

7th April 2020

Minutes of the meeting of Fingringhoe Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th April 2020 by conference call.

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

In the Chair	Councillor Gerald Ketley
Councillors	Mike Clarke Emma Dixon Jonathan Martin Sharron Law
Clerk	Rosemary Harvey

There were two members of the public present, together with Cllr Bentley.

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Chamberlain, Cllr Davidson and the zone warden.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

3. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

The meeting was temporarily adjourned to allow members of the public present to raise any points relevant to matters on the agenda. There were no matters any member of the public wished to raise.

4. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest raised.

5. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS**

Cllr Bentley said that the priority at ECC is to keep the frontline services running. Some of the big road schemes have stopped but repair and maintenance are continuing. The prime priority of highways is to keep the main routes open. Road faults should still be reported to himself and Cllr Law.

Cllr Bentley gave an update on the Coronavirus epidemic and the contingency plans in place by Essex County Council. The Essex Coronavirus Action volunteers contact details are on the website and they will assist the vulnerable.

The CBC locality budget has been brought forward and groups can apply for small grants to assist during this difficult period. Cllr Bentley then left the meeting.

6. **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 3RD MARCH 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2020 had been circulated and were approved and will be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Repairs to fence at Recreation Ground

The fencing contractor, Maydays, has stopped work at present. Cllr Chamberlain is currently keeping a watch over the playing field. It was noted that not many people are using the ground at present and the ground will remain open.

b) Issues with English Rural Housing

Cllr Dixon confirmed she has spoken with Stephen Bland regarding the rubbish in the rear garden of flat 4. The Clerk has contacted our MP Bernard Jenkin regarding the issues with letting the vacant flat to a local resident, but no reply has been received at present.

c) Anti-social behaviour

Some minor incidents of anti-social behaviour were discussed.

8. PLANNING

200331 – proposed telecommunications mast at Sewage Works, Ballast Quay Road.

The application has been refused by Colchester Borough Council planning committee.

200702 – Fingringhoe Wick Nature Reserve – demolition and rebuild of Geedon bird hide.

It was noted that the new hide will be a replacement with improved structure and facilities for visitors. There were no objections to the proposals.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Kendall Plus grounds maintenance.

It was noted that our grounds maintenance contractor, Kendalls, have suspended services during the lockdown. It was discussed how best to maintain the grass at the Recreation Ground during the lockdown and it was agreed the Cllr Kentley will move some sheep onto the ground overnight.

Timetable for annual accounts.

The Clerk reported that the usual timetable for production and approval of the annual accounts has been extended for a month pending clarity on the implications for holding council meetings and approving the accounts.

10. ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

Outstanding highways issues

There were no updates to report to the list. There was no further update on the footpath at the mill. The ROW officer Jason Bothello was going to check the access to the path. The Chairman has been contacted advising that the path is blocked off but as far as this council is concerned the path is clear.

11. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

a) Accounts for payment:

The following accounts were passed for payment and approved.

	£
Mrs R A Harvey (printer ink cartridges)	7.99
Essex Association of Local Councils (annual membership renewal)	245.31
Zurich Municipal (annual insurance premium renewal)	1,037.78
Mrs R A Harvey (April salary)	210.00
HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE)	52.50

Total £ 1,553.58

The above payments were approved for payment by bank transfer.

12. TO RECEIVE REPORTS

Footpaths - The John Brunning Way was discussed earlier in the meeting. There were more people than usual walking the paths around the village.

In response to a question, Cllr Dixon confirmed that the path worn around the back of 40 acre field is not a footpath and she will bring it to the attention of the land agent this track is being used.

Village Pond –

Mr Canham reported that he had measured the pond flow on 6th April and the comparison between the present flow and the average of previously measured years 2013-2015 show that it is still 20% less. This is an improvement from March as shown in the chart below.

Mr Canham will continue to monitor monthly and report to the Parish Council.

Flow rate at S1 in litres per second observed 2020	January	February	March	April
	0.30	0.40	0.51	0.59
Mean 2013-2015	<u>0.60</u>	<u>0.64</u>	<u>0.87</u>	<u>0.74</u>
Trend	-0.5	-0.38	-0.41	-0.20
% Down	50%	38%	41%	20%

Recreation Ground – This was discussed earlier in the meeting and there was nothing further to report.

Transport Officer – Cllr Dixon had attended a transport representatives meeting in March when it was reported that if six passengers use a service on a journey then it is classified as a viable service and government grants are available to keep them going. So despite large buses being seen in the village with no one on them, they may be viable services if people at other stops are using the service.

Fingringhoe School – Cllr Ketley has spoken to the school and a meeting will be arranged with them at a late date.

EWT – Mr Canham reported that EWT has been closed since the lockdown. Mr Canham will ask the Trust to put up more notices advising that the site is closed as visitors have been coming to the village to visit the site.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th May 2020 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm