

FINCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING FINCHINGFIELD AND CORNISH HALL END



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Finchingfield Village Hall on Tuesday 27th. May 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr J. Strange, Cllr J. Berry, Cllr D. Bide, Cllr J. Braithwaite, Cllr R. Duffin, Cllr G. Gilbert, Cllr R. Gill, Cllr R. Stanger, Cllr A. Stanger, BDC Cllr M. Staines and Kevin B Money (Parish Clerk & RFO).
There were also 7 members of the public present.

102/2025 Election of Chairman for the 2025/2026 year

Cllr J. Braithwaite proposed Cllr J. Strange to act as Chair for 2025-2026 year. Cllr R. Gill seconded.
All Agreed Cllr J. Strange then signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office form

103/2025 Election of Vice-Chairman for the 2025/2026 year

Cllr J. Strange proposed Cllr A. Stanger to act as Vice-Chair for 2025-2026 year. Cllr J. Berry seconded.
All Agreed

104/2025 To re-adopt all Council policies – sent prior to meeting

2025/2026 Council policies and procedures can be found at <https://finchingfield-pc.gov.uk/policies/>

Cllr J. Strange proposed to accept the policies for 2025-2026 as follows:-

Filming: Biodiversity: Internet Banking: Risk Management: Privacy: Complaints: Cod of Conduct: Accessibility: Standing Orders: Grant Award: Financial Regulations: Reserves: Risk Register: Email: Social Media: FOI: Publication Scheme: Data Protection: Health & Safety: Statement of Internal Control: Co-Option

Cllr A. Stanger seconded. **All Agreed**

105/2025 To receive member's declarations of interest and dispensations in items on the agenda

Cllr J. Berry and Cllr D. Bide both declared an interest in item 125/2025 (3)

106/2025 To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 22nd. April 2025

All Agreed

107/2025 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 resident said that the best celebration in the village for many years. A resident asked about why the Sluice Gates base is incorrect. It is due to a gate not closing properly. The bridge has been hit on a regular basis. Can a weight limit and/or CCTV cameras be fitted. It was suggested to write to ECC Cllr Tom Cunningham and to place it on the Face book page.

108/2025 Essex County Council report – Cllr G. Butland. No report was given

109/2025 Braintree District Council report – Cllrs M. Staines

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

110/2025 VE Day – update from Cllr D. Bide

Takings from VE Day have today been credited to the FPC account. Going forward for any events in Finchingfield could stalls be purchased.

111/2025 Task Force update – Cllr J. Berry - Ask Jason for report

Saturday 17th May saw 11 volunteers help.

9 sponsored planters were placed around the village and planted up. Thank you to Olivers Plants in Coggeshall for “doing us a deal”.

The sponsors were:

- The Lion public house: The Fox: The 3 Tuns: GW Hardy funeral directors: Tailored Wraps of Shalford
- Mark and Beverley Ault: Church Hill Blinds: And the Parish Council

The request for the donation money (£150 per planter) will be sent out this week.

Signed

JStrange
John Strange - Chair

24th. June 2025

Since then, 2 further sponsors have come forward so we may well add to this number.

The brambles continue to be tamed opposite the Post Office.

All the benches on the top green have been cleaned and reoiled. We will now concentrate on other benches and the wooden waste bins.

And a special shout-out to **Peter Willis** who single handedly rubbed down and repainted the bus shelter.

Also, to **Roy Cox** who has restored the wooden sign at the bottom of Stephen Marshall Avenue.

Our next "prettying up Finchingfield" session will be on **Saturday 21st June**, meeting 10am on the green.

The climbing frame on the play area became broken and had to be closed off. The people who recently serviced the equipment, Creative Play, could not get anyone out to sort it until mid-June, so someone from the community came forward and repaired it, so that the equipment could be safe and used again.

a) Christmas Tree and lighting – Councillors to discuss purchase of Christmas Tree and lights
Can the Christmas tree be placed back into the pond for 2025? A volunteer group will need to be organised in good time to have base made.

b) Electric Feeder pillar - Cllr D. Bide. To be placed next to the pond. This item to be considered with lighting around the village green.

112/2025 Further Sites Submitted to the Call for Sites for the Local Plan Review Spring 2025

19th. June '25 at 7pm at Causeway House next meeting from BDC on the Call for Sites

September '25 meeting is for Wethersfield sites.

113/2025 Wethersfield Airbase – any update from last meeting Cllr R. Duffin

Home Office confirms that the population at Wethersfield is rising slowly and is currently 662, with thirty of those coming in today.

They are still headed for 800 as the maximum. Residents are active in cricket football, recreational building, tennis and the picnic benches are used a lot.

It's confirmed (again) that there is funding for the entrance to gate 7 to be improved, the footpath between Wethersfield and Finchingfield to be improved and traffic around Sculpins Lane to be dealt with.

Ciaran Gold (BDC) raised that the Airbase being included on the local plan call for sites is just that, and it's in conjunction with what is on the Neighborhood Plan.

Ciaran confirms that the Museum have had £6,500 transferred over

114/2025 Setting up a working group for the pond any update from last meeting Cllr D. Bide

There are many issues facing the pond. Cutting back of branches and foliage with algae sitting at the sluice gates. A year ago, there was a large clear up and debris has come back and maybe flushing the water through to push the silt along will possibly clear the pond.

115/2025 Grass Verge Tender and Cutting quotation – Cllr R. Stanger

Tender for verge cutting from a company totalling £1918 for the first cut. £3836 for second cut.

Cllr J. Strange proposed, on the proviso it meets the procurement legislation, Cllr D. Bide seconded.

All Agreed

116/2025 Update on Traffic monitoring CCTV– update from Cllr D. Bide

Cllr D. Bide to undertake the electricity supply and purchase of CCTV camera

117/2025 CHE issues – any update from last meeting Cllr J. Strange

The bell at CHE does not ring due to technical problems. The benches have arrived and awaiting erecting. RoSPA inspection has taken place.

118/2025 Neighbourhood Action Plan – any update from last meeting Cllr R. Duffin

Update provided at the last meeting and things haven't moved on substantially, though a lot of work is being done on the artists denoting the art coming from the area and building a culture of interest for visitors to the area to value the art as much as the landscape and area itself.

The Landscape designation consultant (Alision Farmer) approved at the February meeting, had coronavirus but is now active, and is visiting the area this week. We are unlikely to get the Neighbourhood Plan submitted for Reg 15 in June, but hopefully it will be completed in June and can then come over to the PC for acceptance at the June or July meeting and then be submitted to Braintree DC.

Place Services are working on stage one of the Valued Landscape Designation and have requested more information and photographic evidence around the technical area including recreational buildings in use, weapons storage area, hangars and runway. They were limited on time during the site visit and another visit maybe needed to gather enough evidence. It was further agreed that should they require a further site visit, a cap of £500.00 for this was agreed to be funded by WASC, with a request of 50% of such funding to be sought from TFA.

Signed

JStrange

John Strange - Chair

24th. June 2025

We know that BDC have received an application for the Airbase to be added to the Local Development Plan, this comes from Cushman & Wakefield the HO's consultant and in fairness it doesn't say anything we haven't already discussed regarding the future master plan. But it is a list of suggestions without any quantities. This will be discussed as a large site in September, I received this morning a professional response from John Pearce, there is some tidying up to do and I'll send this over to Kevin to send over to BDC, PC members will be copied in. There should be opportunities to speak at the meeting. Minor sites for Finchingfield, will be discussed at a meeting on 19th June.

119/2025 s106 monies – update Cllr R. Gill

Spoken to Sarah Burden that CCTV equipment is not covered by s106 monies
Cllr R. Gill informed the meeting on what is allowed under s106 monies and what isn't

120/2025 Museum Update – update from Cllr R. Duffin

We successfully took a 3-year lease on a first floor room at Finchingfield. With grants from both Wethersfield and Finchingfield Parish Councils including a donation from Wethersfield Christmas light switch on, and with some large donations from individuals in the USA we have secured our lease and running costs to 2027. We have also received a grant of £6.5k from HO/BDC for very specific projects that will enhance the visitor experience and the education of the airfield heritage within the local community. The two largest projects from that funding are making the museum safe and the installation of a chair lift which will provide better access for disabled and elderly visitors. Also, a new professional events pop up museum which we will take to surrounding areas and Duxford Airshows.

I would like to put on record a special thank you to Ciaran Gold BDC HO Liaison and Project Manager for the time, effort, guidance and encouragement he gave in perusing this grant.

With funding in place, we will run the museum until 2027 and review the situation then, before committing to a further period of time. Hopefully by then an opportunity to move back onto the airfield might arise and a better strategy for preserving the heritage may be included into the future plans of the airfield.

Last year since opening in August for 10 weeks we had 600 visitors an average of 30 a day, and 40 from that total were from abroad mostly the USA. Since opening in April this year the average is 15 visitors per day and there are USA visitors booked weekly from now until August.

Finally, an issue is a lack of volunteers with only a team of 4, maintaining a strategy of opening every weekend may become untenable. We are currently advertising on our Facebook pages for volunteers so far with one possible new volunteer later in the year when he retires.

We give thanks to the parish council and villagers for their support in keeping the airfield history alive, we hope to see many of you visit this year.

121/2025 Npower – update from Cllr R. Stanger

Npower have agreed to give FPC a cheaper rate

122/2025 Social Media pages – Cllr G. Gilbert

Instagram page has been set up on behalf of the Parish Council. More video can be done but Cllr G. Glibert requires authorisation from the Council to upload onto the Instagram site.

All videos must be sanctioned by the Parish Council but a sample to be sent to Councillors via Instagram.

123/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

25/00920/HH - Elms Farm Stambourne Road Finchingfield

Single storey rear extension, two storey rear/side extension and a single storey front extension.

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

25/01135/TPOCON - Bridge House The Green Finchingfield

Proposal: Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - 2 Sycamore trees (numbered 1 & 2 on Figure 1) both to be reduced in volume and height by 18 metres.

1 Ash tree (numbered 3 on Figure 1) to be reduced in volume and height by 15 metres.

1 False Acacia tree (numbered 4 on Figure 1) to be reduced in volume and height by 18 metres.

1 Cherry tree (numbered 5 on Figure1) to be reduced in volume and height by 5 metres.

1 Elder tree (numbered 6 on Figure 1) to be reduced in volume and height by 5 metres.

RESOLVED: Finchingfield Parish Council Supports this application subject to the Tree and Conservation Officer's approval

124/2025 Planning Decisions made by BDC

25/00274/COUPA - Obournes Farm Upper Howe Street Finchingfield Essex 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. **Planning Permission is Required**

125/2025 Finance

1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. April 2025

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. April 2025

2) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget 2025/2026

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget 2025/2026

3) To approve the payment of Accounts for May 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed** – see link for payments <https://finchingfield-pc.gov.uk/finance/>

126/2025 Items for next agenda

Trust meeting:

Electric Feeder pillar: Christmas 2025: Councillors roles and responsibility 2025-2026

127/2025 Date of next Full Council meeting – 24th. June 2025 at Finchingfield Village Hall

128/2025 Closure of the meeting

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

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.20pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

JStrange
John Strange - Chair

24th. June 2025