



## FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money  
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### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. January 2024 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 7 members of the public present

**001/2024 Chairman welcome** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**002/2024 Apologies for Absence** were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr I. Parker and Cllr S. Ham

**003/2024 Declaration of Interest To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda. None Declared**

**004/2024 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 16<sup>th</sup>. November 2023. **All Agreed**

#### **005/2024 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting**

As this is our first meeting of 2024, I'd like to start by wishing everyone a very Happy New Year. I don't have much to report on since our last meeting.

Our villages continue to be affected by surface water flooding. At our last meeting we agreed to set up a Flooding Working Party and I am pleased that we have a number of resident volunteers, as well as Councillors, who will try to work on the problem. Unfortunately, I have been very busy with work over the period leading up to, and after, Christmas, so I've not yet been able to organise the activities of the Working Party, but we can talk about moving things forward under the appropriate agenda item later in the meeting. Potholes also continue to be a major issue. I know that a number of residents have lost tyres to potholes, and I've now suffered the same fate myself. Some temporary patching has recently been done through Foxearth village, and I see that it is planned to close the road between Claypits Lane and Huntsmans Lane during 24<sup>th</sup>. – 26<sup>th</sup>. January for further patching work. I hope that this will resolve the issues, but the Parish Council will continue to keep a watch on things and will report any potholes which remain unfilled. There are still major potholes in the lanes around Foxearth and Liston and I encourage residents to continue to report these. You can do that on the Essex Highways web page, or you can email the Parish Council and we will do it. Please quote the pothole's "What3Words" location if you can, as this helps to pinpoint the precise spot.

Finally, although I have mentioned this many times since last May, I would again like to remind everybody that we remain one Councillor short and we very much need a volunteer or two to be considered for co-option onto the Council. Please do consider supporting the community by putting your name forward. You may talk to me, or to our Clerk, if you'd like more information or if you'd like to apply.

#### **006/2024 Essex County Councillors report – ECC Cllr P. Schwier**

Cllr P. Schwier sent a report prior to the meeting that read:

Salting procedure in ECC – 50 trucks on the road. On 70 occasions over 21,000 tonnes of grit was deposited on the Essex roads. Storm Henk – ECC received an extra 800 calls with over 100 trees falling down on highways. ECC had an extra 12 tree surgeon crews deployed. Highways assets are being blocked, please ask local landowners to keep ditches cleared.

ECC budget - less 1 year settlement money had been received from Government. ECC budget has been proposed at just under 3% + 2% adult and child social care. Making a 5%+ rise in Council tax. There is a budget gap from 2023/2024. "Whats3Words" video to be circulated.

#### **007/2024 District Councillors report – BDC Cllr I. Parker**

Cllr I. Parker sent a report prior to the meeting that 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 in December), 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.

**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.

**Budget** – BDC has started the process for setting the Council's budget for 2024/25 and the medium term financial strategy for the next 4 years. Despite measures that have already been taken, BDC is still facing a budget gap over the next 4 years of over £2m due to economic and national factors (e.g. wage inflation, additional pressures due to legislative changes, lack of clarity re central government funding). We are looking at ways of plugging this gap through cost savings and raising income. There will be particular focus on how we can work more efficiently, including increasing the number of services we share with other authorities.

**Planning** – Before Christmas the Government announced changes to the National Planning Policy Framework which removed the requirement for Councils with an up-to-date Local Plan, such as Braintree, to demonstrate a 5 year supply of deliverable homes when considering new applications. Councils still have to demonstrate a 5 year supply in relation to applications already submitted but BDC can now demonstrate this. This will put us in a much better position to resist speculative planning applications on sites not allocated for development in the Local Plan.

**Waste and recycling** – Around 27,000 properties have signed up for the year round garden waste collection which has brought in income of £700,000 for the Council. As part of efforts to reduce the volume of residual waste, a decision has been taken to no longer collect side waste from 1<sup>st</sup> April (ie waste contained in bin liners next to the black bin).

**Local Council Tax Support Scheme** – This is a scheme to help those on low incomes who are struggling to pay their Council Tax. BDC has introduced a revised scheme which will increase the level of support for households on the lowest incomes, replace the current means-tested scheme with a simpler banded scheme and make the scheme easier to administer.

**Bus transport** – I am pleased to report that following the consultation on passenger transport in Essex, ECC have agreed to retain the DaRT3 minibus service that operates in our villages. This service was threatened with closure and I would like to thank all those who took part in the consultation.

**Parking in Sudbury** – You may have seen that Babergh DC are considering introducing parking charges in Sudbury. I have written to the leader of Babergh DC and asked him to consult the villages in Essex on the plans but I regret without success.

### **008/2024 Public Participation Session**

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

Flooding in Liston still persists. Drains are blocked in a couple of hot spots.

Further to the topic of conversation, there was an accident in Liston this week, see attached. A car met a lorry head on – nowhere to pass each other as the road is a single-track lane, it skidded up the bank due to all the frozen water from the blocked drain at the top of the hill and the car turned onto its side. Fortunately, the driver wasn't hurt, he was lucky. The residents have unblocked all the drains they can on this road but there are 3 they can't do. I was talking to East Anglian water who were called out for one of the drains; he was unable to block it as it wasn't a water issue but a Highways issue. He said Highways are forever phoning Anglian water to pass the problem on and then they can't solve the problem he said it needs a vehicle with a pump and a tank and it would take 15 minutes to unblock. He then commented that Highways would never come here because it's a few houses on a rural lane and way down the list in terms of priority. It would be interesting to know if Anglian water charge the Highways Agency for going out for them. Hopefully, Highways can spare 45 mins to unblock our drains, mark the road as 30mph and stop 38tonne lorries driving through the village before somebody is killed?

Update on Red Cottages issues was that the Parish Council has submitted a LHP report. No update from LHP or ECC Cllr P. Schwier.

HT Scaffolding lorries are constantly speeding through the Liston village.

### **009/2024 Flooding working group in Liston and Foxearth – update from Cllr M. Posen**

At the November 2023 meeting we agreed to set up a Flooding Working Party. As well as the 5 Councillors we have 7 resident volunteers.

As I mentioned earlier in the meeting, I've been busy at work and not been able to organise the Working Party, so I apologise very much for that and I hope that we can now start to get ourselves organised.

I'm going to suggest a few things to get us started:

I'll set up a WhatsApp Group for the Working Party, so we can discuss things and keep in touch.

I'd like to try to put together a list of all the main flooding 'black spots' around Foxearth and Liston, so we know where to focus our activity.

Finally, I'd like the Working Party to put together a list of things we might be able to address ourselves, such as getting sandbags and pumps, as we've already discussed.

If anybody who's not on the Working Party list would like to make any comments or suggestions, please do feel very free to email me.

Road Flooding is ECC Highways problem: Landowners responsible not to allow water drain onto the road: Environmental Agency deal with Rivers. Stopping flooding in not an option: Anglian Water deals with sewers and surface water:

#### **010/2024 Footpath update – Cllr K. Robson**

A new contractor is required to cut the footpaths. Way marker posts are still missing and in a state of disrepair.

#### **011/2024 Highways and Transport issues**

- a) Councillors to discuss the tree works in Claypits and to make any recommendations

The Clerk has obtained a quotation to cut back to ground level, remove and leave clean and tidy. The quotation was for £385.00p.

Councillors considered the matter but concluded that this cost should not fall on the Council Taxpayer, as the tree concerned is on private land and not the responsibility of the Parish Council. Cllr M. Posen proposed that the Clerk respond to the resident to inform them that the Parish Council is not able to pay for these tree works as the tree is on private land and therefore the responsibility of the landowner.

Cllr F. Binks seconded. **All Agreed**

#### **012/2024 Planning Application/s**

**23/02794/HH** - Little Hall, Liston Lane, Liston

Single storey detached swimming pool building, ancillary to the existing dwellinghouse.

With the time constraints set by BDC F&LPC sent the following planning response to BDC before their deadline. ***Foxearth & Liston Parish Council has No objection to this planning application***

#### **013/2024 Decisions made by BDC affecting Foxearth and Liston**

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

#### **014/2024 Finance**

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

Councillors noted the Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup>. December 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 December 2023 and January 2024 finances and to agree a transfer of

any funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements. **All Agreed**

#### **015/2024 Budget 2024/2025 – Councillors to finalise the expenditure for 2024/2025**

Cllr K. Robson proposed an expenditure of £11355. A Precept demand of £11355. Using the BDC tax base figure for 2024/2025 of 157.96 resulted in a Band D property figure of £71.88p pa. Cllr K. Holmes seconded

**All Agreed**

The Chairman and RFO then sign the Precept form which will be sent to BDC by the appropriate date.

#### **016/2024 Items for Next Agenda**

#### **017/2024 Date of Next Full Council meetings – MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup>. MARCH 2024 at 7.30pm**

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

#### **018/2024 Closure of the Meeting**

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.30pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*M. Posen*

25<sup>th</sup>. March 2024

**M. Posen  
Chairman**