

2nd June 2020

Minutes of the meeting of Fingringhoe Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd June 2020 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 two members of the public present, together with Cllr Bentley.

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from 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 reported that County Council services were beginning to get back to some normality. As many recycling sites as possible have been reopened. The local Shrub End site is located on a roundabout and traffic congestion blocking the road had caused it to be closed. A booking system to use the facilities has not always worked. Green waste is now being collected by the Council.

On 16th July, the libraries will start a phased reopening. Primary schools have started to open.

Cllr Bentley said he is launching a £9.6m scheme to implement enhanced cycle and footways, to the town centre and North Station initially but eventually extending to the park and ride.

It was noted that County Broadband have started work in the village. Cllr Bentley said there have been issues with them not communicating with residents and cutting BT cables. Cllr Bentley said he will instruct a representative of County Broadband to attend the next meeting explain what works they are doing.

6. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 5TH MAY 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 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) Grass cutting on Church Green and Pigs Foot Green

It was noted that the grass was in urgent need of cutting. The grass cutting contractors had previously said that they are closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but the Clerk will check with them whether they are now able to resume grounds maintenance work.

ACTION: Clerk

b) Anti-social behaviour

The Chairman explained to Cllr Bentley the problems at Furneaux Lane where a gate had been destroyed onto Mr John Dix's land.

8. PLANNING

201017– Fenders, Ferry Road – Removal/variation of a planning condition.

There were no objections to the proposals.

192686 – Picketts Farm, Church Road – Appeal against refusal of planning permission. This item was discussed at the end of the meeting after the Chairman had left the meeting. There was no objection to the proposals in the original application which had been supported by the Parish Council. The councillors continued to support the application.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Request for repairs to bench by road near school.

A resident has reported that the bench closest to the school needs repair as anyone sitting on it is likely to suffer from splinters. The Chairman will ask Mr Adrian Watson to look at the bench and quote for the work required.

Request for new bin by play area.

A resident has suggested that a new bin with a lid is required at the play area as birds keep scattering the rubbish and it is liable to overflow. The Clerk will obtain quotes for a replacement.

Notices of road closure for fibre optic cable installation.

Several notices of road closures have been received, to enable County Broadband to install fibre optic cable. Cllr Bentley said earlier in the meeting that he will ask representatives to attend a council meeting to explain the work.

10. ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

Mr Canham said that he had reported asbestos tipped in South Green Road. A specialist contractor is needed to remove the waste. The verge cutters have mown over the dumped asbestos covering it with grass. Mr Canham also questioned why the verge was being cut now when he understood that one cut in late summer was the current best advice. Cllr Bentley agreed to make enquiries who carried out the cut.

The Chairman reported that the police informed him of an escaped cow in Furneaux Lane. Ongoing to investigate, the Chairman found that the cow was in fact in

Fingringhoe Road which is incorrectly showing on Google maps as Furneaux Lane. The Clerk was asked to investigate how to correct Google maps.

ACTION: Clerk

Turning to the missing village entrance sign at the junction of Haye Lane and Abberton Road, it was reported that Mr Neil Gordon still has the template for the sign and can arrange for a replacement to be made for approximately £150. It was agreed that Neil Gordon should be given the go ahead to supply a replacement sign.

The track at the top of 40 Acre field is still be used by walkers and Cllr Dixon said that signs are going to be put up advising that there is no right of way.

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
Cllr Clarke refund of phone call charge	10.00
Mr S Harvey (fee for use of name on website)	10.00
Mr W Sorrell (Production of annual accounts)	80.00
Mrs R A Harvey (June salary)	210.00
HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE)	52.50
Total	£ 360.49

The above payments were approved for payment by bank transfer and a cheque to Mr Sorrell.

b) Annual accounts

The Clerk advised that the accounts are currently with the internal auditor and it is intended to present them at the July meeting for approval.

12. TO RECEIVE REPORTS

Footpaths - The footpaths were in order.

Village Pond – Cllr Chamberlain reported that he had spent a day clearing weed.

Mr Canham reported that there is a further reduction from last month at 0.48 litres per second versus 0.57 litres per second at the beginning of May. The flow remains below the average for previous June measurements at 8% down, which is not a large difference, although there are timing differences due to the meeting calendar. The next measurement is expected to reflect a seasonal downward trend, which may be exacerbated by a very dry May. However, Anglian Water has said that the underground aquifers remain well charged due to the winter rains.

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

Mr Canham will continue to monitor the flow rates.

Recreation Ground – The ground has been seen being used for family picnics on several occasions.

Transport Officer – There was nothing to report.

Fingringhoe School – There is still no representative to report. The road was reported to be blocked with traffic by parents collecting pupils.

EWT – Mr Canham reported that his bold notices concerning the closure of the reserve were not acceptable to EWT as they did not meet the “corporate design”. After further attempts, EWT produced their own design that is not visible to motorists. They have been placed around the village but Mr Canham doubts they will be effective.

EWT is aware of the anti-social behaviour outside the main gate but is unsure what it can do about it. The last contact from Michael Rodberg was an email in which he asked that residents be asked to report any noted anti-social behaviour problems to the police.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

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The meeting closed at 8.00 pm