

**FINCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
REPRESENTING FINCHINGFIELD AND CORNISH HALL END**



**MINUTES of the Parish Council EGM Meeting held at Finchingfield Village
Hall, on Tuesday 21st February 2023 commencing at 7:00pm.**

Present: Cllr Martin Smith (Chairman)
Cllr Denman
Cllr A Stanger
Cllr R Stanger
Cllr Coverdale
Cllr Strange
Cllr Butland (BDC)
Kate Raymond (Clerk)

In Attendance: Members of the Public: 19

23/163 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Peter Tattersley (BDC) Cllr Duffin, Cllr Hammond, and Cllr Gordon.

23/164 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None

23/165 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Acceptance of the minutes of the EGM meeting held on 8th February 2023, signed by the Chairman.

23/166 OPENING SPEECH FROM CHAIRMAN

Chair states he has been a member of the village for 31 years, but I have only been recently involved in the Parish Council. The Bridge discussion has been going on for many years, in fact 1994 was the first meeting on how the bridge is going to be managed. I have listened and been a part of many of the discussions we have had over the past month, but I think that it is fair to say that the issues have become wider as the detail of what Essex County Council are going to be doing have increased. We as a Parish Council have reacted to that discussion and have in some ways changed the stance because as the public have learnt initially about the bridge is that it had

been put forward to be re-built and then a closure, and then there was a big move and a huge meeting to make sure there was a temporary bridge in its place. But once we examined more closely of what the temporary bridge is going to do in terms of closing facilities for not four months but an extended period of ten months, again the discussion got more heated, and we as a Parish Council have listened very carefully to what the village have been saying. Before we start the public session, I would like to say that we have listened to what you have been saying and I am going to be reading out a letter in point 5 of the agenda which we will be putting forward to Essex County Council.

23/167 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

One member of the public stated that “Most of it has been said Mr Chairman.”

23//168 **TEMPORARY VICE CHAIR**

The Chairman announced that Cllr Robert Stanger has temporarily taken on the role of Vice Chair whilst Cllr Duffin is on sick leave.

23/169 **REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Butland states members of the public are currently more interested in the bridge so will therefore give a report at the next Parish Council meeting.

23/170 **FINCHINGFIELD BRIDGE REFURBISHMENT**

The Parish Council has made a formal response to the current consultation.

A letter has been written from the Parish Council to Essex County Council, the Chairman reads the letter. Once the letter is read, the Chairman states a possible amendment to add, the amount of distress and disruption the reconstruction will cause if the bridge is refurbished. A vote takes place between councillors to agree the letter. Proposed by Cllr Martin Smith seconded by Cllr Robert Stanger. All in agreement – Unanimous vote.

23/171 **NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:**

The next meeting of Finchingfield Parish Council will take place at Finchingfield Village Hall on Tuesday, 28th February 2023 commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7.19pm.

Signed:Chairman.

Date: