



Fordham Parish Council Meeting

M I N U T E S

Tuesday 22nd December 2020 at 7.30pm (via Zoom)

Those present

Councillors: G Branagh (Chairman), N Durlacher (Deputy Chairman), C Alexander and L Pfander

Also In Attendance: K Cameron (Clerk)

7 members of public were present

20-21/128 Those present and apologies for absence

Resolved. that there were no apologies for absence received. Cllr R Turner was not in attendance.

20-21/129 Casual Vacancies on the Council

There were four candidates who applied to be co-opted to the Council. The Chairman introduced Cheryl Chapman, Dave Chapman, Cathy Evans and Mike Hamilton-Macy. Each of the candidates were proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously by Councillors. The Chairman welcomed the new Councillors to the Council.

Resolved. that the four casual vacancies were filled with Co-options

20-21/130 To receive any declarations of interests from Councillors

Cllr N Durlacher declared a non-pecuniary interest as he is a Church Warden

Cllrs C Chapman and D Chapman declared a non-pecuniary interest as they are neighbours to the Churchyard

Cllrs C Alexander and M Hamilton-Macy declared a non-pecuniary interest as they are members of the Local History Society

Resolved. that the declarations of interest noted above from Councillors were received

20-21/131 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting Tuesday 24th November 2020

Resolved. that the minutes of the full council meeting were accepted as a true record and approved.

20-21/132 Public question time

The meeting may be temporarily suspended for up to fifteen minutes if members of the public wish to comment on agenda items of items of interest of concern to the Parish

A member of the Speedwatch team asked for the Clerk to obtain a copy of the minutes from the LHP meeting which hopefully might offer explanation as to what is the green list, why do the signs have to wait for funding when the Speedwatch team have been able to source the signs for free and would like to see if the member of parliament did give his support.

Two members of public requested that the Parish Council strongly object to the planning application submitted to Fairfield's Farm as it is business expansion and nothing to do with agriculture.

A member of the public asked for clarification of the status of the Community Asset application for the 3 Horseshoes PH. *The Chairman noted that the parish Council will not be able to proceed with the application as they do not have the funds to purchase the property if it were put up for sale. The original application was submitted by Camra brewery and the Parish Council will make contact with Camra to see if they would be willing to apply once more.*

A member of the public noted that there has been considerable tractor damage to both side of the road on Rams Farm Road making another road dangerous.

A member of the public noted that he has been knocked over by a dog that was off its lead on the Woodland Trust Land. *The Chairman wished the member of public well and noted that the Parish Council will write to the Woodland Trust to see if anything can be done to avoid this in future.*

20-21/133 Planning

133.1 To discuss planning applications listed below.

Application No	Type of Application	Address	Description
202592	Change of use	Air Strip, Fairfield's Farm, Fordham Road, Wormingford Colchester CO6 3AQ	Change the use of a 0.4 ha soil bunded concrete slab from Agricultural to Outdoor Caravan Storage for up to 85 mobile caravans for storage when they are not in use. Bays will be 8m x 3.5m.

Members of the Council discussed the planning application in great detail and agreed that the level of traffic in the village would add tremendous strain to the ongoing traffic issue along with concerns for safety on footpaths. The Parish Council agreed to object to the application and will submit the following comment.

Although this planning application falls within the Parish of Wormingford the implications of this application will be a continuing infringement on the Fordham Community in the exercise of enjoyment of rights common to all. The applicant articulates that the storage of some 85 caravans will provide much needed diversified income for their farming business.

Fairfield's Farm have already diversified their farming business into a very successful Potatoes crisps manufacturer together with their supply of potatoes to various outlets and their use of anaerobic digestion. Evidence of their success is cited within their own website which states, 'On our farm we cold store, wash, grade and bag twelve different potato varieties which are then supplied to wholesalers and retailers across the UK. We deliver our crisps and potatoes to local customers using our own vehicles, but we also supply to partners nationally and internationally. In fact, we export to about 20 countries including, Mauritius, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Dubai, Germany, Norway, USA and Canada'. Thus the argument proffered in the application would appear to be at variance with the Company's own website heralding their success.

The traffic generated by this farming business is already having a serious negative impact on both the lives of the Fordham community, and the damage to the country roads to which they transverse. It is already a serious cause for concern within the village of the anti-social times especially during the harvest of potatoes, rye and maize are transported by tractors and trailers which are too large to keep within the road lane markings and can be up to 200 movements per day. To increase this by 85 caravan movements albeit staggered over a period of months will do nothing more but add to the mayhem of a country road with no footpaths which are used by pedestrian ramblers, dog walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The lane that would be used to transport the mobile homes is connected to public right of way footpaths 31 and 48.

Fordham Parish Council are indeed so concerned with regards to the ongoing traffic dangers within village that a comprehensive Traffic report is being prepared for consideration by Essex County Council Local Highways Planners.

The Parish Council would like clarification as to what type of mobile homes will be sited at Fairfield's Farm.

Therefore, Fordham Parish Council strongly object to this Planning Application.

Resolved. that the response above was prepared and approved

20-21/134 Grants and donation applications from Local Organisations

CLlr N Durlacher declared a non-pecuniary interest as he is a Church Warden

CLlrs C Chapman and D Chapman declared a non-pecuniary interest as they are neighbours to the Churchyard

CLlrs C Alexander and M Hamilton-Macy declared a non-pecuniary interest as they are members of the Local History Society

The Chairman noted that funds for Grants have already been approved for up to £2,000 spend for the 2020-21 financial year and that members were asked to agree the allocation of such funds at the meeting.

Resolved. It was agreed that the following organisations would receive grants and donations from Fordham Parish Council (see below)

- Fordham History Society granted £500 towards analysis of pottery finds a Roman Dig site
- Fordham church will receive a donation £500 towards tree maintenance
- Age Concern will receive a donation of £200

20-21/135 External Audit report and notice of conclusion for 2019-20

The Clerk noted that the External report has been received and was pleased to report that the matters arising were minor and due to a misplaced signature and an incorrect form submitted from the Internal auditor that was corrected and reissued.

Resolved. that the external audit and auditors report be received and noted.

20-21/136 Expenditure

136.1 Invoices for Payment

Invoice no	Payable	Purpose	Amount (* VAT)
1164096639	Three mobile	Mobile phone	£8.00
52173713	Zoom	Virtual meetings	£14.39*
---	J&M Payroll Services	December Payroll <i>Including HMRC/Ni/Pension</i>	£1,106.79
29550	J&M Payroll Services	Payroll Fees <i>November</i>	£30.00*
23	Chris Cousins	Village Maintenance Playground checks	£80.00
20203188	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit	£240.00*
8789	Playquip	Playground replacements	£2085.60*
---	K Cameron	Office supplies	£10.60
1067	Da Page Landscapes	Grass cutting	£468.00*

The Clerk noted that an addition invoice of £468.00 was received and when added to appendix A expenditure £3,575.38 the total expenditure due to be approved will be £4,043.38.

Resolved. that Total expenditure **£4,043.38** be approved.

20-21/137 Health & Safety and Village Maintenance

137.1 Weekly H&S checks for the Playground

w/c 23rd and 30th November

w/c 7th and 14th December

Resolved. that there were no faults reported and that the playground checks be approved.

20-21/138 Bank Signatories

It was agreed to remove Cllrs S Pallent and R Gregory as bank signatories for the Bank Account. Cllrs L Pfander, D Chapman and C Evans will be added to the bank account as signatories in the New Year.

Resolved. That the addition of three councillors be added to the bank signatories and the Councillors no longer part of Fordham Parish Council be removed

20-21/139 To agree budgets for 2021-22

Cllr D Chapman asked if there was an opportunity to reduce the cost of the village magazine and it was agreed that this could be investigated once the magazine has been reinstated.

Cllr C Evans noted that she would like to reduce the precept further in Fordham and agreed to seek further savings.

Resolved. that members of the council agreed to the budget figures that were presented for 2021-22.

20-21/140 Items for next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.30pm.

Resolved. that agenda items below will be discussed at future Parish Council meetings

- Precept for 2021-22 (January)
- Traffic Calming (January)
- Roles and Responsibilities (January)
- Tender for Grass Cutting (January)
- Asset of community value update (January)
- Working party for Village Green
- Neighbourhood Plan
- P3 partnership with Essex County Council

The Chairman thanked members of the Council and public for attending and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.00