “remotely” in accordance with **The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020**, enable meetings to be held remotely, and allow local authorities to hold and alter the frequency and occurrence of meetings without the need for further notice. The changes in legislation have been made in order to help smaller authorities in the performance of their duties as a result of the restrictions of movement and limitations on social contact necessary to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

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

028/2020 Chairman welcome

a) To accept the resignation of William Binks from F&L Parish Council
Councillors accepted, reluctantly, the resignation of William Binks from F&L Parish Council and thanked him for all the work he has done for the villages.
Cllr T. Clayton then proposed Cllrs K. Holmes and K. Robson to be on the Employment Committee. Cllr M. Posen seconded. **All Agreed**

029/2020 Apologies for Absence No apologies were received

030/2020 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

031/2020 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Foxearth & Liston Parish Council

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

032/2020 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

I would like to commence my report on a sad note and honour a well-known local resident who passed away this week. Stuart Ham served on the Parish Council for many years as Vice Chairman and was actively involved in the smooth running of the village. He was also the Tree Warden and had a passion for the countryside and is survived by his wife Sally and children James, Charlotte and Jenny.

I spoke with Sally who would really like to honour the memory of Stuart in some way and she mentioned that perhaps a tree planting in his name might be appropriate. There will be an article in the next edition of the Parish News and Sally would welcome any suggestions from residents as to how this could be achieved. For some months now the Parish Council has been advertising in an attempt to fill the vacancy which exists for a Councillor without any success. We now have a further vacancy due to the resignation of William Binks and I now ask all the residents of Foxearth to consider whether or not they would like to become a Councillor and serve their village without pay and quite often without any thanks from the community at large. I must say that from the response to this Zoom meeting for which only two members of the public have registered to attend, I do not hold out hope of generating much interest in the vacancies. I would have thought that the proposed Solar Farm at Pentlow would have prompted members of the community to have a say on the planning application especially as the Parish Council obtained a stay of execution to the time limit set by Braintree District Council for comments and objections so that we could take the views of residents into consideration when making our decision today. Regrettably, that appears not to be the case.

033/2020 Essex County Councillors report – ECC Cllr D. Finch

D. Finch has met with the ex-Government Minister for local government reform

COVID-19 management –

- The number of cases in Essex is low.
- Certain areas of Essex have outbreak of rising numbers.
- Public Health England are in close communication with ECC regarding closing businesses regarding the outbreak

Minutes of the Parish Council Zoom meeting held on Saturday 19th. September 2020

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS: <https://e-voice.org.uk/foxearthandliston-pc>



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- Outbreak of COVID-19 has broken out in 2 Public House. One in Harlow and Colchester. ECC has issued a warning to both Public Houses to correct social distancing otherwise ECC will shut them down.
- Another wave of COVID-19 is very likely in Essex area

Local Government Finances

- 85% of ECC finance comes from Council and business rates.
- With the lockdown many people have been made unemployed and have gone onto Universal Credit
- Residential Care Home market must be maintained and protected. £18m of support was injected ECC now have a negative balance on the books
- 49,000 businesses in Essex have furloughed employees. The heavily age group is 18-24 Therefore, the Council Tax income will subsequently be affected. An estimated 6% drop = £60m in lost income

Climate Commission was set up last year.

- Chelmsford and Colchester pathways and cycle ways have been widened to accommodate social distancing.

Cllr D. Finch then took questions from Councillors. Afterwards he then left the meeting

034/2020 District Councillors report – BDC Cllr I. Parker

Local plan section 1 & 2.

- Inspector has concluded that section 1 to proceed
- Consultation closes on 09.10.20
- 2 Inspectors have been appointed for section 2
- Section 1 inspector asked for revised housing needs
- 2 Government consultations for planning laws in the future
- There should not be a huge change in planning laws for the future

Roads

- Construction Millennium flip off A120 towards Freeport
- A120 extended dual carriageway Government included development in latest road improvement programme
- Secured funding for pedestrianisation of the Braintree High Street

- BDC Councillor community grant scheme is still running of £1500
- The income for BDC has been dramatically affected from COVID-19 and will continue well into 2021

Cllr I. Parker then took questions from Councillors and afterwards left the meeting

035/2020 Public Participation Session

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

A maximum time of 30 minutes will be allowed.

No questions from the public

036/2020 Planning Applications

20/01107/FUL - Land East Of Pentlow Hill Pentlow - Solar farm and associated development

After considerable time discussing this application the Parish Council:

RESOLVED: SUPPORT this application.

The basis for this decision was as follows:

- Given the Climate Emergency, the Parish Council considered it important to support sources of renewable energy, noting that only by replacing fossil-fuel generation with renewable generation will the country be able to meet its 'net-zero' carbon commitments.



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- The Parish Council further noted that neither consultees Natural England nor Dedham Vale AONB had raised any objection to the proposed development on environmental grounds (however, see comment below regarding the Visual Impact Assessment).
- Whilst Foxearth and Liston Parish Council accepts that there will inevitably be a visual impact from the proposed development, the Council took the view that such impact could be minimised by the application of appropriate planning conditions (see below).

Foxearth & Liston Parish Council asks BDC, in considering the application, to take the following into account:

- Foxearth and Liston Parish Council considers that viewpoint 4 in the Visual Impact Assessment gives a false perception of the visual impact from the Stour Valley Path. A view from grid reference TL825474 would provide a more accurate and impactful perception.
- The Council notes that the fencing along the road between Foxearth and Glemsford is not proposed to be set back, as it is for the road between Foxearth and Cavendish.

In supporting this application, Foxearth & Liston Parish Council asks BDC, if it is mindful to support the application, to impose the following conditions:

- The Council asks that BDC Planning Committee commission a more accurate Visual Impact Assessment and take this into account when stipulating mitigations to be made for the site (e.g. screening, planting etc.).
- A requirement that the site be replanned to reduce the visual impact of the fencing along the Foxearth/Glemsford Road.
- A requirement that the lighting on the site is not left on overnight.
- A requirement that the site boundary fencing height should be not intrusive and should be screened by appropriate native-species planting.

037/2020 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications.

No decisions made by BDC affection Foxearth or Liston

038/2020 Broadband update – Cllr M. Posen

As I reported at the last meeting, the County Broadband roll-out is essentially completed and, as I understand it, residents who have ordered the service should either already be connected or be scheduled for connection.

I have been made aware, however, of one property that falls between both the Gigaclear and the County Broadband provision and thus does not appear to have access to any superfast broadband service. If any other resident finds themselves in this position I would appreciate being informed. I will do what I can to help residents in this position, although the provision of these services is, inevitably, a matter for the commercial providers concerned.

Cllr M. Posen asked the Clerk to remove this item for future meetings.

039/2020 Footpath update – Cllr K. Robson

The most pressing damaged footpath between Foxearth and Borley Green has been repaired
ECC have been informed of all footpath issues and will be attended to in due course

040/2020 Finance

- 1) Bank balances as at 31st. August 2020 and 2020/21 budget account previously circulated Cllrs Councillors noted the Bank balances as at 31st. August 2020 and 2020/21 budget account
- 2) Councillors to agree payments of August & September 2020 finances previously circulated to Cllrs Councillors agreed to the payments of August & September 2020. **All Agreed**
- 3) Update on Internet Banking application

The RFO informed the meeting that the account application form had been submitted to Unity Trust Bank and has been accepted.

Various forms have been signed and 2 more will be signed tomorrow. Then the completed application documents will be sent to UTB. **All Agreed**

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Co-option of Councillors



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Date of Next Full Council meeting VIA ZOOM – 21.11.20 (Precept & Budget meeting)

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.35am and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

TClayton
Tony Clayton

21st. November 2020