

Fordham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held at the Village Hall Fordham, Colchester, Essex

7pm on Tuesday 28th May 2019

1. To Welcome those present

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and residents to the meeting

Present: Cllr N Head-Jenner (NHJ) - Chairman
Cllrs S Pallent (SP), C Alexander (CA), G Branagh (GB), N Durlacher (ND) and
Richard Gregory (RG)

Also in attendance: Cllr N Chapman – Colchester Borough Council
Mrs K Cameron (KC) – Clerk
And 11 members of the public

Apologies: None

2. To receive apologies for absence

There were no apologies received

Resolved. Apologies received and accepted

3 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held April 2018

The minutes were unavailable and will be presented at the next Parish Council meeting .

Resolved. That the minutes will be presented at the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 25th June.

4 To receive the Chairman's Report for 2018/19

Members and residents received the Chairman's report which is attached in Appendix A.

Resolved. That members and residents received the Chairman's report for 2018/19

5 To receive questions from the floor

Any registered elector may ask questions of the Council, which will usually be answered by the Chairman, the Clerk to the Council, of a designated Councillor. It is sometimes helpful to let the clerk have prior notice of any matters you may wish to raise.

Residents discussed Lucas Avenue at great length and agreed that they would like the Parish Council to prioritise negotiations to re-surface the road as a matter of urgency.

Resolved. That the Parish Council prioritise the resurfacing of the road.

A resident asked if there has been any contact from Fairfield's with a date for the potato harvest weekend

Resolved. That the Parish Council will contact Fairfield's and ask if they can confirm a date

A member of the Fordham Vehicle Show Committee noted that the Annual Vehicle event will take place on Saturday 11th August from 1-4.30pm. Entry is £4 per adult and children are free.

There being no further questions, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm

Appendix A

Chairman's Report 2018/19

On a very positive note I would like to start by thanking our Clerk Kathryn Cameron for all her support over the past year. As most of you know she started with us at the beginning of last year and has transformed the way we all go about our duties as Parish Councillors. Her enthusiasm and determination to make this Parish one of

the best, plus her hard work in learning the very complex role of a Clerk can only be commended. She is so good that Maldon Town Council now employ her as their Deputy Clerk – Well done Kathryn and thank you.

One of the major projects started last year is the building of more affordable housing in Rams Farm Road. The Rural Community Council of Essex and Hastoe housing association are finalising the plans etc to be submitted to us and the Parish for approval. They will be handling all the presentation etc, at a date yet to be agreed.

We now have a new maintenance team looking after the village which hopefully will carry on the good work that Hill Farm Landscapes did for us. They will be carrying on the same contract that we gave Hill Farm so you should not see any difference in the level grass cutting etc.

Speeding traffic through the village is still a problem but with the help of our team of Speedwatch volunteers there is a notable slowing of traffic through the village. More people are still required to volunteer so if you want to do something to help and can spare an hour or so during the month please let me know?

The village shop closed in January and the Parish Council were asked to see if we can help in organising a communal shop of some kind. We had a lovely lady from the community shop in Langham, who gave us a lot of good advice about starting a shop up and how to raise money etc.

I have been discussing this with various people in the village about suitable sights and we have identified one particular place that would be ideal. A lot of you have said that you would be happy to help get this up and running so I will be calling a meeting very shortly for all of us to discuss the community shop and gather how all enthusiastic we are in going forward with this project.

The Parish Council Notice board is going to be moved shortly onto the grass by the war memorial. As a temporary display area we will be using the bus shelter until access can be gained to move the this. The Children's play area has undergone some major maintenance this year. It is great to see that it is used so much.

I spent quiet a bit of time walking round the village with Joe Hazzleton and Anne Brown from Essex County Council last year pointing out the defects etc . Along with Cllr Richard Gregory who spent a long time photographing and re-submitting these faults on the County Council web site we seem to be bearing fruit. The Curb and footpath in Sunnyside Road have all been repaired. How long this will last I don't know as we requested this to be taken away rather than rebuilt as the refuse lorry will only break it again! The road surface in Lucas Avenue and on the whole estate is really bad. We are pushing for this to be resurfaced at every opportunity we get. When Anne Brown attends one of our meetings we will bring this up with her. Several Grants were handed out again last year, Fordham in Bloom, The church and help towards the insulation of the defibrillator on the front of the village hall. Any further projects that need some funding please can you get in touch and ask us for a grant application.

The Christmas Lights were a real success last year and we are going to build on this with something even better. Sadly the advice we were given on the longevity of the batteries for these lights was not correct so this will be sorted out.

We do have several places left on the Council which need to be filled. We had an election in May which was uncontested as there were not enough candidates to fill the positions. If you would love to join us please let Kathryn know?

Before I finish I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their time and effort they all put into being a councillor. They give up their time on a voluntary basis and have to make difficult decisions on things that affect all of us in the village and are not always thanked for this. I would also like to thank all of you that come and attend our meetings. This year we have had more people coming to listen and speak to us than at any other time so thank you all for this.

Nigel Head- Jenner

DRAFT