

FINCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING FINCHINGFIELD AND CORNISH HALL END



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Finchingfield Village Hall on Tuesday 22nd. October 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr J. Strange, Cllr J. Berry, Cllr D. Bide, Cllr J. Braithwaite, Cllr R. Duffin, Cllr R. Gill, Cllr R. Stanger, ECC Cllr G. Butland, BDC Cllr M. Staines and Kevin B Money (Parish Clerk & RFO).
There were also 10 members of the public present.

214/2024 Apologies for absence were received from ECC Cllr G. Butland, BDC Cllr M. Ault, Cllr A. Stanger and Cllr J. Warner

215/2024 To receive member's declarations of interest and dispensations in items on the agenda
None Declared

216/2024 To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24th. September 2024. All Agreed

217/2024 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.

a) Fencing around the pond starting on 4th. November 2024

Equestrian horse riders of the village – cutting of the hedges and a walk through the village with speeding traffic with near misses. With Spains Hall estate being closed it is lethal for horses being spooked. Can more signage be erected around the village, equestrian centre and any other ways to protect horse riders. Face book page has been set up to make more awareness. Riders have been thrown off their horses with a motorcyclist racing passed a number of horses.

The Council is proposing to write to ECC Cllr T. Cunningham to arrange for additional signage being erected. The landowner has been approached many times and he is refusing to allow horse riding on his land due to public liability. Cllr J. Strange to telephone the landowner (Archie) to see if horses can be ridden on his land. The Christmas Tree donation is being offered by a resident again this year. Can a date and time for delivery be agreed. The Councillors accepted this kind offer. Cllr J. Braithwaite and J. Strange to act as intermediary.

218/2024 Essex County Councillor - Cllr G. Butland. No report was given

219/2024 District County Councillors - Update from Cllrs Staines / Ault from last meeting
COUNTY

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) consultation submission – Due 24th. October (still working on this draft response).

No Local Highways Panel (LHP) meeting until December [hopefully including Finchingfield Weight restriction and x4 Horse Signs for Shalford B1053 and Finchingfield].

DIGIGO Update seemingly insufficient vehicles to meet NORTH demand and is undermining confidence. Currently trying to meet with them this week with BDC Cllr Ann Hooks (Rayne) – now escalated. *STAINES newsletter being delivered to 3 Fields & Gt Notley from now - ECC Election 1st. MAY 2025*

DISTRICT

We are awaiting news on the proposed Gt. Bardfield Bridge Closure – Half-term 28th. October – 2nd. November and response to our one-way diversion suggestions and our prioritised works list to get the most benefit from the pain of the bridge being closed.

We have also been working with the Essex Wellbeing Services 0300 303 9988 Mon-Fri 8am – 7pm and Sat 9am – 12noon. They are now able to help with means-tested benefits too (e.g. Pension Credits)

WINTER preparedness: Warm rooms being collated by BDC – send yours to

communityservices@braintree.gov.uk

As an alternative to heating the entire house BDC is looking to work with local organisations who work directly with the elderly, families and those on low incomes, to identify a need, take bulk delivery and then distribute ELECTRIC BLANKETS this winter.

Signed

JStrange

John Strange - Chair

26th. November 2024

Waiting to agree a new DigiGo and Digital engagement next steps date in the Lion Finchingfield soon pm with NHS social prescriber and EWS Community Agent and Digital Essex and DigiGo.

220/2024 Neighbourhood Plan - Presentation of the Neighbourhood Plan to the Council and to ratify Reg 14. Following meeting on 19th. September – update from Cllr R. Duffin
Neighbourhood Plan is at the Regulation 14 stage which means we are undertaking response from all residents (including councillors) before November 22nd. Will then review and submit to BDC for approval (Regulation 15) and then put it to public voting (Regulation 16). Once voted in it then goes for final Examination (regulation 17) in spring 2025.

221/2024 Braintree District Local Plan Review 2041 – update from Cllr R. Duffin
Finchingfield along with Wethersfield have responded to the BDC Local Plan review (again this was done with the wonderful support from the Wethersfield people we are working with on the Neighbourhood Plan). This was done in time to meet the deadline of August 16th. Subsequently extended to October 16th. There is now a review process with further consultation, before BDC submits the plan to the Planning Inspectorate in June 2026 for implementation in December 2026.

222/2024 Electric Vehicle Chargers at Finchingfield Village Hall Car Park and Sportsfield and CHE
– Cllr J. Strange
ECC sent an email for electric charges in VH car park, Sportsfield and CHE. Are Councillors and residents interested in this process. Cllr R. Stanger proposed writing back to ECC to ask for further information. Cllr R. Duffin seconded. **All Agreed**

223/2024 Street lighting supplier and costing update – Cllr R. Stanger
Npower have increased their charges by 300% £80pcm to over £300 pcm. Npower is the only supplier of street lighting electricity to smaller Councils. Cllr R. Stanger has written to the ombudsman.
Cllr R. Gill to continue sourcing out alternative and cheaper street lighting costs.
Cllr J. Strange proposed and allow Cllr R. Stanger to seek alternative options. Cllr R. Duffin seconded.
All Agreed

Cllr R. Gill informed the meeting about Salix Street Lighting funding option. Councillors agreed to Cllr R. Gill pursuing this option to reach out to them for further information on how this works and what the options are re types of lights, to ensure they will fit with the village aesthetic. Their link is [Lighting brochure.indd](#)

224/2024 Finance

- 1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. September 2024
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. September 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 October 2024, previously circulated to Councillors and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**
- 4) Working party update having looked at 2025-2026 Draft budget. A budget meeting date to be set up after this meeting. Cllrs J. Strange, R. Duffin, R. Stanger and J. Braitwaite to organise a meeting date and to report back at the November meeting.

225/2024 Task Force update – Cllr J. Berry & D. Bide

Clearing up Finchingfield. Meeting took place on 5th. October – Benches on Green jet-washed, white railings on bridge have been cleaned in readiness for painting. Road signs have been cleaned with some signs being taken down and repainted. Another meeting is booked for the first week of November. Planters for the village with volunteers maintaining and looking after them by watering and strategically being placed to stop parking. Good gardeners in the group with expertise knowledge on what plants to buy. 3 planters cost £363.

226/2024 Grass / Verge cutting

The hedges should be cut now. Cllr R. Stanger to obtain a quote. Cllr D. Bide seconded. **All Agreed**
Cllr D. Bide proposed not to get the grass and verges this year. Cllr R. Duffin seconded. **All Agreed**

227/2024 Wethersfield Airbase – any update from last meeting Cllr R. Duffin

Currently 530 on site and they are still restricted to 580, rising to 800 when the outstanding tests are completed. Currently they are moving outside activities inside. Of the original 27 conditions to be assessed there are 8 outstanding and 4 are related to ground pollution.

I pointed out that they seem to have been at this level of the assessments for some time and asked if they were expecting that this would be as far as they go.

However, they expect these to be completed over the next 2 – 3 months. These are important for the

Signed

JStrange
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Neighbourhood Plan, so asked if that information would be shared. When done will “share what they can with us”. Completely meaningless civil servant speak as I pointed out. Need to keep up the pressure here. There was an incident at the end of September which revolved around internal dispute. Steve is engaging earlier with residents to eliminate this kind of disturbance but it was emphasized that this was purely internal. Essex Police been very helpful in managing this.

Police are aware of the Snapchat incident that was circulating on Social Media.

Kieran Gold said that he'd not got much assistance from Home Office on funding but this is now moving. He's had three meetings with Home Office with another for tomorrow. Now making tangible progress and he expects to have some information on the Community Projects, including the museum over the next few weeks. There was an article in the press about £500 million being available for managing small boat migrants for the next 10 years at the two big centers at Dover, the Western Jet Foil and the Manston Centre. These are only for dealing with recent immigrants and people only stay there for a day or two. After that they go in to the system so may come to a hotel, or Wethersfield or centre.

228/2024 ROSPA play inspection reports for Stephen Marshall area & CHE.

Update from Cllrs J. Berry and D. Bide.

- Councillors to discuss going onto a “Play Inspection course” with EALC.

Cllrs J. Berry and D. Bide to go on the next Play inspection Course run by EALC

- Discuss quotation from Creative Play

Looked at the reports. Councillors can undertake some of the works themselves but Creative Play quoted to undertake repairs £975 +VAT Cllr J. Strange proposed to accept this quotation. Cllr J. Berry seconded.

All Agreed. Calor Gym equipment quote £445+VAT. Cllr J. Strange proposed to accept this quotation. Cllr J. Berry seconded. **All Agreed**

Creative Play did not install play equipment in CHE. Marian may have past installers information.

229/2024 Finchingfield Bridge – Update from meeting on 20th. September - Cllr J. Strange

Sluice gates are now working. No further update until December LHP meeting

230/2024 Finchingfield Road Sign – Cllr A. Stanger

1) To improve horse rider safety around the Finchingfield Equestrian Centre with a view to the Parish Council offering support and submit a new signage proposal via the Essex County Councillor for consideration by the Braintree Local Highway's Panel. As discussed above at item 217/2024

Road Signs – Sent LHP forms in for next LHP meeting and hopefully being discussed at the December meeting. Cllr R Stanger proposed and Cllr R. Duffin seconded to send the following requests to the LHP for the December meeting. **All Agreed**

1. Request for signage for horse riders safety on local roads. 5 specific areas named.
2. Request for Puffin Crossing on B1057. To link the pavements on either side of the B1057 between Eden Green and the Village.
3. Request to resite the 30mph sign from current position on B1057 to before the entrance to Eden Green.
4. Request for signage on B1053 as it enters the village just before the entrance to The Grange Estate. "Welcome to Finchingfield Please Drive Carefully 30 mph. Road narrows sign.

231/2024 Community Energy and Solar Panels – update from Cllr R. Duffin

Meeting 16th. November at White Colne Village Hall. It is a fact-finding meeting. All welcomed to attend.

232/2024 Finchingfield Green - Councillors to discuss and make a decision on the use of Finchingfield Green by Dainese London who are considering a day of publicity in Finchingfield: a small gazebo for a few hours one Sunday, with some giveaways. Just to raise awareness of our location and the importance of good motorcycle safety.

Councillors discussed this request at length. Cllr J. Strange proposed going back to Denise asking for further information on awareness, training, horse riders etc. Cllr D. bide to send the Clerk further information

233/2024 Planning applications

24/02065/TPOCON - 2 Primrose Cottages, Duck End, Finchingfield

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: T1 Pine Tree - Fell Tree due to proximity to the house. T2 Conker Tree - Crown Reduction by 3.5m. T3 Sycamore Tree - Fell Tree to create more light. T4 Walnut Tree - Fell Tree due to safety concerns.

RESOLVED: Finchingfield Parish Council has No objection to this planning application

24/01904/FUL - Michaelmas Farm Toppesfield Road Finchingfield

Self Build Scheme - Conversion of barn into 1 no dwelling including the increase of ridge height to part of the

Signed

JStrange

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building, front extension and insertion of dormers.

RESOLVED: Finchingfield Parish Council has No objection to this planning application

24/02210/LBC - The Old Fire Station 5 Duck End, Finchingfield

Installation of electric vehicle charger on side of rear extension

RESOLVED: Finchingfield Parish Council has No objection to this planning application

234/2024 Planning Decision/s

24/01799/LBC - Spains Hall Spains Hall Road Finchingfield Essex CM7 4PF

Repair works to windows, glazed doors, masonry, coping stones and ancillary works comprising:

- Sensitive repairs to Georgian timber sash windows and French doors on the South wing of the house will be made using traditional splice repairs as per SPAB technical guidance notes. (repair of wood windows)
- Sensitive repairs and repointing to brickwork on the South wing using and lime mortar.
- Replace C20th concrete parapet copings on the South Wing using traditional Clipsham limestone.
- Replace rotten C20th timber pentice boards and string course on the South wing using like for like materials and mouldings.
- Clear out parapet sump and gutter with sensitive lead repairs made where necessary. **Application**

GRANTED

235/2024 Items for next agenda

2025-2026 Budget meeting update: Planters for the village

236/2024 Date of next Full Council meeting – 26th. November 2024 at Cornish Hall End Village Hall

237/2024 Councillors to agree 2025 meeting dates as follows

28.01.25: 25.02.25: 25.03.25: 22.04.25: 27.05.25: 24.06.25: 22.07.25: 23.09.25: 28.10.25: 25.11.25:

238/2024 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 9.15pm.

Signed

JStrange
John Strange - Chair

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