

FERRING PARISH COUNCIL

1 Elm Park, Ferring, West Sussex BN12 5RN
Tel: 01903 249449 Email: parishoffice@ferringparishcouncil.org.uk

Minutes of the meeting of FERRING ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL held on **Tuesday 4th May 2021** as virtual meeting using the Zoom Platform. The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Stephen Abbott, (Chairman), Peter Coe (Vice Chairman) Councillors, Roger Elkins, Carole Robertson, Clare Royal, Alex Juniper, John Tero, Terry Jackson and Ruth Arnold

West Sussex County Councillor: Roger Elkins

Arun District Councillors: Roger Elkins & Colin Oliver-Redgate

Residents: One resident attended

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and commenced the formal proceedings.

A01-05-2021 Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 1st June 2019

The Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 2nd May 2019 were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

A02-05-2021 Annual Report from the Chairman of Ferring Parish Council

Councillor Stephen Abbott read the Chairman's Annual report as attached.

Councillor Terry Jackson with the support of the Council, gave thanks to the Parish Office Personnel for their continued hard work and support through these unprecedented times.

A03-05-2021 To receive report from Arun District Councillors

Councillor Colin Oliver-Regate

With the last year being interrupted by lockdowns due to the Coronavirus pandemic, normal active duties have been greatly reduced.

At Arun, 'Zoom' meetings have been the solution to the ongoing problem of social distancing, where I continue to serve on the Development Control Committee, and the Licensing & Enforcement Committee. I am also on the JEAAC committee whose activities cover West Sussex.

Whenever possible, I have always tried to represent Ferring's best interests, and those of neighbours during over-zealous planning applications. However, I could not wave a magic wand to keep our precious Tudor Close Pub from closing down after so many decades of wonderful hospitality to the Ferring community.

Through the Parish Council meetings, I am able to keep in touch with local village matters I might otherwise miss, and can support and report some of their concerns back to Arun Officers.

I have also attended to individual requests, regarding personal worries that people might have; and have been happy to be on call, and to listen and help whenever possible. Some problems might have been Civil matters, and although my direct influence might be limited, I have been able to fast-track their enquiries through the appropriate channels.

I enjoy taking part in various activities around the village, but those have also been affected by the lockdowns; especially with the Terry Clough Choir in the Glebelands Community Centre curtailing their normal three concerts last year; and playing Bridge there has been out of the question.

My initiative to start the Ferring Cricket Colts some 9 years ago has seen that section of the club expand in all age groups, from 8 up to 16, from an initial 12 youngsters increasing to a squad approaching 40 players; with many of the original colts now supporting and playing in senior matches; which has resulted in no matches being called off for lack of players, which was often the case 10 or more years ago. The squad is now in the very capable hands of Sussex County staff coach and Ferring player, Alex King, as my very charming and enthusiastic successor as Colt's Manager. I also continue as a member of the Ferring Tennis Club, and enjoy the camaraderie engendered by some of the 2-hour hosting sessions which have a daily roster, weather and other duties permitting.

Lately, I have been active in the village's concern with the recent influx of Travellers on the coastal greensward, where there were some 30 caravans intruding on that space for several days. We must remain vigilant that our precious open spaces are not invaded by unwelcome guests whose lifestyle appears to be protected by Common Law, "Beyond Authority"; - by them not, ever, leaving the greensward, or wherever they have been, in the clean condition that they found it.

Last week, I turned 'temporary lumberjack' on Sea Lane when a large tree fell down in a gust of wind, blocking 2/3rds of the narrow road some 30 yards from my house; and with my heavy-duty wood cutters, I managed to clear a safe passage for the sometimes-heavy traffic that uses Sea Lane. In the meantime, the attending police were sitting in their car facing the Goring Gap, waiting for the West Sussex Highways team to arrive, some time later, to use their chain-saws to clear the remainder of the tree trunk and branches.

And so I will continue to serve Ferring to the best of my ability, as a "Man For All Seasons" "Praeter Officium"!

Councillor Roger Elkins

This has been a most unprecedented year with the onset of the pandemic the country moved into lock down on the 23rd March and on Saturday 4th April local authorities were given the powers to hold meetings virtually.

This involved a considerable cost and effort by staff by working remotely to deliver services and to maintain transparency of decision making.

I look forward to the continued reduction in infection to continue or progress out of lockdown.

Support for business was provided by government and distributed by local authorities. Arun was allocated £39.38 million in small business grants to some 2,682 businesses as well as £1.5 million of discretionary business funding.

Arun Council also provided financial support for Freedom leisure regarding the sports and swimming centres.

This meant communications had to be online this had a particular impact on planning meetings where residents had in the past attended in person and spoken, this had all to be done remotely.

There has been a considerable increase in planning applications totalling 118 compared with 73 in the previous edit year.

Similarly, all meetings were held remotely and in a number of meeting took longer with some extending until 11.00pm and even then additional meetings were required.

This has been a particularly busy year for meetings as over this year Arun Council is moving from a Cabinet System to a Committee System which also involves a new Constitution a document of over 200 pages.

At the same time Arun is also reviewing its 2011-2031 Local Plan to roll the plan forward to 2036 and to update the current housing need. Increase demand on leisure activities on the sea front has also put pressure on

Council services continue with removal of additional litter as well as parking issues.

A04-05-2021 To receive report from West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Councillor Councillor Roger Elkins

Councillor Roger Elkins read the WSCC report as attached.

Similarly, the County Council also moved to the new remote way of working for its services but were heavily involved with dealing with the pandemic.

Through its lead on Public Health, it supported the NHS-led vaccination programme, in particular test and trace & the support to our rest homes plus regular weekly Covid updates.

The establishment of a community hub was available 8am-8pm seven days a week to support the most vulnerable to deal with urgent requests for food or medicines during lockdown.

Free school meals were also provided for our most vulnerable children during the pandemic. In total approx £100 million of additional funding has been provided by gov to support services.

During this year work started for the duelling of the A259 with a new pedestrian and cycle route to the south of the road way in Angmering and Littlehampton with a duration of approx 25months.

This year has seen improvement in Children's Services with the independent Commissioner highlighting the positive progress being made in the delivery.

Similarly, the lead HMI inspector for Fire and Rescue services has noted the improvement in WSCC Fire and Rescue.

I would also like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their commitment to the Parish over the year and also to the residents and organisations of Ferring for their active role in Parish Matters which I welcome.

A05-05-2021 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

Nadine Phibbs
Clerk to Ferring Parish Council