



Fordham Parish Council Meeting

M I N U T E S

Meeting held 1st August 2023 at 7.30pm

Those present

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

Also In Attendance: K Cameron (Clerk) and 1 member of the public present. Cllr D Laws joined the meeting at 20.13.

23-24/39 Welcome those present and apologies for absence

Resolved. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Cllr C Alexander and Cllr L Barber (Essex County Council).

23-24/40 To receive any declarations of interests from Councillors

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

23-24/41 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting Tuesday 27th June 2023

Members reviewed the minutes and accepted without comment.

Resolved. that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting Tuesday 27th June 2023 be accepted as a true record and the Chairman signed.

23-24/42 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 advised members that she has noticed that the Highways sign, directing traffic to Fordham at Wash Corner has been removed and she has reported this to Cllr Baber. It was noted that during the recent diversion, there was no diversion sign directing traffic to drive through Ponders Road to get to the village. *The Chairman thanked the resident for reporting this directly to Cllr Barber.*

The resident also reported that the hedge on the corner of Ponders Road at Wash Corner is extremely overgrown and is obscuring visibility when turning into the road. *The Chairman advised this will be reported to Highways.*

The resident also expressed concerns regarding the speed in which the Pylons project is moving forward and that it appears the consultation is just a tick boxing exercise. *The Chairman advised that the Council will be discussing this later in the meeting.*

23-24/43 Received report from County and City Councillors if in attendance

There were no councillors in attendance at the time of this agenda item.

44.1 Planning applications received to 25th July 2023

Resolved. that the following responses for the applications noted below were prepared for submission.

Type of Application	Application No	Address	Description
APPEAL	APP/Z1585/C/23/3324623 relating to ESS/30/22/COL	Fairfields Farm, Fordham Road, Wormingford, Essex, CO6 3AQ	Retrospective planning permission for a composting facility to process 25,000 tpa of green waste to include the provision of weighbridge, 0.4ha of hardstanding for windrows and associated landscaping
Fordham Parish Council are appalled by the total disregard of East Anglian Environmental Services Ltd, who by the very nature of their appeal to their unauthorised activity have frustrated the legitimate process of 'refusal' by this appeal thus allowing them to continue with their activities (until after the appeal) regardless of the impact this will have on the lives and wellbeing of the Fordham village residents and our neighbouring Parishes. We are in total accord with the Essex County Planning Authority, 'Due to the scale, nature and location, the proposed development would constitute inappropriate development in the countryside/rural area remote from the wider Fairfield's Farm business activities; existing development boundaries and allocated sites. Such encroachment of development into the countryside would cause harm to the openness, quality and character of the landscape and the countryside and would be out of keeping with the aim of protecting the countryside. The proposed development does not cater for any waste capacity shortfalls and accordingly there is no overriding need or justification that outweighs the other identified harm'. Our previous and original comments on this retrospective planning application remain extant: <i>'Due to the scale, nature and location, the proposed development would constitute inappropriate development in the countryside/rural area, away from development boundaries and allocated sites and would result in encroachment of development into the countryside and would cause harm to the openness, quality and character of the landscape and the countryside. The development would also generate additional high volume of traffic to the village which is already dealing with an unacceptable high level of movements on roads that were not designed to support HGV's.'</i>			
FULL	231566	15 Church Road, Fordham Colchester CO6 3NA	Single Storey Rear Extension and Single Storey Front Porch
Fordham Parish Council has no objections to the application.			

44.2 Planning applications received between 25th July to 1st August 2023

Resolved. that the following responses for applications received 25th July to 1st August 2023, presented at the meeting, were prepared

Type of Application	Application No	Address	Description
FUL	231785	Brook Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham Colchester CO6 3LW	The erection of a replacement purpose-built commercial building for Use Class E and B8 purposes (in lieu of the change of use of an agricultural building for commercial purposes under application 223101)
Fordham Parish Council has no objections to the application subject to a satisfactory Highways report received.			
Listed building	231716	Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham Essex CO6 3LL	Repairs to orangery and reopening of an internal doorway.
Fordham Parish Council has no objections to the plans providing all the listed building regulations are adhered to.			

44.3 Planning decisions received

Members noted planning decisions (below) received by 1st August 2023

Application No	Address	Description	FPC Comment	Decision
231263	The Old Rectory, Plummers Road,	The installation of internal secondary glazing.	Fordham Parish Council has no objections to the plans providing	Approve Conditional

	Fordham Colchester CO6 3NR		all the listed building regulations are adhered to	05.07.23
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23-24/45 Insurance

Members reviewed the three insurance quotes that were prepared for comparison and agreed to appoint Zurich as insurers for the Parish Council with effect from 1st October. Members agreed to sign up for the 3 year policy at an annual cost of £876.99, a significant saving of £220 on 2022 fees. Members were advised that £1250 was earmarked for 2023-24 and agreed that £350 from that budget be moved to the grass cutting budget.

Resolved. that the Council agreed to appoint Zurich to provide Parish Council Insurance for 2023/24 and to transfer £350 to the grass cutting budget.

23-24/46 Pylons

Cllr M Hamilton-Macy advised members that he has attended several meetings relating to the matter. At a recent protest meeting he received details from Sir Bernard Jenkins and Preti Patel who are working extremely hard to overturn the decisions that have been made and continue to recommend undersea cabling. The momentum is continuing locally and he is working closely with Mr Burns, Mrs Pearson and representatives from Horkesley to construct a further statement disputing the proposals which will be submitted to Fordham Parish Council for support.

Cllr D Laws joined the meeting at 20.13

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Laws who reiterated that it is important that the Parishes and Councils work together. Colchester City Council have approved the motion reaffirming Colchester's corporate position to implement offshore.

Cllr Hamilton-Macy noted that there are several archaeological and historical sites in the area that will be affected by the installation of pylons and highlighted the extensive damage this will cause across the Dedham Vale and surrounding areas. Members were encouraged to attend the pylons walk on Sunday 6th August for further details. Fordham Parish Council remain united against the installations and will continue to object at every opportunity.

The resident left the meeting at 20.17

23-24/47 Traffic Calming

The Chairman provided an update on the potential Fordham School Crossing noting that Cllr Scott supports the implementation of a pedestrian crossing, subject to the funding. Detailed design is yet to be confirmed and funding will be sought from Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) due to the dangers involved in this area, rather than trying to get funding from LHP or other sources. Cllr Barber will liaise with parties on behalf of Fordham to agree the finer details.

The Chairman reported data from recent Speedwatch activities (below) and advised that repairs to potholes at Mill Road, Moat Road, Plummers Road, Fordham Road and Wormingford Road will be carried out between 28 September until mid-October.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Highest Speed</u>
5 July 2023	Moat Road	6	40mph
21 July 2023	Plummers Road	13	46mph

Members were advised that the VAS poles have been installed at Moat Road and Church Road and that Sudbury Town Council have confirmed the cost to move the VAS unit to Fordham will be £59.35 + VAT each time. It has been agreed that the VAS will be moved to Fordham at the end of September and that it will remain in Fordham for the remainder of the year. Members agreed that the unit will be moved within the village after a couple of months so

both sites will be used. Moving forward a schedule has been created for a two month or three month rotation, pending on Aldham's availability. Members were advised that the warranty will end shortly, date to be confirmed, and if required, the Clerk may sign up for a maintenance silver package on behalf of the Council. The total cost will be £123 plus VAT to be shared with Wormingford and Aldham.

Resolved. that if required, the Council agreed to purchase a maintenance silver package.

23-24/48 Events

Jingle & Mingle

Cllr H Branagh advised members that plans are well under way. Members noted that the band, Santa and PA system have been confirmed and the new Parish Council gazebo will be provided for cover. Cllr Branagh is still looking for a lead singer and Cllr Oxley agreed to ask her granddaughter if she will be willing to accompany the band. The Village hall has been booked and Speedwatch team have agreed to facilitate the crossing from village green to the village hall. The Community hub staff will serve refreshments after the event. Cllr Chapman is sourcing the Christmas Tree and the Clerk will prepare a risk assessment for the event nearer the time once finer details have been agreed. There will be a working party meeting at the end of August and further plans will be detailed at the next meeting. Advertising will commence in September.

23-24/49 Finance

49.1 To receive finance reports for 17th July 2023

Resolved. that the finance reports and bank statements for 17th July 2023 were approved.

49.2 Income received

Members were advised that Fordham Village Hall donated £50 towards the bouncy castle hire at the Coronation event. Councillors expressed their thanks for the village hall for their support.

49.3 Invoices for payment received between 28th June to 25th July 2023

Resolved. that the payments listed in below (appendix A) total **£3,106.44** be approved

Payable	Purpose	Amount (* VAT)
J&M Payroll	Fees (Jul)	£36.00*
Three mobile	Mobile phone	£7.32
Amazon	Office Supplies	£3.98*
J&M Payroll Services	July Payroll <i>Including HMRC/Ni/Pension</i>	£1,311.59
C Cousins	Playground checks (July)	£80.00
JPB Landscapes	Grass cutting (June)	£504.95*
RCCE	Membership	£72.60*
Ian Allston Trees	Village Green Trees	£900.00*
Colne Endeavour Band	Donation	£130.00
IceConnect	Antivirus software	£60.00*

49.5 Invoices for payment received between 26th July to 1st August 2023

Resolved. that the payments listed in appendix B (below) total **£1,862.31**

Payable	Purpose	Amount (* VAT)
Screwfix	Maintenance materials (Ash tree)	34.36*

Swarco	VAS posts	£978.00*
Toms Toolbox	Bench maintenance	£265.00
JPB Landscapes	Grass cutting (July)	£504.95*
Fordham Village Hall	Hall hire	£80.00

Members were advised that with the addition of the invoices presented at the meeting, the total for invoices payable is: **£4,968.75**

Resolved: That a total **£4,968.75** of payments be approved.

23-24/50 Health & Safety and Village Maintenance

50.1 Weekly H&S checks for the Playground

w/c 22nd and 29th May 2023

w/c 5th and 12th June 2023

Cllr Hamilton-Macy requested quotes be sought to adjust the gates so that they close softly.

Resolved. that with the above request to adjust the gates, no further faults have been reported from the weekly playground checks.

Members were also advised that the Conservation volunteers will be tending to the village green pond, sundial and area around the sign at the end of the week. They will also endeavour to restore the circular bench around the ash tree.

50.2 War Memorial

The Clerk advised members that the architect has provided advice that the Council ask permission from the owners for a "Dry Area" – a slightly sunken area subject to some excavation to determine if there is a DPC covered by soil below the pavers and a gap around with no pavers. The Clerk is seeking a quote from contractors.

Members agreed that once initial quotes have been received there will be several stages to the renovation and agreed that further consideration of future maintenance and access will need to be formalised.

Resolved. that the Clerk continue to progress with the current course of action.

23-24/51 To receive Councillors and Clerk reports

Cllr M Hamilton-Macy reported that the 30mph sign opposite the 3 Horseshoes is still in the ditch and has been since 2019. It has been reported on several occasions. He also noted that the scheduled repairs to the footbridge behind the school have still not been completed and the bridge is in a dangerous condition. *The Clerk will follow up with Highways.*

Cllr Hamilton-Macy noted that phase three of the archaeological dig is continuing with interesting findings from the iron age. A pottery report from phases 1 and 2 have revealed unusual discoveries from South Africa and Belgium.

Cllr L Pfander advised members there is a Charity afternoon team on Sunday 6th August in the village hall to raise funds for breast cancer. All welcome. She also notified members that the Fordham Car Show will take place on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th August. The Chairman confirmed that Cllr Chapman will represent the Council on the Saturday and Cllr H Branagh and himself will be Council representatives on Sunday.

The **Clerk** noted that Atlas Signs have designed, created and donated a large presentation cheque for when the Council make donations to organisations after fundraising. *The Council expressed their thanks to Atlas Signs for the donation.*

The **Clerk** also noted that Fordham Parish Council commissioned Mr John Kay to design an updated Fordham logo some time ago and this will now be used on all documentation going forward. *The Council expressed their thanks to Mr Kay for his creative efforts.*

23-24/52 Items for next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 12th September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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

- War Memorial next steps
- Jingle and Mingle

There being no further business the meeting closed at: 20.52