



## FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>. November 2023 at 7.30pm in Foxearth Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Posen (Chairman), K. Robson (Vice-Chairman), F. Binks, K. Holmes and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also 15 members of the public present

**096/2023 Chairman welcome** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**097/2023 Apologies for Absence** were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr I. Parker and Cllr S. Ham

**098/2023 Declaration of Interest**

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

**099/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Foxearth & Liston Parish Council**

To receive and agree the minutes of the last F&LPC meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup>. August 2023. **All Agreed**

**100/2023 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting**

- Since last meeting issues of flooding in villages have occurred in both villages
- The Chairman has attended an ECC meeting regarding local Climate engagement
- Potholes are still an ongoing problem in the villages. Some potholes in the Rodbridge area have been temporarily filled but the holes are still there.
- When reporting issues to highways please use the "whats3words"

**101/2023 Essex County Councillors report – ECC Cllr P. Schwier**

In Cllr P. Schwier absence he sent through numerous amounts of emails which are summarised below

- A consultation is now live for people to share their views on Essex County Council's budget plans for the coming financial year
- Gritters on standby as Essex Highways' winter service begins. 2022 over 21,000 tonnes of salt was laid
- Covid boosters are now available for eligible Essex residents this autumn
- Families encouraged to find out about the breadth of SEND inclusive clubs, activities and groups listed on the Essex Local Offer website
- Love Essex Fund - Groups encouraged to bid for micro-grants to support waste reduction projects
- ECC RAAC Schools - Update
- Changes to Cabinet Member portfolios getting Essex ready for devolution
- Essex Councils awarded more funding to tackle rough sleeping
- Essex County Council launches consultation on booking process at recycling centres
- Small grant applications open for the £7.5m grant scheme to improve the health of Essex residents
- The Essex Energy Switch is back from Monday 4 September, helping local communities come together to take the hassle out of searching for a better energy rate and supporting renewable energy.
- ECC Do not supply sandbags for any flooding emergencies

**102/2023 District Councillors report – BDC Cllr I. Parker**

In Cllr I. Parker the Clerk circulated her report to all at the meeting. It read:

**Devolution** – Greater Essex (Essex CC plus the 2 Unitaries, Thurrock and Southend) has been offered a level 2 devolution deal by the Government. This involves the creation of a Greater Essex Combined Authority but no directly elected mayor. The Combined Authority would be a new institution in which the three authorities alongside the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner will take collective decisions on the powers and budgets that Government devolves down to Greater Essex under the deal. There will be representatives from the district, borough and city councils on the Combined Authority. There are currently discussions underway with Government about the level of funding and the precise powers which will be devolved which will be centred around skills, support for business, strategic transport planning and nature

recovery. Once the discussions have concluded (probably end of November), ECC will conduct a full public consultation on the deal. The deal will enable give Essex greater control over strategic levers and will give Essex a stronger voice in Whitehall.

**Wethersfield** – BDC’s application for a judicial review of the use of the former air force base at Wethersfield for housing asylum seekers was heard last week and we are awaiting judgment.

**Biodiversity Net Gain and Climate Change** - Under the Environment Act 2021, new developments are required to have 10% biodiversity net gain and BDC are currently producing guidance to reflect this. We are also refreshing our Climate Change Strategy. Interestingly we are now involving the North Essex Farm cluster as a partner in this. This is a group of farmers focusing on supporting wildlife.

**Rural England Prosperity Fund** – This fund is now open for applications. Applications can be made by parish councils, voluntary organisations and charities and rural businesses. Grants are available for between £10,000 and £50,000. There is no requirement for match funding but the project must be completed before the grants can be paid. See the BDC website for further information

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/business/rural-prosperity-fund>.

**Safer Streets funding, Halstead** – The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has secured £300,000 of funding from the Government’s safer streets funding in Halstead which has been match funded by a further £150,000 from BDC, Halstead Town Council and others. This will address anti-social behaviour in parts of Halstead and will build on the successful scheme in Witham which has resulted in significant reductions in crime and fear of crime.

**Off gas network homes** – An announcement will be made shortly about grants for off gas network homes to improve energy efficiency. This will be targeted at low income households. Please look out for this announcement which could considerably assist some residents.

**Energy Switch** – BDC and ECC have restarted the energy switch programme which can also assist residents with reducing energy bills. Registrations open on 13<sup>th</sup> November for the next auction on 9<sup>th</sup> January. It is simple to register via the BDC website and there is no obligation to switch.

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/advice-environment/braintrees-essex-energy-switch>.

### 103/2023 Public Participation Session

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

All questions and comments were related to the recent flooding in Foxearth and Liston. These have been summarised under item 104/2023 below

### 104/2023 Flooding in Liston and Foxearth – Councillors to discuss way forward

a) The location/s of any Sandbags in either Foxearth or Liston

Cllr M. Posen proposed setting aside £500 in the 2024/2025 budget for both Foxearth village and Liston village to look at buying sand for sandbags, waders as well as low level pumps to remove water. Totalling £1000. It will be necessary to find locations in Foxearth and Liston to store the items. It was suggested that the Foxearth items might be stored in the lockup behind the Village Hall. The Chair asked Liston residents to think about a possible storage location in Liston. Cllr K. Robson seconded. **All Agreed**

After questions and comments from members of the public and councillors, the following list of issues was identified:

- Flooding in Foxearth has been an issue since 2014
- The culvert in the village has been cleared but does not take copious amounts of water away
- The water is not getting into the ditch to take the water away
- To solve the problem the water must get into the ditch to remove the surface water
- Too much water on the land and not dispelling into ditches
- A thorough investigation of the drainage system in Foxearth needs to be undertaken
- Residents asked who is responsible for keeping the culverts and drains cleared
- Liston resident spoke about their problem during the storms
- Is the current drainage system capable of dealing with flooding
- Who is responsible and is there a schedule of clearing the ditches / drains
- Maintenance of the gullies / ditches etc needs to be looked at by Essex Highways
- During the storm controlling of the traffic to stop more flooding in residents’ homes due to cars making waves
- A resident asked if the EA dredges the rivers in the area
- Emergency Plan to be updated

The Chairman proposed a working party with Councillors and residents to gather information on the flooding problems to take to the relevant bodies. Cllr K. Robson seconded. **All Agreed.**

Cllr K. Holmes to contact the EA and local flooding agency from the connections he has.

**105/2023 Footpath update – Cllr K. Robson**

Little to report. Highways to supply way marker posts.

The PC to find a new footpath contractor to cut the footpaths for 2024/2025

**106/2023 Highways and Transport issues**

a) Street Lighting in Claypits Lane Foxearth

Councillors decided that as the street light pole is on private land then nothing can be done by the Parish Council. However, the Clerk will contract the tree company to see if they are able to lower the overhanging branches. Cllr K. Holmes to contact the landowner to see if the tree can be reduced / removed.

Cllr F. Binks has produced 2 LHP forms for Speeding in Foxearth Road Liston and Liston Lane Liston, also 38 tonne lorries using Foxearth Road Liston up to Stafford Park Liston. Councillor F. Binks to submit these forms to ECC Cllr Peter Schwier for his approval.

**107/2023 Planning Application/s.** No planning applications have been submitted

**108/2023 Decisions made by BDC affecting Foxearth and Liston**

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

**109/2023 Finance**

a) To receive the Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup>. October 2023

Councillors noted the Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup>. October 2023

b) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget 2023/24

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget 2023/24

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

**110/2023 Budget 2024/2025 – Councillors to discuss anticipated expenditure for 2024/2025**

Councillors discussed at length the anticipated expenditure for 2024/2025. It was also noted that in 2024/2025 the BDC Street Cleaning Grant will not be paid to Parish/Town Councils.

This item to be finalised at the 18.01.24 meeting

**111/2023 Items for Next Agenda****2024/2025 Budget****Update on the Working group on Flooding****112/2023 Date of Next Full Council meetings – THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup>. JANUARY 2024 at 7.30pm**

**Councillors to note 2024 meeting dates 21.03.24: 16.05.24 (AEM & F/C): 18.07.24: 19.09.24: 21.11.24**

**113/2023 Closure of the Meeting**

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.15pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*M. Posen*

18<sup>th</sup>. January 2024

**M. Posen  
Chairman**