



Fordham Parish Council Meeting

MINUTES

Meeting held 25th February 2025 at 7.30pm in Fordham Village Hall

Those present.

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

Also In Attendance: E Nelson-Hayes (Clerk) and 3 members of the public present.

24-25/112 Welcome those present and apologies for absence

Resolved – To accept Cllr Dulacher apologies due to being away.

24-25/113 To receive any declarations of interests from Councillors

None received.

24-25/114 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.

Parking at the Three Horseshoes on the bend in the road is dangerous, can anything be done? There has been a previous project for double yellow lines to be installed, however there were not enough local residents supporting the initiative. Action for the Clerk to research if this can be revisited to approach NEPP & County Cllr Barber for more information. A resident has volunteered to deliver any leaflets regarding this.

Fordham Times, due to a technical issue, this has not been completed, but with a new approach there will be an Easter edition.

24-25/115 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting Tuesday 14th January 2025

Resolved; To accept the minutes of the January full council meeting.

24-25/116 Received report from County and City Councillors if in attendance

None in attendance

24-25/117 Planning

117.1 To discuss any planning applications received from 15th January 2025 up to 18th February 2025

Resolved To prepare a response of no comment for the applications received from **15th January 2025 up to 18th February 2025**

250192	Old Timbers, Penlan Hall Lane, Fordham Essex CO6 3LR	Removal and subsequent replacement of external lime render on all four elevations. No visual changes to the property. Subsidence causing cracking to the external render of the main original property and initial repair. Planning Permission required for re	3/2/2025
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117.2 Planning applications received between 19th February to 25th February 2025

250290	Fairfields Farm, Fordham Road, Wormingford Colchester CO6 3AQ	Construction of agricultural grain store	18/2/2025
250291	Fairfields Farm, Fordham Road, Wormingford Colchester CO6 3AQ	Full planning application for the Constructions of an agricultural cold store for the storage of potatoes	18/2/2025

Resolved. To prepare a response for the 2 applications that have been received. This will take place at the March Full Council meeting. The Clerk to notify CCC that it will be discussed after the consultation deadline.

117.3 To note planning decisions received.

To note any planning decisions received by 18th February 2025

242456	Barn 1, Chapel Farm, Wormingford Road, Fordham Colchester CO6 3NS	COU Agricultural buildings to residential dwellinghouse	Approve conditional
242457	Barn 2, Chapel Farm, Wormingford Road, Fordham Colchester CO6 3NS	COU Agricultural buildings to residential dwellinghouse	Approve conditional
242458	Barn 3, Chapel Farm, Wormingford Road, Fordham Colchester CO6 3NS	COU Agricultural buildings to residential dwellinghouse	Approve conditional
242136	Fordham Place, Bergholt Road, Fordham Essex CO6 3NU	Retrospective full planning application Construction of farm office and welfare building	Approve conditional

24-25/118 To receive an update regarding the newly formed inter-parish forum discussing relevant planning applications

A zoom meeting has been scheduled for March 11th with participating parish councils, Cllr Lewis & CCC colleagues. To set out the purpose of the forum, to go through the agreed Terms of Reference and a possible WhatsApp group. Thank You to Cllr Chapman for leading this.

24-25/119 Finance

103.1 To receive finance reports from 8th January-18th February 2025

Resolved. To receive finance reports and bank statements and approve.

119.2 Invoices for payment received between 15th January-18th February 2025

Resolved. To approve payments listed in appendix A

Date	Invoice no	Payable	Purpose	Amount (* VAT)
18.01.25	-	J&M Payroll Services	Payroll January <i>Inc HMRC/Ni/Pension</i>	£1,330.85
29.01.25	3840	Eyelid Productions	Annual web support	£100
05.02.25	1716	JPB Landscapes	Grass cutting	£1,033.63
14.02.25	6540	TBS Hygiene	Bin emptying	£168.00*
29.11.24	2024842	D. Bodle	Maintenance	£50
15.01.25	43106	J&M Payroll Services	Payroll fees	£36*
02.02.25	983343768060	Three mobile	Mobile phone Jan	£7.63*
15.02.25	43352	J&M Payroll Services	Payroll fees	£36*

119.3 Invoices for payment received between 19th-25th February 2025

None received.

24-25/120 Health & Safety and Village Maintenance

120.1 Weekly H&S checks for the Playground

w/c 7th January & 14th January 2025

w/c 21st January & 28th January 2025

w/c 04th February & 11th February 2025

To note reports and agree to action any faults as described in the reports.

Some bolts need fixing, brambles need cutting back and the basketball net needs replacing.

Thank you to Cllr Hamilton-Macy for his hard work with the inspections.

24-25/121 To discuss the footpath on Plummers Rd

Information from Cllr Helen Branagh – *“Plummer Rd is a PR2 road – this is a major county route as defined by highways, so the road is used by HGVs, tractors, cars and other transport. The people in Plummers Rd have no footpath so have to walk along the road and hope the traffic drives around you.*

17 new houses have been built, and these houses have a footpath and lights along Plummer Rd but people on the other side of the road are unable to access the footpath as a ditch runs

alongside of the road. I have spoken to the site manager 3 times and contacted the developer about why people of Fordham cannot use the footpath. So far nobody has got back to me.

I am asking the Parish Council if they agree to send a letter to highways and developers to seek clarification if this footpath will be accessible to all users of Fordham without the need to cross a ditch at one end and a fenced off area at the other”.

Resolved. To contact the relevant parties to find out the future of the footpath, any improvements planned and ask for the footpath to be accessible for everyone.

24-25/122 Events

122.1 VE Day

Action	Person
Asking for military vehicles to be able to attend the VE Day event	DC
Obtain contact details from M H-M & book the ice cream van	DC
Ask Colne Endeavour band to attend and obtain a set list	GB
Invite Bethan to sing	GB
Speak to Bows n Belles inviting them to perform	GB
Liaise with The Cricketers regarding providing a bar	DC
Ask CSH if they can provide 2 large bins	ENH
Acquire crockery from St. Helenas Hospice	HB
Speak to the church asking to provide cakes & teas & a tombola	GB

Notes: A member of the public is able to help contacting people with military vehicles who would possibly be able to attend the event. The vehicles on the green can't be too heavy as they will sink. Cooked food can be provided without a food licence if there is no charge of it.

The village hall will be hosting an afternoon tea on the Sunday.

The coconut shy is in the shed.

The Jingle & Mingle raised £39.80 from the hotdog donations.

The VE Day event will be on the March agenda.

122.2 AGM May 2025

Various exhibits were tabled. Agreed to invite the Colchester First Responders to give a demonstration in CPR.

122.3 Fordham Vehicle Show 9-10th August.

Resolved – to grant permission for this event to be held on Parish Council land. To liaise with the organisers to have the key to gain access to the area.

24-25/123 Update on the housing requirements within Fordham

Extract from the email sent from RCCE regarding the possible development at Rams Farm Rd.
"We have completed the additional surveys and our engineers have identified a substantial drainage system under the land on Rams Farm Road including 4x soakaways, in addition the recent government legislation around Bio-diversity Net Gain (BNG) this will add a further substantial cost to this scheme as it involves the loss of hedgerows, grassland and trees.

Due to the complexities around the drainage and the cost of BNG of this site, Rams Farm Road is not a viable site for development, once again I apologise for this news coming at such a late stage of our involvement with Rams Farm Road. Since this scheme was first explored we have had a change of team members and changed our internal procedures to undertake services surveys and BNS/landscape/ecology assessments at a very early stage to avoid this happening again.

We are still committed to working with Fordham Parish Council and the community to deliver a Rural Affordable Development in the village to meet the housing needs of the local community, we would like to work with the Parish Council to explore potential alternative sites. I would like to suggest we explore dates in the new year to undertake a review of any potential sites, this review will be based upon a desktop study of the potential options and then a walk around the village".

A previous survey in 2019 identified that 7 affordable properties would be needed. In 2023 a new survey was requested which was funded by Hastoe Housing & CCC – 19 questionnaires were received out of 384 houses asked. 5 houses were identified as being needed. RCCE would like to repeat the process again.

Rural exception sites are located on the edge of rural settlements, and are usually small in size. They are not allocated within the local authority's adopted development plan and would not normally be consented for residential development but are considered for/approved to deliver affordable housing. Applications for rural exception sites can be considered within designated areas such as Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and National Parks, however they must still align with other policies in local plans.

Resolved. To liaise with Hastoe, RCCE & Cllr Acland to set up a meeting.

24-25/124 Parish Council Policy Documents

Resolved. To review the following policies

124.1 Bullying & Harassment

124.2 Memorial Policy

124.3 Code of Conduct

23-24/125 Parish Council Commendations

Resolved. Wendy Shepherd was nominated and agreed. Wendy does an enormous amount for the village, and an author. Action Cllr Hamilton-Macy to write some words for the commendation. – To be presented at the VE Day event. Bethan Quantik, who regularly performs

at village events. Action The Chair to write some words for the commendation. – To be presented at the VE Day event.

23-24/126 To discuss attendance at the Community Hub

On a 3 monthly rotation basis, first Friday of the month.

7th March – MH-M

6th June – HB

5th September – GB

5th December - ENH

24-25/127 To receive Councillors and Clerk reports

MH-M has received an update on the route for the National Grid Pylon initiative and will report back.

CA: The old hedge at Paddock View has been removed, new sticks have been put in its place. The hedge has a gap in it now, that could be used for access.

Orchid protection. Please notify Cllr Dulacher to ask the person who looks after the churchyard to look out for the orchids.

Ponders Rd/Flint Farm. There have been incidents of cars ending up in the ditch. The ditch is deep, and the bank has been rebuilt – although it is no longer there now. The Woodland Trust owns the field behind. Please notify Highways who probably own the ditch to do something about it, so cars don't end up in it.

Potholes at the bridge are returning. Outside 10 & 46 Church Rd there are potholes, and a cone has been placed there to draw attention to them.

People are parking their cars on the pavement in Herrings Way, pictures of this happening to be sent to the Clerk to pass on to the Police and NEPP.

Fordham Times – CA has access to St Lawrence School printer and can print off copies free of charge.

OA: The landscaping plan doesn't mention hedge removal from the previous point made by CA. Will send through the link to the document. It would be a planning issue and not Highways.

Flooding – in the ditches and the drains need clearing. Would it be possible to obtain quotes. There are PRoW in the area in question, which is under Highways. The Council would not be able to provide that service as it is the responsibility of Highways, the task would be handed over indefinitely which the Council does not have the budget or manpower to cover.

The curb has collapsed on the corner of Ramsfield Rd. It has been reported to Highways.

There has been an increase in traffic Fordham Place and Packards Lane.

GB: Tractors are deliberately driving up the ditches and curbs, which destroys them.

will be attending a teams meeting to discuss devolution of ECC, CCC representatives will be in attendance.

ENH; Registered with CCC to receive the electoral role.

Andrew Weavers (Monitoring officer for CCC) will be in contact regarding elections next year.

The return of the conservationists – dates in September. Tuesday 23rd September agreed.

23-24/128 Items for next meeting

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

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

Meeting closed 9:14pm