



FINGRINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 16th SEPTEMBER 2025

A meeting of the Council took place at Fingringhoe Village Hall, Chapel Road, Fingringhoe, Colchester, Essex CO5 7BH on Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 7pm.

Councillors present: Gerald Ketley – Chairman

Sharron Law – Vice Chairman

Derek Henderson

Emma Dixon

Neil Gordon

Jonathan Martin

Ian Chamberlain

Petra Palfreyman – Parish Clerk

Also in attendance – Colchester City Councillor Robert Davidson, Councillor Martin Parson and 2 members of the public.

105/25 Apologies for absence – none

106/25 To record declarations of interest – Cllr Ketley declared an interest in item 116/25 as his son in law has provided a quote for the boardwalk.

107/25 Public Questions – a resident has requested use of the recreation ground to host a community event, including a classic car show, with local groups showcasing their organisation.

108/25

To receive reports from our Essex County and Colchester City Councillors

Robert Davidson

Under the government reorganisation, Essex County Council and Colchester City Council will remain as they are until March 2028. The City planners have not got very far with the Local Plan which means it may not be completed by February 2026 which could mean the government could impose an additional 20% on the housing target in February 2027.

Martin Parsons

Devolution allows the government to move powers to the Mayor of Essex, once elected. By merging Colchester City Council and Essex County Council, we will end up with a more local council. There will be a vote at the end of the month to decide which councils are merged with Colchester City Council and the results will be announced in the New Year. Planning will move to a higher council such as an area planning committee. The Neighbourhood Delivery Committee devolves power down to lower level of Council, which allows for local decision making. The number of unitary councils in Essex is yet to be decided. There should be a population of around 500 000 per unitary council.

109/25

To approve minutes of the meeting on 1st July 2025 and any matters arising - the minutes as previously circulated were approved for signing. There were no matters arising

110/25

To receive planning notification decision

251048 Mr Harry Keegan 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 chimney and other external changes. ***
REVISED DESCRIPTION*** Decision Type: Approve Conditional

111/25

FINANCE

a) Accounts payable July/August 2025 -the following payments were noted and agreed

Payment date	Payee	Purpose	Method	Total Amount £	VAT
01.07.25	P Palfreyman	Junes wages	Bacs	493.00	
01.07.25	HMRC	Clerks PAYE	Bacs	90.29	
03.07.25	Haysoms	Village name stone	Bacs	1860.00	310.00
03.07.25	Suffolk Cloud	Website domain x 2 years	Bacs	35.00	
03.07.25	Page Computers	Laptop health check and memory upgrade	Bacs	120.00	20.00
15.07.25	Dines Agri	Grass cutting	Bacs	276.00	
29.07.25	P Palfreyman	July wages	Bacs	493.00	

29.07.25	P Palfreyman	Printer ink	Bacs	27.99	
29.07.25	Colchester City Council	Playground repairs	Bacs	246.24	41.04
29.07.25	CALC	Annual subs	Bacs	35.00	
31.07.25	HMRC	Clerks PAYE	Bacs	90.49	
31.07.25	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	Bacs	6.00	
22.08.25	Dines Agri	Grass cutting	Bacs	276.00	
29.08.25	P Palfreyman	August wages	Bacs	493.00	
29.08.25	HMRC	Clerks PAYE	Bacs	90.29	
31.08.25	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	Bacs	6.00	
Total				4638.30	

Two other payments to Suffolk Cloud for website hosting and support £120.00 and to the clerk for postage £10.79 were also approved.

- b) To review the budget to 31 August 2025 – noted and agreed
- c) To note the bank reconciliations to 31 August 2025 – noted and agreed
- d) To note the updated bank signatories – the clerk advised the Micheal Clarke has been removed as a signatory and Derek Henderson added
- e) To note the Notice of Conclusion of Audit from the external auditors, confirming no matters arising – noted
- f) To agree the clerk's pay rise of 0.60 pence per hour, back dated to 1 April 2025 (back pay totals £90.00 April to August) – noted and agreed

- 112/25 To discuss planting a tree on Church Green to replace the felled Willow – following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Chamberlain would research the size and cost of a replacement Willow tree, and report back to the Council
- 113/25 To review and agree the existing Freedom of Information policy – reviewed and agreed
- 114/25 To consider purchasing additional No Cycling signs for the John Brunning Walk (cost approx. £15.00) – the clerk agreed to research bigger signs and prices and report back to the Council
- 115/25 To agree the cost of £95.00, and wording for the plaque on the beacon to commemorate VE Day 80 – noted and agreed
- 116/25 To review the work needed and quotes for replacement of the boardwalk on Church Green – following discussion it was agreed to ask all contractors to price for replacement of the entire boardwalk. A quote for tidying up the benches, replacing the bin, removing the ivy and cleaning up the steps was also discussed. It is hoped the Council will get a grant for this work
- 117/25 To review the quotes for legal costs in relation to the Common Land – the clerk advised that while quotes had been sought for the mapping and staking of the land, solicitors had advised that it would be difficult to get title without any deeds or proof of transfer/ownership. The

clerk will carryout further research and report back to the Council

- 118/25 To discuss writing a letter to Colchester City Council about the draft Local Plan boundaries - the clerk confirmed an email had been sent to Colchester City Council and would report the outcome in due course
- 119/25 To receive reports from Parish representatives
- Footpaths – the John Brunning Walk and footpath to the right needs clearing and has been reported
 - Village Pond – some weed has accumulated and will be removed soon
 - Recreation Ground – some bikes have been cycling over the pitches and making marks. The clerk will look in to having a restriction to prohibit bikes on the gate
 - Transport – nothing to report
 - Fingringhoe School – still some issues with parking
- 120/25 Updates about ongoing issues
- Hedges and footpaths – can be reported via the ECC reporting tool
 - Council banking – updated per 111/25 (d)
 - Village name stone – awaiting placement
 - Barnfields – awaiting contact
 - Historical Council records – some historical minutes, accounts and other local records have been shared with the Fingringhoe Historical Society Recorders for review
 - Sign at Recreation Ground – surrounding hedges have been cleared to improve visibility
 - Tree Works applications – for both oak trees on Church Green to remove deadwood and raise the crown. TPO applications submitted, approved and work almost completed. Also a crown lift and removal of deadwood to the oak on Pigs Foot Green
 - Bench at Recreation Ground – on hold until the boardwalk grant is approved in case S106 funds are needed
 - Pond kerb subsidence – on list with ECC but not considered a priority
 - Recreation Ground trees – a silver birch lost a bough in recent high winds but has been cut up and the excess will be removed. Cllr Chamberlain will quote for felling the dead/dying Ash trees in the road hedge line
- 121/25 Date of the next meeting – TUESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2025 at 7pm at Fingringhoe Village Hall.
- There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.50 hrs

