



Fordham Parish Council Meeting

MINUTES

Held Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 7.30pm in Fordham Village Hall

Those present

Councillors: G Branagh (Chairman), C Alexander, H Branagh, N Durlacher, M Hamilton-Macy and L Pfander

Also In Attendance: Cllr L Barber (County Member) and K Cameron via teleconference (Clerk)

There was 2 members of the public present

22-23/103 Welcome those present and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed members and residents to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Chapman (FPC) and Cllr D Laws (Borough Council).

Resolved. that apologies for absence be accepted

22-23/104 To receive any declarations of interests from Councillors

Cllr G Branagh declared a non-pecuniary interest for item no 22-23/109 as he is a member of the Speedwatch team

Cllr H Branagh declared a non-pecuniary interest for item no 22-23/109 as she is a member of the Bows N Belles

Cllr N Durlacher declared a non-pecuniary interest for item no 22-23/109 as he is a member of the Church Parish Council.

Cllr L Pfander declared a non-pecuniary interest for item no 22-23/109 as she is a member of the Village Hall Committee.

Resolved. that the declarations of interest recorded from Councillors be accepted

22-23/105 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting Tuesday 25th October 2022

Resolved. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting Tuesday 25th October 2022 are accepted as a true record and the Chairman signed.

22-23/106 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

Member of public at the meeting did not raise any issues at the meeting.

22-23/107 Received report from County and Borough Councillors if in attendance

Cllr Lewis Barber asked members if they had any questions they would like to ask him.

Cllr M Hamilton-Macy advised that the traffic lights at the A12 Stanway roundabout still have timing issues where lights turn green while the set before are still on amber and asked him to raise this at Highways urgently.

Cllr G Branagh noted that the Parish Council would like to meet with Highways officers to discuss alternative options that are available for the new VAS unit location.

Cllr G Branagh advised that last week a record speed limit of 50mph was recorded in the village. The information has been escalated to the Essex County Speedwatch Co-Ordinator who passed the details to Essex Police. Whilst it has been confirmed the Police will be able to arrange for temporary fixes they have advised that a more longer term solution needs to be put into place. The co-ordinator proposed the Council raises a request with the Highways Panel to see if there is any street calming or road designing out that would aid speed reduction within Moat Road, Church Road and Plummers Road.

Cllr Darius Laws was not in attendance but advised that:

The garden waste collection over the festive period will pause for 2 weeks, the last day for brown bins and garden waste sacks will be Friday 23 December and resume on Tuesday 10 January. The decision to pause the garden waste service for this two-week period has been made to provide additional support to CBC crews collecting heavy tonnages during the festive period. There are no day changes to conventional recycling and waste collections over the festive period this year due to Christmas Day and New Year's Day falling on a Sunday.

At the next Colchester Full Council meeting, 1st December the opposition group on the Council (led by Cllr Laws and Deputy Cllr Barber) a motion will be submitted to ask Council to consider moving away from the 'annual' election system so all councillors can be elected en-masse once every four years. This will save hundreds of thousands of pounds and it will also allow for better, braver and long-term decision making in the Town Hall. In order for this to be implemented two thirds of all councillors will need to support it.

22-23/108 Planning

108.1 Planning applications received to 22nd November 2022

Resolved. that no planning applications were received for comment.

108.2 Planning decisions received

Members noted the planning decisions received by 22nd November 2022

Application No	Address	Description	FPC Comment	Decision
221196	Chapel House, Plummers Road, Fordham, Colchester, CO6 3NR	Listed Building: Repair/replacement of 10 vertical sliding sash	Fordham Parish Council have no objections to the plans including the use of double glazing units	Approve Conditional 15.11.22

22-23/109 Grant and Donation applications

Cllr G Branagh declared a non-pecuniary interest for item no 22-23/109 as he is a member of the Speedwatch team

Cllr H Branagh declared a non-pecuniary interest for item no 22-23/109 as she is a member of the Bows N Belles

Cllr N Durlacher declared a non-pecuniary interest for item no 22-23/109 as he is a member of the Church Parish Council.

Cllr L Pfander declared a non-pecuniary interest for item no 22-23/109 as she is a member of the Village Hall Committee.

109.1 To receive Grant Applications and donation requests from local organisations

- Fordham Village Hall (Grant)

- Bows N Belles (Grant)
- Speedwatch (Grant)
- Community Hub (Donation)

Members discussed the grant applications received from the Village Hall, Bows N Belles and Speedwatch and also the donation request from the Community Hub. It was agreed to award the following grants to local organisations:

- Fordham Village Hall awarded: £500.00 towards a structural survey for a disabled wc
- Bows N Belles awarded: £200.00 towards materials for outfits
- Speedwatch awarded: £41.98 towards rechargeable batteries and charger for the Speedwatch gun

A total of £741.98 grants

It was also agreed to award a donation of £250.00 to the Community Hub towards free soup and a roll or tables and chairs for the Friday coffee morning

A total of £250.00 donations

It was agreed that the remaining balance of the grant and donations fund pot be allocated towards the Coronation for 2023.

Resolved. that the above grant and donation allocations be distributed to local organisations within the village

22-23/110 Budget for 2023-24

Members discussed the proposed budget figures for 2023-24 and agreed to a number of reductions that will reduce costs further. The underspend of £500 for grants and £175 of the Queens Platinum Jubilee for 2022 will be placed in ear-marked reserves for 2023 and allocated to the King's Coronation (£500) and events (£175). The budget was set at £34,238.00 with a potential of further reductions once the grasscutting contract and insurance have been finalised later in 2023. It was agreed that the precept will be raised by 5% and the shortfall will be drawn from the Council deposit account.

Resolved. that members of the council agreed to the budget allocation of £34,238.00 and a 5% increase in precept for 2023-24. Any shortfall will be taken from the Council deposit account.

22-23/111 VAS unit

Members were advised that the agreed site for the VAS unit is no longer suitable and that a 'walk round the village' meeting will take place with Highways in the forthcoming weeks. The Chairman noted that this will further delay the project but Cllr L Barber has offered his support to bridge the gap between Highways and the Parish Council.

22-23/112 Events

112.1 Christmas Lights Switch on

The Chairman advised members that the lights will be switched on by Mr M Cook, former Colchester United player and member of the Speedwatch team. A timetable has been agreed for himself and Cllr M Hamilton-Macy to plant the tree and it will be in place by 28th November. A meeting will take place with all partners involved with the event on Tuesday 29th November at 6.30pm. Members were reminded to advise residents that the event will take place on a Saturday, 3rd December and not Sunday that has been the 'usual' day for the last three years.

22-23/113 Finance

113.1 To receive finance reports for 17th November 2022

Resolved. that the finance reports and bank statements for 17th November 2022 be approved

Expenditure

Members noted back-pay has been confirmed by the National Association for the Clerk and will be paid with the November Salary.

The Clerk advised that she has received confirmation from the Elections team that the Elections for 2023 will cost £80 if the election is uncontested and if contested in the region of £530. The Parish Council has budget in EMR for either outcome.

113.4 Invoices for payment received between 26th October to 15th November 2022

The Clerk advised that an invoice total £14.39 from Zoom was not received due to cancellation of the service and that published sum of **£4,983.45** is incorrect. The revised total invoices for payment is **£4,969.06**

Resolved. that payments below, total **£ 4,969.06** be approved.

Payable	Purpose	Amount (* VAT)
Three mobile	Mobile phone	£7.00
HMRC	Registry search	£3.00
HMRC	Registry search	£6.00
HMRC	Registry search	£3.00
ARU	Printing	£32.60
J&M Payroll Services	November Payroll <i>Including HMRC/Ni/Pension</i>	£1,826.30
C Cousins	H&S Checks	£80.00
J&M Payroll	Fees (Oct)	£30.00*
Conservation Volunteers	Village green maintenance	£624.00*
Apogee Utility Searches	Utility Searches	£349.92*
DA Page Landscapes	Grasscutting & Maintenance	£1404.00*
DA Page Landscapes	Grasscutting & Maintenance	£540.00*
G Branagh	Christmas Event	£63.24

113.5 Invoices for payment received between 16th to 22nd November 2022

Resolved. that there were no further payments to approve at the meeting.

22-23/114 Health & Safety and Village Maintenance

114.1 Weekly H&S checks for the Playground

w/c 17th, 24th, 31st October 2022

w/c 7th November 2022

The Clerk noted that no faults have been reported from the weekly playground checks.

Resolved. that the weekly H&S reports be approved.

22-23/115 To receive Councillors reports

Cllr M Hamilton-Macy provided an update for the wildflowers project, noting that a licence is required from Highways and the Council needs to be the owner of the land or the land next to the bed. The Woodlands Trust have confirmed they wish to plant the area in question by the Orchard and will meet with Cllr Hamilton-Macy in the next few weeks to discuss further. Members were advised that the ownership of the land outside the school is questionable and needs to be established. It was agreed that the site details will be sent to the Clerk for clarification with the authorities.

Cllr Hamilton- Macy advised that the footbridge hasn't been repaired by the School and Mill Hill and that he recommends that the bridge be repaired as a flat level surface as opposed to the current incline as this poses a danger to pedestrians.

Cllr C Alexander proposed two dog bins on the playground be removed with the remaining litter bins converting to multifunctional for both types of waste in the hope that this will reduce the bin removal fees from Colchester Borough Council. It was agreed for the Clerk to ask Colchester Borough Council if this will reduce the fees.

22-23/116 To receive Clerks reports

The Clerk advised the War Memorial Trust have agreed to grant a further 50% of the additional fees that were necessary to replace the head stone of the Memorial. Works have been completed and the decoration will take place once the weather improved.

22-23/117 Items for next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 24th January 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Resolved. that items listed below were agreed for future Parish Council meetings

- Precept
- Code of Conduct – New updates
- Wildflowers
- Christmas event debrief
- Commendations
- Annual Parish Meeting and Council Annual Meeting in May

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.04