



# FRATING PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES of the FRATING PARISH ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at the Memorial Hall on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 at 19:30hrs.

Present: Cllr Paula Bland  
Cllr Terry Cuthbert  
Cllr Terri Philp  
Cllr Sally Potter  
Cllr Brian Winter  
Kay English, Clerk to the Council  
5 Members of the Public

### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced the resignation of Cllr Jean Hynes and thanked her for her contribution to the Parish Council over the years.

A welcome was extended to new Parish Councillors Terri Philp and Brian Winter, County Councillor Pat Murray and District Councillor Aimee Keteca.

### 06.26.30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

### 06.26.31 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

### 06.26.32 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**Q.1** Concerns were raised regarding the ongoing road works. Difficulties accessing Great Bentley were reported and the works were considered unsatisfactory with tarmac not setting properly and covering of drainage points.

**Response:** The situation would continue to be monitored to ensure works were completed to an acceptable standard. Cllr Murray advised that County Cllr Mark Webster was the Cabinet Member for Highways & Infrastructure and explained that pothole repairs was now a priority.

It was noted that the surface treatment was tarmac dressing rather than chippings, which was a quick-drying, weather-dependent process that could not be undertaken in rain. Two broken drains were also reported in Bromley Road, where the surface was level with the drains and road markings had been painted over them. The works would be monitored, as further sealing works may be required.

**Q.2** The national issue of pothole repairs was noted, with Cambridge highlighted as one of the worst-affected areas.

**Response:** Cllr Murray explained that Essex is one of the largest counties in the country, therefore faced challenges in delivering its repairs programme.

#### **06.26.33 NOMINATIONS FOR FRATING PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

An application for a councillor vacancy (co-option) was received from Chris Walpole. The Chairman invited him to speak in support of his application outlining his suitability for the position and background.

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote: That Chris Walpole's application for the position of Frating Parish Council Councillor be accepted. The Clerk would arrange for the signing of Acceptance of Office, receipt of the Members' Code of Conduct and set up of council email address. The Chairman welcomed Chris as a co-opted member of Frating Parish Council.

#### **06.26.34 MINUTES**

Members RECEIVED and CONSIDERED the draft Minutes of the Frating Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

It was **RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 be **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman.

#### **06.26.35 MATTERS PENDING**

Members RECEIVED and CONSIDERED a list of Parish Council's current outstanding actions as outlined in Appendix B.

**Speeding:** Concerns were raised regarding speeding motorcycles leaving the meet in Great Bentley with reports that some riders were using the traffic lights as a speed starting point. The police were asked to carry out speed checks on Main Road and whilst initial engagement was positive, the police later advised that Frating was not a designated "Safe Zone"; clarification on this designation was required. The Council reiterated its request for a police presence, offering parking for police vehicles in the Village Hall car park to act as a deterrent. The Clerk would continue to pursue the matter with the police on behalf of FPC.

Reference was made to Community Speed Watch, which required a minimum of three trained volunteers per session. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the Clerk.

Cllr Murray reported that he had regular meetings with Chief Inspector Stuart Austin (in relation to Neighbourhood Watch) and noted the ongoing challenges caused by limited policing resources. He also explained that Speed Watch letters could be issued to drivers, but demand currently exceeded capacity. It was noted that data from the Council's vehicle-activated signs would be useful to the police.

It was **RESOLVED:** That the Council's Matters Pending be **NOTED** and the Clerk would contact Essex Police further regarding speeding concerns.

#### **06.26.36 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

i. Cllr Pat Murray, Tendring Rural West Division, reported that he was nominated as Vice-Chair at the recent Essex County Council Annual General Meeting. He outlined his background and experience as a councillor, including his previous appointment as Mayor of South Derbyshire District Council. Cllr Murray provided an update on recent county council decisions, including the removal of the Book Library Lending fee, changes to zero-rating and housing development proposals, initiatives to increase the number of foster carers, and flying of the national and Armed Forces flags on public buildings. He further reported that pothole and footway repairs were currently considered an "*emergency situation*", with over 80% of complaints relating to these issues. He reported that Cllr Mark Webster, who held the relevant portfolio, had significant experience in highways. Cllr Murray

also advised that he was Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch and provided examples of Neighbourhood Watch warning stickers, which were made available to FPC. Additional stickers could be purchased at £1 each by contacting him directly.

ii. Cllr Keteca representative for The Bentleys & Frating Ward explained the Cllr Carlo Guglielmi was voted as Vice Chairman Tendring District (TDC).

iii. FPC Representative's Report:

Cllr Bland reported on the recent TDALC meeting:

Cllr Frank Belgrove was re-elected as Chairman and there was a constitutional change to introduce two Vice-Chairs. The annual membership fee remained at £20. Cllr Mark Webster was also in attendance at the TDALC meeting and highway matters were discussed. Cllr Bland raised the problem with traffic-light phasing in Frating and the removal of ghosted right-turns Holly Farm. It was agreed that Cllr Webster would be contacted by email regarding these concerns, noting that the decision on the ghosted right-turn was made by a planning officer.

Also discussed at the TDALC meeting:

Litter on A120: following complaints a litter-picking exercise was undertaken. This work would be given higher priority in future, although some delays had occurred pending grass-cutting. The contact was confirmed as Adrian Smith.

Offshore Windfarms: North Falls was approved, although Ardleigh Parish Council continued to oppose the proposals.

Illegal scooters: dangers associated with illegal scooters were highlighted; members were reminded that such incidents should be reported to Essex Police.

Training: St Osyth Parish Council was arranging local training for new councillors through CouncilWise, with spaces available by contacting their Clerk. Training would take place on a Saturday. The Clerk confirmed that discussions were ongoing with EALC regarding training for FPC's new councillors and further information would be reported to the Council in due course.

Cllr Philp reported problems with litter-bin emptying. The Chairman confirmed that bins were scheduled to be emptied twice weekly. Cllr Philp would continue to monitor the situation and report any further issues to TDC.

Cllr Winter raised concerns regarding vehicle speeding on Tokely Road and Penny Fields estates. It was noted that previous requests to ECC for yellow lines and introduction of a 20mph speed limit had been rejected. It was agreed that a further request for these measures to be reconsidered would be sent to Cllr Webster, together with other outstanding highway matters.

It was **RESOLVED**: That the representatives reports be **NOTED** and Cllr Webster would be contacted regarding FPC concerns on highway matters as outlined.

#### **06.26.37 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

i. Traffic Lights: Ongoing problems with the phasing of the traffic lights was discussed, resulting in excessive congestion and queues on the A120. It was agreed that this matter would be included in the email to be sent to Cllr Mark Webster.

ii. Churchyard: Local Historian Rob Butcher was contacted and would attend a future meeting.

iii. Temporary railings at the crossroads were in place following a road collision.

iv. Alresford Via Duct Signage: ECC had not changed the signage to reflect the new weight restriction. The Chairman confirmed he would pursue the matter with the appropriate officer, noting that it should not take six months to resolve.

It was **RESOLVED**: That the Chairman's Report be **NOTED** with a follow-up to ECC on the traffic light phasing and Alresford Via Duct Signage.

### **06.26.38 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that she had worked an additional 14 hours in May 2026 due to CiLCA training, end-of-year preparations, and setup of the new laptop.

Cllr Bland noted the recent change to the mileage allowance, now set at 55p per mile. The Clerk agreed to investigate this, noting that there may be associated tax implications.

It was **RESOLVED**: That additional hours of working be **APPROVED**.

### **06.26.39 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT**

i. Planning Applications Received:

26/00688/FUL: Sonnenburg Plot 1: rear of Hill Farm Clacton Road, Elmstead. Plot was in Frating.

It was **RESOLVED**: That an objection be raised as this was not considered permissive development.

At this point Morehams Hall was mentioned as the planning proposal had increased the original number of units from five to ten. As the original proposal was covered by Permitted Development there were no rights for objection, members noted that this is an example of planning creep. In addition, a planning application had been submitted to TDC adjacent to the A120 Harwich Road, Little Bentley for a drive through restaurant, commercial units and a petrol station, previously an application was submitted for a hotel on this site. It was noted that on the opposite side of the Harwich Road permission had already been given by TDC for commercial units.

ii.Planning Decisions: **None received**.

iii.Planning Appeals: **None received**.

**Street naming:** Ava Gardens was proposed as the street name for the new development south of Main Road, Frating, in recognition of a long-standing resident of Holly Farm. No objections were raised to this proposal.

It was **RESOLVED**: That the Clerk would advise TDC accordingly.

### **06.26.40 FINANCE**

i.Schedule of Payments and Receipts Appendix C

It was **RESOLVED**: That the Schedule of payments and receipts be **APPROVED**.

ii.Invoices presented for payment by the Clerk circulated prior to the meeting

It was **RESOLVED**: That the payments as presented by the Clerk be **APPROVED**.

### **06.26.41 GOVERNANCE: AGAR Certificate of Exemption**

It was **RESOLVED**: That the Certificate of Exemption 2025/26 be **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman & Clerk.

### **06.26.42 GOVERNANCE: POLICY & RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

i.Review of policies: Health & Safety; UK GDPR/Data Protection; Privacy Notice & Document Retention.

It was **RESOLVED**: That the policies outlined in Appendix E be **APPROVED**.

ii. Risk Assessment Litter Picking: Proposed changes to the draft Risk Assessment were discussed, including the provision of suitable gloves, participation of children with appropriate supervision and inclusion of roads with a 40mph speed limit. The Clerk advised that additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may be required when operating on roads with speed limits of 40mph or above. The proposed Risk Assessment as outlined in Appendix F was **NOT APPROVED**. The Clerk would obtain further information on the appropriate PPE for undertaking litter picking on a 40mph road and the Risk Assessment would be given further consideration at the next council meeting.

iv. Dates of Parish Council meetings 2027:

It was **RESOLVED**: that the meeting dates as outlined in Appendix G be agreed and publicised.

**06.26.43 COMMUNITY, OPEN SPACES**

i. Closed Churchyard update

It was noted that additional signage would be required, for example to warn of trip hazards, and a local company would be approached to provide costings. The location of the seating would need to be agreed, and a compost bin was also required. A site survey would be undertaken to determine the exact requirements and appropriate locations.

It was **RESOLVED**: That a site visit for the Churchyard be arranged.

ii. Summer Parish Newsletter (Appendix H)

It was **RESOLVED**: That the summer edition of the newsletter be printed and circulated.

Cllr Bland asked the Chairman to display a Home Library Notice on the Noticeboard.

**06.26.44 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.

**06.26.45 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next parish council meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 19:30hrs at Frating Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 21:05 hours.

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