



FINGRINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 3RD SEPTEMBER 2024

A meeting of the Council took place at Fingringhoe Village Hall, Chapel Road, Fingringhoe, Colchester, Essex CO5 7BH on 3rd SEPTEMBER 2024 at 7pm.

Councillors present: Ian Chamberlain

Michael Clarke

Emma Dixon

Jonathan Martin – acting chairman

Petra Palfreyman – Parish Clerk

Also in attendance – Colchester City Councillor Dr Martin Parson and 18 members of the public and two representatives from Essex Wildlife Trust (ETW) and two representatives from the Rural Community Council for Essex (RCCE).

103/24	Apologies for absence – Cllrs Ketley, Law and Gordon. Colchester City Councillors Carl Powling & Davidson
104/24	To record declarations of interest – none
105/24	Public Questions - none
106/24	<p>To receive reports from Colchester City Councillor – Dr Martin Parsons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further to queries from the Parish Council about what comments influence the planners decisions, what the planners find most helpful is where parish councils give them information they wouldn't otherwise know, for example, the history of a site or local feeling on a planning issue, but this has to be linked to a material planning consideration, such as effect on the street scene.• There have been new instructions from government regarding housing targets and based on a formula, to see how many houses are needed in the whole local authority. The target was 920 which was increased by 13.5% to 1043, then central government requested a 40% increase to 1290, for the whole of the Colchester Borough. There may be changes to law to make it more difficult for planners to refuse applications and nothing in place to ensure locals are given priority. Colchester has built more houses than anywhere in Essex, and these

	<p>figures will feed into the targets, but there must be a 5-year supply. The Local Plan may be reviewed, and some decisions could be taken away from the Local Authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a consultation on recycling and a decision will be made in October. The changes will include black wheelie bins for general waste and another wheelie bin for combined cardboard, paper and plastic waste. There will not be any charge for these bins. The green waste wheelie bins will continue. • The Boundary Review has confirmed that there will be 51 councillors in Colchester and the size of the Wards will increase. Mersea and Pyfleet may be included with Rowhedge.
107/24	To approve minutes of the meeting on 2 ND JULY 2024 and any matters arising - the minutes as previously circulated were approved for signing. There were no matters arising.
108/24	To discuss the results of the Housing Needs Survey and consider the next steps – Laura Atkinson and Rachel Fahie, Rural Housing Enablers from the Rural Community Council of Essex came to the meeting and provided a summary of the Housing Needs Survey. The 41% response to the survey is considered high, compared to the usual response of 25%, and identified that the community has a need for around 6 to 7 local affordable homes. Laura and Rachel answered a number of questions from the councillors and residents in attendance, and the Council will decide the next steps and the meeting in October. Meanwhile the RCCE will prepare a summary of the results which will be published on the Council website.
109/24	<p>To consider the purchase of a section of Priors Farmland - Rebecca Hughes, Head of Fundraising for Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) and James Astley, Grants and Trusts Officer advised that EWT are hoping to purchase twenty-eight hectares of land from a local farmer, to integrate with the reserve. Their vision is to transform the site with a special interest in the underlying geology and make this available to the village and other visitors. This is the biggest funding bid for a number of years and has required a lot of background work and research. They hope to know if the bid is successful by the end of this year. EWT had also hoped to purchase some of Priors Farmland but this went to the open market too quickly for them to put together a funding bid.</p> <p>Fingringhoe Parish Council had always hoped to be able to buy a piece of the Priors Farmland to retain as open space. However, the sale appeared on the open market without notice in five lots, with one lot at £750000 and four at £250000. The Council would have to seek grants or a Public Works Loan and at this stage it is understood there is interest in the entire site at £2.5M and interest in several of the plots singularly. The clerk is in touch with the agent, should anything change.</p>
110/24	<p>To receive planning notification decision</p> <p>240896 The Hedges, Haye Lane, Fingringhoe Essex CO5 7AD</p> <p>Application for removal or variation of a condition 3 following grant of planning permission. (230557)</p> <p>Decision: Approve Conditional</p>

240895	Clay Pightle, Abberton Road, Fingringhoe Essex CO5 7AT	Proposed remodelling of the existing dwelling including the removal of the existing conservatory, the erection of two bay windows to the front of the dwelling alongside a porch, a rear extension, and a loft conversion creating a 1.5-storey dwelling. Decision: Approve conditional
240998	13 Dudley Road, Fingringhoe Colchester CO5 7DS	Single storey rear extension Decision: Approve Conditional

111/24	Finance					
	a) Accounts payable July/August 2024 – noted and agreed plus and one payment to IC Maintenance for £150.00					
	Payment date	Payee	Purpose	Cheque /BACs	Amount £	VAT
	04.07.24	P Palfreyman	Training expenses	Bacs	19.20	
	04.07.24	CALC	Annual subscription	Bacs	35.00	
	04.07.24	Adrian Watson	Play area gate repairs	Bacs	100.00	
	18.07.24	Ligna Consultancy	Tree survey	Bacs	450.00	
	18.07.24	Dines Agri	Grass cutting	Bacs	276.00	
	08.08.24	P Palfreyman	July wages	Bacs	509.20	
	13.08.24	PKF Littlejohn	External audit	Bacs	252.00	42.00
	13.08.24	HMRC	Clerks PAYE July	Bacs	33.80	
	19.08.24	Dines Agri	Grass cutting	Bacs	276.00	
	28.08.24	Suffolk Cloud	Website hosting & support	Bacs	120.00	
	28.08.24	HMRC	Clerks PAYE August	Bacs	33.80	
	30.08.24	P Palfreyman	August wages	Bacs	509.20	
Total				2614.20	42.00	
b) To review the budget to 31 August 2024 – noted and agreed						
c) To note the bank reconciliation to 31 August 2024 – noted and agreed						
d) To consider adding a fourth signatory for the bank accounts – Cllr Martin agreed to become the 4 th signatory						
e) To note the conclusion of the External Audit – the External Auditors advised that “On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.” This confirms that the Councils						

	accounts are financially accurate and in accordance with the prescribed standards.
112/24	<p>To discuss the next steps for the trustees of the United Charities for the Poor – following discussion it was confirmed that the following would become trustees of the charity and continue the business of the charity.</p> <p>Cllr Gerald Ketley – chairman/trustee Cllr Sharron Law – treasurer/trustee Cllr Ian Chamberlain – allotments/trustee Cllr Michael Clarke – existing trustee/trustee Mr Derek Henderson – trustee</p> <p>The new trustees will now hold a meeting to formally appoint the trustee positions, and the clerk will provide an up-to-date summary of recent and future actions.</p>
113/24	To discuss the results of the tree survey on trees owned or managed by the Council and consider further actions – thirty-five trees were surveyed and sixteen had advisory actions, if budget allows. The Council agreed to no immediate action but to monitor the trees and review later.
114/24	To note the outcomes and recommendations of the quarterly area inspection and annual play area inspection and consider any further action – both inspections highlighted minor low risk issues which will be monitored. The clerk will obtain quotes for a new flat swing seat to be considered.
115/24	To discuss replacing the broken bench on Holmwood Farm bridleway – Cllr Chamberlain agreed to check the bench and consider whether it could be repaired or needs to be replaced.
116/24	To note the report about the village pond – the clerk thanked Peter Morris for his report which contains some important historical information, also provided by Terry Canham.
117/24	<p>To receive reports from Parish representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpaths – Dead Lane needs clearing • Village Pond - to be cleared soon with a working party • Recreation Ground – nothing to report • Transport – buses are now supplied by Stevensons of Essex • Fingringhoe School – the nettles on Church Green have been cleared
118/24	<p>Updates about ongoing issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fingerpost Furneaux Lane corner – the clerk has been advised this has been fixed. Tesco had no trace of their vans in the area at the time it was reported • John Brunning Walk – still in discussions with the landowner but is likely to be completed this autumn

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play area fence and bark and recreation ground fence – more bark has now been laid and the fences repaired • Barnfields meeting – the clerk and two councillors had a meeting with the manager of the site who agreed to organise some work to tidy up the area, fix the fence, reinstall signs and remove rubbish, gas a gas cannister and oil cans from around the site • Dog fouling Recreation ground – no issues reported by the school or the football club. A Public Spaces Protection Order which Colchester City Council can issue, could be considered in future.
119/24	Date of the next meeting – TUESDAY 1 ST OCTOBER 2024 at 7pm at Fingringhoe Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.20pm