

FINCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING FINCHINGFIELD AND CORNISH HALL END



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Finchingfield Village Hall on Tuesday 23rd. July 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr J. Strange, Cllr J. Braithwaite, Cllr R. Duffin, Cllr A. Stanger, Cllr R. Stanger, Cllr J. Warner, BDC Cllr M. Staines and Kevin B Money (Parish Clerk & RFO). There were also 6 members of the public present.

157/2024 Chair to welcome

158/2024 Apologies for absence were received from ECC Cllr G. Butland and BDC Cllr M. Ault

159/2024 To receive member's declarations of interest and dispensations in items on the agenda
None declared

160/2024 To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th. June 2024
All Agreed

161/2024 Co-Option

Councillors are requested to receive written applications for the office of Parish Councillor and co-opt candidates to fill the vacancies

The Candidates having completed a short application form and confirmed their eligibility for the position of Councillor within the statutory rules (Local Government Act 1972 section 79).

The eligible candidates have been invited to attend a meeting with Councillors and speak for a maximum of five minutes. The candidates were asked to introduce themselves, give a resume of their background and experience, and explain why they wish to become a member of the Council.

Cllr J. Strange proposed Jason Berry to be co-opted onto the Council. Cllr J. Warner seconded. **All Agreed**

Cllr A. Stanger proposed David Bide to be co-opted onto the Council. Cllr J. Braithwaite seconded. **All Agreed**

Cllr R. Stanger proposed Rebecca Gill to be co-opted onto the Council. Cllr J. Strange seconded. **All Agreed**

All the candidates then signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and E Consent form.

They were given the Register of Interest form to complete and sign then return it to the Clerk ASAP so that the form can be logged with Braintree District Council within 28 days.

162/2024 Public participation session A maximum of 15 minutes shall be allowed for public question time, and it is requested each member of the public speak for a maximum of 3 minutes.

The overgrown verges in the village need addressing. There will be accident as motorists are swerving to avoid the verges. Speed signs will be on the August agenda for the LHP. Chevrons signs would be a good idea to slow traffic down.

163/2024 Essex County Councillor - Cllr G. Butland. No report was given

164/2024 District County Councillors - Update from Cllr M. Staines from last meeting

BDC Cllr M. Staines 13-page report can be found at <https://finchingfield-pc.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes/>

- Public Transport DigiGo will replace the scheduled 9 and 9A bus service on 28th. July 2024

A Finchingfield Roadshow should be arranged

- District 1. Wethersfield Enforcement. We await feedback on the BDC Enforcement Action against Home Office after their visits etc ~19th. June 2024.

- Securing Home Office grant money for Communities impacted by Asylum activities

- Local Plan Extension 4 BDC push to extend the Local Plan to 2041 The BDC Call for Sites to extend the Local Plan to 2041 concluded at the end of May.

163/2024 Monthly Surgery meeting. Update on meeting held on Saturday 6th. July 2024.

One resident turned up to this meeting. The next meeting 3rd. August 2024 at 10am at the Guildhall

Signed

JStrange

John Strange - Chair

24th. September 2024

164/2024 Music Festival request – Councillors to discuss the Music Festival request at CHE
Cllr J. Strange proposed to accept this music festival event at CHE playing field. Cllr A. Stanger seconded.
All Agreed

165/2024 Braintree District Local Plan Review 2041 – Cllr R. Duffin
It's only cropped up recently that the review is going forwards and the clerk received an email today inviting comment by 16th August.
We should be writing to BDC planning to ask for an extension to the end of September to assess this properly and meet to confirm our application. Clerk to proceed.
That said we should start preparing for this ASAP, there is a lot to read and understand, but it's vitally important that we do contribute if we want to have a say. This will be discussed at the Neighbourhood Plan meeting on Thursday 25th July, and there is a retired Head of Planning there who will be able to give some advice and Finchingfield may well provide a joint submission with Wethersfield.
We need a council meeting to discuss and agree our submission. Clerk to confirm the date and time.

166/2024 Finance

- 1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. June 2024
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. June 2024
- 2) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget 2024/25
Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget 2024/25
- 3) To approve the payment of Accounts for July 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**
- 4) Councillors to agree updating signatories with Unity Trust Bank
Councillors discussed changing signatories for the Council and Trust accounts

167/2024 Wethersfield Airbase – any update from last meeting

Wethersfield Airbase Scrutiny Committee have not had any meetings recently because the election meant there is not much going on. Next will be in August as we catch up on developments within government. There was an online catch up meeting for parish councillors with the Home Office 16th July
Previous management at the base have moved on so new people in place.

- Ryan Outred – new deputy director for AS large sites program.
- New ministerial team. Angela Eagle is their responsible minister. No direct feedback from team yet on future direction.
- Jenny O'Keefe. Responsible officer for Wethersfield.
 - 480 on site
 - 580 cap still in place due to SDO
 - Will ramp up to 800 when SDO conditions are completed
 - Migrant Help group on site
 - Changing lives on site providing extra activities
 - Medical facility running well.
 - Safeguarding – new Chief Inspector David Bolt has visited site 2 weeks ago. ICIBI report to follow shortly but no major issues identified.
- SDO. 27 conditions in total. 19 are discharged, 8 outstanding of which 4 are attached to the 580 cap. Ground surveys still in progress should be completed in 4-6 weeks.
- Policing at public order. Community meetings and impacts.
 - Alert system for protests and alternative routes for residents..
 - Potential gates at Sculpins for residents or better signage.
 - Traffic calming concerns
 - Crime fear.
- Museum
 - Grant finding still awaiting decision.
 - Monthly visits for museum visitors under review.
- Littering. Included in information pack now how to dispose of litter in our outside of the site.
- Mini-buses. Speeding and tailgating issues to be taken up with CRH.
- Footpaths. Positive feedback received on reinstating pathway between Wethersfield and Finchingfield for both service users and residents. BDC will follow up with ECC on costs for this and but both BDC and HO agreed this is an impact where monies could be spent from the BDC grant awarded by the HO.

Guy Weston, Deputy Director of Property and Facilities Management was at the meeting. He is the person for Neighbourhood Plan to liaise with as approx. 75% of the Wethersfield airbase falls within our parish boundaries. He is not aware of anyone trying to contact him. He's happy to liaise with the NP team and

Signed

JStrange
John Strange - Chair

24th. September 2024

provided his email address. I've sent this on to Richard and John.

We were told earlier this year that the total spend on enabling Wethersfield to be ready for asylum seekers was £49 million and £27 million for Scampton. We suspect those figures are now very out of date, could we get the latest figures please? No response from the Home Office on this.

Kier Starmer and Yvette Cooper were against the Wethersfield Airfield and Scampton, being used for asylum centres back in April. Is that still the case and if so are there plans to remove the asylum centres from Wethersfield and Scampton? Not discussed. It's going to take some time for these things to make their way through the system.

We were told at the two previous meetings that the site was not being considered for prisons in the foreseeable future. What is the current view of the site and it's future? No comment other than this can't be done till the Home Office move out as they've got ownership of the current site. Of course that would not stop plans being made and a planning application going in.

I also asked about future housing and whether given the government needs to build 1.5 million houses, this is likely to resurrect the application to build 5,000 houses on the site. They've no knowledge of any activity on this side.

168/2024 ROSPA play inspection reports for Stephen Marshall area & CHE.

Councillors to set up a working party to undertake any issues from the 2 ROSPA reports

Cllr J. Strange proposed setting up a working party to look at both ROSPA reports. Cllr A. Stanger seconded.

All Agreed. Cllr J. Berry and Cllr D. Bide to undertake looking into the reports and coming back to Council with recommendations.

169/2024 Finchingfield Pond, Sluice Gates and working group – Cllr J. Braithwaite

Planning to desilt the pond, weather permitting. The village green has and is looking good.

The flood risk is being better managed. The problem is water coming from Toppesfield. The group is still looking at the longer-term future and needs.

170/2024 Finchingfield Bridge – Cllr J. Strange

This is on the LHP meeting on 28th. August 2024.

171/2024 Finchingfield Road Sign – Cllr A. Stanger

A LHP form for a Bardfield Road sign to be submitted.

172/2024 Community Energy and solar panels – Cllr R. Duffin

This is an Essex CC project but being managed by the Chairman of White Colne Parish Council. We voted previously that we would like to put this to the community. The project is slowed because Powercircle (charity) don't have the funding organized yet but expect that it will be by the Autumn. White Colne are having their village hall fitted with panels and there will be a presentation on Saturday November 16th.

173/2024 Grant applications – Update on any Grant application received by the Clerk

a) Cornish Hall End PCC. This item to be deferred to the September meeting

174/2024 Neighbourhood Plan - any update from last meeting – Cllr R. Duffin

There has been a lot of work going on developing the draft plan. There is a meeting on Thursday 25th to discuss the latest copy of the draft. In the meantime, there is the review of Braintree's District Local Plan which will also be discussed. For WASC and the Neighbourhood Plan we could do with input from one or more of the new Councillors if they'd like to be involved. These are longer term projects but that will have a huge impact of the future of our village

175/2024 War Memorial update – Cllr R. Stanger

The works have been completed and the grant money paid.

176/2024 Parking, noise and speed and any enforcement in the village – Cllr J. Strange

A list of issues has been passed to ECC Cllr G. Butland for him to take forward.

177/2024 Planning applications

24/01457/VAR - Great Winsey Farm, Brent Hall Road, Finchingfield

Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans), 4 (Samples), 5 (Windows & doors), 6 (Landscaping) 8 (Lighting) & 12 (Means of enclosure) of approved application 22/03278/FUL granted 14.08.2023 for Proposed replacement dwelling, demolition of existing building and erection of 1no. residential dwelling, and proposed conversion of 4no. existing buildings to form 4no. residential dwellings.

RESOLVED: No objection to this planning application

Signed

JStrange

John Strange - Chair

24th. September 2024

178/2024 Items for next agenda

Grant applications: Grant funding for the museum: Task Force update:

179/2024 Date of next Full Council meeting – 24th. September 2024 at Finchingfield Village Hall

180/2024 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Councillors to Resolve that by virtue of the provisions of Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded during discussion of the following business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Cllr J. Strange proposed to exclude the public and press at 9.25pm. Cllr A. Stanger seconded. **All Agreed**

181/2024 Closure of the meeting

To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business.

The Chair then closed the meeting having considered and determined all items of business at 9.40pm.