

FINCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING FINCHINGFIELD AND CORNISH HALL END



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Cornish Hall End Village Hall on Tuesday 26th. November 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr J. Strange, Cllr J. Braithwaite, Cllr R. Duffin, Cllr R. Gill, Cllr R. Stanger, Cllr A. Stanger, Cllr J. Warner, BDC Cllr M. Staines and Kevin B Money (Parish Clerk & RFO).
There were also 12 members of the public present.

239/2024 Apologies for absence were received from ECC Cllr G. Butland, BDC Cllr M. Ault, Cllr D. Bide and Cllr J. Berry,

240/2024 To receive member's declarations of interest and dispensations in items on the agenda
None declared

241/2024 To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd. October 2024. All Agreed

242/2024 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) Christmas Tree update. The tree being erected on Saturday 2nd. December with the switching on Saturday 2nd. December 2024 at 5.30pm

A resident congratulated the Parish Council with the railings around the pond.

The Trust is in breach of sections 5.1 and 6.2 where a committee member undertook refurbishment to the village hall kitchen. It was the most expensive quotation.

243/2024 Essex County Councillor - Cllr G. Butland. No report was given

244/2024 District County Councillors - Update from Cllrs Staines / Ault from last meeting
For BDC Cllr M. Staines see his report at <https://finchingfield-pc.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes/>

245/2024 Neighbourhood Plan - Presentation of the Neighbourhood Plan to the Council and to ratify Reg 14. - update from Cllr R. Duffin. This item is deferred to another meeting

246/2024 ECC Local Nature Recovery Survey (LNRS) – Mr. R. Sidebottom gave a comprehensive report on the LNRS

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy, is an exceptionally interesting one. Richard will explain but the Neighbourhood Plan have already made presentations to Essex County Council, the consultancy period is closed. However, this resulted in an invitation to input specifically on why Wethersfield Airfield should be included as part of Essex's plans. A first draft of what he's going to put forwards (I believe it needs to be in by 28th November). This will be presented as a community led vision on behalf of Wethersfield and Finchingfield PCs, as well as the TFA, WASC and others including Rosie Pearson, local planning campaigner and journalist for The Daily Telegraph

For further information on Proposal to include Wethersfield Airbase in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Part of a Community-led vision of a sustainable future in the Pant Valley, North Essex

See link <https://finchingfield-pc.gov.uk/news/>

Cllr R. Duffin proposed to support the ECC LNRS survey. Cllr A. Stanger seconded. **All Agreed**

247/2024 Colne Valley Community Energy Project – update from Cllr R. Duffin. This item is deferred to another meeting

248/2024 New Village Hall – Cllr R. Duffin

Suggestions have been made to me about who we could talk to for advice on funding for a new Village Hall. So, the question is do we want a new VH and would somebody like to progress this?

This item is deferred to another meeting

Signed

John Strange - Chair

28th. January 2025

249/2024 Design code consultation for BDC – Cllr R. Duffin

The design code consultation seeks the opinion of residents and professionals on housing design within Braintree. Neighbourhood Plan will be commenting on this and you can do so personally. It's very simple to do so and will take only 5 minutes. <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/xfp/form/687>

This item is deferred to another meeting

250/2024 Task Force update – Cllr J. Berry & D. Bide

a) Planters for Finchingfield Green

2 planters are proposed in purchasing to show residents/business owners so they can donate to the project Creative Play quotation has been agreed

Cllr J. Strange proposed the Caloo Gym equipment for £534.00p. Cllr R. Duffin seconded. **All Agreed**

251/2024 Management of Hedge and Verge cutting update – Cllr D. Bide

This item is deferred to another meeting

252/2024 Wethersfield Airbase – any update from last meeting Cllr R. Duffin

We are trying to get protection for the airbase and get this via the Neighbourhood Plan and the LRNS, and conversations with the Home Office, BDC and Essex CC. I've attached Richard's submission, it's very good and additionally we have had extremely good feedback from Natural England which will be included in the report. This item is deferred to another meeting

253/2024 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.
- Update on quotation/s to repair play equipment. As per quotation above

254/2024 Finchingfield Bridge – Update from meeting on 20th. September - Cllr J. Strange

This item is deferred to another meeting

255/2024 Finchingfield Road Sign – update from 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. This item is deferred to another meeting

256/2024 CHE issues

a) Pavillion project, hedges, ditches, Church Bell and Graveyard

Pavilion repair. 3 quotes have been obtained. Circulate quotes to Councillors

Hedges around the church to be cut when required. Cllr J. Strange proposed accepting the quotation of £300.

Cllr A. Stanger. Agreed by majority

257/2024 Finance1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October 2024

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October 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 November and December 2024 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

Councillors discussed the draft budget for 2025-2026

258/2024 Planning applications**24/02129/HH - Fox Barn The Green Finchingfield**

Replace existing porch to the front elevation. Relocation of boundary side wall. Block up 3no. sidelight windows located at rear of property.

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

24/02276/TPOCON - Land To The Rear Of 1-15 Valley View Finchingfield

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area:

AZYG001 Mixed species - Crown lift to 5.2m over car park. Crown reduce from Street lamps by up to 1m.

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

24/02297/TPOCON - Land Rear Of The Vicarage, Vicarage Road, Finchingfield

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: Ash - (T1) Fell to ground level.

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

Signed

John Strange - Chair

28th. January 2025

24/02218/FUL - Finchingfield Nurseries Bardfield Road Finchingfield
Self-Build - Demolition of ancillary outbuildings and construction of a single storey dwellinghouse
RESOLVED: Finchingfield Parish Council has No objection to this planning application

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

24/02333/COUPA - Obournes Farm Upper Howe Street Finchingfield CM7 4PH
Prior approval for the change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for associated operational development - Change of use to 6 No. residential dwellings.
BDC is informing FPC, for information only, that a notification has been made to ascertain whether Prior Approval by the local planning authority is required before the development can proceed
RESOLVED: Finchingfield Parish Council states that this application does not qualify for Class Q and requires full planning application. Class Q requires functioning as a dwelling.
The previous application 23/02351/COUPA was granted for 3 dwellings, the proposed new application 24/02333/COUPA is for 6 dwellings
The Parish Council is mindful of the sustainability and over development of this rural small hamlet. No consideration has been made for the privacy of the neighbouring property.
The Footpath/Unmade Road: The access to the site is via an unmade lane which links the existing dwelling house and the agricultural buildings with Howe Street. The lane itself is a footpath. The proposed 6 new dwellings will significantly put unnecessary congestion on the lane resulting in a hazard to the local community who regularly use the footpath on daily walks. Any suggestion to widen this unmade road will have an impact on the surrounding wildlife and the river that passes underneath the unmade lane flowing into Finchingfield village. The proposed planning has provided spaces for 11 cars, this does not take in to consideration for any visiting vehicles, amenities vehicles or delivery vans etc.
Increase in dwellings: The previous approved designs had taken into consideration for fenestrations on the Northeast Elevations. The new proposed designs have significant alterations from the previous approved application.

24/02362/FUL - Locksmiths Farm Robinhood End Finchingfield
Demolition of barn structures, proposed 1 No. dwelling and detached garage, external alterations of existing Nissen Hut together with hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatments.
RESOLVED: Finchingfield Parish Council has No objection to this planning application

24/02430/TPO - Barley Croft Vicarage Road Finchingfield
Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO - 13/05
T1 Ash. Lift crown of tree to 3 m, cut side branches in by up to 2 m and reduce height by up to 4 m. Reduce tree to clear lower branches from over road and hedge and to help maintain smaller canopy over gardens.
RESOLVED: Finchingfield Parish Council has No objection to this planning application

259/2024 Post Office – Cllr R. Gill It would be good for the Parish Council to acknowledge the hard work of the post office in bringing their electric van into use. As well as providing a service to surrounding areas, this will help to ensure we retain our post office in the village - something which is a huge asset to many of us.

Mum and Baby Group – Cllr R. Gill Revd Alex who has given his support for us to run a group at the Church once a month. We are looking to hold the first group from February '25.

260/2024 Items for next agenda
CHE Pavilion quotation
2025-2026 budget

261/2024 Date of next Full Council meeting – 28th. JANUARY 2025 at Finchingfield Village Hall

262/2024 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 8.35pm and thanked everyone for attending.