



# FRATING PARISH COUNCIL

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## ANNUAL REPORT April 2025- March 2026 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### Overview

The Parish Council ended the year with four serving Councillors leaving three vacancies. If you are interested in serving your community as a Councillor, please contact the **Clerk Kay English at [clerk@fratingparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@fratingparishcouncil.gov.uk)**.

I would like to offer my thanks to all Councillors and our Clerk for their commitment over the past year. Our council meetings have continued to take place face to face at the Memorial Hall ensuring open discussion and community accessibility.

We are grateful to County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi who attends our meetings whenever possible and provides valuable updates on county policies and initiatives. His written reports when he cannot attend have kept us well informed; he has been particularly supportive in our ongoing highways matters with Essex County Council (ECC).

District Councillor Aimee Keteca has also been supportive regularly attending meetings and updating us on the emerging Local Plan and Local Government Reorganisation.

Planning continues to be a major part of the council's work given its impact on the character and wellbeing of the parish. While the Parish Council is a consultee rather than a decision-maker, residents' contributions remain essential in shaping our responses to County and District planners.

Tending District Council (TDC) is now required to update its Local Plan; this process may lead to substantial new housing development in both Frating and Great Bromley.

We are still awaiting ECC's decision on preferred sites for minerals extraction now more than a year overdue.

The council continues to maintain representation on several District and County associations. This ensures regular communication with neighbouring Town and Parish Councils and helps us stay informed on wider issues affecting our community.

**Terry Cuthbert,  
Chairman**

## **Planning**

Three planning applications were submitted to TDC for 15 new homes at Holly Farm, Main Road. The Parish Council raised no objections and TDC has now granted approval.

National housing policy has changed significantly with the Government setting a target of 1.5 million new homes to be built nationally. For Tendring this means an annual requirement of 1,065 homes, twice the previous figure. One option being explored by TDC is a new Garden Community of between 1,700 and 4,500 homes potentially covering land in both Frating and Great Bromley. The Parish Council will be submitting a strong objection to this proposal setting out the concerns of our community on the extent of the expansion.

To ensure residents were fully informed a leaflet was delivered to every household inviting them to a public meeting where TDC presented the Draft Local Plan and listened to local views.

A welcome development is the allocation of £85 million to complete the A1331 link road between the A133 and A120, with completion expected by 2030.

## **Local Issues of Concern**

### Flooding and Drainage

This winter was thankfully drier than previous years reducing the level of flooding experienced by many residents.

Anglian Water is continuing its detailed survey of the village sewer system to identify the issues that are compromising and overwhelming their system. There is a need to survey 175 properties and at the time of going to print 111 have been checked. Around 1,100 metres of pipework have been inspected and several infiltration points have already been identified. Once the full survey is completed, Anglian Water will plan the necessary repair and sealing works.

The Parish Council has over the last 18 months, held meetings with Anglian Water and Essex Flood Management every six weeks to try and find solutions to the flooding issues.

### Mineral Extraction Proposal

A public meeting on 4 March 2024 updated residents on the proposal by the landowner at Frating Hall to put forward 47 hectares for potential mineral extraction. This was the first stage of the process with ECC deciding on whether to include the site on its preferred list. To stop this from happening, residents should submit their objections to ECC. The Parish Council resolved to object to this site (A69). At the time this report was compiled, the preferred list for Essex sites remained pending due to numerous objections.

### Public Rights of Way

The Parish Council has continued to ensure that the Public Rights of Way in Frating are kept open for public use supported by the ECC P3 Scheme, which provides equipment and signage. The Parish Council would like to acknowledge the work most local landowners do to keep the footpaths clear for public use despite the challenges of farming and cropping. We are also grateful to the landowner at Morehams Hall for allowing public use of the track on their land that runs from Clacton Road/Bromley Road to Harwich Road.

### Highways and Fly Tipping

The Parish Council continues to report damaged roads and signage to ECC. Fly tipping unfortunately remains an issue, but all incidents are reported promptly to TDC for clearance.

### Vehicle Speed Monitoring

Two Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) are now in place on the A133. Data collected shows that around 6% of vehicles exceed the speed limit, a figure that has remained relatively consistent.

Some residents have asked about setting up a Community Speed Watch group. This can only run with volunteers and full training is provided. Anyone interested should contact the Parish Clerk.

### **Grass Cutting, Tree Maintenance, Lighting & Bus Shelter**

The Parish Council employs a contractor to maintain grassed areas across the village helping to keep Frating looking tidy and welcoming. The council also employ a tree surgeon who carries out regular inspections and pruning of the birch trees along Bromley Road.

The efforts of residents, who look after the frontage of their properties and the seasonal flowers at the Memorial Hall and village sign, is greatly appreciated. Sadly, two flower boxes were stolen from the Memorial Hall during the year.

TDC currently maintains the graveyard at the old Frating Church, but responsibility will transfer to the Parish Council in April 2026. The parish will assume responsibility for ongoing maintenance to ensure the area remains well-kept, thereby making it a more pleasant place to visit.

Parish lighting in Bromley Road, Great Bentley Road and Haggars Lane continues to be maintained under contract as these lights are not included in ECC's street lighting programme. The Parish Council also undertook refurbishment of the bus shelter, which was a welcome improvement.

### **Dog Fouling**

Reports of dog fouling on footpaths and open spaces continue to be received. All dog owners are asked to bag and bin waste to keep our village clean and safe for everyone. A new dog waste bin has been installed on Bromley Road at the entrance to the permissive track.

Concerns have also been raised about dogs not being kept under control on Public Rights of Way. Any incidents should be reported to the TDC Dog Warden.

### **Frating Memorial Hall**

As Custodial Trustee of the Frating War Memorial Hall and Institute, a registered charity, the Parish Council is represented on the Management Committee. The Hall continues to be well maintained with regular electrical and fire safety checks. It is self-regulated for serving food but is not licensed to sell alcohol.

### **Parish Council Administration**

The 2024/25 Annual Report was published on the Parish Council website to reach as many of the residents who are unable to attend meetings. Minutes of all meetings are displayed on noticeboards, the website and social media. The Parish Council circulated a residents' newsletter in March 2026. The council will publish a seasonal newsletter going forward to share information that is relevant and beneficial to residents.

### **Parish Clerk – Remuneration and Working Hours**

At the October meeting, the council agreed to increase the Clerk's remuneration from April 2025. Working hours and pay will be reviewed again once updated NJC guidance is issued.

### **Governance and Meetings**

The Parish Council reviews its governance arrangements each year following guidance from TDC and the County and National Associations.

Frating's Emergency Plan is lodged with TDC and updated regularly. Councillors attend emergency planning workshops and a wide range of other meetings throughout the year to ensure Frating's interests are represented. Reports from these meetings are shared at Parish Council meetings.

**Parish Councillors (March 2026)**

Cllr Terry Cuthbert – Chairman

Cllr Paula Bland – Vice Chairman

Cllr Jean Hynes

Cllr Sally Potter

Parish Clerk Contact Details

Kay English

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