

Fordham Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council meeting
Held at Village Hall, Fordham, Colchester, Essex
7.30 pm on 14th January 2020

Present: Cllr G Branagh (GB) – Deputy Chairman
Cllrs S Pallent (SP), C Alexander (CA) R Turner (RT) and L Pfander (LP)
Also in attendance: Cllr Nigel Chapman (Colchester Borough Council)
K Cameron (KC) – Clerk
And 14 members of the public

19-20/129 Those present and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Nick Durlacher (Chairman) and Richard Gregory.

Resolved. That the Council received apologies

19-20/130 To receive any declarations of interest from councillors

Resolved. That no declarations of interest were received

19-20/131 New Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Councillor Branagh noted that there are two Parish Councillor vacancies and if anyone knows anyone who might be interested, please let a member of the Council or the Clerk know.

Resolved. That Councillors were in unanimous agreement that Cllr Nick Durlacher be appointed the role of Chairman and Cllr George Branagh be appointed the role of Deputy Chairman for Fordham Parish Council.

19-20/132 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th November, 2019

Resolved. That the minutes of Full Council Meeting were accepted as a true record

19-20/133 Minutes of the Budget meeting held on 10th December, 2019

Resolved. That the minutes of the budget Meeting were accepted as a true record

19-20/134 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 or items of interest or concern to the parish

A resident reported that a hole has formed around a kerb drain on Ponders Road. It has been reported to highways and a photo will be sent to the Clerk for information – *the Clerk will also report the issue with highways*

A resident asked for an update relating to the petition that was submitted to Councillor Anne Brown for Lucas Avenue – *the Clerk noted that Cllr Brown will take the petition to the next Council meeting and provide an update of the situation to Councillor Kevin Bentley. Cllr Branagh noted that a report is being prepared for other traffic conditions (see agenda item 19-20/141) and will be presented to full council in February and to Councillor Anne Brown at the end of March 2020.*

A number of residents voiced their concerns (see below) about planning application no: 193069

- Has someone at CBC established a need for a new travellers site?
- If the application goes to appeal what happens then?
- The application contravenes all planning rules
- There is no conservation or historical statements linked with the application
- There are no facilities to support an extra development
- There is only a single track access to the site
- It does not meet the requirements of the Local Plan
- The existing site at Severalls should be expanded

- The area is a wildlife corridor for the Woodlands Trust
- The History Society believe there is a bronze age site in the area

Councillor Nigel Chapman addressed the members of public

- The application is incomplete
- There is no need for a new site
- The Local Plan states that of the 15 pitch increase over the life of the plan, only 6 more pitches are required and these can be met by expanding the existing site at Severalls
- The site does not meet any criteria and any development needs to have access to shops, schools, doctors and a suitable highway
- The Council cannot predict what would happen if an appeal was lodged.
- The application will go to a committee meeting, but it is likely to be rejected before this given the information above
- Highways have objected to the planning application

19-20/135 Receive report from County and Borough Councillors if in attendance

Councillor Nigel Chapman noted that the local authority budget will be set within the next two months and that there will be some news on the Local Plan and the pending garden communities in the autumn.

19-20/136 To discuss planning applications listed below:

193069	Land to rear of, Goodwins Farm, Crepping Hall Road, Wakes Colne Colchester CO6 2AP	Ten mobile homes pitches for travellers .
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After lengthy discussion, the Council agreed to lodge an objection to the planning application on the following grounds:

1. Fordham Parish Council are aware that the above application/plans for the establishment of ten (10) mobile home pitches for travellers has been received by the Planning Services Department at Colchester Borough Council. The said proposed site falls within the bailiwick of Wakes Colne Parish Council, however the site is within such close proximity of Fordham that the Fordham Parish Council consider that they have the right to comment on this proposed application.
2. We are cognisant that in May 2017 Open Research Services conducted a 'Need Summary Report – Colchester Borough Council Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment', the Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) endorsed the Greater Essex GTAA report on 25 January 2018. Indeed, the ORS report provided details of the twenty-eight (28) current number of Gypsy/Traveller pitches/plots in Colchester, Severalls Lane (12), Bridge Side Stanway (3), Clearview Aldham (1), Colt Farm Tiptree (2), Emmanuel Tiptree (1), Gwynlian Tiptree (1), Nunns Farms Layer Breton (1), Vernons Road Chappel (3), Stableview Tiptree (1), The Paddocks Tiptree (2) and Pony s Farm Tiptree (1). In conclusion the report identified at para 5.19 of the said report, ***“Therefore the overall level of additional need for those households who meet the planning definition of a Gypsy or Traveller is for 2 additional pitches over the GTAA period to 2033”.***
3. In continuation/support of the foregoing the CBC Local Plan at para 7.55 states, ***“The borough Council will seek to provide appropriate sites to meet the needs of the gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople in the Borough as identified through the latest Gypsy and Traveller assessment work and further guidance from the Government set forth in ‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites’. These sites need to provide gypsy and traveller communities with good access to education, health, welfare and***

employment infrastructure, bearing in mind the need to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment’.

4. Subsequently in Policy DM 11: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, it has been estimated that between 2014 – 2033 there will a need for fifteen (15) pitches; 2013 – 18 = 3, 2018 – 23 = 3, 2023 – 28 = 4, 2028 – 33 = 5. **Total 15.** Notwithstanding the foregoing CBC articulated the following, ***‘The need for six pitches by 2023 can be met by the expansion of the existing site at Severells. The existing site has successfully operated since 2012 and is considered a sustainable location for small scale expansion. The need for the remainder. Of the plan period will be met through allocation of gypsy and traveller provision in Garden Communities, to be finalised through the process of agreeing detailed allocations and masterplans for those areas’.*** In conclusion the Policy sets down the following criteria, “Proposals for any further applications shall be judged on the basis that the sites should be located within reasonable proximity to existing sustainable settlements, and with access to shops, schools and other community facilities.....”
5. The proposed site is situated on a single-track road with limited passing points. Indeed, the road is protected by CBC assessment DEE 2015 due to its historic integrity. The proposed site has no public transport system, no public footpaths, no street lighting, limiting site vehicle turning access, the road is susceptible to weather conditions. The nearest primary school is approx. 3 miles distance, secondary school approx. 4 miles distance, Doctors Surgery 4 miles distance, Hospital 8 miles distance, shop 3 miles distance and supermarket 4 miles distance.
6. The proposed site is situated within a green belt land near to a Grade 2 listed building. It does not lend itself to community integration, local amenities nor any supporting employment infrastructure.
7. Fordham Parish Council will strongly object to this planning application based on the facts that its fails to meet or embrace the criteria of the research conducted by the Open Research Services but more importantly the proposed planning application together with the identified locus dramatically fails to meet the CBC LP in its entirety

Resolved. That the above objections be submitted to planning application 193069

136.2 To discuss any applications received between 9th to 14th January 2020

Resolved. That there were no applications received during 9th to 14th January 2020

19-20/137 To note planning Appeal against refusal of planning permission

191334 **Proposal:** Construction of one new 3 bedroom chalet bungalow.
Application No: 191334
DTLR Appeal Ref: APP/A1530/W/19/3240420
Appeal Start Date: 03/12/2019
Appellant: Max Highfield
Location: 15 Church Road, Fordham, CO6 3NA
Appeal Against: Refusal of planning permission

Resolved. That the above appeal be noted.

19-20/138 To receive an update on the Action List

Councillors reviewed the action list and gave an update to the Clerk. The action list will be updated and distributed to Councillors.

19-20/139 Precept for 2020-21

- It was noted that the tax base has been reduced from 327.4 to 326.1 due to an increase in properties that are exempt from council tax

- It was agreed to keep the precept the same as 2019/20, a 0% increase, and if necessary to allocate £125 from Parish Council reserves if required

Resolved. Precept figures were **approved** as follows:

Band D equivalent of £89.95

Total precept demand of £29,333 based on 326.1 tax base

Reserves of £125 may be called upon if required

19-20/140 Section 106 monies

Resolved. That once a survey and quote has been received for the bus shelter, it could be possible for the section 106 monies (£748.88) held for Fordham to be used towards the repair

19-20/141 Road Safety in Fordham

Councillor Branagh gave a brief outline, highlighting the points below and noted that a full report is being prepared and will be presented at the February full Council meeting

- Residents have been asked, via the Fordham Times, to report items of concern to the Council
- A FOI request has been received from Essex Police
- A meeting has been held with the school crossing lady and her two biggest concerns are the speed signs are too close to the school and speeding white vans
- A meeting has been held with the Headteacher of the school and her main concern is the speed signs are too close to the school

19-20/142 Tommy Sculpture

The Tommy Sculpture needs to be reset to be structurally sound at a cost of £70. The Council agreed that this can be allocated from the balance of the noticeboard emr (£200) which was underspent by £70.

Resolved. That the council agreed to reset the Tommy at a cost of £70.

19-20/143 Village Organisations

Resolved. That councillors agreed to have representation with village organisations in order to be proactive in the community. All nominations to be sent to the Clerk and the information will be updated on the website

19-20/144 To receive Finance reports as of 17th December, 2019

Resolved. That the financial reports be received and approve

19-20/145 Expenditure

145.1 Tommy Sculpture

Resolved. that the Tommy Sculpture will be reset at a cost of £70.00

145.2 Invoice for Payment – Appendix A

Resolved. That the invoices listed in appendix A – total expenditure: £895.72 be approved

145.3 Invoice for Payment – Appendix B

Resolved. That invoices listed in appendix B – total further expenditure, submitted after 9th January 2020 of **£136.00** were approved.

Total expenditure for January: **£1,031.72**

Payable	Purpose	Amount
Morrisons	Stamps	£7.32
ID mobile	Mobile Phone - <i>Nov-Dec</i>	£13.75
J&M Payroll Services	January Payroll - <i>Including HMRC/Ni/Pension</i>	£771.45
J&M Payroll Services	Payroll Fees – <i>November & December Fees</i>	£60.00
K Cameron	Mileage for meeting	£43.20
C Cousins	Playground inspections	£136.00
TOTAL BILL PAYMENT		£1031.72

19-20/146 To receive Health and Safety Checks for playground

- To note reports for w/c 6th November to 25th December

The reports were received.

- It was noted that the swings will be installed as soon as possible.
- It was noted that the hanging rings have been ordered and should be received within 6 weeks from the date of order.

Resolved. That the reports are received and approved and the outstanding items are a work in progress.

19-20/147 To receive Councillors reports

Councillor Pallent:

- noted that horses are coming through the hedges at the BMX track and causing considerable damage
- requested councillor contact details be placed in the Fordham Times each month for residents that don't have internet access
- asked if the welcome pack is ready for review – *the Clerk noted that it is work in progress and due to be received in time for the February PC meeting.*

Councillor Alexander:

- Noted defects on footpaths and handed details to the Clerk
- Noted that the bin at Rams Farm Lane needs to be emptied more frequently
- Asked when the Christmas lights will be taken down and stored? – *the Council agreed that Cllrs Branagh, Turner and Gregory will take them down asap*
- Noted that the Christmas tree lights may be stored at her property

Councillor Turner:

- Asked if he can be given contact details for the Highways Rangers – *Councillor Chapman noted that these have been transferred to the Borough Council and that the roles are being reworked. The Clerk can contact the Group Manager of Neighbourhood Services to obtain an overview of what services can be offered to the Village*

19-20/148 To receive Clerks report

Finance

- VAT of £3292.44 has been recovered and will be recorded in the next months accounts

Bins

- The dog bins contract has been waived for 2019/20 and a new contract will be issued for 2020/21, cost will be in the region of £1,150 which is what has been budgeted for

Training

- Attended Clerks forum meeting in Colchester

Footpaths update

The reported defect on footpath 18 has been repaired and marked as complete

Update on Lucas Ave

- Cllr Anne Brown is working hard to get Lucas Avenue repaired and will explore a number of avenues to get the road swept and the drains cleared as well as requesting Cllr Kevin Bentley to attend the site.
- Cllr Anne Brown has received the residents petition and will take this to full council meeting

Ponders Road

- Cllr Anne Brown has suggested contacting to clarify the legal weight set for the signs to be installed and to inform them that the signs are not doing their job.

- Cllr Anne Brown is happy to support Road Safety in Fordham and to receive the report when it is ready.

19-20/149 Items for next meeting on 25th February 2020

The following items will be placed on the February Agenda

- Road Safety
- Grant application process
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Welcome pack
- Fordham Times

Apologies have been received from Cllr Rob Turner for the February meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.38