



FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th. July 2023 at 7pm in Foxearth Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Posen (Chairman), K. Robson (Vice-Chairman), S. Ham, K. Holmes and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also 5 members of the public present

063/2023 Chairman welcome. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

064/2023 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr I. Parker and Cllr F. Binks

065/2023 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda. Cllr M. Posen declared an interest in item 076/2023 (c)

066/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Foxearth & Liston Parish Council
 To receive and agree the minutes of the last F&LPC meetings held on 18th. May 2023. **All Agreed**

067/2023 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

I don't have a lot to report regarding the Parish Council activities since May and most of what I do want to say is covered by other items on the meeting agenda, but I will mention a few things now. Regarding Community Speedwatch, I'm pleased to see that Mel Lauven-Ledgerton has agreed to coordinate things in Foxearth and she's working with Tom Bartlett in Pentlow to organise joint Speedwatch activities between the two villages. I'm also pleased to see that a number of people have answered Mel's call for volunteers. The Speedwatch is not organised by the Parish Council – although clearly we support it – so if anyone else wants to be involved, please contact Mel directly.

As was mentioned at the last meeting, the Parish Council engaged a handyman to undertake the footpath cutting this year. Those of you that walk our footpaths will be aware that there have been some teething issues with this, but hopefully these can be resolved. We'll talk about this in more detail under the relevant agenda item of this meeting.

Residents may be aware that an objection was submitted in response to Essex Highways Definitive Map Modification Order No 696 Footpath 11 Liston, which proposed to link two footpaths near to Liston Hall. The matter may need to go to a public enquiry to resolve it. We'll discuss this later in the meeting and possibly residents will be able to provide additional evidence as requested by Essex Highways.

Regarding the speed indicator device, as we'll hear from the Clerk later in the meeting, there has been some progress, but there is a lot of bureaucracy to get through in order to get the necessary permission from Essex Highways. Hopefully we'll get there soon.

Finally, I'd like to say that we remain one Councillor short, since there were too few candidates nominated in the parish elections on May 4th. We are still looking for volunteers to join the Council. As I said in May, the Council is here to support the communities in the parishes of Liston and Foxearth, but it can't do that without members of the community also being ready to put themselves forward to support the work of the Council. I do hope that some residents will be interested to put their names forward to join us.

068/2023 Essex County Councillors report – ECC Cllr P. Schwier

No report given

069/2023 District Councillors report – BDC Cllr I. Parker

Cllr Parker supplied a report prior to the meeting. It read:

1. The Council has taken the difficult decision to introduce charges for collecting garden waste. The service is a discretionary service which costs the Council £638k to provide each year. With council budgets under considerable strain, it is no longer affordable to provide this service free of charge. The service will start at the beginning of March 2024 and will be a full year service as opposed to the current 9 month service. The subscription fee will be £55 per year but there will be an early bird discount for the first year of 50% for all those who sign up by 30th November. Second bins will be charged at 50%. Residents can register for the service on the Council's website after 21st July. I have asked the cabinet member to advise how residents can sign up if they do not have a computer.

2. The Council is challenging the decision of the Home Office to house asylum seekers at the former MoD base at Wethersfield. The Council has been given leave to seek a Judicial Review and the case is expected to be heard in the autumn. In the meantime the first bus load of asylum seekers has arrived. The Council is liaising with the Home Office and other partners to make sure that there is minimal impact on local residents and services.

3. The Councillor's Community Grant Scheme is continuing for this year so I have £1250 to award to community projects across my ward. Please get in touch if you know of any projects looking for funding. I will also put a post on the community Facebook pages.

4. Requests for verge cutting at junctions and bends where visibility is impaired can be made using this form <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/xfp/form/287>.

5. The Council delivered 280 affordable homes in 2022/2023 against an annual target of 250.

070/2023 Public Participation Session

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

A resident asked when the footpath cutting will be completed. Some footpaths have been cut but not up to ECC standard. Liston paths remain un-cut. Cllr K. Robson informed the meeting that some footpaths still remain un-cut. Due to the length of the grass dog fouling remains on the footpath. Cllr K. Robson is going to meet with the contractor to finalise the grass cutting. The contractor has stated that the remainder of the grass cutting will be undertaken next week.

Cllr K. Robson has asked EEC can be placed back onto the grass cutting schedule.

The noticeboard requires treatment and tidying up. Cllr S. Ham agreed to organise refurbishment.

Speeding in Liston, (60mph) could a case be made for a speed reduction.

Glebeside Path is impassable. The hedge has encroached onto the path and needs further cutting back.

A Police Community Support Officer from Braintree Police (PCSO John Thorne) who covers a vast local area attended this meeting. He asked if the community had any issues?

- Speeding in the village – The best time to check on speeding 7.30am – 9.30am.
- Claypits Lane parking – Lorry turning into Claypits to get to the farm. The problem is caused by cars parking on the bend.
- Pot holes are causing traffic issues

Any Police incidents/issues contact the Clerk to pass on the PSCO details.

a) **Co-Option.** The Clerk to inform the meeting on the process for co-opting a resident onto the Council. The Clerk informed the meeting that the vacancy has and is still being advertised. Any resident wishing to become a Councillor then please contact the Clerk.

071/2023 Definitive Map Modification Order No 696 Footpath 11 Liston

Would the Parish Council be prepared to support the order at any public inquiry that may take place? Councillors discussed this item in detail and Cllr K. Robson agreed to speak with a landowner (Mr. Colin Flux) to try to obtain additional information in order to respond to the request from Essex Highways. Cllr M. Posen noted that if the Parish Council is to support the order at a public inquiry, it would be important to understand what this would mean. For example, would the PC then be expected to meet the costs of the inquiry? The Clerk will discuss this with Highways and report back to councillors.

072/2023 Footpath update – Cllr K. Robson

Cllr K. Robson expressed his wish to get the grass cutting finished. Machinery and other problems did not help to the delay. ECC to agree to the grass cutting standards. Cllr M. Posen proposed to go back to ECC to have them undertaking the footpath cutting for the remainder of the year. Also, if ECC do not put us back on the cutting schedule then our contractor to finish the grass cutting. Cllr S. Ham seconded. **All Agreed**

073/2023 Highways and Transport issues

a) Traffic issues on the bridge at Rodbridge – Cllr M. Posen Submitted LHP request but no update has been received

b) Traffic issues on the bend at Red Cottages – Cllr M. Posen Submitted LHP request but no update has been received

c) Tree works in Claypits Lane – update Parish Clerk

The tree foliage around the streetlight was cut back by the lighting contractor but will still be needed to be harshly treated with the debris being removed.

074/2023 Planning Applications

23/01353/TPOCON - 2 The Chase Foxearth Essex

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area -

Cut back overhanging branches to boundary - 2.5m longest part to be cut back.

Due to the time restraints F&LPC sent in the following response to BDC before the 29th. June 2023 deadline

F&LPC Supports this application subject to the Conservation and Tree Officers approval

23/01841/TPOCON - 9 The Chase Foxearth Essex

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area:

T1 - Field Maple - re-pollard to the previous points

RESOLVED: F&LPC Supports this application subject to the Conservation and Tree Officers approval

075/2023 Decisions made by BDC affecting Foxearth and Liston

No planning decisions have been made affecting either Foxearth or Liston villages

076/2023 Finance

a) To receive the Bank balances as at 30th. June 2023

Councillors noted the Bank balances as at 30th. June 2023

b) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget 2022/23

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget 2022/23

c) Councillors to agree the June and July 2023 finances and to agree a transfer of any funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements. **All Agreed**

d) Councillors F. Binks and S. Ham to sign the Account management: submission form for Unity Trust Bank.

077/2023 Items for Next Agenda

078/2023 Date of Next Full Council meetings – THURSDAY 21st. SEPTEMBER 2023 at 7pm

079/2023 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.45pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

21st. September 2023

**M. Posen
Chairman**