

FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Saturday 19th. March 2016 at Foxearth Village Hall at 10.30am

Present: Cllrs C. Cox (Chairman), K. Robson, M. Posen, P. Cox & Kevin Money (Clerk to the Council).
There were also 10 members of the public in attendance

16/022: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

16/023: Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr. T. Clayton & Cllr I. Parker

16/024: Declaration of Interest:

Cllr. C. Cox and Cllr P. Cox declared an interest in the Street Cleaning and Foxearth PCC

Cllr M. Posen declared an interest in item 16/032 Site considered adjacent to his property

16/025: 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 Saturday 23rd. January 2016

A resident asked for the minutes to be read out before they are signed. The Chairman then read out the minutes in full. After this they were Proposed by Cllr K. Robson & Seconded by Cllr M. Posen as being a true and accurate record of the meeting. **Councillors agreed unanimously**

16/026: Co-option of replacement Councillor as a result of a Casual Vacancy. The clerk made a statement on the co-option process and asked for the co-option candidates to make a short statement to Councillors and residents. As there was only one candidate present William Binks addressed the Councillors. Following his statement, the clerk handed out ballot forms for the Councillors to make their decision. The Councillors voted W. Binks 4 L. Hayhow 0. As a result of this ballot William Binks was duly co-opted onto the Foxearth & Liston Parish Council. William Binks then signed the "Declaration of Acceptance of Office" which was countersigned by the Clerk. William Binks then took his seat on the Council.

16/027 Chairman's report and update

1. FLOODING/HIGHWAYS:

The proposed new scheme to by-pass the culvert system running along Mill Road & School Street, Foxearth, has now gone out to public tender. Plans will be presented to the Parish Council shortly and Mr D. Chapman from ECC has offered to give a presentation to residents, if required, at some point later in the year. The new system, as previously advised, will run along the centre of the roadway from the public footpath by Mill Forge, along Mill Road & School Street to the manhole cover at High Gables, then cross the road to run beneath the ditch system opposite Glebeside to terminate at the water treatment works. The current 'patching' programme of potholes & gully improvement within the villages is a separate Highways project. It is envisaged that the culvert scheme will be completed before the proposed Highways surface dressing in late September. There is still a need to inform Mr M. Valentine (ECC Highways) of any suggested traffic improvement requests before the end of March. The only suggestion to date has been provision of VAS signage.

2. STREET LIGHTING:

Thanks are expressed to Cllr P. Cox who has now removed most of the tree branches which have been preventing maintenance & repair of the street lamp outside 8, Claypits. It appears that neither Highways nor Greenfields Housing Association claim any responsibility for this problem tree. Hopefully the required annual maintenance of the lamp can now be undertaken by the contractors.

3. LOCAL PLANNING:

A communication has been received from Mr J. Lefever (Hastoe Housing) requesting the opportunity to speak to the Parish Council concerning affordable housing schemes in rural exempt areas.

4. WEBSITE:

Thanks are expressed to the Clerk and to Cllrs Posen & Robson for progressing the new Parish Council website.

5. SPEEDWATCH:

Our current co-ordinator, Mr Peter Routley, is no longer able to continue in his role. Thanks are expressed to him and all the other volunteers for their sterling work to help monitor speeding traffic through the village, for the benefit & safety of residents. In order for the Speedwatch activity to continue a new co-ordinator is required. Anyone interested in this or who wishes to volunteer to join the rota of volunteers, is encouraged to contact either Mr Routley directly or the Parish Council. It is hoped that activity can resume again in April.

6. PUBLIC ACCESSIBLE DE-FIBRILLATOR:

Following enquiries, the cost of providing a PAD, with protective cover will be in the region of £1000. It would require permanent connection to an electricity supply to maintain its battery life. No specific training is required to use the equipment but should there be a local demand for First Aid training to be provided in the village, the cost is approx. £600 per 8 persons. It might be a good project to engage with in consultation with the Village Hall Committee. There is a grant scheme, operated by British Heart Foundation, for funding towards the cost of provision of PAD, which re-opens for applications in April. Further enquiries will be made regarding this scheme.

16/028: Clerks report

The Clerk read out a report from Cllr I. Parker which he had received before the meeting. It read

1. Local Plan - the Local Plan committee has finished considering the evidence which forms the basis of the plan and has now started considering sites. The development management policies were agreed by full Council on 25th Jan. The Local Plan committee has agreed that the annual housing target to 2033 should be 845 houses p.a. Sites for 5,000 houses are already in the pipeline leaving sites for a further 10,000 required. It is likely that the vast majority of these will be in the A120 corridor. The 2 large sites in Borley near the river were rejected by the committee. It is likely that the sites in F&L will be considered soon but I do not yet have a date.

2. The Budget - BDC is facing a reduction in its "spending power" over the next 4 years of 13.1%. To balance the books, BDC is to increase Council tax for 2016/17 by 3.1% and will also make a number of savings. These include the phasing out of the Localism fund to parish and town councils. BDC will also no longer collect garden waste in Dec to Feb. It is recognised that parish councils may have to increase their precept to meet the shortfall.

3. Police - I have raised the issue of increasing numbers of break ins in the District with the Police and am forwarding their reply separately.

The clerk also informed the meeting that the Parish Council had a NEW WEBSITE for Council information only. The village website would still remain with David Busby to administer. The new Council website address is: www.essexinfo.net/foxearth-liston-parish-council.

16/029: Public Participation Session:

A resident asked if she could make a statement to Councillors. The Chairman agreed to this request. She read out that *Because of my mobility problems and the age regulations of mortgages, I need to move to a level access bungalow within 2 years. Because of the cost involved in buying and modifying existing properties, after much research I realise that the only way I can afford a solution is by purchasing a minimal plot of land for a small bespoke timber-framed level access bungalow. My plans include several eco-features and an external finish to match surrounding buildings. I have built good links with Foxearth over a number of years thanks to my friendship with Pat James and more recently, my links with the church, and am hoping it may be possible to build my bungalow in Foxearth and live in your community. I am here to ask if the Parish Council would be open to considering the need for accessible accommodation. I fully understand that villages like Foxearth do not have a great deal of land that is easily available, but I also gather that there are pressures for Councils to be pro-active in various housing projects. I would be most grateful for any help you could offer in what is for me, a matter of urgency. Thank you.*

Another resident asked about the up-to-date information on a village defibrillator. The Chairman said she would cover this in her Chairman report.

Another resident asked about getting more volunteers for the "Speedwatch team" as existing volunteers are moving out of the village. She asked if there could be a big advertising push using the 2 websites, PC noticeboard and the residents email list. The Speedwatch will resume again in April '16.

16/030: Essex County Councillors report. There was no report given

16/031: District Councillors report. In the absence of Cllr Parker, the clerk had already read out her report.

16/032: F&L PC response to BDC Local Plan submissions

Foxearth & Liston Councillors agreed to maintain the village envelope

Cllr M. Posen stated that developing the site would affect him personally. F&L PC looks to balance and have an impact on the village. There is a lack of amenities in the village with no shop / school. The Councillors would wait for the detailed planning application.

Cllr K. Robson has looked at the site with a possible 24 properties. He thought that the PC needs to preserve the village as it stands. On a visual effect, the field affects a third of the field and if all of field is developed then it would be a large housing estate. What size of community can survive without amenities? The PC is not inclined to object in principle but requirements must be put down.

When the school was open it brought in villagers but since its closure the village may be left to die. Cllr W. Binks (being the first time of seeing site plan) asked whether there was any large affordable housing to be allocated for disabled / retirement home. A single storey building was not in the plan. Cllr C. Cox. Warned the meeting that resident wanting to downsize means residents have to move away from the area. Small development should be affordable to remain in location.

Foxearth & Liston Parish Council Decision. Happy for that site to go forward taking into account affordable facilities and mobility needs / local residents.

Proposed by CC Seconded Cllr KR **This was carried unanimously**

F&L In response to the local plan request the F&L PC would accept an extension to the current village envelope to incorporate the site FOXE236 subject to any potential future development addressing the needs of the local communities regarding affordable housing and disability requirement **This was agreed F3 Ab1**

16/033: Review of current F&L email and IT policy

Cllr M. Posen informed the meeting that he and Cllr. Robson had reviewed the new website prepared by the Clerk. "We are of the view that it meets the needs of the PC and we propose that the PC adopts it as the formal PC website. We propose that the Clerk writes to the operator of the previous website (village hall) and thanks them for providing the service in the past, which has been much appreciated by the PC. The PC should request that the PC page on the village website be replaced by a link to the new website. The document depository should be removed at the same time. Relevant historic documents, policies, etc., and all new documents should now be uploaded to the new website, which will form the new depository for PC documents. The new website should be informed and promoted to the F&L residents through an email, and a notice giving the new website address should be put on the F&L village notice boards. The new website could perhaps be improved and enhanced (see the Bulmer PC website for example) and Cllr. Robson and myself are ready to work with the Clerk to achieve this. Regarding the PC email, as mentioned at the last PC meeting, we believe that the existing provision is sufficient. The WP proposes to review with the Clerk matters of data access, security and password policy. The next work of the WP is to review the PC policies on email and IT matters to ensure that they are fit for purpose, and we aim to bring a report to the next PC meeting".

16/034: Review of improving telecommunications and broadband in F&L

Cllr M. Posen informed the meeting that he has been conducting informal discussions with residents about their satisfaction with the village broadband and telecom provision and there is general disquiet that our service provision is not adequate. This applies to all providers, not just one or two specific providers. "He stated would encourage all Councillors to talk to residents about these issues and to report their findings back to the WP. Noting that County Broadband is one of the main broadband providers in the village, I have written to them asking for an update on their plans to bring their enhanced network to F&L, and also asking about the issues of speed and reliability that have been reported to us. I had requested a response for this PC meeting but I have not received one. I will follow up. Cllr. Robson and I are of the view that we need a more systematic review of broadband and IT provision, and to this end - if the PC agrees - we propose to conduct a resident's survey to try to identify the issues and problems. We will endeavour to complete this survey in time to report back to the next PC meeting. Based on the results of that survey we will determine our next steps".

16/035: Update of LHP Quiet Lane at Liston Lane

In Cllr T. Clayton absence, the Clerk informed the meeting that the next meeting of the LHP meeting is scheduled for 24th. March 2016

16/036: Planning Application/s:

16/00142/FUL & 16/00143/LBC – 1 Orchard Cottages The Street Foxearth CO10 7JG

Erection of single storey side extension

F&L DECISION – Councillors Had no Objections to this application

Decision on Planning Application/s

No decision/s had been received from BDC

16/037: To discuss any other planning applications received subsequent to the agenda being published and/or shown on the Braintree District Council website up until 5pm on the day prior to the meeting. No planning applications had been received

16/038: Finance

Credit Received – Nil

Chq. No. 779 – Kevin Money Clerk salary Jan – Feb '16 £379.24p

Chq. No. 780 – P. Cox Street Cleaning and removal of branches obscuring the street lamp in Claypits £115.00p

Cllr K. Robson proposed and Cllr M. Posen seconded that the above cheques be signed.

This was carried unanimously

16/039: Parish Tree Warden

Alan Finch (tree warden) had nothing to report for this meeting

16/040: Date of next meeting/s

The date of the next Full Council meeting is

Saturday 21st. MAY 2016 at 10.30am which is the AGM followed IMMEDIATELY after the Full Council meeting will be the RESIDENTS' ANNUAL MEETING at approximately 11.30am on SATURDAY 21st. MAY 2016

Forthcoming Dates are

21st. MAY 2016 at 10.30am Parish Council AGM followed by normal business meeting

21st. MAY 2016 at 11.30am (approx..) Annual Resident's / Electors' Meeting

Further dates in 2016

16.07.16 : 17.09.16 : 12.11.16 : 28.01.17

There being no further Council business the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.05pm and thanked everyone for attending this meeting

Signed.....21st. May 2016