

FINCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING FINCHINGFIELD AND CORNISH HALL END



MINUTES of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at Finchingfield Village Hall, on Tuesday 9th May 2023 followed immediately after the Annual Parish Assembly.

Present:

Cllr Martin Smith
Cllr Strange
Cllr Gordon
Cllr A Stanger
Cllr R Stanger
Cllr Hammond
Cllr Warner
Cllr Braithwaite
Cllr G Butland (ECC))
Kate Raymond (Clerk)

In Attendance: Members of the Public: 6

01/23 TO ELECT A CHAIR FOR THIS MEETING ONLY

Council agrees to elect Cllr Strange to Chair this meeting only.
Proposer Cllr A Stanger, Seconded Cllr Hammond.

02/23 CHAIRMAN TO SIGN DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Strange signs Chairman Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed and signed by the Clerk.

03/23 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Duffin

04/23 TO APPOINT A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024

Council discusses and agrees to appoint Cllr Strange as Vice Chairman for the year 2023/2024.
Proposer Cllr Hammond, Seconded Cllr A Stanger

05/23

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None

06/23

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2023, signed by Cllr Strange- elected Chairman for this meeting only.

07/23

CO-OPTION: TO CONSIDER CO-OPTING CANDIDATES ONTO FINCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Council discusses candidates, council in full agreement to co-opt the following members. Johnny Martin Smith, Tom Gordon & Jacqui Braithwaite.

Co-opted members sign their Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witness and signed by the Clerk.

08/23

ELECTION OF APPOINTMENTS FOR COUNCILLORS AND HR COMMITTEE

Council discusses various responsibilities and agrees to assign roles between councillors.

09/23

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Member of the public – Thanks Cllr Butland and BDC for all their hard work in respect of preventing the potential Asylum Center.

10/23

REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Butland states today is Cllr Tattersley's last day as a District councillor as he will be retiring.

Cllr Butland states West Lindsey District Council (Council responsible for RAF Scampton) are attending the High Court on Thursday 11th May, BDC will be attending with them as an interested party. BDC will be lodging their papers on Wednesday 10th May for the court of appeal. Legal costs are currently amounting to £120,000.

Member of the public asks if there are any differences in the legal standing between the West Lindsey and BDC appeal. Cllr Butland states a significant difference in that RAF Scampton have a £300 million regeneration scheme which the local council set up with significant investment from the private sector. They are coming from a different point of view, as clearly, we have a different situation in Wethersfield, they are slightly different scenarios, however their Barrister attended the court of appeal with BDC, both BDC and West Lindsey are working closely together.

11/23

APPONTMENT OF RFO

Cllr A Stanger confirms HR had a successful interview with Kevin B. Money. Council agrees to ratify appointment of RFO.

Proposer Cllr A Stanger, Seconded Cllr J Braithwaite

12/23

CAR PARK SIGNS IN & AROUND FINCHINGFIELD VILLAGE

Discussions between councillors on location of signs, looking for a long-term strategy. Cllr Hammond to liaise with Cllr Braithwaite in respect of signs, storage of signs, ideas for parking, using Freshwell Health Centre, also looking for a long term solution.

13/23

ESSEX HIGHWAYS

Council discusses possible dates that Essex Highways have put forward to close the Bridge and Bridge Street for investigatory works. Concerns around the dates put forward as it is during the summer season, are these works absolutely necessary – request to be postponed until the autumn. Cllr Martin Smith to contact Essex Highways to discuss further.

14/23

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Hammond and Cllr Warner to work together to finalise plan.

15/23

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE

Council defer until more information is known regarding the bridge.

16/23

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS IN ESSEX

Cllr Martin Smith asks Cllr Butland to explain more regarding electoral divisions. Cllr Butland – refers to Parliamentary constituencies. At present there are two parliamentary constituencies which cover the Braintree District. Braintree and north are currently in the Braintree constituency, and south of Braintree is in the Witham constituency. Cllr Butland states Parliamentary boundaries have been looked at for the last couple of years, there was an original suggestion that the northern part of Braintree from Halsted north would be halved off to a constituency that also included parts of Suffolk. This was not agreed therefore the boundary commission came forward with a new proposal whereby, Braintree and the northern part would remain the Braintree constituency, losing the Colne's to the Witham constituency and the Braintree constituency would take on three new parish's, which are currently over the border in Uttlesford, this proposal has been met with much more support.

17/23 **CHE NOTICE BOARD**

Cllr Gordon confirms he has a key for the CHE notice board. Cllr Gordon will put the FPC minutes in the CHE board.

18/23 **CHE SPECIFIC**

Cllr Strange – Received new proposed quote for the rail and gate from Kevin Gooch. Council discusses further – the original quote was agreed, however due to the change in gate style the quote needed to be adjusted. the quote is slightly more than expected due to the extra steel, Cllr Strange to discuss further and clarify with Mr Gooch.

19/23 **FINANCE**

Cllr R Stanger – States new RFO will be working on the accounts and preparing for the annual audit. No new payments to approve.

20/23 **PLANNING**

No new planning applications received.

21/23 **ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA**

- Finchingfield Bridge
- CHE
- Date for a Trust meeting

Councillors are asked to inform the clerk of any items by 20th June 2023.

Chairman adjourns the meeting at 19.45pm for the Council to discuss Trust Business privately. Chairman thanks Cllr Butland and members of the public for attending.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL: The next meeting of Finchingfield Parish Council will take place at Finchingfield Village Hall on Tuesday, 27TH June 2023 commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19.50pm.

Signed:Chairman Date: