

# FINCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## REPRESENTING FINCHINGFIELD AND CORNISH HALL END



### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Finchingfield Village Hall on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>. October 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr J. Strange, Cllr J. Berry, Cllr J. Braithwaite, Cllr D. Bide, Cllr R. Duffin, Cllr R. Gill, Cllr R. Stanger, Cllr A. Stanger, ECC Cllr G. Butland, BDC Cllr M. Ault and Kevin B Money (Parish Clerk & RFO).  
There were also 29 members of the public present.

**215/2025** Apologies for absence were received from BDC Cllr M. Staines

**216/2025** To receive member's declarations of interest and dispensations in items on the agenda  
None Declared

**217/2025** To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup>. September  
2025 All Agreed

**218/2025** **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  
What is the latest position of the BMX/Pump track. Planning permission has been granted. After Christmas a resident questionnaire will be sent to residents to ask them for their views of the support or not.  
A resident read out a prepared statement regarding the BMX/Pump track and sluice gates.

**219/2025** **Essex County Council report** – Cllr G. Butland  
Meeting of ECC was about Local Government reorganisation. 4 proposals have been submitted to Government. A number between 2 and 5 Unitaries for the future. A consultation will be held in 2026 by the Government. 2338 potholes repaired as well as verge, signage repairs have been carried out.

**220/2025** **Braintree District Council report** – Cllr M. Staines  
BDC Cllr M. Staines report can be found at <https://finchingfield-pc.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes/>  
BDC local plan review has been put back

**221/2025** **Task Force update** – Cllr J. Berry

a) Christmas – Councillors to discuss purchase of Christmas Tree, lights and Market  
To also discuss details of the tree and light switch on, plus an update on other bits that are being looked into (the library hosting something for the children, the church etc.).  
Christmas tree will be placed in the pond. Lights switch on 29<sup>th</sup>. November 2025. Various activities will take place on the day and evening.  
2 new planters and all planters have been replanted with winter bulbs. More volunteers are required. In 2026 more planters to be placed, especially around Duck End.

b) RoSPA inspection reports  
Favourable report this year and minor repairs are being undertaken.

c) Bus stop off Camp Road notice board requires repairing with no timetable  
A resident has cut back the brambles and a new timetable has been inserted into the shelter.

**222/2025** **New Village Hall and Community Centre Project update** Cllr J. Strange  
The next meeting 05.11.25 for another brain-storming session. Users of the existing village hall will be asked to contribute regarding future requirements

**223/2025** **Wethersfield Airbase** – any update from last meeting Cllr R. Duffin  
Minutes of Zoom meeting 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Host was Ryan Outred.  
Current residency is 1080 and on average residents are moving through the site in 70 days. They can take in two lots of 50 new immigrants per week (it can be less depending on the number of small boat applicants) and have processed 80 leavers for each of the last two weeks.

Signed

John Strange - Chair

25<sup>th</sup>. November 2025

The meeting was then addressed by Lynne Taylor, Senior Manager at Mid South Essex ICB (Integrated Care Board) regarding the filming at The Braintree Community Hospital. Immigrants from Wethersfield are going to BCH for standard health screening and this includes TB. She says this happens to all immigrants on their first day at Wethersfield. She maintained that most of the information in the recording was inaccurate and that residents were not losing places to immigrants. She maintains there is no TB or other health scare at Wethersfield. Since Wethersfield became an immigration center they've had 3,000 applicants through the system and there has been 5 cases of TB in that time. They have an Isolation Block with 27 self sufficient isolation rooms at Wethersfield. Lynne Taylor is available for further contact if required.

There was another Councillor present who is very disturbed at the filming by BB Audits and that it's been circulated locally. She is a regular visitor to the site and could be considered vulnerable but didn't feel at risk on her visits.

The meeting went back to RO who stated that the security scares of 2/3 of staff walking out were highly overstated. He said they were 9 staff members down on Thursday (23<sup>rd</sup> Oct) and back to normal levels the next day.

All staff work for external contractors, Donna Roder stated that she'd heard that Clearsprings were going to insource everything. Ryan confirmed that Clearsprings are taking some of this business in house.

Meeting concluded after 30 minutes.

**224/2025 Update on Traffic monitoring CCTV** – update from Cllr D. Bide

All in place and is operational. No incidents have happened since ANPR signs have been erected

a) Radar speed signs - Data has been sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting

**225/2025 CHE issues** – any update from last meeting Cllr R. Gill. No update was given on CHE

**226/2025 s106 monies** – update Cllr R. Gill - s106 application is being submitted to BDC

**227/2025 Neighbourhood Plan responsibilities** – Cllr R. Duffin

Having agreed the breakdown for Councillors responsibilities, Cllr R. Duffin would use that to apportion roles for the Neighbourhood Plan. This to be circulated for discussion and agreement at the November PC meeting

**228/2025 Parish Councillors responsibilities 2025-2026**

Cllr J. Strange proposed the changes to the Parish Councillors responsibilities for 2025-2026. Cllr A. Stanger seconded. All Agreed. The changes can be found at

<https://finchingfield-pc.gov.uk/councillor-roles-responsibilities-2024/>

**229/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response**

**25/01846/HH - 2 Primrose Cottages Duck End Finchingfield**

Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of summerhouse, shed and greenhouse

**RESOLVED:** Finchingfield Parish Council no objection to this planning application

**25/02068/HH - Pine Cottage Heards Lane Cornish Hall End CM7 4HF**

Erection of outbuilding.

**RESOLVED:** Finchingfield Parish Council no objection to this planning application

**25/02173/TPOCON - Hillcrest Wethersfield Road Finchingfield**

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

T1 1No. Maple tree - reduce crown by 3-4 metres: T2 1No. Maple tree - pollard tree to 5/6 metres

**RESOLVED:** Finchingfield Parish Council supports this application subject to the tree and conversation officers' approval

**25/02284/FUL - Obournes Farm Upper Howe Street Finchingfield**

Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and erection of four detached dwellings with associated access, parking, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements.

**RESOLVED:** Finchingfield Parish Council Objects to this planning application

The Parish Council is mindful of the sustainability and over development of this rural small hamlet. 4 dwellings, along with the original house would impact the size of the hamlet and undermine the rural character of the area.

It's also contrary to BDC's aims to ensure most housing development is around the towns in the District and alongside major roads such as the A120. There have been over 70 houses with planning approval over the last couple of years in Finchingfield village increasing accommodation significantly. 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 4 new dwellings will significantly put unnecessary congestion on the lane resulting in a hazard to the local community who regularly use the

Signed

John Strange - Chair

25<sup>th</sup>. November 2025

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 currently unmade lane flowing into Finchingfield village.

1. The barns are down at the end of a farm track. This track joins a busy class 3 road which should have a 30mph limit, but most vehicles travel at speeds in excess of 40-50mph. The access onto this Class 3 road is very poor
2. There is no public transportation from Finchingfield along the B1053 through Cornish Hall End to Steeple Bumpstead, or along the Class3 road to Stambourne.
3. A river runs under the access/egress track down into Finchingfield. This a flood risk.
4. This development would not be suitable for social housing as it is: 1. remote; 2. not accessible to the village of Finchingfield without a car; 3. The site is close to a Grade 1 listed house, which has a Grade 1 listed Dovecote in its garden. The barns are in a small area very close to this existing house.

**25/02331/VAR** - New Place Bardfield Road Finchingfield

Variation of Condition 2 (temporary fencing) of planning permission 21/03257/HH granted 21.03.2022 for: Retrospective application for replacement boundary treatments. Variation would allow: the removal condition 2 on the decision notice so that the 2m close boarded fence becomes permanent rather than a temporary boundary.

**RESOLVED:** Finchingfield Parish Council no objection to this planning application

**25/02363/TPOCON** - 2 Primrose Cottages Duck End Finchingfield

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell to ground level 1 Pine tree in the rear garden.

**RESOLVED:** Finchingfield Parish Council supports this application subject to the tree and conversation officers' approval

**230/2025 Grant Application**

To consider an application from Finchingfield Resident's Group for £500

Cllr J. Strange proposed granting £500 to Finchingfield Resident's Group. Cllr A. Stanger seconded.

**All Agreed**

**231/2025 2026-2027 Budget** – Councillors to discuss the draft 2026-2027 budget

**232/2025 Finance**

1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30<sup>th</sup>. September 2025

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30<sup>th</sup>. September 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 October 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

4) Councillors to receive the External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2024/25 from PKF Littlejohn

Councillors noted the External Auditor's Report

**233/2025 Items for next agenda**

May Day festivities: Neighbourhood Plan responsibilities: Finchingfield Bridge update:

**234/2025 Date of next Full Council meeting** – 25<sup>th</sup>. November 2025 at Cornish Village Hall at 7.30pm

**235/2025 Closure of the meeting**

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

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.20pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

John Strange - Chair

25<sup>th</sup>. November 2025