



# FRATING PARISH COUNCIL

Memorial Hall, Main Road, Frating, CO7 7DJ.

Clerk to the Council: Jim Morris

Email: [fratingpc@hotmail.com](mailto:fratingpc@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.fratingparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.fratingparishcouncil.org.uk)

## MINUTES of the FRATING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at Memorial Hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 1930hrs.

Present: Cllr Paula Bland (Vice-Chairperson)  
Cllr Terry Cuthbert (Chairperson)  
Cllr Jean Hynes  
Cllr Veronica Morris  
Cllr Terri Philp  
Cllr Sally Potter  
Jim Morris, Clerk to the Council  
Six members of the public

### 10.24.72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Lynda McWilliams (The Bentleys & Frating Ward) and Cllr Carlo Guglielmi (Tendring Rural West Division).

### 10.24.73 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

**It was RESOLVED:** That members would raise relevant disclosures of interest at applicable Agenda items.

### 10.24.74 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A local resident noted that the traffic lights in the village had recently been closed, with a four-way system in place. The traffic lights were, it seemed, being constantly worked upon.

**Response:** Cllr Cuthbert had been made aware that the temporary lights had been for Openreach's benefit.

Representatives of Anglian Water had recently been seen in the vicinity of Haggars Lane, although they had not asked local residents for their first-hand experiences of flooding issues. It was asked if the council provide could any updates, and were Frating to experience a drier than usual winter would the scale of the problem be scaled back.

**Response:** Cllr Cuthbert had recently attended a site meeting with representatives of Anglian Water (AW), visiting Haggars Lane and other known problem sites in the village. The Clerk had provided a report<sup>i</sup> (attached at Endnote i). A series of online meetings with AW, Essex County Council, and other parish councils had also been attended. The water company would carry out two surveys – one of the sewer system, and another to assess how much surface water was entering the system. A previous survey had been carried out in 2012. The surveys would identify where excess water was entering the system. Residents were encouraged to continue to report issues, and it was noted that several years' worth of reports could not be ignored.

### 10.24.75 MINUTES

Members received and considered the draft Minutes of the Frating Parish Council (FPC) meetings held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

**It was RESOLVED:** That the draft Minutes of the meetings held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

#### **10.24.76 MATTERS PENDING**

Members received and considered a list of the parish council's current outstanding actions (attached to record Minutes). Updated Policies, including Financial Regulations, had been added to the council's website; site meetings regarding play areas and churchyard were yet to be scheduled; and contractor quotes for footpath maintenance were being sought. Cllr Cuthbert was due to liaise with the local History Recorder over the siting of the War Graves Commission plaque; the Clerk had corresponded with the banking administrator and responded to the payroll provider; and a site visit with AW had been held. Liaison with Plymouth Brethren was still to be entered into.

**It was RESOLVED: That the council's matters pending be noted. Cllr Morris offered to liaise with Plymouth Brethren over potential community litter picking.**

#### **10.24.77 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Cllr Cuthbert offered a report to the meeting. Information stickers regarding Tendring District Council's Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) on dog fouling had been added to local public waste bin infrastructure. Incidences could be reported to TDC, which would enforce fines if necessary. Leaflets regarding flooding had been delivered to dwellings in Haggars Lane. Grants up to £8,000 were available for funding physical barriers to surface water flooding. A further communication from the parish council would be prepared and delivered.

Cllr Cuthbert had attended the Essex Association of Local Councils' AGM<sup>ii</sup> (Clerk's report attached at Endnote ii).

**It was RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

#### **10.24.78 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**

i. Cllr Lynda McWilliams had offered apologies.

ii. Cllr Carlo Guglielmi had offered apologies. His monthly report had been circulated to members via email, and he had been in touch with information on expected improvements to Frating traffic lights that would enable them to react responsively to traffic weights.

Cllr Cuthbert left the meeting at 19:45hrs.

In accordance with Frating Parish Council Standing Order 10,a,v, Cllr Bland took over as Chairperson for the remainder of the meeting.

iii. Cllr Bland reported on the September meeting of Tendring District Association of Local Councils<sup>iii</sup> (TDALC) (extracts from draft TDALC Minutes attached at Endnote iii). The group was comprised of members from parish councils within Tendring District and met bi-monthly via zoom. TDC's Director of Planning, Gary Guiver, had been present and had reported on recent and possible future changes to the planning system. Tendring's Strategic Market Housing Assessment had been increased by the new government from 550 to 1,043 dwellings per year. The change was due to take effect from January 2026, adding a further 7,000-8,000 dwellings in the district by 2041. The district council would be likely to consider areas for strategic development, including Frating, and would likely consider further 'garden communities' along the A120. TDC was engaging with central government and highlighting its technical concerns, particularly over infrastructure and environmental issues. Gary had offered to attend parish council meetings and speak with members and the public.

**It was RESOLVED: That members be in touch with Cllr Bland with thoughts on inviting Gary Guiver to a Frating Parish Council meeting.**

#### **10.24.79 FINANCE**

i. The schedule of accounts received and paid for the period 01.05.24 – 30.09.24 was unavailable due to individual access to the council's bank.

**It was RESOLVED: That backdated financial statements be provided at a future meeting. Liaison with the mandated banking administrators was ongoing.**

ii. Members received and considered a report on moving the council's accounts to Unity Trust Bank<sup>iv</sup> (attached at Endnote iv).

**It was RESOLVED: That Unity Trust be compared with alternative banking providers at a future meeting.**

iii. Members received and considered invoices presented for payment by the Parish Clerk.

**It was RESOLVED: That the invoices be approved, uploaded and paid.**

iv. Members noted that the Frating Parish Council budget 2025-26 would be finalised over the forthcoming meetings. Decisions would need to be made on potential precept increases.

**It was RESOLVED: That the item be noted and kept on the council's agenda.**

v. Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (attached to record Minutes).

**It was RESOLVED: That the request for a donation be considered at the council's December meeting.**

#### **10.24.80 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT**

Members received and considered current and ongoing planning issues and associated matters:

i. Planning Applications: none received.

ii. Planning Decisions:

a) 24/00362/FUL (attached to record Minutes).

b) 23/01587/FUL (attached to record Minutes). The Application had been refused by TDC but granted at Appeal.

**It was RESOLVED: That the decisions be noted.**

iii. Planning Appeals: none received.

iv. Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community-Notification of Consultation on Modifications to the Development Plan Document (DPD) (attached to record Minutes).

**It was RESOLVED: That the Consultation be noted.**

v. 20's Plenty for Essex (attached to record Minutes). It was noted that the new government was considering rescinding the move towards 20mph speed limits in built-up areas.

**It was RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.**

vi. Flooding – Essex Surface Water Management meetings.

**It was RESOLVED: That the item had been discussed earlier in the meeting.**

vii. Vehicle-Activated Sign (VAS) reports 27.08.2024-30.09.2024 (attached to record Minutes). A general trend towards greater compliance was noted, although Silverton's lorries had been consistently observed travelling over 40mph past the VAS.

**It was RESOLVED: That the data be noted.**

#### **10.24.81 COMMUNICATION & LIAISON**

i. Terrorism Bill Sept 2024 (attached to record Minutes). The correspondence suggested that the War Memorial Hall would not fall within the terms of the Terrorism Bill, if its capacity was fewer than 200.

**It was RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted and passed on to the War Memorial Hall Management Committee.**

ii. Update on new .gov.uk pricing (attached to record Minutes). The Clerk had provided further information from VCS Websites<sup>v</sup> (attached at Endnote v). Members discussed the information and were broadly in support of moving to .gov.uk suffix for the website and councillor emails, although there were questions over the exact budget required.

**It was RESOLVED: That the item be considered at a future meeting.**

iii. Polling Places Review (attached to record Minutes). The Review was not considering any alterations to Frating's existing polling place.

**It was RESOLVED: That the Review be noted.**

#### **10.24.82 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Dog fouling; budget 2025-26; and .gov.uk pricing were suggested.

#### **10.24.83 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next parish council meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 1930hrs at Frating War Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 2030hrs.

Signed..... Date.....

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<sup>i</sup> A site visit was held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October with representatives from Anglian Water.

Haggars Lane – three properties at the end of the lane have previously experienced flooding, during which the residents are unable to use their facilities. It was suggested that non-return valves could be fitted to the properties, although these could cause problems elsewhere in the system. It was noted that a large proportion of dwellings in the lane had created hardstandings in their front gardens.

Main Road – storm drain outside *The Old Post Office* was blocked. This was a matter for Highways.

Bromley Road – ditch adjacent to *Barleyfields* is piped beneath the road. The ditch is in poor condition.

Footpath between Bromley Road & Mannings Road – raw sewage had risen from the manhole cover during a previous flooding event.

Mannings Road attenuation pond – the pond should be connected to the ditch system.

Ditch adjacent to playground – not being filled from the attenuation pond. The ditch is in poor condition.

Playground – raw sewage had risen from manholes covers both inside and adjacent to the boundary of the playground during previous flooding events.

Possible solutions: i. Upgrade or renewal of pumps at the local pumping stations; ii. Engagement with riparian owners of watercourses (see: [Owning a watercourse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/owning-a-watercourse)); iii. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) can be match-funded (50/50) by Anglian Water; iv. Engagement and collaboration with ECC Highways.

Anglian Water would work on creating a 'Risk Profile' for Frating Parish. Residents and individuals were encouraged to report all flooding issues in order to demonstrate the significance of the problem.

[Flooding guidance \(anglianwater.co.uk\)](https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/flooding-guidance)

### **Flooding guidance**

Flooding can be very stressful so it's important you know who to contact to help get things sorted as quickly as possible. Who you need to contact will depend on the type of flooding. Below you'll find lots of information to get you the help and advice you need.

**For high or overflowing rivers:** call the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60 for help and advice. You can also see a detailed view of the current flooding alerts on the Environment Agency's dedicated [flooding webpage](#).

**Flood water from highways, run off from fields or issues with land drainage:** Contact your local council – you can find their contact details [here](#). Most flooding caused by rainwater will subside once the rain stops. If it's causing a danger to life call 101 or 999.

**Clearing up debris left over from the flooding:** Speak to your local council to get help to clean up silt and mud left behind by receding rain or flood water. If there's been any flooding from our sewers we'll be out as soon as we can to clear up but only once we've helped customers who have flooding inside their homes or problems with their water supply. Thanks for bearing with us.

**A new water or sewerage issue:** The quickest way to tell us about a problem is to do it online [here](#) - online issues are dealt with exactly the same as raising a problem over the phone.

If you're having trouble flushing your toilet after a lot of heavy rain, it's likely that our sewer network is full of rain and groundwater and things won't get any better until that excess water has a chance to flow away. We know it's not nice but try not to flush as much as you can until we can get out to you. If heavy rainfall has caused problems across the area we might be having to prioritise customers whose homes are flooding internally or who have no water coming from their taps, and might not be able to get out to you as quickly as you'd like.

**An existing water or sewerage issue:** Use the link we sent you when you raised your issue to tell us more about it or tell us you no longer need us to visit. You can also call us on 03457 145 145 but we are having to prioritise issues, so please bear with us - we will get to you as soon as we can. Thanks for your patience.

<sup>ii</sup> Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) Annual General Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The AGM celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association.

Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner since 2016: One meeting every year was held in each District in the county. Consistent messaging from residents was for 'more local policing,' especially in rural areas. An extra 905 officers had been recruited over the last five years, 470 of which had been employed in local policing. Anti-social behaviour had fallen by two thirds over the previous six years, domestic abuse had fallen by 20%, rural crime had fallen by 14%, and callouts to fires had fallen by 17%. Better use was being made of data and intelligence, and the PFCC was aiming to achieve "local, visible, and accessible policing."

Moir Bruin, Deputy Chief Fire Officer: The Fire Service was consulting on its Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) until end of October: [Tell ECFRS | Essex County Fire and Rescue Service \(essex-fire.gov.uk\)](https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk). Residents were encouraged to respond to the Consultation. A High-Rise Task Force had been set up to enforce changes brought about following the Grenfell Inquiry. 22 Enforcement Notices and 2 Prohibition Notices had been issued. Essex County Fire & Rescue Service could be asked to attend residents' dwellings and fit smoke alarms.

Andy Prophet, Deputy Chief Constable: Essex Police had been commended for its 'outstanding' crime reporting. Recorded crime had fallen over recent years. Nine Rural Engagement officers had been appointed, and there had been 22 prosecutions for hare coursing.

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Cllr Mark Durham, ECC Cabinet Member for Arts, Heritage & Culture: Visit Essex estimated that tourism created 62,000 jobs in the county and was worth £3.3bn to the economy. 19% of all jobs in Tendring were in tourism.

Cllr Beverley Egan, ECC Caring Communities Commission: It was estimated that 309,000 residents of the county were living with a disability, and it was noted that Essex had an ageing population. The Commission had been created to assess what support was needed in parish communities, and could be contacted via:

[caringcommunities.commission@essex.gov.uk](mailto:caringcommunities.commission@essex.gov.uk)

Charlotte Eisenhart, National Association of Local Councils: NALC's new website was due to go live on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Councils which had completed the Civility & Respect Pledge could be added to NALC's interactive map.

Mark Tomkins, Aubergine: The Website Accessibility Regulations 2024 were due to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, and local authority websites would have to be compliant with WCAG 2.2AA. All website content needed to be accessible, such as by using alternative text, descriptive link texts, and sequential headings. Councils would need to update their published Accessibility Statement.

John Jowers was standing down after nine years as President of the Association. Jennifer Tollhurst was elected President. Cllr Peter Davey presented the Association's Annual Report, and was re-elected. Cllr Stephanie Gill was re-elected Treasurer.

### iii **TENDRING DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

Draft Minutes of the Tendring District Association of Local Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024 via Zoom at 7.30 p.m.

Guest Attendance: Cllr. Mark Stephenson – TDC Leader; Gary Guiver – Director of Planning TDC; RCCE Community Housing Adviser Laura Atkinson and Rachel Fahrie

Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr. F. Belgrove confirmed the following matters:

- The pedestrian crossing in Elmstead has been agreed by Highways, the design phase would be completed this year, there is a monetary dispute in house at County Hall but Cllr. Guglielmi confirmed the money is there for the scheme.
- Road signs will be addressed later on under the Chairmans report.
- Cllr. Brattan asked about the flooding issues, Highways have invested in new vehicles to carry out more jetting and clearing of the drains and gullies.
- In regards to the issues with the lack of verge and grass cutting, the response was that if councils are not happy they can always do it themselves
- The issue was raised about the lack of actions from items being reported on the Report It system, the advice was to follow this up with your county cllr who can then chase this on their own internal oracle system. Jen Spear advised that the Report It system has been updated and you can escalate existing reports to update them if the issue has got worse since the last report, rather than adding a new one which was slowing the system down.

#### **Finance Report (Frank Belgrove)**

Cllr. F. Belgrove advised that the accounts have been audited by the Independent Auditor, and these are clear.

#### **Laura Atkinson and Rachel Fahrie (RCCE) Senior Rural Housing Enabler & Community Led Housing Advisor**

The RCCE is an Independent charity supporting the development of affordable rural housing, the lack of these houses in rural areas are pushing out families who have long standing ties to the community. A small scheme of affordable housing can breathe fresh life into a village to help sustain shops/school and the local pub. The RCCE are part of a national network supporting rural housing development, helping to provide houses for people with a local connection. They liaise with parish councils, help support consultations, independently to help provide options to support local needs. (there will be an information leaflet shared).

Cllr. K. Sinclair asked if the RCCE have any input with Alms houses, Laura advised she does and is happy to support

Cllr. N. Turner just wanted to add that he speaks very highly of their support having worked with them previously.

#### **TDC Representative Cllr Mark Stephenson The Leader of Tendring District Council to update and take questions from members (10 mins approx.).**

Cllr. M. Stephenson apologised for not attending the last meeting, he stated that the budget is coming in in October which may have an impact, not too much on a parish local level as they have been working on larger projects.

Jen Spear asked about the bins being emptied as she reported that this is an ongoing issue, Cllr. M. Stephenson advised that they have had to cut staff in the monitoring of their contracts due to budget restraints which has led to a failure of this monitoring this is being remedied at the moment and contracts are being renegotiated at this time.

Cllr. J. Brattan asked about the fly tipping issues, they are reporting it and its taking weeks to be collected. Cllr. M. Stephenson asked for Cllr. J. Brattan to send an email over and he will find out why this has not been

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collected as it should be taken care of within 72 hours.

Cllr. M. Talbot advised that Cllr. M. Stephenson moved a motion at the last district association in relation to the local community governance review for Jaywick, and Holland-on-sea, Clacton which may mean that these areas instead of remaining unparished areas become parishes in their own rights so there could be 3 more town councils.

Cllr. P. Bland asked about the A133 from St Johns roundabout up to the Bowling Green, cleaned at least weekly, but why is the roundabout from the Bowling Green through to Elmstead Market is never cleaned, Cllr. M. Stephenson advised doesn't know and will find out.

Cllr. M. Ward listed various legislation that she felt applies to TDC and stated that TDC are violating all of them.

Cllr. M. Stephenson countered to say that you have to remember that most of the littering that occurs is by all of the residents in Tendring, and TDC do have limited resources, and they have to focus on the worse areas. As advised earlier they are currently renegotiating the old 7 year contract which was rolled over from the previous 7 years, and Tendring is a different place to where it was 14 years ago. This new contract will be based more on areas that need more support rather than a strict schedule of areas that don't need it being emptied at certain times each week which will hopefully this will make a difference. Cllr. M. Talbot advised that different roads are the responsibility of different authorities too.

### **TDC Representative – Director of Planning Gary Guiver, commentary on the revised National Planning Policy Framework draft document (45mins)**

Gary began by offering his congratulations to Ardleigh and Elmstead PC's on their Neighbourhood plans and they hope to formally adopt them at their next meeting to be incorporated in their local plan.

The new government have set a target of building 1.5 million new houses in the next 5 years, to make this happen they are looking to impose top down mandatory house building targets in all districts. In Tendring this proposal will increase our agreed amount from 550 a year to 1043 homes a year with no opportunity to negotiate this amount. If this does go ahead the new target will kick in from January 2026 this will need to be planned for in the review of the Tendring local plan, they will have to identify land for houses for an additional 7-8000 new homes between now and 2041, this is above the 9500 houses that have already been planned for in the existing local plan including the new development at the garden community.

The consultation for this ended yesterday (24<sup>th</sup> September) Tendring have put in a strong representation highlighting fundamental practical concerns over deliverance and if they are realistic, there has been no consideration of local factors such as infrastructure and local environmental constraints. Councils won't be apply to apply different methodology the only circumstances where a lower number may be considered is if there physically is not enough land to build on, in which case the neighbouring authority council will have to take the extra on.

As Tendring is semi rural this is not an argument that is available to us, but Tendring doesn't have the infrastructure to cope with this increase in homes unless there is funding from the government to deliver this. This problem has been highlighted by all our leaders in North Essex and the hope is that they will take this seriously. The final plan should be published by the end of the year.

The speed of the requirement for these homes to be built is also a concern as there are no transitional arrangements to be able to build to the amounts being imposed and equally to build up a 5 year supply of land for the required housing, as we know if this land supply cannot be demonstrated planning decisions will be taken out of local planners hands and given to planning inspectors.

As it stands on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 the target remains at 550 houses a year but on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 the target could increase to the 1043 homes a year, and Tendring cannot supply this amount of land for the houses required, which will set Tendring back to where it was before the local plan was in place, (this has also been flagged up as a problem).

Before the election the local plan was already being reviewed and it was expected that it would increase to around the 770 homes a year (reflecting current growth) which is still not close to the 1043, which has never been an amount that Tendring has built in any year. There was a public consultation planned but this now cannot go ahead as it is already out of date. Under the review for the plan of the increase to 770 houses there were lots of options being discussed of how to spread these throughout Tendring, such as in each village proportionately, expansion around towns, or more strategic developments in areas where there are stations or even possibly new garden villages focusing on areas such as Horsley Cross, Frating, Weeley and Thorpe. However, this level of growth will see every single village affected. Harwich is a logical area for expansion due to the freeport which will see an increase in employment anyway but this will still not be enough. Possibly there may have to be two or more new garden communities along the A120 corridor. TDC have to comply with whatever the Government policy sets out and they have to make sure our local plan is in place and we can supply this land.

Gary advised that he is happy to speak to Parish and Town councils in smaller groups as its important to get this message across in more detail. They are preparing for these changes, new houses do bring economic growth but only if its managed well.

Cllr. R. Colley asked about the planning constraints around infrastructure, such as existing sewage issues for example which are not large enough to cope and also what about high grade arable land and also designated areas of natural beauty? Gary advised that sewage is an important factor because in some locations there is not sufficient capacity for water and sewage and that would mean there would have to be investment in this to bring

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this development forward, water cycle studies are key studies which already have demonstrated areas that have a low capacity so the land won't be suitable. High grade agricultural land may not stop any land from being put forward and sadly this may be used as it is only one factor to be taken into consideration among other factors. Cllr. K. Sinclair advised that there is a major concern here, as already there are not enough school places for the families we already have so increasing this along with the drs etc is a major problem. Gary agreed with this completely and that is the difficulty with the time constraints that are being placed on these targets to be delivered.

Cllr. J. Marshall thanked Gary for his explanation today, it is getting more concerning that we have so much prime agricultural land in this area with all the conflicts going on and the council pushing self sufficiency if the land is gone how can we do this?

Cllr. M. Ward asked where does the government get the 1043 housing figure from? Gary advised that previously the target a council would have to meet would be based on demographic projection. The new method is to achieve the This target of 1.5 million homes in the next 5 years and for this they are looking at the size of your existing population extrapolating this up, so the larger you are the higher your figure and the smaller you are the less you have to build.

She also asked that if our figure is going up from 550 to 1043 now, does that mean on the next review this figure will increase again? Gary advised he does not have an answer to this!

Cllr. N. Turner advised asking the members to look around the areas and suggest areas to be built on that won't hurt your location too badly.

#### **TDALC Chairmans Report (to include relevant information from the Local Highways Panel) (3 mins approx.)**

The Highways panel is chaired by Cllr. Mark Platt who is the deputy to Tom Cunningham who is the ECC portfolio holder for Highways.

Cllr. F. Belgrove advised that due to budget cuts over several years there is no budget there to replace damaged or missing road signs, VAS signs will no longer be maintained by Highways it will be up to Local Town and Parish Councils to deal with them.

Another issue discussed was that Highways do not know the size or locations of many ground water pipes under the ground as they can't find the paperwork.

In regard to transport, they are now going to start adding in bus shelters which they haven't done for 3 years.

They have invested in 5 new gully vehicles to jet drains and are also looking into a possible new devolution scheme for parish councils to be able to carry out small repairs in their parish.

There are grips which are little gullies that run into ditches highways can no longer clear these gullies because of the new fibre broadband cables are only 6 inches deep which has increased surface flooding.

#### **EALC Report (2 mins approx.)**

The EALC AGM is taking place tomorrow and the last meeting was mainly about the AGM preparations.

#### **MEMBERS FORUM – members to raise local issues (20 mins approx.).**

Cllr. K. Sinclair asked about the Fly tipping that the camera picked up, Cllr. D. Botterell advised that the police asked for the recording which they provided, this was then passed to TDC for enforcement and as of yet they have done nothing.

The second incident the police have held onto this evidence for longer, once he advised this was sent to TDC previously and nothing had happened so would the police be able to do something. He did advise that the police don't have any enforcement powers and that it is up to the district to action the enforcement. Little Clacton PC have a meeting with Ian Ford from TDC enforcement in November and hopefully they will get some answers then.

Cllr. L. Belgrove asked if this could be mentioned tomorrow at the EALC AGM and also that the TDALC write to Mark Stevenson to really put forward a case that this needs to change and something needs to be done.

Cllr. M. Ward asked if the police could possibly attend a meeting in the future, Cllr. F. Belgrove will look into this. It was requested if the draft minutes could be circulated as soon as possible as there is lot of information on them this evening, the secretary advised she would send these across as soon as possible, Cllr. L. belgrove reminded the members that remember that these are only draft minutes.

#### **TDALC Five Objectives:**

- **Section 106 Agreements / Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – to seek the diversification of how funds are used.**
- **A120. Potholes, Pathways, General Signage & Litter Removal.**
- **Reduce Cabon Footprint, example make all Street Lamps LED. Improve building insulation and not printing information for meetings.**
- **Planning – Enforcement for breaches. Affordable Housing Allocation to be upheld or a new planning application made.**
- **Lower Speed Limits for Villages. Change Criteria.**

**Next meeting: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30 via Zoom**

There being no further business the chair closed the meeting at 21.06.



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<sup>iv</sup> Representatives of Unity Trust Bank were in attendance at the recent EALC AGM promoting the banking arrangements they offer to local councils. A deposit of £500 can open a fully-online current account with debit card(s). The banking mandate would give the Clerk & RFO the ability to manage the account and raise payments, with council members acting as the signatories.

Unity Trust also offers an Instant Access Savings Account, so any excess funds could gain a little interest while not being immediately needed. Whilst this may sound pretty standard, the main difference is that Unity Trust Bank knows and understands what parish councils do and how they operate.

Recommendation: To open an account with Unity Trust Bank and transfer the parish council's accounts in due course.

<sup>v</sup> In addition to the information provided in correspondence from VCS Websites Ltd. Attached to the Agenda at Appendix J, if the council moved to using [www.fratingparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.fratingparishcouncil.gov.uk) and (for example)

[clerk@fratingparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@fratingparishcouncil.gov.uk) style emails, the system would be entirely managed by the company. This is ideal as a potential contingency measure should any unforeseen staffing issue arise. VCS also mentions a likelihood that using .gov.uk suffix will become 'compulsory' at some point in the future, so rebranding Frating Parish Council's website and email system could be a good idea sooner rather than later. VCS has also confirmed that the council's website is compliant with the Website Accessibility Regulations 2024 which took effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Recommendation: to resolve to move the website and councillor emails to .gov.uk, taking advantage of the best value long term offer from VCS.