



FINGRINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 4th March 2025

A meeting of the Council took place at Fingringhoe Village Hall, Chapel Road, Fingringhoe, Colchester, Essex
CO5 7BH on 4th March 2025 at 7pm.

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

Also in attendance – Essex County Councillor Kevin Bentley and Colchester City Councillor Carl Powling and Dr Martin Parsons and 1 members of the public.

- 028/25 Apologies for absence – Cllr Davidson
- 029/25 To record declarations of interest – Cllr Ketley declared an interest in item no 11
- 030/25 Public Questions – A member of the public advised that the road near the pond is sinking. A photo will be sent to Cllr Bentley
- 031/25 To receive reports from our Essex County and Colchester City Councillors
- Cllr Bentley

Cllr Bentley explained the government devolution route, confirming Essex will have an elected Mayor in May 2026. Also the local government reorganisation which will dissolve the existing councils and there will be 3 to 4 unitary councils that will look after everything.

Cllr Bentley will arrange a meeting in Birch for all his parishes to attend. There is £25 M already in the budget for Highways and another £30M for next year.
Also a huge increase in Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision in schools needs to be met.

Cllr Powling

It is likely our unitary Council will be Colchester, Tendring and Braintree, and Thurrock will be with Basildon and Southend with Castlepoint.

Call for sites - anyone can put in a site, whether they own it or not. However, just because you get planning permission for a site it doesn't give you the legal permission to build. Middlewick in Colchester might get SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) status.

Martin Parsons

Before Christmas there was a change in planning law and the government stated there needed to be another 1.5M homes, and advised they would intervene if building is resisted. The imposed building targets in the Colchester area were increased by 40%.

This means 1300 homes must be built every year. The draft Local Plan mostly put the developments in rural areas where the infrastructure is poor, such as Langham who have 900 extra homes planned in a village of only 400 homes.

In this area the numbers are smaller, such as Langenhoe who are due to get 50 new homes. See item 11 below for more information

032/25 To approve minutes of the meeting on 4th February 2025 and any matters arising - the minutes as previously circulated were approved for signing. There were no matters arising

033/25 To receive planning notification decision

242434 Mr Kevin Jordan 2 Woodside Cottages, Haye Lane, Fingringhoe
Colchester CO5 7AE Construction of two storey (self-build/custom build) dwelling house
on land adjacent 2 Woodside Cottages Decision Type: Refuse

034/25 FINANCE

a) Accounts payable February 2025 - the following payments were noted and agreed

Payment date	Payee	Purpose	Method	Total Amount £	VAT
05.02.25	CPRE	Annual subscription	Bacs	36.00	
05.02.25	Stanfords	Common Land review	Bacs	265.07	44.18
28.02.25	P Palfreyman	February 2025 wages	Bacs	493.00	
28.02.25	HMRC	Clerks PAYE February 2025	Bacs	68.60	
28.02.25	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	Bacs	6.00	
28.02.25	Petra Palfreyman	Voucher – Zone Warden retirement	Bacs	50.00	

Total				918.67	44.18
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b) To review the budget to 28 February 2025 – noted and agreed

c) To note the bank reconciliation to 28 February 2025 – noted and agreed

035/25 To consider any VE Day 80 celebrations on 8th May 2025 – Cllrs Chamberlain and Gordon agreed to organise lighting the beacon on Thursday May 8th at 9pm. The clerk will contact Fingringhoe Club to see if it can be opened that evening

036/25 To consider putting 'No cycling' signs up along the John Brunning Walk – it was agreed to spend up to £20 on No Cycling signs

037/25 To receive an update about the village name sign – the clerk confirmed the specification and details with the council, and it was agreed to order the new sign at a cost of £1490 + the cost to drill holes for stainless steel rods

038/25 To discuss the outcome of the Call for Sites and Local Plan review -
Cllr Ketley left the meeting.

Call for sites – one of the main issues is sewage. It was hoped that the water consultations would be carried out before the housing allocations. The interim report is concerning as it states that homes are using 20% less than they actually do and is already over capacity.

The Clay Barn site was not on the final Call for Sites list. Concerns were raised that that small development will join two settlements and that it would be difficult for the Council to comment on future developments.

The local plan committee on 17 February voted by a majority NOT to approve the draft local plan prepared by planning officers going out to public consultation yet.

The reason for this was primarily, that there was no plan of what infrastructure would be needed to go with the 1,300 new houses a year the government have told Colchester City Council they must build, nor the cost of this, or a plan for delivery of it.

There will be a delay of around 3 months, for the infrastructure plan to be drawn up, at which point it will go back to the committee to approve it going out to public consultation, and meet the February 2026 deadline before the current local plan expires.

The Local Plan does not give planning permission for housing, it just decides the sites. The City Council must demonstrate that they have a 5 year housing supply

Cllr Ketley rejoined the meeting

039/25 To receive reports from Parish representatives

- Footpaths – nothing to report
- Village Pond – nothing to report
- Recreation Ground – nothing to report

- Transport – nothing to report
- Fingringhoe School – nothing to report

040/25 Updates about ongoing issues

- Pond bridge – ongoing with Cllr Chamberlain
- Broken bench Holmwood Farm – ongoing with Cllr Chamberlain
- Common Land – we now have a map with the outline of the land
- 20 mph speed limit – on going with ECC
- Zig zag lines – on going with ECC

041/25 Date of the next meeting (Annual Parish meeting followed by Council meeting) – TUESDAY
APRIL 1ST 2025 at 7pm at Fingringhoe Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm