



Fordham Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

To all electors of Fordham Parish

The Annual Parish Meeting will, be an informal event and take place at Fordham village hall on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 20.00pm

Councillor George Branagh
Chairman
Dated: 16th May 2023

A G E N D A

1. To welcome those present and receive apologies for absence

The Chairman of the Parish Council will chair the meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to hold an informal evening, so the Parish Council can report on the work it has been doing over the last year and it enables the electorate to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the Parish

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 10th May 2022

The Annual report for 2022-23 will be available for all members of the public at the meeting, on the website and Parish notice board

3. Council Commendation presentations

4. To receive questions from members of the village

The formal part of the meeting will be followed by an opportunity to mingle and chat with Councillors and representatives from Hastoe Housing over cheese and wine



Annual Parish Meeting of Fordham Parish

M I N U T E S

Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.30pm

Those present

Councillors: G Branagh (Chairman), H Branagh, D Chapman, N Durlacher and M Hamilton-Macy

Also In Attendance: L Barber (Essex County Council) and K Cameron (Clerk)

There were 4 members of the public were present

1. To welcome those present

The Chairman welcomed members of the Council and residents to the meeting noting that the purpose is for an informal evening, so the Parish Council can report on the work it has been doing over the last year. It also enables the electorate to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the Parish.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Alexander C Chapman, L Pfander and Wendy Shepherd (Village Hall Committee)

Resolved. that apologies be approved

3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 28th May 2019

Members received the minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting that was held on 28th May 2019 and advised that there was no meeting held in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID-19.

Resolved. that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 28th May be approved.

4. To receive the Chairman's report for 2021-22

Members of the Council and residents received the [Chairman's report for 2021-22](#) which can be viewed below.

Resolved. that the Chairman's report be received for 2021-22

5. Council Commendations

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and introduced a new initiative that the Council adopted earlier in the year recognising and commending an individual or a group for their outstanding contributions to the Village. Three commendations were presented:

Mr David Haynes and the Fordham Speedwatch Team

“In recognition of the stalwart service provided to the whole of the Fordham Village Community by ensuring that there is a reduction of the average speed on our Roads, and by so doing not only do you educate drivers but also and importantly the Fordham Speedwatch Team under your direction, reduce the casualties on our Village Roads in both numbers and severity and in consequence the Speedwatch Team improves the lives of the village community through Road Safety”.

Mr Sam Yaghmour

“Fordham Parish Council commend you in recognition for your single handed community spirit and continuing labour to ensure that the overgrown cemetery paths and grave markers at the north eastern corner of Fordham All Saints Church cemetery are now accessible to the community and clear of invading vegetation”.

Councillor Lewis Barber

“Fordham Parish Council in recognition of his outstanding commitment and sustained determination thus ensuring that the village Traffic Calming concerns, have been taken forward and recognised within the appropriate Highways Departments as requiring attention. Your unrelenting efforts and your financial support have resulted in both the procurement of technical aides and substantial investment by the Essex Local Highways Panel”

6. To receive questions from members of the village

The Chairman invited residents present to feel free to ask any questions, raise issues they would like addressed in the forthcoming year.

A resident noted that he has concerns regarding the amount of movements from Fairfield’s farm and does not feel that Colchester Borough Council are ensuring that planning conditions are being followed. The resident also felt that the company has upscaled far greater than the infrastructure can tolerate. The resident noted that the Parish Council are communicating with the Farm but feels more needs to be done to contain the situation including the objection to a new planning application.

A resident noted that Essex Country Council do not do a good job of maintaining the roads and appear to list all maintenance as non-urgent. To make matters worse, when filling potholes they only fill specific holes leaving others unfilled. Cllr Lewis Barber noted that Highways have been instructed to fill all the holes in the immediate area when repairing not just those identified.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.28



Fordham Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report 2023

'There is no such a thing as failure – There are only results' (Tony Robbins)

I thought of this quote when we were discussing a traffic management issue at our January Parish Council Meeting and a member of the public said, '*I suggested that many years ago.*' I then reflected on a number of ongoing issues, that we have been persistent in our lobbying for two plus years. Some we are starting to see a glimpse of light, others we still persevere with because we know on your behalf that's its right for this Village and our residents to do so. The apt comment by the member of the public, both reassures and emphasises to both myself and the members of the Parish Council, that no matter how long it takes, no matter how many setbacks, bureaucratic red tape and obstacles that stand in our way, **'There are only results'**.

Sadly, last year, we lost our gracious Queen Elizabeth II. We celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee event in June on the field by the John Owen Barn. A spectacular event organised by Cllrs Dave and Cheryl Chapman and supported by All Saints Church and the Village Hall Committee. This event took months of planning and organising, and the Parish Council have already thanked all those individuals and organisations who contributed. Indeed, all monies realised were distributed to, the Royal British Legion, St Helena Hospice, Essex Air Ambulance and Colne Endeavour Band.



This year in May, we will join in the Nation's celebrations to the Coronation of King Charles III. Cllrs Dave Chapman and Mike Hamilton-Macy are already planning and organising an event on the Village Green which is scheduled to take place on Sunday 7th May. Dave and Mike will provide an overview of the event and timings in the near future.

Our Jingle and Mingle and the lighting of the tree on the Village Green in December was another success, organised and delivered by Cllrs Helen Branagh and Mike Hamilton-Macy, and was enjoyed by all who attended. Once again, this event was only made possible by the support given by the volunteers, Cllr Christine Alexander for sourcing the trees, All Saints Church, the Village Hall Committee and the various organisations who assisted. This is the second year that we have ran the Christmas event with the tree lighting, Band, Lead Singer, followed by Mulled Wine, soft drinks and Mince Pies in the Village Hall. The Parish Council would welcome your feedback on this event so please contact the Parish Clerk or any of the Councillors.



The Parish Council now hold monthly **'Coffee with Councillors'**, at the Community Hub and all residents are encouraged to join with us for a tea/coffee and a chat, raise questions or concerns that we can assist with or provide advice. Although these are early days, the theme from engaging with the residents seems to focus on traffic concerns and the environment.

Traffic and Roads issues take up the greatest amount of time by the Parish Council – and rightly so! We seek out absolutely every opportunity to champion safer roads in Fordham, we attend every safer roads forum (which we are invited to), we have joined UK national road calming initiatives, we have joined together with our neighbouring Parish Councils, we are totally engaged with Cllr Lewis Barber Essex County Council and Cllr Darius Laws Colchester City Council, we are actively supporting the members of Fordham Village Speedwatch, Essex Police Traffic, we have joined the National and Local 20s Plenty pressure group and we are leading lights on the Local PC HGV Group.

We are committed to progressing the school crossing, quiet lanes in Rams Farm, Fossetts and Chappel Road, graduated traffic mph entering the village, 20s plenty throughout the village, Ponders Rd enforcement of 'Not suitable for HGV's, Vehicle Activated Signage with Wormingford and Aldham, potholes, kerbs and resurfacing, procurement of a trucam for our Speedwatch team and a further automatic traffic count. Our Speedwatch team of volunteers led by their co-ordinator David Haynes must get a special mention as the job they do for the whole of the village in reducing speeding traffic is **fantastic** – sincere thanks from all the members of the Parish Council.



The Parish Council is totally and absolutely committed to seeking out every opportunity to contribute to reducing the Carbon Footprint. All Planning Applications (new builds and existing builds) that are considered by the Parish Council are reviewed not only within the National Planning Policy but also in accord with our Fordham Parish Council's Climate Emergency Plan ensuring that no opportunity to reduce climate change is overlooked. This includes, vehicle charging points, double glazing, energy efficient affordable housing and approved solar panels. During the reporting period Cllr Mike has actively been reviewing and engaging with landowners for further expansion of wildflower meadows within the village.

Our village green and pond during September received some much overdue and radical cultivation by ten members from the Essex Conservation Volunteers. We hope to utilise the services of these volunteers on an annual basis. In addition one of our residents Ian Tyler-Clark has generously offered to tend to the pond with both planting and weeding. Around the village you may also have noticed that a new bench seat has been installed in the bus shelter and we are in the process of providing a further three rubbish/dog waste bins (two of which have been funded by two Fordham businesses).



There has been a lot of press over the past number of months regarding the National Grids intention for the erection of 110 miles of 50-metre-high new Pylons across lands in East Anglia. This Council supports clean, cheap domestic energy and the offshore route option. We do not support overground cables nor do we accept damage to areas of natural beauty. Cllr Mike Hamilton-Macy has portfolio lead and he is engaged with recognised campaign groups, Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons and elected representatives from all tiers of Government.

During this reporting period the Parish Council were once again able to support ongoing community projects/organisations and I am happy to report that small grants or one-off donations were made to help and support the, Village Hall Structural Survey for disabled wc, Bows and Belles for materials and outfits, Community Hub towards free soup and a roll (warm place initiative) or tables and chairs for the Friday Coffee Morning and Fordham Village Speedwatch for rechargeable batteries for the speed gun.

Considerable and costly repairs were conducted to our War Memorial under the advice and rigid criteria as defined by the War Memorials Trust and prior to the final top coating of bonding/rendering we experienced extreme wet weather and exceptional cold temperatures. The result of these extreme weather conditions being that further repair works will be necessary this Spring. The costs for these repairs were indeed donated jointly by the War Memorial Trust and local businesses therefore no finances were expended by the Parish Council.



The Fordham Times (FT) editorship has been taken over by our Parish Clerk Kathryn and I think all will agree that she has really demonstrated great skills in the production of this magazine. In order to reduce costs the FT has gone on line thus reducing the number of paper copies which some residents have elected to continue with. Further savings have also been made in its bi-monthly publication

All the activities we do, are directed to this community/parishioners and making it a better place to live, but as you will note from our issue No 07 of the January Fordham Times, regrettably for the first time in over four years due to rising prices of our suppliers/contractors/stationary/etc we have had to raise the precept by 38p per month. This decision was taken after we exhausted every option and review of our business processes to

balance our books, had this not been the case the precept would have been greater than 38p a month per paying household.

Although not a Parish Council initiative, we would like to thank the organisers and the vendors, many of whom are Fordham residents, for the great service that they are providing, every Friday at the John Owen Barn Cart Lodge between 1000 and 1300 hours, for/to the whole of our Community. Indeed, this facility has a number of benefits which include being able to use the Post Office, purchase fresh fruit and vegetables, homemade preserves, fresh bread and cakes, meat, fish, cheese, pies, refillable essentials etc but also it provides a meeting place for many of our parishioners who are then able to sit in a 'warm place' for a chat and refreshments.

This is the second year the Parish Council have officially recognised and commended an individual or group for special recognition. At our Parish Council Meeting in January 2023, it was unanimously agreed by the councillors that we would award Parish Council Commendations to the following:

Mrs Jacqui Griffiths

'In recognition that over the past year you, initiated, implemented and now manages three significant Village/Church projects: The establishment of a Friday Post Office and various retail outlets (The Den) at the John Owen Barn. A Friday morning café in the Community Hub, and a 'warm space' facility in accordance with government guidelines. Your desire to help the community has ensured the successful delivery of these services'.

Colne Endeavour Band

'In recognition of the astounding musical contribution you have provided over the past two years for Fordham Village Events. The full Band and Ensembles musical talents, classical and modern musical performances, community engagement and delivery are consistently outstanding and have undoubtably ensured the overall success of our village celebrations.'

The Parish Council members are all exceptionally talented, dedicated and committed volunteers who freely give up their time to serving the interests and needs of this community/village – so a huge thanks to Cllrs Nick Durlacher, Dave Chapman, Christine Alexander, Lou Pfander, Helen Branagh and Mike Hamilton-Macy. On 4th May 2023 all the Fordham Parish Councillors desirous to continue in the office will be up for election/re-election. So, at the time of authoring this report I am not sure how the post 9th May Parish Council will look. What I can say is that there will be Cllr vacancies for a four year term and anyone interested is encouraged to speak soonest to our learned Clerk Kathryn Cameron, clerk@fordham-pc.gov.uk



The ongoing work strands and events planning of the Parish Council are both diverse and at times challenging and the person who keeps the ship on its true course is our learned Clerk Kathryn, on behalf of the members of the Parish Council we would like to thank Kathryn for her exceptional ability, organisational skills, 'patience' and commitment to Fordham Parish Council.

Cllr George Branagh

Chairman, Fordham Parish Council

Fordham Parish Council Schedule of Meetings 2023-24			
MAY 23rd	JUNE 28th	JULY 25th	AUGUST No meeting
SEPTEMBER 12th	OCTOBER 24th	NOVEMBER 28th	DECEMBER No meeting
JANUARY 23rd	FEBRUARY 27th	MARCH 26th	APRIL 23rd
Meetings will take place At 7.30pm In the Village Hall (please check noticeboard and website for individual details)			