



FINCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

14 The Hopgrounds Finchingfield Essex CM7 4LU

E-MAIL POLICY - GUIDELINES

Reviewed at the Parish Council Meeting 26th September 2023

The purpose of this e-mail policy is to ensure that Councillors and the Clerk are aware of how e-mails should be used when discussing Parish Council matters.

The benefit of e-mail usage keeps everyone properly informed and assists in keeping the Meeting times within the specified timeframe (Standing Order No 1).

Guidelines for use of e-mails:

In accordance with the Code of Conduct for Councillors it is incumbent upon Councillors not to conduct themselves in a manner which is likely to bring the Council in disrepute.

Councillors should at all times apply the seven Nolan principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, and honesty.

Have respect for fellow Councillors and the Clerk and not use e-mail for personal bullying or vindictive comments acting always within the Law.

Councillors must not forward-mails to external bodies/third parties without prior approval through the Clerk.

Upon receipt of communication from external bodies or parishioners the e-mail should be sent to the Clerk by the recipient copying the original sender.

If e-mails are being circulated which would assist in Councillors making an informed decision then ALL Councillors should receive a copy of the e-mail, with a copy to the Clerk.

If the e-mails are of a informal nature (for example to make arrangements to meet/discuss an agreed project), it is not necessary to share with all.

E-mails should not be used for canvassing support or to express personal views (Councillors are reminded that when responding they are representing the Council and considering the benefit for the Parish).

Try, where possible, to save contentious debates for Parish Council meetings as this is the correct place to debate open and honestly.

All Councillors must ideally use Councillor specific e-mail address ie. XXX@finchingfield-pc.org.uk in line with GDPR. Personal e-mail addresses should not be used.

Those Councillors who do not use e-mail will no longer receive paper copies of documents.

Note: E-Mails could be used in Monitoring Officer investigations (Councillors) or tribunals (Employee).