



## FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup>. March 2021 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.

Present: Cllr T. Clayton (Chairman), Cllr M. Posen (Vice-Chairman), Cllr F. Binks, Cllr S. Ham, Cllr K. Holmes, Cllr K. Robson, ECC Cllr D. Finch, BDC Cllr I. Parker and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to the Council).

There were also 1 members of the public in attendance.

**018/2021 Chairman welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**019/2021 Apologies for Absence** No apologies for absence

**020/2021 Declaration of Interest**

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the Agenda. **None Declared**

**021/2021 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Foxearth & Liston Parish Council**

To receive and agree the minutes of the F&LPC meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup>. January 2021 **All Agreed**

**022/2021 Chairman’s report and any update since last meeting**

So little has been happening since last meeting that is not on the Agenda today.

**023/2021 Essex County Councillors report – ECC Cllr D. Finch**

### **Essex in top 10**

Essex County Council continues to be ranked in the Top 10 most effective top tier authorities in the country, as independently ranked by iMPOWER. Since 2018 we have been in the top ten in terms of productivity, demonstrating how we achieve better outcomes for residents from a less-than-average spend per head.

Over the last decade we have invested heavily in transformation for long-term sustainability and as a result we have been able to improve the quality of the services we provide, putting the resident, not institutions, at the heart of our services.

- 89% of our children now attend a school that is rated as Good or Outstanding
- We have improved our Adult Community Learning offer to nearly 11,000 students.
- We have an award-winning broadband team, enabling over 150,000 Essex homes and businesses to access superfast broadband.
- We engage 32,000 young people through our nationally recognised youth service.
- The condition of our roads is now among the best in the country.
- We have invested billions in improving and maintaining our infrastructure.

### **Council Tax**

This year, for the sixth time in the last ten years, we announced no increase in council tax, and only a 1.5% increase in our social care precept this year. Very few authorities across the country are in a position to act with this level of confidence. Most are increasing their rates by two or three times this amount. In fact, since 2010, while inflation has increased by around 35%, the cumulative impact on council tax has been much less, at around 22%.

### **Outstanding Childrens Services**

We have one of the best children and families services in the country, with some of the lowest spend, rated by Ofsted as outstanding. We did this by investing heavily in the right leadership, early intervention, and innovation in practice.

### **COVID-19**

Rates of infection are gradually reducing, and the number across the county is well below 100 per 100,000. Our children are returning to school as part of the government’s roadmap to reopening and our focus is shifting to the recovery for Essex.

### **ECC Budget**

At Full Council on 23 February we approved our budget for the next year. We also announced some additional initiatives

- An additional £2million investment in economic development to ensure a successful reopening of the Essex economy.

Minutes of the Parish Council Zoom meeting held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. March 2021

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



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- £1.5million to support the Educational Recovery Task Force which will lead and oversee the educational recovery of all Essex children.
- A further £1million investment in mental health support for children and our health and care workforce.
- A further £1million community action fund for environmental initiatives to help communities create less waste, travel sustainably, use renewable energy and produce less carbon.
- A further £500,000 to break the cycle of violence and protect young people from gangs.
- A further £7.2million of capital funding for Local Highways Panels (LHP) - £200K more for each panel, each year, for the next three years.
- An additional £180,000 added to LHP revenue budgets for smaller highways projects.

### **Major Capital programmes**

In March we agree the unlocking of grant funding worth over £200 million for Chelmsford North East Bypass and a new rail station at Beaulieu Park.

In total 14,109 new homes will be built through these two projects. By securing the funding, ECC has delivered an Infrastructure First approach whereby the infrastructure schemes will be brought forward earlier than would otherwise have been the case and existing residents will see the benefit as early as possible.

This funding is in addition to the £99m secured by ECC to support a new Link Road and Rapid Transport System to the east of Colchester. The Chelmsford and Colchester funds combine to over £300m, which will help drive economic recovery from Covid-19 by supporting thousands of construction jobs in Essex and adding 10bn to the economy.

### **Freeports**

Felixstowe/Harwich and the Thames Freeport proposals have been chosen by the Chancellor as two of the 8 new Freeports in the UK. This will be a huge boost to the wider North and South Essex economies, and the county and country as a whole. Again, Essex County Council's work supporting and influencing these outcomes has paid off.

Essex and the East of England will play a leading role in powering local and national economic growth. We can drive the regional recovery from the challenges of Covid-19 – while helping lead the rest of the nation down the path of increased prosperity.

### **Climate Commission**

The Climate Commission, set up in early 2020, has met regularly over the last year and we have continued to invest in and commit to environmental action and innovation.

The commission has produced its interim report, and we have published our response to this. This response outlines our commitment to short term actions that will begin to draw the roadmap to net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The final report of the Commission will follow soon after, helping to clarify our roadmap further, and we will be responding to that in the summer.

In the interim we are taking action, and you will have seen that I announced an additional £1m for climate change action at our Budget meeting last month. This included £500k for a competition to help four communities in Essex go further and become national pioneers in becoming net zero carbon communities – this is something you may wish to consider whether you'd be interested in pursuing.

We are already building net zero school buildings, already converting our streetlights to LED and we are already using innovative low carbon techniques, such as Leaky Dams and Natural Flood Management. The Essex Forest Initiative – 375,000 new trees for our county – is ahead of schedule, we have planted tens of thousands of new trees this winter.

We also announced how we will spend the first £2.5m of the £5m Climate Reserve. We are using that money delivering green growth, net zero buildings, renewable energy and electric transport solutions, while making our county more resilient to the impacts of climate change, supporting our natural environment and bringing in millions of pounds of national funding

### **Education Recovery and Young People**

We worked hard to support children during the last year. We supported them with meals and spent £900,000 on 5,000 laptops to those who needed them for remote learning. An unprecedented amount of education time has been disrupted or lost by every single child. This will leave a lasting legacy. This will not just be lost learning – though this will clearly be an important part. It will also be missed opportunities to develop sporting, social, interpersonal and cultural skills; with potentially long term mental and physical health challenges.



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The sooner we begin to address this issue, the easier it will be to solve. We will establish an Education Recovery Task Force to lead and oversee the recovery of our children. The Task Force will work alongside the county's committed education leaders to re-establish young people's hope and aspiration for a successful future. It will have an independent chair who can work with the newly appointed National Education Commissioner Sir Kevan Collins.

In the short term the focus will be on supporting our children and young people in their exam years, supporting our most vulnerable and disadvantaged learners, and supporting the emotional wellbeing and mental health of all of our young people. We have set aside £1.5m in a reserve to support this.

We will begin by supporting our children through the summer, setting them up for the school year ahead. We are already offering our most comprehensive summer activity programme ever, to a wider group than just those in receipt of free school meals.

We will allocate another half a million to support children's emotional wellbeing and mental health. We will ask the Education Recovery Task Force to assess the impact of the pandemic on children's emotional wellbeing and mental health and from that assessment determine where best to allocate this funding. ECC secured funding to

- a) build an additional train station at Beaulieu Park with additional car parking space.
- b) North-East Chelmsford by-pass is being considered
- c) Freeport status has been approved by Government

Cllr T. Clayton asked whether the A14 link road need improving – Yes, it is being considered

Cllr T. Clayton thank ECC D. Finch for all his hard work in helping, assistance and informing Councillors and wished him well for the future.

ECC Cllr D. Finch left the meeting

### **024/2021 District Councillors report – BDC Cllr I. Parker**

The main points that I am going to report on are

- 1) BDC Council Tax will not be increased. No cuts to services.
- 2) The BDC Councillors Community Grant has been extended for another year
- 3) The Council will continue to support the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project with no reduction in the funding,
- 4) The Council has called an additional Council Meeting next Monday to discuss the Climate Change Strategy if it is approved it will go out for consultation on the 10<sup>th</sup>. May for six weeks.
- 5) On February 22nd the Council adopted the Shared Strategic Section 1 of the Local Plan

On adoption the policies in the Shared Strategic Section 1 Local Plan superseded Policies CS1 CS4 CS9 and CS11 of the core Strategy 2011.

The Council Development Plan therefore consists of the Braintree District Plan Review 2005 the policies of the Core Strategy 2011 which are not superseded the shared Strategic Section 1 Local Plan 2021 and any Neighbourhood Plan.

We are now moving forward with the examination of Section 2 of the Draft Local Plan. We now can give some weight to the policies of this emerging Draft Section 2 Local Plan

BDC does not have a 5-year housing supply. It is less than 4 years and cannot oppose any viable planning applications. Revised scheme of delegation is now in effect. Cllr I. Parker even though she is not on planning committee and will now free her up to express opinions on planning applications.

BDC pilot project to have verges cut once a year. This has been implemented and to be rollout in the next Financial year.

Liston / School Road continuing speaking to head of planning (Chris Paggi) – waiting for the 56-day COVID-9 period to expire then take action.

Lorries on Liston Lane – from a planning point of view BDC can only refuse planning permission for employment site. Stafford Park has existing employment site usage for many year. BDC feels they have no powers to overturn this permission. This issue comes under ECC.

Cllr T. Clayton asked about the damage to verges in Liston. Can the owners be pressurised to re-instate the verges? Cllr I. Parker to ask BDC Officers also referred Cllr T. Clayton to ECC Highways.

Cllr I. Parker left the meeting



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### **025/2021 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the Agenda**

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

Kelvin Hastings-Smith thanked the Parish Council for taking a page in the magazine on a regular basis

### **026/2021 BDC Street Cleaning Agreement 2021/22**

Councillors to discuss and agree the BDC Street Cleaning Agreement 2021/22

Cllr T. Clayton proposed to accept this 2021/22 BDC Street Cleaning Agreement. Cllr M. Posen seconded.

#### **All Agreed**

Cllr M. Posen informed Councillors that Mr. P. Cox has stopped undertaking the litter picking in the Area. He also informed the meeting that he will place a request in the Parish Magazine for street cleaning volunteers

### **027/2021 Planning Applications.** No planning applications received affecting Foxearth or Liston

### **028/2021 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications**

No planning decisions have been made by BDC affecting Foxearth or Liston

### **029/2021 Footpath update – Cllr K. Robson**

Contacted by a resident regarding a footbridge by Bellybones. This has been reported to ECC.

Any incidents at the nature reserve to report it immediately. The nature reserve charity is proceeding with the wheel-chair project. It is still the farmers responsibility about cross field paths. Please contact Keith regarding any footpath issues.

### **030/2021 Traffic & Parking problems in Foxearth – Cllr K. Holmes**

Cllr M. Posen informed the meeting that no volunteers had come forward except from David Busby. Cllr M. Posen will continue this with Councillors and D. Busby. Cllr M. Posen will identify problems in Foxearth and Liston. A scheme for a traffic survey to be undertaken. A 20mph scheme throughout both villages could be looked at via a BDC LHP. This is not a quick project to come into force.

### **031/2021 Finance**

1) To receive the Bank Reconciliation as at 28<sup>th</sup>. February 2021 and 2020/21 budget account  
Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliation as at 28<sup>th</sup>. February 2021 and 2020/21 budget account

2) Councillors to approve the payment of Accounts for February and March 2021

Cllr M. Posen proposed and Cllr T. Clayton seconded to authorise the February and March 2021 payments. **All Agreed**

### **032/2021 Items for Next Agenda**

Traffic & Parking problems in Liston – Cllr F. Binks

### **033/2021 Date of Next Full Council meetings via Zoom –15.05.21 PC AGM: 17.07.21: 18.09.21: 20.11.21**

The Clerk asked Councillors if an Annual Electors Meeting could be held, via Zoom, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>. May 2021 at 9.30am to be followed immediately by the F&LPC AGM? **All Agreed**

### **034/2021 Closure of the Meeting**

To Close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.15am and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

19<sup>th</sup>. June 2021

**Tony Clayton**