



Minutes of the Foxearth & Liston Annual Electors meeting held in Foxearth Village Hall on Saturday 19th. June 2021 at 9.45am

Present: Cllr T. Clayton, Cllr M. Posen, Cllr K. Robson, Cllr F. Binks, Cllr S. Ham
ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr. I. Parker & Kevin B. Money (Clerk). Members of the public: 3

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K. Holmes

2. Report of the Chairman of the Council

First of all I would like to thank Pam Pluck and her team of volunteers for preparing the village hall for us and congratulate Colin Mayes for his excellent work whilst the hall has been out of action.

Secondly, I would like to welcome the new member of Essex County Council Mr Peter Schwier who steps into those extremely large shoes vacated by David Finch.

Thanks to the service provided by Zoom, your Parish Council has been able to continue to operate in an efficient manner although given the high-speed broadband which has been installed in our area, I have found it a little disappointing that not many members of the public have taken the opportunity to partake in the meetings given that they could have done so from the comfort of their own homes.

Talking of high-speed broadband, I would say that the installation has been one of the highlights since our last Electors meeting and given that it has not yet happened in Sudbury, I would say that we were quite privileged to have been so high on the rollout schedule. I can only comment of my personal experience with Gigaclear which has been very good, but also, I have not been made aware of any problems with County Broadband although you might contradict me on that.

Following the very wet spring resulting in an extremely high-water table, it really became obvious that the foul water drains both in Liston and Foxearth required unblocking having not been attended to in years. Eventually after much complaining, Highways managed to stem the deluge running down the hill from Liston Church and I believe they have also attended to the couple of similar problems in Foxearth but please let us know if that is not the case.

Traffic through our villages has increased considerably and the PC has set up a working party in an attempt to address the problem of speed and recklessness but so far despite advertising for members of the public to partake, we have so far only managed to recruit one person outside of the PC and we would like more people to be involved. Please give it some thought if you think you might be able to make a positive contribution. We need ideas.

In Liston last month we bade a sad farewell to two outstanding people, Ian Macmillan and Quentin Poole, who together organised some fantastic concerts at the church and many other social events based around the church. They assisted Reverend Margaret with the result that many services were held on a regular basis but regrettably now they have moved on there is a very good chance that the church may have to close as Reverend Margaret has now taken long overdue retirement. The church is the centre of the village and every effort must be made to keep it open. Coffee mornings and book sales will be a start but we do need regular events to ensure it remains open. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know.

Lastly, I would like to say what a great job Oakley Preservations made of the restoration of the Village Memorial at Foxearth Church and congratulations for all those involved.

3. Report from New ECC Councillor

David Finch annual report See his May report at

<https://e-voice.org.uk/foxearthandliston-pc/minutes/2021-2/>



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- Kevin Bentley now ECC Leader
- More Green infrastructure
- *A new website has launched to help people in Essex find a suitable care home for themselves or a loved one.*
- Essex County Council, working in partnership with the NHS, has launched a new website to help people find a suitable care home for themselves or a loved one.
- The new website is www.essexcaresearch.org
- Essex Care Search can be used to find residential, nursing, dementia or respite care home vacancies for older people within Essex.
- You can search for vacancies by location, cost, type of care and facilities in the care home.
- The site has detailed information on all the homes that are registered including contact details, CQC ratings and photographs.
- Whether you are looking for short term care, longer term care, a central location with specialist room features, or an en-suite bedroom in a home by the coast, Essex Care Search can help you to find a care provider.
- Cllr John Spence, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said: "Enabling residents to have access to a choice of quality care facilities in every part of the county is a key objective for us. We hope this new website will make that access still easier".
- Go to www.essexcaresearch.org and start your search.
- Guidance and an easy step by step video to guide you through the website, can be found here <https://www.essexcaresearch.org/Home/About>
- 41% of vehicle movement is less than 3 miles in distance
- 82,000 Street lights are being replaced

ECC Cllr P. Schwier left the meeting

4. Report from BDC Iona Parker

Over the past 15 months, BDC has been administering the government and ECC support schemes for business and have given more than 10,000 grants totalling £54m to businesses affected by the restrictions.

As you might anticipate, the Council's finances have taken a hit as a result of the pandemic, both due to additional costs and loss of income. BDC is facing a funding gap over the next 4 years and we are looking at ways of closing that gap, both through savings and ways of generating additional income.

A big focus going forward will be post lockdown recovery. We are aware that a lot of residents in the District are still on furlough and there may be issues arising in the private rental sector creating additional demand on our housing services. Young people may also need support, both in finding work and with mental health. We shall be looking at ways in which we can address these problems.

The examination in public of Section 2 of the Local Plan will be taking place between 6th to 15th July. The hearing will be a virtual hearing. Section 2 covers the development management (planning) polices and the housing and employment allocations. Housing need was agreed at 716 homes per year at the Section 1 examination.



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The Council has calculated that we now have a 5 year supply of deliverable homes, assessed against housing need, which means that we are in a better position to resist speculative planning applications.

Work is progressing at the Council's new business centre at Horizon 120 near Gt Notley, and the new Victoria Square development in Braintree and pedestrianisation of Braintree town centre. A new enterprise centre is proposed at Witham and work to improve Halstead town centre. The all weather sports pitch has been resurfaced at Halstead.

BDC have published draft cycling and climate change strategies and are seeking your views. This is very much an engagement exercise and we want to find out what is important to our residents, obtaining the views of as many people as possible (not just pressure groups!). The easiest way to participate is via the online form which is on the Council's website. The closing date is 4th July. Please do get involved with this exercise.

The Councillor's Grant Scheme will continue for this year and I have £1500 to distribute to community projects in my ward.

Local matters – I am continuing to press the enforcement officers regarding the site at Liston. I am told the lodge is for sale and will be removed once it is sold and a planning application will be submitted for the gates.

Following reports about the new development at Long Melford, I have established that officers were not consulted by Babergh. They have been in contact with Babergh and have reminded them to consult them on significant planning applications on the border.

A resident has asked me to submit a request to the Local Highways Panel for a concealed entrance sign on the Street. If there are any other highways improvements you would like in the village (as opposed to repairs), please contact me or Cllr Schwier.

BDC Iona Parker left the meeting

5. Residents / Councillors to agree Parish meeting dates for 2022
Saturday 14th. May 2022 at 9.45am in Foxearth Village Hall
6. Public Forum

Cross border at Rodbridge – Road is in a state

Cllr T. Clayton informed the residents that Long Melford Parish Council have been pushing for improvements to the area

Sight line also needs improving – Hedges and overgrown vegetation need to be cut back
Rangers to be contacted to cut back. Also, Essex Highways to be approached for new road markings to be introduced

Essex Highways be asked to clear the gullies more often

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

Signed

Dated