

## FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>. September 2015 at Foxearth Village Hall at 10.30am

Present: Cllrs C. Cox (Chairman), T. Clayton, K. Robson, M. Posen, P. Cox & Kevin Money (Clerk to the Council).

There were also 7 members of the public in attendance

**15/63: The Chairman welcomed** everyone to the meeting and went on to say that before the Public participation session she would give an update and report of what has been happening since the last meeting

**15/64: To ratify the co-option of Richard Morris onto the council.**

The Clerk informed the meeting that Richard Morris had now supplied all contact details that were missing from his "register of Interest" form. The Chairman, and the Councillors agreed, to defer his ratification as he was not at the meeting.

**15/65: Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from Cllr I. Parker District Council.

Apologies were not received from Cllr David Finch ECC and Richard Morris

**15/66: Declaration of Interest:**

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

**15/67: 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 27<sup>th</sup>. June 2015

Proposed by Cllr Robson & Seconded by Cllr Clayton. **The Councillors agreed unanimously**

**15/68: Public Participation Session:**

The Chairman started the session by giving a report and updating the residents on

- **Flooding:** The Chairman had received a visit from Mr D. Chapman (ECC) who informed her that it was the intention of Essex Highways to conduct another CCTV survey of the culvert system running through Foxearth Village within the next few days. Depending upon the outcome of the survey, it was hoped to place an order for a liner to be inserted within the existing culvert. It would take approx.4 weeks for delivery. All affected property owners had been informed by letter/notice of intent. Should it be necessary to break open an access point within a property's ground then it would be made good by the operators. Cost of the proposed works would be met, in this instance, by ECC, notwithstanding the legal riparian responsibilities of affected properties, which would remain.
- **Potholes:** Cllr. Philip Cox had completed his survey of current potholes existing in Foxearth & Liston and had duly reported them to Essex Highways via their portal.
- **Hearing loop for Village Hall:** The proposed work to install the hearing loop in the Village Hall was scheduled to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015.
- **Verge cutting:** This was due to take place in our area on 21<sup>st</sup>. October 2015.
- **Street Lighting issues:** The Chairman had followed up complaints from residents regarding the non-functioning of the street light outside 8 Claypits, Foxearth. She had taken photographs and spoken with the residents of 8 Claypits. Responsibility for cutting back the excessive tree growth which was preventing annual maintenance of the affected lamp was that of the landowners, Greenfields Housing Association. The Clerk was now in possession of the photographs and relevant details and was monitoring the situation.
- **Tree issues:** Ongoing problems regarding trees, located in the land belonging to the Circle Housing Association adjacent to 10b Claypits, continue to cause anxiety for owners of some neighbouring properties in School Street. The Chairman will make contact with the housing association and ask for a site inspection to be made.

A member of the public raised a problem with Footpath 18 onto Mill Road. The bridge is also lethal when wet. Cllr Robson will liaise with ECC.

Also it was noted that Footpath 3 needs cutting back. Cllr Robson would again inform ECC. The meeting was informed of the death of Mrs. Pat James. The funeral is on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October at Foxearth at 11.30am.

**15/69: To adopt and agree the current Financial Regulations of the Council.**

This document was circulated to Councillors before the meeting. The amendments were to sections 1.14 and 4.1. Once these sections were amended Cllr Posen proposed and Cllr Robson seconded to accept the financial regulations. **The Councillors agreed unanimously.**

**15/70: Dissolution of the Foxearth and Liston Grouping Order 1976.**

The Clerk read out a letter he had received from Ian Hunt (BDC) following the BDC Council meeting of 6<sup>th</sup>. July 2015. The main part of the letter was "BDC Having considered the relevant information, public feedback and having had regard to the statutory guidance Members determined that the request would be Refused"

**15/71: District Councillor's Report:**

*In the absence of Cllr I. Parker the clerk, had received an email from her, which he read out. The Government has brought forward a bill to enable devolution to cities and counties. All 15 local authorities in Greater Essex (the County Council, the District Councils and the 2 Unitaries – Southend and Thurrock) have made an application to central government for devolution to Greater Essex. This would bring greater influence over matters than affect the county and increased funding from central government. BDC feel that authorities that do not fall in with the devolution programme run the risk of being side lined in funding from central government therefore we should consider this is an opportunity that we should pursue. There is a long way to go with discussions between local authorities and civil servants and negotiations to take place but have received a positive response from Government so far.*

*The Council is proceeding with the development of its new local plan which covers the period up to 2033. Approximately 330 sites have been put forward by landowners for development and officers are currently assessing these to see which would potentially be suitable for housing or employment. They are also gathering the evidence needed to be the basis of the plan. Independent experts have been consulted on housing need in the district and they have advised that 845 houses need to be built a year to meet demand. This is considerably higher than the figure we were working to previously. Officers are also gathering evidence on other areas such as landscape value, employment need, need for affordable housing, flood risk and open space requirements as well as consulting with neighbouring authorities and other organisations on infrastructure requirements to support the increase in population.*

*I should warn you that the council is now starting to suffer severe pressure on its budget. Funding from central government will be cut again and we are concerned that the cuts which will be announced in the autumn spending review will be significant. We are also anticipate an increase in our costs in areas such as pensions, IT and recycling (some councils are now having to pay to have their recycling taken away rather than receive a payment for it).*

*The Government has announced that the country will take 20,000 refugees from the camps in Syria over the next 5 years. We have indicated to the Government that we would be willing to assist with refugees but will need financial support from Government. This is likely to translate to 10-15 refugees. They will be classed as homeless and therefore added to our housing list (there are already 50 households in temporary accommodation awaiting housing).*

*On a lighter note, BDC is participating in an energy switch scheme. This is an auction based scheme under which energy companies bid to provide energy to residents who have signed up to the scheme. Typical savings under the Essex CC scheme have been in the region of £230 pa. To participate in the scheme residents must sign up by 12<sup>th</sup> October. More details are on the BDC website.*

*BDC has launched its Mi community scheme for 2016 to support community projects with a value of between £1500 and £25,000. If the parish would like to participate in this scheme, please get in contact with me. Applications must be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> October.*

*BDC has also launched a Business Growth Loan Fund. Loans of £5,000 to £100,000 are available to businesses located in or moving to the District for capital investment. Please contact me for further information or see the website.*

*As you know I am on the planning committee therefore I cannot comment on planning applications prior to committee meetings. If I am deemed or could be perceived to have pre-determined the issue, I will not be able to sit on the committee. Please however note that I do keep a close eye on all planning applications in my ward and do read information that is posted on the website.*

**15/72: Essex County Councillor Report.**

In the absence of Cllr D. Finch, and the clerk not receiving a report, there was nothing to report

**15/73: Planning Application/s:**

**Application number: 15/00886/CLPLB** - Claypit Hall Claypits Lane Foxearth CO10 7JD - Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Works to a Listed Building -

Replacement windows. **This application had already been granted by BDC**

**Application number: 15/00565/OUT** – Stafford Park Liston CO10 7HU

To ratify the summary submission sent to BDC and Babergh DC from F&L PC concerning the Stafford Park planning application following the Annual village/Public meeting on 11.07.15

Proposed by Cllr Posen, Seconded by Cllr Clayton **F5 Ag0 Ab0**

**Application number: 15/00235/TPOCON** – Cavendish House The Street Foxearth CO10 7JG - Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Cut back branch tips from 1 Lime tree to give approx. 2 metres clearance from the house, shape and balance, Reduce Sycamore tree to approx. 18 feet in height, Reduce Cypress hedge height to previous trim line and face and Cut back Sycamore to boundary

**F&L PC had no Objections to this application**

**Application number 15/01002/FUL & 15/01003/LBC** –

Park Farm Foxearth Road Liston CO10 7HT – Change of use of listed barn to residential dwelling with associated access, garaging/parking and amenity space

**The Clerk to write to BDC with concerns over the siting of the planning notice and local residents not receiving any notification of the plans.**

**DECISION MADE BY BDC**

**15/00886/CLPLB** - Claypit Hall Claypits Lane Foxearth Essex CO10 7JD

Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Works to a Listed Building - Replacement windows - **Application GRANTED**

**15/74: To Change NatWest bank Mandate**

Cllr Clayton proposed and Cllr Robson seconded that the bank mandate be changed and updated. **Carried unanimously**

**15/75: To consider matters arising from the Annual Electors/Village meeting**

1. Ratification of Cllr Robson offer to take on the role of Footpaths/P3 representative Proposed by Cllr Clayton and seconded by Cllr P. Cox. **Carried unanimously**

2. Re-naming of private road and provision of name plate

As Alan Fitch was not in attendance this item would be carried over to the next meeting

3. To agree additional responsibilities for Parish Tree Warden (at his request)

As Alan Fitch was not in attendance this item would be carried over to the next meeting

4. To consider setting up a working party to look into ways of improving telecommunications and broadband speed in Foxearth and Liston

Cllr Posen stated that the roll out of the Superfast Broadband in Foxearth & Liston was 2017-2020. Cllr. C. Cox proposed and Cllr Clayton seconded to set up a working party consisting of Cllr M. Posen, K. Robson & T. Clayton. **Carried unanimously**

5. To set up a working party to review and revise F&L current email and IT policy, and to consider email, website and document depository provision

Cllr C. Cox proposed and Cllr Clayton seconded to set up a working party comprising of Cllrs M. Posen, K. Robson and the Clerk. **Carried unanimously**

6. To appoint an Internal Auditor for 2015/16 (Mr. Len Young has agreed to continue as Internal Auditor)

The Clerk informed the meeting that at his last meeting with Mr. Len Young this appointment was raised and Mr. Young is happy to continue as auditor. Cllr. C. Cox proposed and Cllr K. Robson seconded that Mr. Len young continue as auditor. **Carried unanimously**

7. To note that applications from local groups/organisations for consideration for Grants during 2016/17 must be received by the Clerk by 31.10.15 as the Precept and Budget for 2016/17 will be decided at the November meeting of the Parish Council

**15/76: Finance**

Credit Received – Nil
Chq 762 Kevin Money Clerk Salary July & August £379.44p
Chq 763 HMRC Tax July & August £89.80p
Chq 764 Braintree DC Election Expenses – Foxearth £59.00
Chq 765 Braintree DC Election Expenses – Liston £59.00
Chq 766 Clerk expenses May – July '15 £55.82
Chq 767 Foxearth Village Hall £1500.00
Chq 768 Foxearth & District Local History Society £250.00
Chq 769 Foxearth Parochial Church £600.00
Chq 770 Liston Parochial Church £200.00
Chq 771 P. Cox Street Cleaning April – Sept '15 £90.00
Chq 772 A&J Lighting Solutions Annual maintenance £40.80
Total amount of cheques above £3323.86
Bank balance as at 30.08.15 £5960.96
Bank Balance after above cheques £2637.10

Cllr C. Cox proposed and Cllr Clayton seconded that the above cheques be paid.

**This was carried unanimously**

**15/77: First draft of 2016/17 Budget:**

The clerk had already circulated the draft budget figures for 2016/17 to Councillors before the meeting. It was decided to look at the figures, report back to the clerk before the next meeting when this item will be confirmed in readiness for the Precept in January 2016.

**15/78: Date of next meeting(s)**

21.11.15, 16.01.16, 19.03.16, AGM on 21.05.16 all on Saturday at 10.30am

There being no further Council business the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.10pm and thanked everyone for attending this meeting

Signed.....21<sup>st</sup>. November 2015  
**Corinne Cox - Chairman**