

FRATING PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2021- March 2022

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Parish Council ended the year with four councillors which means we have two vacancies for councillors.

As Chairman I wish to thank all the Councillors and our Clerk for their contributions during the past year. All but one meeting have taken place face to face at the memorial hall.

County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi (Tendring Rural West Division) attends our meetings when possible reporting on policy changes and initiatives created at county level. When unable to attend Carlo has submitted written reports. Carlo is also a Ward Councillor on the District Council and is well versed in rural affairs.

District Councillor Lynda McWilliams has been actively supportive at our meetings. We have received progress reports on the emerging TDC Local Plan and we are pleased to report that this has now been accepted and this gives greater control to TDC in respect of all development within Tendring.

As in previous years planning tends to form a significant part of the work of the council as it can impact greatly on the well being of the parish. Although generally consulted we are not the decision makers but we are grateful for the input by residents in our consultation with County and District planners.

During 2021/22 we have been dealing with the planning applications for the expansion of the Pallet Plus site and for a second reservoir at Lufkins Farm in Great Bentley Road.

We have maintained our representation on a number of District and County Associations in order to liaise on a regular basis with other Town and Parish Councils

This year has also seen the loss of two residents one being Mike Brown who served the village for many years on the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and was our local Historian.

We also saw the passing of Bill O'Brien who many residents will of known was still very active for someone who was 102.

Terry Cuthbert, Chairman

Planning

As with other Tendring Town/Parish Councils we are very pleased that the TDC Local Plan has now been accepted as this will give greater power to the District Council with regard to all planning issues within Tendring.

The proposed major development is still to take place in the west of the district at a site adjacent to Colchester close to Essex University known as "Colchester Garden Community". Within this development there will be a new road linking the A133 and the A120 as well as a rapid transport system to Colchester Centre.

Permission was granted by Essex CC in 2008 for the construction of a reservoir off Great Bentley Road (Lufkins Lane). Construction of the reservoir commenced in early 2019 and the aggregate extracted are being taken to Alresford Pit for processing. The site should have been active for a maximum of three years, this has now been extended for a further two years. Permission is now being sort for a second reservoir adjacent to the exiting site. The proposal is larger than the first and extraction of minerals to take seven years. Also processing would take place on site and not at Alresford. This would mean that we would see approximately another forty five lorry movement each day at the Frating Cross Roads. The Parish Council has objected to this application. We also continue to object to the expansion of Pallet Plus site mainly on the grounds of working hours, lorry movements, light pollution and possible flooding.

Local Issues of Concern

The Parish Council has continued to ensure that the Public Rights of Way in Frating are kept open for public use. The parish works with ECC P3 Scheme which supplies us with equipment and signage as and when required.

The Parish Council wishes to acknowledge that although not always easy due to cropping etc. the work that most local landowners do to keep the footpaths clear for public use. We are also grateful to the landowner at Morehams Hall as with permission they allow the public to use the track on their land that runs from Clacton Road/Bromley Road and Harwich Road.

We continue to report defective roads , we are in the process of carrying out a survey and mapping all the damaged and missing road signs on the A133 and B1029 which will be submitted to Essex County Council and hopefully these will be replaced or repaired.

Fly tipping still continues to take place ,we report these incidents to TDC who arrange clearance as soon as possible.

The Parish Council is continuing discussion with the Local Highways Panel to try to improve the phasing of the traffic lights at the cross roads. Our requested for the speed limit to be reduced on the A133 from 40mph to 30mph was rejected by ECC following a survey. The police have also been requested to do speed checks on the A133 and B1029.

In addition to this we are in the process of purchasing a VAS sign which shows the vehicles speed using the A133,the actual location of the sign is still under discussion. We are also looking at setting up a Speed Watch scheme

Grass Cutting, Tree Maintenance and Lighting

The parish council has a contractor who cuts small areas of grass to maintain the good appearance of the parish. We also employ the services of a tree surgeon who surveys and prunes the birch trees in Bromley Road. We are grateful for the additional efforts by residents who cut and keep tidy areas in the frontage of their properties and the flowers that appear twice a year in the front of the Memorial Hall and at the Frating village sign.. The parish lights in Bromley Road, Great Bentley Road, Haggars Lane and Frating Park bus stop remain subject to contract to inspect, maintain and replace. These are not included in the ECC policy for street lighting.

Dog Fouling

Following reports from residents the Council continues to monitor the situation regarding dogs that are allowed to foul public footpaths, tracks and open spaces which their owners do not clean up after them. We request that all dog owners take responsibility for their dogs and bag and bin their waste. Also it has been reported that some owners do not keep their dogs under control while using the local public rights of way. Please advise the Dog Warden at Tendring District Council of any known offenders.

Frating Memorial Hall

The Parish Council as Custodial Trustees of the Frating War Memorial Hall and Institute, a registered charity, are represented on their Management Committee. The Management have maintained the hall in good working order and bookings are returning to pre Covid levels. It has its own governance policies in place and has regular electrical and fire checks. It is self regulated for serving food on the premises. It is not licensed for alcohol.

In September the hall will celebrate its centenary and it is proposed to mark this with an open day and service of re dedication.

Parish Council Administration

The Annual Report for 2020/21/ was produced and posted on our web site to reach many of the residents who do not attend meetings.

The Minutes of all the Parish meetings are displayed the notice boards/web site and social media.

Parish Clerk- Remuneration and Working Hours

It was agreed at the March meeting that the remuneration for the Clerk would be increased from April 2021, the increase has only just been agreed by the NJC. We will review and agree any changes to the remuneration when any guidance is received from NJC.

Frating Parish Council Governance and Meetings Attended

The Parish council has annual governance in place which is reviewed each year reflecting the guidelines of TDC and the County and National Associations.

An Emergency Plan for Frating is lodged with TDC and updated with councillors attending TDC emergency planning workshops. Parish Councillors have attended numerous other meetings throughout 2021/22 in their own time to ensure that Frating is represented in a variety of forums. Details of the meetings are reported at each parish meeting after the event.

Frating Parish Councillors 2021/2022

Terry Cuthbert- Chairman

Paula Bland-Vice Chairman

Lisa Anderson (resigned during year)

Reg Mogg

Terri Philp

Jean Hynes

Parish Clerk Details

Jennifer Spear

PO Box 12651

Manningtree

Essex

CO11 9AR

07842 860 252

fratingpc@hotmail.com

Please note the clerk works on a part time basis of 20 hours per month, please email for any information and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

Accounts

Donations were approved for 2021/22 in accordance with the Parish Council powers and commensurate with the benefit and well being of the residents of the parish for the following:

Royal British Legion - £25

Essex and Herts Air Ambulance - £200

Age Concern - £200

St Helena Hospice - £200

Help for Hero's £200

During 2021/22 in order to receive advice with regular mailings and to keep the parish up to date with emerging policies, changes in legislation and procedures the following subscriptions to organisations were considered good governance:

CVST

Essex Association of Local Councils

Tendring District of Local Councils

Council for the Protection of Rural England

Rural Community Council of Essex

To ensure the transparency of the Parish Councils Accounting system the decision was made to purchase Scribe Accounts software to ensure the bank reconciliations are kept completely up to date each month.

Budget 2021/22

The proposed budget and precept for 2021/22 was discussed in December 2021, it was decided due to the rising costs of electric, the employment of a new clerk and increasing maintenance costs to increase the budget by £500 to £9500.