



FRATING PARISH COUNCIL

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

Clerk to the Council: Kay English

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MINUTES of the FRATING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at Memorial Hall on Monday 3rd February 2025 at 1930hrs.

Present: Cllr Paula Bland (Vice-Chairperson)
Cllr Terry Cuthbert (Chairperson)
Cllr Sally Potter
Kay English, Clerk to the Council
Jim Morris, Deputy Clerk
One member of the public

02.25.111 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Veronica Morris, Cllr Jean Hynes, Cllr Terri Philp and Cllr Carlo Guglielmi (Tendring Rural West Division).

02.25.112 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

02.25.113 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public raised two questions:

1. Haggars Lane: potentially dangerous driving situation because of obscured visibility due to the hoarding that was in place.

Response: That the Clerk will raise this concern with Tendring District Council and request that the matter be reviewed.

2. Holly Farm: clarification was sought on the number of dwellings planned for the site and highway implications regarding access.

Response: there was uncertainty regarding the number of properties being built including ownership of the land. There was a drop kerb in place facilitating access. The situation would be kept under review.

02.25.114 MINUTES

Members received and considered the draft Minutes of the Frating Parish Council (FPC) meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2024 (Appendix A).

It was RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

02.25.115 MATTERS PENDING

Members received and considered a list of the parish council's current outstanding actions (attached to record Minutes Appendix B). All matters had been addressed or were due to be considered during the meeting.

It was RESOLVED: That the Council's matters pending be noted.

02.25.116 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Cllr Cuthbert gave a brief overview of Devolution and the Local Government reorganisation, with Essex councils applying to be included in the first phase of the Devolution Priority Programme. Cllr Cuthbert explained that elections scheduled for May 2025 might be deferred as a result. The proposed changes may involve delegating additional responsibilities to Parish and Town Councils, introducing new election processes, and modifying Council structures, including the appointment of a Mayor for the Essex region. Further information on Devolution would be addressed in future meetings.

It was RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

02.25.117 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk gave an update on changes to the Council's email domain. New email addresses have been created for the Clerk and Councillors, which will operate alongside the current email addresses in the short-term. The new email addresses would be reflected on the Council's website in due course.

It was RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the Clerk would receive further instructions for Cllrs on how to implement the change.

02.25.118 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

i. Cllr Carlo Guglielmi had offered his apologies. The monthly report for January 2025 was circulated via email.

ii. Cllr Bland reported on the recent meeting of the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC). Topics of discussion included: Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation; EALC guidance on Councillors' allowances; flooding issues in Tendring (village), which were now resolved; enforcement of unauthorised parking in Parish Council car parks; and Essex Playing Fields Trust which required more trustees and funding.

It was RESOLVED: that the reports be noted.

02.25.119 FINANCE

i. Schedule of accounts received and paid for the period 18.09.24 - 18.12.24 (attached to record Minutes Appendix C).

It was RESOLVED: That the schedule of accounts totalling £4,994.41 be approved.

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

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

iii. It was noted that the move to Unity Trust Bank would be undertaken once the new Clerk was established in post and added to the current bank's procedure for authorising payments.

It was RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

iv. Essex County Council Love Your Bus Grant Fund (attached to the record Minutes Appendix D). Members received and considered the merits of the Grant Fund as it pertained to Frating.

It was RESOLVED: That the availability of this Grant be noted.

02.25.120 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

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

i. Planning Application:

Number: **25/00111/FULHH** Vine Cottage, Haggars Lane; garage conversion to ancillary living accommodation; details were tabled at the meeting. It was noted that Tendring District Council (TDC) had incorrect addressee details on the Planning Application letter.

It was RESOLVED: that there were no objections to the proposal; Clerk would contact Planning Services for the addressee details to be amended.

ii. Planning Decisions: none received.

iii. Planning Appeals: none received.

iv. A written Report from Mr Gary Guiver, Head of Planning & Community on the Tendring Local Plan and the Government's new housing targets was tabled at the meeting.¹

**¹ Tendring Local Plan and the Government's new housing targets
Update from Gary Guiver, Director of Planning & Community
(Received 31 January 2025)**

Tendring District Council is in the process of reviewing the Tendring Local Plan, which has to be done every five years. In reviewing the Local Plan, the Council has to take into account any changes in national planning policy set out by the Government.

Following last year's General Election, the new Government published and invited comments on proposals to amend the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The proposals, aimed at boosting housing development and economic growth, included the introduction of mandatory housebuilding targets that Councils would have to comply with in preparing and reviewing their Local Plans. These mandatory targets would be generated using a standard methodology that applies a percentage increase to existing house numbers in a district, with a further uplift to reflect any housing affordability issues.

For Tendring, that would have meant an increase in housing targets from 550 homes a year as per its current Local Plan and based on demographic projections; to a new mandatory target of 1,043 homes a year – based primarily on the Government's ambition to deliver 1.5million new homes nationally over the next five-years. Tendring District Council, along with many other Councils across the country responded firmly to the Government's consultation, expressing significant concerns about the proposals, their likely impact on local areas and practical issues with their delivery – particularly in respect of infrastructure. However, in December the Government published its final version of the new National Planning Policy Framework and has confirmed it is pushing ahead with its mandatory housebuilding targets, despite the concerns raised.

Tendring's new housebuilding target has now been confirmed as **1,034 a year** which, despite a small reduction from the draft figure of 1,043, is still almost double our current Local Plan target. Neighbouring Colchester City Council is also facing a significant increase in target from 920 to 1,300 homes a year.

On 10 February 2025, this will be reported to the Council's Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee. The papers for that meeting have already been published [Agenda for Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee on Monday, 10th February, 2025, 6.00 pm.](#)

In that meeting, the Committee will consider the implications of the new Government housebuilding figures on the review of the Local Plan. These include that the Council will have to plan for the development of an additional 7,000 to 8,000 new homes between now and 2041 over and above the 9,600 homes that are already in the pipeline on sites allocated in our current Local Plan and sites that are either already under construction or have planning permission.

The Committee will be asked to consider and agree a new 'Issues and Options Consultation Document' to be published for public consultation in the Spring which will invite the public, and other interested parties, to comment on a range of planning issues – including different options for how to accommodate a potential 7,000 to 8,000 extra homes. This will be the first formal stage of the Local Plan review process. When the Council does publish its consultation document, I would strongly urge residents to participate in the consultation – for which further details will be provided in due course.

It was RESOLVED: that the report be noted and the Clerk would invite Mr Guiver to attend a future meeting of FPC to provide an update in person.

v. Heritage Sites Public Consultation (attached to the record Minutes Appendix E)

Members considered the correspondence received from TDC concerning the Planning Policy consultation portal and invitation to submit non-designated heritage assets. The notable assets in Frating included Pump on Bromley Road, the Village Sign, and the Guidepost & Milestone.

It was RESOLVED: That the Consultation be noted; and the above 3 items be referred by the Clerk to the Heritage Site Consultation for consideration.

vi. MAG10 Surface Water Management Meeting Update

Cllr Cuthbert gave an update on progress thus far. Surveys have been undertaken to determine the extent and location of water ingress, which can require statutory right of access to private property. Whilst there have been no major flooding reports this winter, excess pooling on the highway due to blocked gulleys remained a problem.

It was RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

vii. Parking issues on Bromley Road.

North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) have been notified of the days when parking was a problem so enforcement action can be undertaken. In addition, parents have been asked not to park their vehicles on the frontage and grass verge. Implementing double red lines on Bromley Road could be a viable measure to deter problematic parking issues in the future.

It was RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

viii. Vehicle-Activated Sign reports 26.11.2024-28.01.2025 (attached to record Minutes Appendix F).

Data showed that around 6% of vehicles both entering and leaving the village were exceeding the current speed limit. The situation will continue to be monitored; the possibility of requesting police enforcement would be considered in future.

It was RESOLVED: That the data be noted.

02.25.121 LEISURE & FACILITIES

Members received and considered matters arising and/or ongoing regarding:

i. Transfer of Churchyard

Cllr Bland gave an update on efforts to obtain a Land Registry Plan to identify those trees that needed to be removed. The possibility of utilising the Probation Service to assist with work required would be explored.

It was RESOLVED: that Cllr Bland would continue to progress this matter.

ii. Transfer of Open Spaces (Playground)

It was noted that TDC will no longer consider transferring this asset to the Parish Council. However, it was agreed that FPC would continue to undertake occasional grass cutting with full management and maintenance remaining with TDC.

It was RESOLVED: that this report be noted and any S106 monies due to the Council would be pursued.

iii. Trees in Bromley Road

A quote of £400+VAT from Landscape Services Ltd. had been received for the pruning of trees in Bromley Road.

It was RESOLVED: that the Clerk ask Landscape Services Ltd to proceed with the work.

iv. Routine Tree Maintenance (by TDC)

Cllr Cuthbert had informed Cllr Guiglielmi about discarded branches left by TDC when undertaking routine tree maintenance. The matter was quickly dealt with by Cllr Guiglielmi with TDC removing branches as appropriate.

It was RESOLVED: that this be noted.

02.25.122 COMMUNITY LIAISON

i. COVID 19 Day of Reflection Sunday 19 March 2025 (as attached to the record Minutes Appendix G)

Members considered a letter from TDC & Colchester City Council asking for information on events that councils may have planned to mark the COVID 19 Day of Reflection.

It was RESOLVED: that no plans would be put in place by FPC and the Clerk would notify TDC accordingly.

ii. First Aid Training (as attached to the record Minutes Appendix H)

Members considered the merits of first aid training particularly operating the defibrillator. It was agreed to proceed with training and include nominated residents to attend.

It was RESOLVED: that the Clerk obtain further quotes on the provision of first aid training and report back to the next meeting.

iii. Citizen's Advice Bureau (as attached to the record Minutes Appendix I)

Members considered a request from the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) for help to prevent service closures in the district.

It was RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to the relevant department at TDC to indicate FPC's support for the work undertaken by the CAB.

02.25.123 GOVERNANCE

i. Parish & Town Council Resilience Meetings

It was noted that Cllr Cuthbert will attend the next meeting scheduled for 24 March 2025.

ii. Future Council Meetings

Dates for future Frating Parish Council meetings were agreed as follows:

Monday, 19:30 hours on -

3 March; 14 April; 12 May; 2 June; 14 July; 1 September; 6 October; 3 November; 1 December.

It was RESOLVED: That the Clerk updates the website accordingly.

02.25.124 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Items for inclusion on the Agenda for the next meeting should be referred to the Clerk.

02.25.125 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next parish council meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 19:30hrs at Frating War Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 20:45 hrs.

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