



**FINGRINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL MEETING – 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

A meeting of the Council took place at Fingringhoe Village Hall, Chapel Road, Fingringhoe, Colchester, Essex  
CO5 7BH on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at 7pm.

Councillors present: Gerald Ketley – Chairman  
Sharron Law – Vice Chairman  
Derek Henderson  
Emma Dixon  
Neil Gordon  
Ian Chamberlain  
Petra Palfreyman – Parish Clerk

Also in attendance – Colchester City Councillor Cllr Martin Parsons and 0 members of the public.

019/26 Apologies for absence – Cllr Martin, Colchester City Cllr Robert Davidson and Essex County Councillor Kevin Bentley

020/26 To record declarations of interest – none

021/26 Public Questions – none

022/26 To receive reports from our Essex County and Colchester City Councillors

The consultation for the Local Plan closed last week and Colchester City Councillors will be updated next week. CCC and ECC elections will go ahead in May 2026. As part of the Boundary Review, Fingringhoe will be in the same Ward as Mersea and Tiptree.

Recent issues with overflowing sewage works and long standing issues in the village were also discussed (030/26)

Written report from Cllr Kevin Bentley

Please accept my apologies for tonight I have to be at Tiptree Parish Council and also Birch and I can't make three in one evening.

Thank you for your note re parking at the school. Of course, we can have a meeting but I have had several of these during the years and still the problem exists. The only way to properly stop this is if there are enforcement lines laid down, that being single yellow with restricted times, double yellow no parking or red lines absolutely no parking or stopping.

This of course also affects local residents. When we have suggested this before local people are less keen. However, I am happy to pursue this line if the Parish Council wishes to and I would urge this is discussed and a recommendation put to me.

023/26 To approve minutes of the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 and any matters arising - the minutes as previously circulated were approved for signing. There were no matters arising

024/26 To consider planning applications received

260076 Mr Harry Keegan Saltmarsh House (formerly Salmons Cottage), South Green Road, Fingringhoe Colchester CO5 7DW Removal/Variation of a Condition (8 Week Determination) Application to vary condition 2 (drawings) of planning permission 231460 Expiry date: 09/02/2026 Comment - Neighbours views to be taken into consideration

025/26 To receive planning notification decision

252168 Mr Harry Keegan Saltmarsh House, South Green Road, Fingringhoe Colchester CO5 7DW Conversion of existing garage building into one bedroom annexe and new driveway access, existing access to be closed. Decision type: Approve Conditional

026/26 FINANCE

a ) Accounts payable 31 January 2026 -the following payments were noted and agreed

Payment date	Payee	Purpose	Method	Total Amount £	VAT
27.01.26	CouncilWise	Annual subscription	Bacs	90.00	15.00
27.01.26	P Palfreyman	Magnet sheet and magnets	Bacs	37.45	6.25
30.01.26	P Palfreyman	January wages	Bacs	507.40	
30.01.26	HMRC	Clerks PAYE	Bacs	96.59	
31.01.26	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	Bacs	6.00	
<b>Total</b>				<b>737.44</b>	

b) To review the budget to 31 January 2026 – noted and agreed

c) To note the bank reconciliation to 31 January 2026 - noted and agreed

The clerk also advised the precept has been approved by CCC.

- 027/26 To discuss and agree a new bin for Church Green and other works to be included in the Locality Grants of £1000 and £500 from Cllrs Bentley and Parsons – the Council agreed that the Locality Grants would enable the Council to go ahead with the new bin and cleaning up the seats and bench.
- 028/26 To discuss and agree the bin emptying and playground inspections contract from Colchester City Council for £712.11 for 2026/27 (£671.95 2025/26) - following discussion the new contract was agreed
- 029/26 To consider further quotes for play bark for seven cubic meters costing £90 m<sup>3</sup> supplied loose (£630.00) for collection or £99.28 m<sup>3</sup> (£695.00) delivered loose OR supplied in ten tote bags for £72.75 m<sup>3</sup> (£727.50) for collection or £114.50 m<sup>3</sup> (£1145.00) delivered – following discussion it was agreed to purchase the bark from the original quote of 5 tonnes (supply, delivery and labour) for £985
- 030/26 To discuss the recent sewage issues and consider contacting Anglian Water – the clerk agreed to work with councillors to send a letter to Anglian Water
- 031/26 To consider engaging a contractor to install the village name stone – the clerk will try to a quote for installation
- 032/26 To provide an update about the Common Land and consider next actions – the clerk contacted the Open Spaces Society who advised that the land should be registered and professionally advice sought - The Council agreed to engage the services of a professional surveyor to carry out a topographical survey at a cost of up to £1500
- 033/26 To receive reports from Parish representatives
- Footpaths – nothing to report
  - Village Pond – nothing to report
  - Recreation Ground - nothing to report
  - Transport – nothing to report
  - Fingringhoe School – nothing to report
- 034/26 Updates about ongoing issues
- School parking – the school have advised they have arranged for ECC School Crossing Patrol Assessment Team to visit after half term to look at the issues faced around the school at drop off and pick up times
  - Highways and signage – signage has been put up in Church Rd. The school sign in Church Rd has been damaged and will be reported
  - VAS – the clerk has been advised the VAS is triggered at 35 mph, but it still does not appear to be working
  - Email address – most councillors have now set up their new gov.uk email addresses
- 035/26 Date of the next meeting – TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2026 at 7pm at Fingringhoe Village Hall.  
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm