



FINGRINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 1 April 2025

A meeting of the Council took place at Fingringhoe Village Hall, Chapel Road, Fingringhoe, Colchester, Essex
CO5 7BH on 1 April 2025 at 7.10pm.

Councillors present: Gerald Ketley – Chairman
Sharron Law – Vice Chairman
Ian Chamberlain
Michael Clarke
Sharron Law
Jonathan Martin
Petra Palfreyman – Parish Clerk

Also in attendance – Colchester City Councillors Robert Davidson and Dr Martin Parson one members of the public.

- 042/25 Apologies for absence – Cllr Emma Dixon and Cllr Neil Gordon
043/25 To record declarations of interest – none
044/25 Public Questions – none
045/25 To receive reports from our Essex County and Colchester City Councillors

Cllr Robert Davidson

As part of the Local Government Reorganisation, Essex, Thurrock and Southend made a submission to the government, which was accepted, to cancel the May 2025 elections. Leaders are meeting to work out how to divide Essex. There will be a public vote in May 2026 for the Mayor of Essex.

Dr Martin Parsons

At the recent Local Plan meeting at Charter Hall representatives provided local knowledge to state the impact of the plan on residents. The councillors voted not to approve the draft local plan until the infrastructure plan is in place. There are water and sewage capacity issues, not enough buses and many other issues. Planning officers are saying it will take nine months to put a plan in to place.

046/25 To approve minutes of the meeting on 4th March 2025 and any matters arising - the minutes as previously circulated were approved for signing. There were no matters arising

047/25 FINANCE

- a) Accounts payable 31 March 2025 – noted and agreed. Payments to IC Maintenance for £110 and RCCE £84.00 were also agreed.

Payment date	Payee	Purpose	Method	Total Amount £	VAT
17.03.25	ICO	Annual Data Protection Fee	DD	47.00	
Total				47.00	

- b) To review the budget to 31 March 2025 – the clerk advised expenditure for the year was below budget by £5839, although payments due for 2024/25 of £1231 were due by 31 March 2025 but paid after 31 March 2025, making the underspend around £4600. This was due to no capital expenditure in the year, fewer payments for grass cutting than expected and a general underspend on estimated costs over the year. Income was more than expected due to grants kindly made by our Essex County Councillor Kevin Bentley for works at the play area, and from Cllrs Robert Davidson and Carl Powling towards a new village sign.
- c) To note the bank reconciliation to 31 March 2025 – noted and agreed
- d) To agree the insurance premium for the year commencing 1 April 2025 of £601.34 – noted and agreed
- e) To agree the Colchester City Council bin emptying contract/play area inspections for the year commencing 1 April 2025, at a cost of £681.15 – noted and agreed
- f) To note the end of year actions – the clerk advised that the end of year accounts and annual return were in progress and would be submitted to the Internal Auditor this week.

048/25 To provide an update about the plans for VE Day 80 celebrations – Cllr Neil Gordon and Ian Chamberlain will light the beacon at 9.30pm on Thursday 8th May 2026, to commemorate VE day 80.

049/25 To review the play area inspection report and consider any maintenance required – the clerk advised that the report showed only very low or low risk items and no action is required. Cllr Chamberlain agreed to check the play area fence, rake the bark even, clean the rockers, weed the area and cut the tree back that is on the perimeter of the fence.

050/25 To receive reports from Parish representatives

- Footpaths – nothing to report
- Village Pond – the boardwalk at the pond (school side) needs repairing. The clerk will look into this.
- Recreation Ground - nothing to report
- Transport - nothing to report

- Fingringhoe School - nothing to report

051/25

Updates about ongoing issues

- Pond bridge – repairs completed
- Broken bench on Holmwood Farm – repairs completed
- Common Land – still in progress
- Village name plaque – on order

052/25

Date of the next meeting – The Annual Meeting of the Council will be held on TUESDAY 6th MAY 2025 at 7pm at Fingringhoe Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.10pm