

2nd February 2021

Minutes of the meeting of Fingringhoe Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 by video conference call due to restrictions imposed due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

In the Chair Councillor Gerald Ketley

Councillors Mike Clarke
Emma Dixon
Jonathan Martin
Sharron Law
Ian Chamberlain

Clerk Rosemary Harvey

There were five members of the public present, together with Cllr Bentley and Cllr Davidson.

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the zone warden.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was reported that very sadly Cllr. Terry Sutton has passed away and his support over the years as a borough councillor, on planning issues and with community speedwatch has been much appreciated. The Council's thoughts and best wishes go to his family.

A letter has been received from Sarah Thistlethwaite thanking the Council for their kind letter of support following Peter's death.

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.

Mr Bruton wished to raise the hedge overgrowing bridleway 7 and the sticks at the entrance.

4. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

5. **DISCUSSION WITH GAVIN ASHKETTLE OF COUNTY BROADBAND**

The onsite meeting between Gavin Ashkettle and Councillors had been cancelled due to Covid pandemic restrictions.

Mr Ashkettle apologised to Councillors for the lack of notification to parish councillors of the schedule of works. Councillors also complained about the closure of roads when no works were being carried out which caused frustration and again Mr Ashkettle apologised.

Councillors questioned the positioning of poles outside the church in a conservation zone. Mr Ashkettle said that the pole opposite the church is to come out, but that a trench will need to be dug across the road. Further along Church Road where it is narrow and poles are

further restricting the width of the road, Mr Ashkettle said that a trench is to be dug along land owned by Mr and Mrs Cox to accommodate the cable.

Finally, some residents have had problems with their BT internet service during the County Broadband works. Any such issues were it was felt co-incidental. There had been no reports of strikes on the BT service during the works.

If there are any ongoing problems Mr Ashkettle welcomed people to get in touch with him.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS

Cllr Bentley updated the meeting on the steps being taken by Essex County Council to deal with the Covid pandemic. The Colchester United Football ground had started use today as a vaccination centre.

Flooding had been an issue in some areas due to the high rainfall on saturated ground. Arrangements are being made for drains to be rodded where necessary and Victorian clay pipes to be replaced where they have cracked. The enforcement team are also ramping up contact with owners to clear ditches.

Cllr Bentley was asked why filled potholes are not sealed with hot tar around the edge and he said he would give an explanation. A subsidence in the surface of School Lane was reported which will be looked into.

Cllr Davidson has attended a foodbank in his capacity as mayor.

Borough Council planning committee meetings will take place only online until at least June, with no site visits even for controversial applications.

7. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 5TH JANUARY 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2021 had been circulated and were approved and will be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Barnfields problems with parking and rubbish

The reply received from Mr Steven Bland had been circulated and Councillors were not satisfied with the response. The roadway has continued to deteriorate and cars are being parked on the grass rather than in the correct spaces. The Clerk was asked to write again and invite him again to join a zoom meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

b) Holly bush on the corner of the Green.

Cllr Chamberlain had not had an opportunity to inspect the bush. Cllr Clarke thought that the front of the bush could be cut back to look tidier and railings put up. Gordon Dewdney will be asked if he can dig out the roots near the school if needed.

The action to be taken regarding the holly bush will be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: All

c) Update on incidents of threatening and anti-social behaviour

No new incidents were reported.

9. PLANNING

210004– Rennies Cottage, Chapel Road –Application for a lawful development certificate for existing and continued use of the Wheelwright building as a workshop. Mr Bruton said that the building was still standing with three bays and tools. A fairly comprehensive catalogue

with detail of past use had been lodged with the planning authority to establish the past use of the site. There were no objections to the proposals.

In due course the owners said they intend to submit an application for a single residential unit on the site.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Jenny Dixon, regarding benches – Jenny Dixon has very kindly offered to clean up the bench on Pigs Foot Green. This offer was gratefully accepted by Councillors. The second request was to instal a bench on the footpath at Fan Hill in memory of her father, Tony Dixon, who has sadly passed away. It is understood the land for this path was given to highways and the Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Bentley to ask permission to instal a bench.

ACTION: Clerk

11. ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

It was noted that the Give Way sign at the top of Fingringhoe Road and the finger post at the top of Haye Lane are still outstanding. These are still ongoing on Cllr Bentley's list.

It was reported that drivers are ignoring the 'Dead End' warning sign and still driving down Church Road and having to perform U turns to return back.

There were reports of a vehicle being driven at speed along Chapel Road, South Green Road and then along the bridlepath around Mrs Lennon's field. Residents will try to take the number to report it to the police. It was suggested that the Worrall's be asked to lay concrete blocks across the track to prevent vehicle access.

Cllr Davidson advised that speed watch training has been stopped due to the Covid pandemic.

12. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

a) Accounts for payment:

The following accounts were passed for payment and approved.

	£
Mrs R A Harvey (printer ink cartridges)	9.99
Essex Wildlife Trust (annual membership renewal)	40.00
Mrs R A Harvey (February salary)	210.00
HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE)	52.50
Total	£ 312.49

The above payments were approved for payment by bank transfer.

b) Quotes for grass cutting

The Clerk had obtained three quotes for grass cutting for the coming year. The current contractor will charge £232.80 plus vat to cut all areas. This does not include removal of the clippings which will be left as a mulch.

A second quote from Dines Agri Services is for £190 (no vat chargeable) per cut if clippings are mulched and £250 per cut if clippings are removed.

The third quote from G G Beecroft is for £270 per cut if clippings are mulched and £370 per cut if clippings are removed.

After discussion, the Clerk was asked to contact the Clerk at Abberton & Langenhoe for details of their new contractor Mr Knight. ACTION: Clerk

13. TO RECEIVE REPORTS

Footpaths - The paths throughout the village are very muddy. There is a post at the top of Fan Hill path which has fallen over and needs putting up.

Village Pond – Nothing to report.

Recreation Ground – There was nothing to report. It was noted that the lease for the ground needs renewing for another 10 years. The Clerk will make arrangements.

ACTION: Clerk

Transport Officer – There was nothing to report.

Fingringhoe School – There was nothing to report.

EWT – Mr Canham said that there was no further news since the last meeting and the situation remains the same. Mr Canham will provide an update if there is any change.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm