



Fordham Parish Council Meeting

MINUTES

Meeting held 14th January 2025 at 7.30pm in Fordham Village Hall

Those present

Councillors: G Branagh (Chairman), H Branagh, D Chapman (Deputy Chairman), M Hamilton-Macy and O. Acland

Also In Attendance: E Nelson-Hayes (Clerk) and no members of the public present.

24-25/96 Welcome those present and apologies for absence

Motion. To record attendance and accept apologies for absence.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting & wished everyone a Happy New Year. Cllrs Alexander & Durlacher absent from the meeting.

24-25/97 To receive any declarations of interests from Councillors

Motion. To record and accept any declarations of interest from Councillors.

No declarations of interest registered.

24-25/98 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest

The maximum time allowed for the public to participate as per Fordham Parish Councils Standing Orders is 15 minutes with each person being invited to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes. At the close of this item members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the council unless the Chairman deems it appropriate.

No members of the public in attendance.

24-25/99 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting Tuesday 26th November 2024

Resolved. The minutes of the full council meeting were accepted as a true record.

24-25/100 Received report from County and City Councillors if in attendance

No County and City Councillors in attendance.

24-25/101 Planning

101.1 To discuss any planning applications received from 27th November 2024 up to 3rd January 2025

Motion. To prepare a response for any applications received from 27th November 2024 up to 3rd January 2025

242456	Barn 1, Chapel Farm, Wormingford Road, Fordham Colchester CO6 3NS	COU Agricultural buildings to residential dwellinghouse	28/11/24
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Response agreed: Fordham Parish Council has no objections to the plans, FPC would be interested to know if there is going to be an archaeological study of the area as it is rich in history. It was noted on the application that it is moving from agricultural use to domestic living accommodation. The question was it ever in agricultural use?



242457	Barn 2, Chapel Farm, Wormingford Road, Fordham Colchester CO6 3NS	COU Agricultural buildings to residential dwellinghouse	28/11/24
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Response agreed: Fordham Parish Council has no objections to the plans, FPC would be interested to know if there is going to be an archaeological study of the area as it is rich in history. It was noted on the application that it is moving from agricultural use to domestic living accommodation. The question was it ever in agricultural use?

242458	Barn 3, Chapel Farm, Wormingford Road, Fordham Colchester CO6 3NS	COU Agricultural buildings to residential dwellinghouse	28/11/24
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Response agreed: Fordham Parish Council has no objections to the plans, FPC would be interested to know if there is going to be an archaeological study of the area as it is rich in history. It was noted on the application that it is moving from agricultural use to domestic living accommodation. The question was it ever in agricultural use?

242490	Fairfields Farm, Fordham Road, Wormingford Colchester CO6 3AQ	Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - proposed Excavation and laying of hardstanding for storage of potato boxes and agricultural farm machinery	9/12/2024
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Response agreed: Fordham Parish Council has no objections to the plans.

242605	Moss Farm, Penlan Hall Lane, Fordham Essex CO6 3LR	Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - proposed steel portal frame agricultural building	23/12/2024
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Response agreed: Fordham Parish Council has no objections to the plans.				
242603	Fairfields Farm, Fordham Road, Wormingford Colchester CO6 3AQ	Planning application for the erection of an agricultural cold store for the storage of potatoes	23/12/2024	
Response agreed: Fordham Parish Council has no objections to the plans. It was noted that this is one of a number of similar applications in the past 3 years and urge Colchester City Council to consider the scale of the building in reference to the size of the business it facilitates.				

101.2 Planning applications received between 3rd January to 14th January 2025

Motion. To prepare a response for any applications received between 3rd January to 14th January 2025 (to be presented at the meeting)

None received.

101.3 To note planning decisions received.

To note any planning decisions received by 14th January 2025 – Noted.

Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham Essex CO6 3LL. Repairs to orangery and reopening of an internal doorway. – Approve conditional.

Last East of, Fiddlers Hill, Fordham Heath Colchester. The restoration of wetland features and habitats at Fiddler's Hill Meadow through naturalising the river with its floodplain by lowering the river bank at two locations (maximum 60cm deep) and the excavation of very shallow scrapes (maximum 30 cm deep) and Approve Conditional

24-25/102 To receive an update regarding the newly formed inter-parish forum discussing relevant planning applications

The Terms of Reference have been drawn up and 6 local councils are happy to be a part of the group. There will continue to be updates as and when required.

24-25/103 Finance

103.1 To receive finance reports from 20th November-07th January 2025

Resolved. Received finance reports and bank statements

103.2 Invoices for payment received between 27th November-7th January 2025

Resolved. To approve payments listed in appendix A

Date	Invoice no	Payable	Purpose	Amount (* VAT)
18.12.24	-	J&M Payroll Services	Payroll December <i>Inc HMRC/Ni/Pension</i>	£1,330.85
04.12.24	1685	JPB Landscapes	Grass-cutting (Nov.)	£504.95*
13.12.24	1690	JPB Landscapes	Playing field cuts	10,256.53*
10.12.24	6266	TBS Hygiene	Bin emptying	£168.00*
30.1.224	4962060	Viking	Stationery	£51.46*
27.11.24	-	Colne End. Band	Grant	£500.00
27.11.24	-	Fordham Historical Society.	Grant	£400.00
31.12.24	-	C.Alexander	Hot dog rolls	£8.01
31.12.24	-	H. Branagh	J&M event supplies	£89.42
15.12.24	42830	J&M Payroll Services	Payroll fees	£36*
02.12.24	983343768058	Three mobile	Mobile phone Nov.	£7.63*
02.01.25	983343768059	Three mobile	Mobile phone Dec	£7.63*

17.12.24	-	ICO	GDPR/DPA 2018	£40
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103.3 Invoices for payment received between 8th-14th January 2025

Resolved. To approve payments listed in appendix B (to be presented at the meeting)

Date	Invoice no	Payable	Purpose	Amount (* VAT)
13.01.25	6412	TBS Hygiene	Bin emptying	210.00
14.01.25	FPC922024	Fordham Village Hall	Hall Hire	£40

24-25/104 Budget for 2025-26

The Council discussed the budget set for the previous year of £40,674.00. The Council will continue to review expenditure and make reductions where possible.

Resolved. that members of the council agreed to the budget allocation of £40,674.00 with no increase for 2025-26

24-25/105 Precept submission for 2025-26

Members were advised that Colchester City Council agreed to grant a total of £1,818.00 to Fordham Parish Council.

In 2023-24 the Council agreed to increase the precept by 5% to cover rising costs and with the continual increases it was decided they would need to increase again for 2024-25. After review of the budget figures, it was agreed to increase the precept by 15% for 2024-25. There would be no increase in the precept for 2025-26

Resolved. That precept figures for 205-26 be approved and submitted to Colchester City Council as follows:

Total precept demand of £38,590 based on 343.9 tax base.

24-25/106 Health & Safety and Village Maintenance

106.1 Weekly H&S checks for the Playground

w/c 18th November & 25th November 2024

w/c 2nd December & 9th December 2024

w/c 16th December & 23rd December 2024

w/c 30th December & 6th January 2025

Resolved. To note reports and agree to action any faults as described in the reports. GB to speak to the owners of the fence that has broken.

M H-M was thanked for his continued hard work inspecting the areas and preparing the inspection reports.

24-25/107 To receive an update regarding the proposed crossing at the school

No update available, to be discussed and receive an update at the February meeting.

24-25/108 Jingle and mingle

HB thanked all involved in setting up and packing down after the event that was incredibly successful. Special thanks to Dave, Brandon, George, Rob & Ian, Mike for the sound equipment and Iain for helping with the gazebo. Helen will circulate the amount of money raised for St. Helenas Hospice when the total is known. Ideas to improve the event for this year were discussed – to be finalised closer to the time.

A huge thanks to Helen & Christine for organising the event.

24-25/109 Meetings for 2025-2026

Resolved. The agreed dates for all Parish Council meetings and the Annual Parish meeting for 2025

27th May – this will be a longer one as we will have the Annual Parish meeting afterwards like last year,

24 th June,	2026
29 th July,	13 th Jan 26,
30 th Sept,	24 th Feb 26,
28 th Oct,	31 st Mar 26,
25 th Nov,	28 th Apr 26

Apologies received from Mike in advance of the 27th May meeting. Thoughts and ideas to improve the Annual meeting to be discussed closer to the time.

24-25/110 To receive Councillors and Clerk reports

Clerk; The flower bed on Ponders Rd/War memorial – a volunteer has come forward to help. To be reviewed at the February meeting.

Prices have been received for looking after the shrubs at Lucas Avenue/Church Rd.

A call out for Facebook post ideas.

MH-M; work has resumed on the dig.

OA; Previous comment regarding the hedge that has been removed, it doesn't look like the area is a permanent exit/entry on to the land.

More communication would be advantageous regarding roadworks in Fordham when certain roads are closed – would like to understand how the diversions are planned. Also can we get notifications when there are incidents on major rds. e.g. the A12 to warn villagers of increased traffic.

23-24/111 Items for next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 25th February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Sign the missing page from the October minutes

An update from the Parish Forum – including the rewritten Terms of Reference

A update on the School crossing issue

Plans for the AGM in May

Motion. To agree any further items for future Parish Council meetings