



FINGRINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 1st SEPTEMBER 2026

A meeting of the Council took place at Fingringhoe Village Hall, Chapel Road, Fingringhoe, Colchester, Essex CO5 7BH on 1st September 2026 at 7pm.

Councillors present: Gerald Ketley – Chairman
Sharron Law – Vice Chairman
Derek Henderson
Emma Dixon
Ian Chamberlain
Jameson Smith
Jonathan Martin
Petra Palfreyman – Parish Clerk

Also in attendance Colchester City Councillor Dr Martin Parsons and one member of the public.

The chairman Cllr Gerald Ketley welcomed Cllr Jameson Smith to the Parish Council.

104/26 Apologies for absence – City Councillors Robert Davidon and Carl Powling.

105/26 To record declarations of interest – none.

106/26 Public Questions – a representative from the local Wivenhoe, Rowhedge & Fingringhoe Ferry Trust came along to discuss fundraising for a floating pontoon for the ferry. The ferry has become inaccessible to Fingringhoe for a number of reasons such as the depth of the keel and height of the sides on the new boat, and that the area is more silted up than in previous years. This has made boarding and getting of the ferry a health and safety issue for passengers in Fingringhoe and the volunteers have made the decision that they cannot pick up and drop off at Fingringhoe at the moment. The ferry volunteers are aware of a few local complaints and believe that if a floating pontoon can be installed, it would improve access enough to be able to stop at Fingringhoe again. The Council agreed to work with the volunteers and investigate the feasibility and costs of the project.

107/26 To receive reports from our Colchester City Councillor

Dr Martin Parsons

The Local Plan is out for the second consultation. The government have imposed huge housing targets and will need sites for 21000 houses in the next 15/17 years. Some villages have plans for housing that will treble the village in size. Fingringhoe has a site for five more houses. The Local Plan will give some control over where they go, as if not developers will put in for large sites and the government will approve them on appeal. Some conditions will apply, for example adequate sewage and wastewater disposal must be in place before any occupation. Fingringhoe will take the wastewater for the new development at Langenhoe and Anglian Water state we have capacity for another 125 houses on that system.

There is a planning designation for four villages in Colchester (Fingringhoe, Salcott and East and West Mersea) where there is only one road out, which should provide some protection against large developments.

Cllr Parsons also acknowledge some issues with the CCC IT system as the clerk advised some planning emails had not been received.

108/26 To approve minutes of the meeting on 1st July 2026 and any matters arising - the minutes as previously circulated were approved for signing. There were no matters arising.

109/26 FINANCE

a) Accounts payable July and August 2026 -the following payments were noted and agreed

Payment date	Payee	Purpose	Method	Total Amount £	VAT
13.07.26	A Ketley	Labour for 2 nd village name stone	Bacs	250.00	
13.07.26	Dines Agri	Grass cutting	Bacs	336.00	
13.07.26	D Monks	Labour & materials 2 nd village name stone	Bacs	450.00	
31.07.26	P Palfreyman	July wages & printer ink	Bacs	489.47	4.31
31.07.26	HMRC	Clerks PAYE	Bacs	139.39	
31.07.26	Unity bank	Service charge	Bacs	7.00	
25.08.26	CCC	Swing seats and chains	Bacs	781.56	130.26
25.08.26	Ligna Consultancy	Tree survey		498.00	83.00
25.08.26	HMRC	Clerks PAYE	Bacs	140.39	
25.08.26	P Palfreyman	Printer ink	Bacs	34.14	5.69
28.08.26	P Palfreyman	August wages	Bac	463.60	
31.08.26	Unity Bank	Service charge	Bacs	7.00	
Total				3596.55	223.26

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

- c) To note the bank reconciliation to 31 August 2026 - noted and agreed.
- d) To agree the clerks pay rise of 3.3% backdated to 1 April 2026 – the pay rise of 64p per hour and backpay of £96 was agreed.

- 110/26 To discuss considering a joint initiative with the Ferry Trust to raise funds to build a new jetty – see public discussion at 106/26.
- 111/26 To discuss and agree an IT Policy – the clerk advised the policy is now mandatory as stated in the Practitioners Guide. The new policy was agreed and will be published on the website.
- 112/26 To review the play area inspection and consider any actions needed - the inspection report advised very low risk or low risk issues with some minor maintenance required to some items. The Council will regularly review the fence for deterioration.
- 113/26 To review the tree inspection and consider and actions needed – the report recommended some works are considered, subject to the budget, but no works are urgent and require immediate attention.
- 114/26 To discuss the PSPO and consider the CCC request for temporary signs and locations – following discussion the Council agreed not to erect temporary signage and to wait for Colchester City Council to put up their permanent signage.
- 115/26 To receive reports from Parish representatives:
- Footpaths – nothing to report
 - Village Pond – the pond has recently been cleared of three loads of weed
 - Recreation Ground – two posts are loose around the car park and will be replaced
 - Transport – nothing to report
 - Fingringhoe School – nothing to report
- 116/26 Updates about ongoing issues:
- Boardwalk – repairs, grants, replacement – the Council confirmed they would like to go ahead with the replacement boardwalk, subject to grants for which the outcome will be advised in the autumn. Cllr Henderson was thanked for making an area of the footway safe.
 - Play area swing seats – the chains and swing seats have been replaced
 - Survey of Fingringhoe Common – an area through the boundary has been cut and a further meeting with the surveyor will be arranged
 - VAT refund – a VAT refund of approx. £2600 has been submitted for the 24/25 and 25/26
 - Footpath repairs – the clerk contacted the MOD regarding repairs to Footpath 13. The MOD reported this to ECC who have agreed to carry out the works in due course
 - School parking – Cllr Perera was looking into the school parking and is yet to advise further
 - Pigs Foot Green – a new post has been made and will be installed in the next few weeks

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.30hrs

DRAFT