

FINCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING FINCHINGFIELD AND CORNISH HALL END



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Finchingfield Village Hall on Tuesday 25th. November 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
There were also 29 members of the public present.

236/2025 Apologies for absence Kevin B Money (Parish Clerk & RFO).

Chairman stated that as we have no clerk tonight the meeting would be recorded on two mobile phones.

237/2025 To receive member's declarations of interest and dispensations in items on the agenda
None Declared

238/2025 To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th. October 2025 Minor correction on dates by Cllr Butland. **All Agreed**

239/2025 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 member of the public asked why the two trusts were being amalgamated. Also asked why the sluice gates are shown in the accounts show £14,400 for repairs and suggests this is used to repair the concrete base and about a £5k donation from a member of the public. Chairman replied that the merging of the trusts is down to recommendation from RCCE to simplify the organisation of the Village Hall and the Sports Field Trusts. Chairman will look in to the £14,400 and respond by email as to whether there is an additional £5,000 donation.

240/2025 Essex County Council report – Cllr G. Butland

Submission of reorganisation have been made and the government are going to consider all four options. Commences on 19th November and continues till 19th January 2026. www.gov.uk were details are shown and individuals or councils can respond. Decision expected early March.

241/2025 Braintree District Council report – Cllr M. Staines

BDC's report is on the PC website.

242/2025 Task Force update – Cllr J. Berry

Task force has stopped for the winter and will recommence on 7th March.

a) Christmas – Councillors to discuss purchase of Christmas Tree, lights and Market

Thanks to volunteers that got the tree in the pond, to Cllr Bide for the lights and to those businesses that provided refreshments.

b) Councillors to discuss the purchase of stalls for this and other markers on the green. Deferred because of lack of funds.

c) RoSPA inspection reports will be updated by Cllr Gill.

d) Bus stop off Kemp Road notice board has been repaired.

243/2025 Christmas fayre / market

The Christmas Fair is on this Saturday from 12 – 3pm. Santa coming down the hill on sleigh with a grotto for children to meet Father Christmas.

244/2025 Finchingfield Bridge update Cllr J. Strange

Cllr Duffin has liaised with Holmes and Hill to explain to Essex Highways that we'd like to issue a licence for them to work on the bridge rather than deregister part of the village green. Haven't chased the solicitor as the ball is in County Councils hands at the moment.

243/2025 New Village Hall and Community Centre Project update Cllr J. Strange

Meetings with the public are over 3 days, 3rd, 10th and 14th of December. Councillors volunteered to deliver leaflets as they feel its important that the community knows the information on the new hall will be available.

Signed

JStrange

John Strange - Chair

27th. January 2026

244/2025 Wethersfield Airbase – any update from last meeting Cllr R. Duffin
Cllr Duffin was unable to attend the Home Office catch up but Cllr J Berry attended.
Gone down to 926 from a previous 1080.
Hopefully will get back down to 800 in December and try to maintain this level.
Only admitting small boat asylum seekers.
Average 70 days on site.

Asked for extra litter picking along the Wethersfield Road to and from both villages, as the verges have now been cut and litter more obvious, also more litter picking along Sculpins Lane. Home Office to organise.
Mentioned about continuous antisocial behaviour outside perimeter fence which will be addressed by HO and be a bit more forceful.

Media mentioned a 2/3 walkout of security staff on one day. Actually only 9 were absent for various reasons and this was covered. No security risk

No guns have been found on site as there has been some negative historical social media content about current residents and their past history in their homelands.

A good vibe reported on site too. The Home Office say its all under control with no problems but just today there is further FB content regarding fights and smoking within the accommodation.

Site visit has been organised for 19/1/26 at 2pm which Parish Councillors can attend.

245/2025 Update on Traffic monitoring CCTV– update from Cllr D. Bide
Radar speed signs - Cllr Bide says need to identify where the lights will go. Also an exercise to get the guns for Speedwatch as well as the fixed signs. Two projects.

246/2025 CHE issues – any update from last meeting Cllr J. Strange - No update on this.

247/2025 s106 monies – update Cllr R. Gill
BDC have approved the slightly higher amount from Gooch for rebuilding of the ramp to the childrens play area. Cllr R Gill proposed this seconded by Cllr J Berry and unanimously approved.
Cllr R Gill states that this leaves £15k in the S106 money. Have to update BDC by November and there's nothing proposed for the green. Could be suitable for bins and benches but it needs to be capital work not current maintenance. Ideas to go to Cllr R Gill.

248/2025 Neighbourhood Plan responsibilities – update Cllr R. Duffin
Discussed and agreed as

- 1 Planning for a Greener Future - Bide, Berry and Duffin
- 2 Community Energy Efficiency Improvement – Gill and Berry
- 3 Identify locations for public EV charging – Strange
- 4 Broadband – Duffin
- 5 Wethersfield Conservation Area - Wethersfield PC and John Pearce and Duffin
- 6 Danger Points – A Stanger and Berry
- 7 Restore Finchingfield Road footpath – A Stanger and Berry
- 8 Identify and seek designation of quiet lanes – A Stanger and Bide
- 9 Finchingfield Bridge – Bide, R Stanger and Strange
- 10 On Demand Public Transport Service – R Stanger
- 11 Traffic management measures – A Stanger, Bide
- 12 Support for local businesses – Braithwaite, Duffin
- 13 Identify assets of community value – Braithwaite, R Stanger
- 14 Airport master plan and conservation area – Gill, Duffin

Councillors – see spreadsheet for detail of what each area covers.

249/2025 Street Lighting – update from Cllr R. Stanger
Cllr Bide suggest we don't replace any lights, just we decide which lights we want and replace lights with the agreed new style.

250/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

25/02540/PLD - 4 Berners Place Wethersfield Road Finchingfield Essex CM7 4NR
Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development - Proposed solar panels to rear elevation.
RESOLVED: Finchingfield Parish Council has No objection to this application

251/2025 Planning Decision/s made by BDC

25/00368/FUL - 11 Cornish Hall End Finchingfield Essex CM7 4HD
Erection of 1no. detached 3 bedroom dwelling with associated operational development and landscaping
Application Refused

Signed

JStrange
John Strange - Chair

27th. January 2026

252/2025 Grant Application

- Parochial Church Council requesting £288.00p for the annual Church clock maintenance
- CHE Village Hall repair – £900 plus £955 from CHE Repair budget total £1,855.00
- Guildhall application for £2,500 – approved £1250 payable now with a further £1250 in April subject to seeing more activity from the Guildhall on creating their own income from other grants and events.
- Application for 50% of the Conservation Area appraisal to WASC to pay Place Services. £1898.88 (leaving £2101.22 for WASC in the earmarked reserves account).

All Approved unanimously.

253/2025 Finance

1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October 2025

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October 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 November 2025 and to agree to delegate power to the RFO for December '25 payments. Also to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements.

All Agreed

254/2025 Items for next agenda

255/2025 Date of next Full Council meeting – 27th. January 2026 at Finchingfield village hall at 7.30pm

256/2025 2026 meeting dates: 24.02: 24.03: 28.04: 26.05: 23.06: 28.07: 22.09: 27.10: 24.11.26

257/2025 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.

258/2025 Trust matters

To employ Micheal Phelps, Setfords Solicitors to arrange CIO and the merging of Trusts. **All Agreed**

To appoint Julian Peers to repair the mains leak in the village Hall, costs come from the Village Hall account.

All Agreed

259/2025 Closure of the meeting

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

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm and thanked everyone for attending