



FINGRINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 3rd JUNE 2025

A meeting of the Council took place at Fingringhoe Village Hall, Chapel Road, Fingringhoe,
Colchester, Essex CO5 7BH on Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 7pm.

Councillors present: Sharron Law – Vice Chairman

Ian Chamberlain

Emma Dixon

Neil Gordon

Petra Palfreyman – Parish Clerk

Also in attendance – Colchester City Councillor Dr Martin Parsons and 3 members of the public.

070/25 Apologies for absence – Cllr Carl Powling, Cllr Jonathan Martin, Cllr Gerald Ketley and Cllr Kevin Bentley

071/25 To record declarations of interest – none

072/25 Public Questions – one of the volunteer skippers from the ferry spoke about their fundraising for a new ferry which will cost £17000 to buy and adapt to take ten passengers and meet all the regulations. So far £13000 has been raised and a loan used for the balance of £4000, which must be paid back this year. Also mentioned future plans to make the ferry more accessible for Fingringhoe.

073/25 To receive reports from our Colchester City Councillor
Martin Parsons

Advised that a process will be discussed to rotate the Ward councillors that attend the meetings, instead of all three attending meetings.

The Colchester City Council meeting to attempt to reverse the Local Plan did not change the results. The water and sewage issues locally were raised again.

The Local Plan maps have been changed for Langenhoe and include houses within the village envelope of Fingringhoe which is incorrect. The Council will contact the planners about this.

Kevin Bentley – update by Teams meeting

Devolution – another meeting update will be held for Town and Parish Councils in July.

A Teams meeting with the Highways Officer will be arranged.

Local highways issues – Passing point Church Rd will be looked in to and sign reinstated. Surface Pond water – investigations will take place. Village sign – funding may be available.

Pond kerb subsidence – has been referred to the structures team.

VAS – vehicle activation sign – will be reported again.

074/25 To approve minutes of the meeting on 6th May 2025 and any matters arising - the minutes as previously circulated were approved for signing. There were no matters arising

075/25 To consider planning applications received

251048 Saltmarsh House, South Green Road, Fingringhoe Essex CO5 7DW Application to vary condition 2 (drawings) following grant of planning permission 231460 in order to change the design of the external chimney. Expiry date: 13/06/2025 No comment

076/25 FINANCE

a) Accounts payable May/June 2025 - the following payments were noted and agreed

Payment date	Payee	Purpose	Method	Total Amount £	VAT
08.05.25	P Palfreyman	Gift bag/card	Bacs	3.20	
08.05.25	G Ketley	Retirement drinks	Bacs	46.80	
08.05.25	CPRE	Annual subscription	Bacs	60.00	
08.05.25	P Palfreyman	Gift	Bacs	29.95	
08.05.25	Page Computers	Anti-virus/Microsoft renewal	Bacs	145.00	24.17
12.05.25	G Ketley	Gift	Bacs	28.00	

30.05.25	P Palfreyman	May wages	Bacs	493.00	
30.05.25	HMRC	PAYE/NIC	Bacs	90.29	
31.05.25	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	Bacs	6.00	
Totals				902.24	24.17

A further payment to Roman River Trees for £1020.00 was approved. A payment to Dines Agri for £276.00 will be held until the works are completed.

c) To note the bank reconciliation to 31 May 2025 – noted and agreed

The clerk also confirmed that the Exercise of Public Rights had been published. Cllr Law thanked the clerk for the preparation of the accounts and the internal audit report outcome.

- 077/25 To consider a request for a donation to the Wivenhoe, Rowhedge and Fingringhoe Ferry, to purchase a new ferry in 2026 - following discussions in the public session, a donation of £500 was agreed. The Council also agreed to discuss how to improve the access to the ferry at a future date.
- 078/25 To receive a report about the felled oak tree on Church Green and agree a replacement tree and location at a cost of £365.00
The clerk confirmed that the diseased Willow tree has been felled. An Alder tree has been recommended to replace the Willow, costing £365.00 but following discussion it was agreed that the Council would plant another Willow in the autumn.
- 079/25 To consider a quote for both oak trees on Church Green to a) lift the crowns of both and b) remove the deadwood in the old oak at a cost of £540 + vat. Works to be carried out in autumn after permissions have been granted. The quotes were agreed for works in the autumn once the clerk has obtained permissions
- 080/25 To discuss requesting a TPO (Tree Protection Order) on the oak trees on Church Green – following discussion it was agreed to ask Colchester City Council to reconsider their decision not to put a TPO on the oaks, as the tree is near a school, a private residence and the main road junction.
- 081/25 To note the latest play area inspection report and consider any further actions – the clerk advised the inspection report advised of very low or low risk issues. Cllr Chamberlain agreed to look at those issues. Cllr Gordon carries out the regular inspections between the quarterly inspections contracted to Colchester City Council.

- 082/25 To discuss a new football group using the recreation ground – following discussion it was agreed the group could use the pitch for informal training. The clerk will confirm this by email.
- 083/25 To receive a report about the Notice of Casual Vacancy – the vacancy has been formally noted by Colchester City Council and advertised since 16 May and will be displayed until 16 June. One member of the public has offered to join the Council and if there is no other interest, co-option will take place at the July meeting.
- 084/25 To consider engaging professional legal support regarding the Common Land following discussion it was agreed to obtain quotes for the work needed if no further information is forthcoming.
- 085/25 To receive reports from Parish representatives
- Footpaths – the path at the bottom of Ferry Rd near the sewer works needs clearing. Cllr Chamberlain will clear this
 - Village Pond – some weed has recently been removed
 - Recreation Ground – nothing to report
 - Transport -nothing to report
 - Fingringhoe School – the slope down to the school has been resurfaced by ECC
- 086/25 Updates about ongoing issues
- Ferry Road tree – this has now been removed by the landowner
 - Boardwalk on Church Green – Community Payback are unable to work on this. It was agreed to get quotes for the work
 - United Charities for the Poor – Fingringhoe, update – Cllr Law advised the first meeting of the trustees has taken place, access to bank accounts is almost sorted out and boxes of old records being reviewed
 - Village recorders – the clerk noted that the village recorders had written to thank the Parish Council for their donation towards the publication of their book which had been very successful, and were considering other projects. Some of the profit from the book was donated to News & Views.
 - S106 money – the clerk reported some funds are potentially available for a new bench at the recreation ground. Also that the village hall committee would be advised that there is also potentially funding towards toilet refurbishment
- 087/25 Date of the next meeting – TUESDAY 1st JULY 2025 at 7pm at Fingringhoe Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.30pm

