

7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Minutes of the meeting of Fingringhoe Parish Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 by video conference due to restrictions imposed due to the Coronavirus pandemic.**

**PRESENT AT THE MEETING**

In the Chair	Councillor Gerald Ketley
Councillors	Mike Clarke Emma Dixon (present at start of meeting) Ian Chamberlain Sharron Law Jonathan Martin
Clerk	Rosemary Harvey

There were two members of the public present.

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bentley, 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.

5. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS**

Cllr Bentley will send a report after the meeting which the Clerk will circulate.

6. **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2020 had been circulated and were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

7. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

a) **Google map correction of Furneaux Lane**

The Clerk confirmed that Google have been advised of the error on the map and requested to change Furneaux Lane to Fingringhoe Road. A response is awaited.

b) **Verge cutting in South Green Road**

No response has been received from Cllr Bentley as to who cut the verges in South Green Road. The recommendation remains for verges to be cut in late summer.

- c) Repairs to bench on Green  
This is in hand with Adrian Watson who may take the bench home to replace the rotten wood with better quality timber.
- d) New bin at Recreation Ground  
Adrian Watson will supply a quote to produce a new bin.

The problem with the large number of Rooks currently in the village was discussed and Mr Canham will investigate the legislation and whether an individual licence can be obtained from Natural England to cull the birds.

- e) Road closures by County Broadband  
No contact has been received from County Broadband to attend the meeting and Cllr Bentley will be reminded.
- f) Anti-social behaviour  
Problems with vehicles being driven at speed and with abusive drivers were reported in both Ferry and Ballast Quay Roads. There were also reports of eggs having been deliberately smashed in the road.

## 8. PLANNING

### Telecommunications Tower.

No further applications or appeals have been received from the applicant.

**192842 - Church Green Trust** - Revised drawings and description for application to convert existing buildings to provide community area, post office and studio. The councillors continued to support the application and there were no objections to the proposals. It was noted that the new telephone line and broadband for the post office is being installed in August.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

### Surgery to veteran oak

Following notification from staff at Fingringhoe School that there is some dead wood in the veteran oak which has fallen onto the Green, a tree surgeon was asked to check the tree. A quotation has been received from Gordon Dewdney to remove large diameter deadwood from the crown and also to apply to the local planning authority for permission to carry out the work on a listed tree. At the same time Mr Dewdney was asked to remove some lower branches from the adjacent oak to raise the crown of the tree by 3m. The quotation for £665 plus vat making a total of £798 was accepted and Mr Dewdney will be asked to proceed with the work.

### Fence collapse at Recreation Ground

It had previously been agreed that Maydays would carry out work to replace posts in the Recreation Ground fence. Due to Covid-19 the work had not proceeded and it was reported that the fence is now collapsed along the back of the park. Cllr Chamberlain will contact Maydays again and ask them to visit the site with a view to updating their quotation.

## 10. ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

### Outstanding highways issues

Cllr Dixon reported that the Fingringhoe village sign at the top of Haye Lane is due to be put up this week.

It was reported that some pathways in the common are getting overgrown but it was not believed these are official footpaths.

No further comments have been received regarding the footpath to Fingringhoe Mill or the John Brunning Way to Rowhedge but it is believed the paths are being well used.

Cllr Law said that she had not received a report from Cllr Bentley. There were comments that Weir Lane has been closed every day and that the detour is a long way round.

## 11. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

### Accounts for payment:

The following accounts were passed for payment and approved.

	£
Rural Community Council of Essex (annual membership subscription)	72.60
Mrs R Harvey (printer ink monthly charge)	7.99
Fingringhoe Village Hall (upkeep of hall and use of cupboard)	250.00
St Andrews Church, Fingringhoe (upkeep of churchyard)	250.00
Mrs R A Harvey (July salary)	210.00
HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE)	52.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 918.09</b>

The above payments were approved for payment by bank transfer with cheques to RCCE, Village Hall and St. Andrews Church.

### Approval of 2020 Annual Accounting Statements

#### Certificate of exemption from audit

The Clerk confirmed that the Council's accounts for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 qualified for exemption from audit and the Certificate of Exemption was signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

#### a) Approval of Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year 2019/2020 had been circulated to councillors. The Annual Governance statement section 1 was considered and approved and signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

#### b) Approval of Section 2 of the Annual Accounting Statements

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year 2019/2020 had been circulated to councillors. The Accounting Statements Section 2 was considered and approved and signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

## 12. TO RECEIVE REPORTS

Footpaths - There was no problems councillors were aware of.

Village Pond – Mr Canham had circulated a report on the pond which he reviewed at the start of the meeting. There is a further reduction from the last month at 0.38 litres per second versus 0.48 at the beginning of June. The flow remains below the average for the previous July measurements at 21% down, which remains a significant reduction. However, by this time last year, flow from the main spring, S1, had almost stopped and did cease in the middle of the month.

Mr Canham expected the next measurement to reflect a seasonal downward trend. The very dry May will still be having an influence.

As this time Mr Canham did not feel there is major cause for concern. He will continue to monitor and submit a further report in August.

Flow rate at S1 in litres per second observed 2020	January	February	March	April	May	May-June	July
	0.30	0.40	0.51	0.59	0.57	0.48	0.38
Mean 2013-2015	0.60	0.64	0.87	0.74	0.66	0.59	0.48
Trend % down	50%	38%	41%	20%	13%	19%	21%

Cllr Chamberlain had cleared some weed from the pond which is piled on the boardwalk and will be moved to the bank by the road.

Recreation Ground – It was noted that the bin needs emptying more frequently.

Transport Officer – There was nothing to report.

Fingringhoe School – the deputy head is running the school jointly at present. There are fewer parents visiting the school so less traffic at present.

#### EWT

Mr Canham has heard no news from EWT regarding reopening to the public and consequently the notices reported at the last meeting remain in place.

#### 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st September 2020 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm