



Fordham Parish Council Meeting

M I N U T E S

Tuesday 29th September 2020 at 7.30pm (via Zoom)

Those present

Councillors: G Branagh (Chairman), N Durlacher (Deputy Chairman), C Alexander, S Pallent and R Turner

Also In Attendance: Cllr Anne Brown

K Cameron (Clerk)

3 members of public were present

20-21/72 Those present and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

Resolved. that apologies for absence were received from Cllrs N Chapman and R Gregory.

20-21/73 To receive any declarations of interests from Councillors

Resolved. that there were no declarations of interest from Councillors received

20-21/74 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting Tuesday 25th August 2020

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

20-21/75 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.

It was noted by a resident that the Speedwatch team have been given approval to recommence to carry out speed checks. The Speedwatch team have asked the Parish Council if signs can be purchased and installed at the three entry points to the village to note that Fordham is a Speedwatch village. *The Chairman noted that agenda item 20-21/81 will discuss signage.*

A resident noted that he and another resident has contacted Cllr N Durlacher with regards to movements to Fairfield's. The traffic seems to be increasing through the village and it appears that they are taking deliveries outside the time granted. *Cllr N Durlacher noted that he will take these comments to the Liaison group meeting on the 20th October.*

A resident asked if the Emergency Plan for COVID-19 will still be in place if another lockdown is enforced. *The Chairman noted that there are volunteers available and if anyone in the village requires assistance to contact the Clerk.*

It was noted that the Trustees of the Village Hall have met and agreed that the Village hall will not be opening at the beginning of October as originally planned and will be reviewed at the end of October. They would like to open the hall in November but think it is more likely to be in the new year.

A resident noted that a member of the Local History Society has been granted permission to fly a drone to look at the crop markings and this will be advertised on Facebook so as not to cause alarm.

20-21/76 Received report from County and Borough Councillors if in attendance

Cllr Anne Brown was in attendance and invited members of the Council and public to air their concerns.

Residents and Councillors noted that there are countless problems with large lorries using small lanes around the village. They are causing great damage to the roads, verges and kerbs causing potholes and erosion. It was noted that whilst most appear to be adhering to the speed limits, the sheer size and weight is causing them to rattle around the roads. It was also reported that the drivers are driving in a dangerous manner, speaking on mobile phones, mounting pavements, not securing their loads, or covering the goods with netting causing debris through the village. It is recognised that they are not contracted to Fairfield's Farm or CSH and that they are from agencies.

Cllr Anne Brown agreed that there is an issue and that it has been for some time but asked what other routes could lorries take to get to Bures and Suffolk? It was noted that the correct infrastructure was not put in place and that expansion to both Fairfield's and Colchester Skip Hire should not be agreed to as the 120 movements from each company is already too much for the country roads. Cllr Anne Brown asked to be kept in the loop with outcomes from the liaison meeting.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Anne Brown for attending the meeting and offering her support with this difficult issue.

20-21/77 Planning

There were no planning applications received as of 22nd September 2020

77.1 To discuss any planning applications received between 23rd to 29th September 2020

Resolved. that there were no planning applications received up to 29th September 2020

77.2 To note planning decisions received

Application No	Decision	Address	Description
201049	Approve Conditional	St Johns Bosco Centre, Halstead Road, Fordham Colchester CO6 3LL	Extension to existing shower/WCs and kitchen and auxiliary facilities to incorporate new shower and WCs Facilities
201432	Approve Conditional	Fordham Village Hall, Church Road, Fordham Colchester CO6 3NA	Extension to Village Hall to Provide Function Room and Disabled W/C
201595	Approve Conditional	24 Hall Road, Fordham Colchester CO6 3NQ	Single storey side extension

The planning decisions listed above were noted.

20-21/78 Community Asset

Members discussed the following assets and agreed to submit an AVC application for all

- Horseshoes (expires Feb 21)
- Village Hall

- Allotments
- Shoulder of Mutton
- Village Green
- Play Area
- Sports Field
- Bus Shelter – already on the local list
- Memorial and Clock
- Church – grade 1 listed
- Graveyard at the Chapel House, Plummers Road
- Finger posts

It was also agreed to check if the Roman villa site on the Woodland Trust land is protected and if not to add this to the list.

Resolved. that the Council identified Fordham's community assets (listed above) and AVC applications will be prepared and submitted.

20-21/79 Village Christmas Tree

Quotes have been received for a Christmas tree at £7-10 per foot however, a structure/frame will need to be constructed to hold the tree in place. The Council agreed to investigate how to secure the tree on the Village Green and to provide any expenditure to the next meeting.

Resolved. That further investigations will be made to securely place the tree on the green and presented at the next meeting.

20-21/80 Remembrance Sunday

The Chairman noted that Remembrance Sunday is going to be quite different. Official advice from Council advisory boards and the RBL note that there are to be no planned ceremonies despite this being an important occasion. The Council discussed the importance of residents being able to pay their respects and their responsibility to report the official guidance received. It was suggested that residents could be invited to pay their respects from their front door/driveway similar to clapping and supporting the NHS.

It was agreed that the Chairman and representative from the RBL will lay a wreath at the memorial and that a statement will be released outlining the official guidance, the importance of social distancing and an invitation to join the Council in staying safe.

Resolved. That a statement will be released to the residents on the 23rd October.

20-21/81 LHP for Speedwatch signs

Members agreed to the proposal for Speedwatch signs. The Clerk noted that she has sought advice from the LHP advisor and that the Council could choose to submit an LHP and to also speak with the Traffic Management department if they wish to co-ordinate. A representative from the Speedwatch team has secured 3 signs to be supplied free of charge from a local company. It was agreed to pursue both approaches and that the Clerk will work with the Speedwatch team with regards to permitted design.

Resolved. To agree to submit an LHP for 3 Speedwatch signs and to liaise with Traffic Management.

20-21/82 Action plan updates

New items to note:

- Fordham Land Registry to be investigated by the Chairman
- Finger posts are past renovation and will need to be replaced. The cost is circa £4,000
- 106 projects have been collated and submitted to CBC
- Community Assets (as above)
- Budget meeting in December – the Chairman has requested that all members consider short and long term projects that will benefit the village and to prepare proposal with financial information

20-21/83 Finance

83.1 To receive finance reports as of 17th September 2020

To note the following credits total of £17,599.89:

- VAT £2,024.39
- CBC precept £14,666.50
- CBC grant £909.00

Resolved. that the finance reports as of 17th September 2020 were approved

83.2 Budget update

The Clerk presented the budget report for the first half of 2020 noting that there has been some additional costs yet there are potential savings. It is likely that there will be an overspend for 2020 however there are unallocated reserves that will cover the additional expenditure.

Resolved. that the year to date budget report was noted.

20-21/84 Expenditure

84.1 Playground Repairs and Maintenance

The Clerk detailed short term repairs and long-term projects for the Playground as recommended in the Annual Play inspection. Members agreed to repair the fence posts, gate entry points, bench, panels on multi-play unit and basketball back board at a cost of £2200 which will be transferred from the deposit account. and the Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

The Long term projects were noted and will be discussed at the December Finance meeting.

Resolved. that the items listed above will be repaired and £2,200 will be transferred from the deposit account.

84.2 Annual Insurance

The Clerk noted that insurance premium was increased from £798.66 to £895.79 (increase of £97.13) due to the addition of playground surfaces to the schedule.

Resolved. that the increased insurance premium was approved

84.3 Invoices for Payment

Resolved. that the payments listed in appendix A – total expenditure **£2,904.32** were approved.

Payable	Purpose	Amount (* VAT)
W Shepherd/Royal British Legion	Remembrance Wreath	20.00
AJ Slowgrove	Memorial clock repairs	£125.00
Amazon	Clock batteries	£2.99*
Amazon	Printer ink	£38.47*
Wayfair	Fireproof cabinet	£79.99*
Zoom	Virtual meetings	£14.39*
Three mobile *	Mobile phone	£8.00
Viking	Cleaning materials	£49.59*
J&M Payroll Services	September Payroll <i>Including HMRC/Ni/Pension</i>	£1228.10
J&M Payroll Services	Payroll Fees <i>August</i>	£30.00*
The Play Inspection Co Ltd	Annual Playground inspection	£162.00*
C Cousins	Playground maintenance	£50.00
K Cameron	Working from home allowance	£200.00
Came & Company	Annual Insurance	£895.79

84.4 Invoices for payment received between 23rd to 29th September 2020

Resolved. that there were no further payments presented at the meeting

20-21/85 To receive Health and Safety checks for playground

Weekly reports received

- w/c 3rd to 24th June 2020
- w/c 1st to 29th July 2020
- w/c 5th to 31st August 2020
- w/c 7th to 14th September 2020

The Clerk noted that all items reported are currently being dealt with.

Resolved. that the Health and Safety reports were approved, and the items reported are being dealt with.

20-21/86 October Working Party

The Chairman noted that the October working party will take place on Saturday 3rd October and thanks Councillors for making themselves available and welcomed members of the public to attend. The Clerk will circulate a list of tasks to be actioned.

Resolved. that the working party will be held on 3rd October 2020

20-21/87 To receive Councillors reports

Cllr C Alexander noted

- that there are a number of defects on the footpaths that have not been addressed and noted that she will send details to the Clerk to chase.

- that a number of Fordham residents have been left stranded in Colchester as public buses have not been turning up.

Cllr G Branagh noted

- that the Clock has been replaced to a battery operated mechanism and that the final cost was half price.
- That he attended the EALC AGM and reported the following:
 - It is anticipated that if a Unitary authority is created, the role of parish and town councils will be massively enhanced.
 - Joy Darby was appointed vice president of EALC
 - Affiliation fees for both EALC and NALC will increase up to 3% fin 2021

20-21/88 To receive Clerk's report

- Works to the bus shelter are expected to commence by mid October
- EALC have been contacted with regards to the suggested conflict of interest for the magazine to be funded by sponsorship and a legal note will be supplied to FPC. Preparation of the magazine is on hold until further notice.
- The grass cutting contractor has been appointed to cut back the brambles to the side of the playground and will do this at no extra cost
- Defects reported on two Footpaths have been scheduled for repair
- The signs in Herrings way have been collected
- A new member has joined the Speedwatch team

20-21/89 Items for next meeting

Resolved. that the following items will be discussed at future Parish Council meetings

- Policies – Website, Co-option, Retention of documents
- Fordham times
- Remembrance Sunday
- Fairfield's update
- LHP signage

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.55