



# Broomfield Parish Council

**Minutes of a meeting of Broomfield Parish Council**  
**held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30 p.m.**

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| <b>22/182</b> | <p><b>Members attending.</b><br/><b>Chairman:</b> Cllr Bleet<br/>Other members: Cllrs Bowman, Faulds, Howell, Thomson, Spiller, Perry, Blake<sup>#</sup>, Daden, Steed, Mercer and Barnes<br/>Also present Clerk, Mark Hembury. There were three members of the public present.<br/><b>Resolved.</b> An apology was accepted from Cllr Scott. Proposed by Cllr Bowman and seconded by Cllr Faulds. Agreed unanimously.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>22/183</b> | <p><b>Declarations of interests</b><br/>None received.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>22/184</b> | <p><b>To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th February 2023.</b><br/><b>Resolved.</b> The minutes of the Full Council meeting as amended are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Mercer and seconded by Cllr Steed. One abstention and all others in agreement.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>22/185</b> | <p><b>Public Question Time.</b><br/>No questions asked.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>22/186</b> | <p><b>To receive a report from the County Council for items not on agenda.</b><br/><sup>#</sup>Cllr Blake arrives.<br/>Councillor Mike Steel provided the following report –</p> <p><b>Hollowgate update</b> ECC Highways received response from Emergency Services that they were okay with a permanent block. Highways have determined that this can be implemented without a further TRO. Persimmons have put in place a large concrete block! The downside to this is that I won't be able to get Hollow Lane open for the RideLondon event.</p> <p><b>Coronation</b> ECC have received correspondence from the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, stating that the Coronation will see people across the UK and the Commonwealth come together to celebrate. The Coronation programme will include the procession and service at Westminster Abbey on 6 May, the 'Coronation Big Lunch' across the country on 7 May (with a concert taking place in Windsor in the evening), and 'The Big Help Out' community activity on the bank holiday, Monday 8 May. The letter goes on to say that councils should encourage events and relax road closure rules and offering guidance on street meets. National Lottery funding is available of up to £10,000 for events and activities through the National Lottery Awards for All programme and you can encourage community groups to apply. The awards for All does not have a deadline, but it can take up to 12 weeks from the point of application submission to receiving funding, which means applications for the Coronation weekend should be made before the middle of February</p> <p><b>Ukraine</b> The hosting scheme is now a year old. I have received correspondence that says that Govt continues to support Ukraine refugees with £150 million of new UK-wide funding in the 2023/24 financial year to local authorities and devolved governments to help support</p> |

Ukrainian guests move into their own homes and reduce the risk of homelessness. There is a launch of a £500 million Local Authority Housing Fund, which will provide capital funding directly to English councils in areas that are facing the most significant housing pressures as a result of recent Ukrainian arrivals. However, the reality is slightly different.. Many District Councils, including Chelmsford City Council, have a long waiting list for social accommodation. Private rental requires Guarantors which District Councils are unwilling to provide because of the onerous and open ended commitment(although they setting up rent deposit guarantee funds). In my opinion, continuation of hosting is the easiest option, but some hosts, having provided accommodation for a year, are limited in what they can continue to do. I am aware of some hosting coming to an end, and difficulties in obtaining their own homes, and would ask anyone to contact me if they can commit to being a host.

**Member Led Pothole Scheme** I have now entered in all my 36 pothole allowance – actually entered 51 locations: • 39 completed • 2 works issued • 1 referred to water company • 9 accepted but awaiting response You might like to view a Highways video about Make Safe repairs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCHfmBgTGZs> I have thanked the Cabinet Member, Cllr Lee Scott, for the scheme and expressed how successful it has been. On several occasions I have suggested a similar scheme for footpaths. I am pleased to say that Cllr Scott has announced a further £4M for a similar scheme in the new FY which will also include pavement defects.

**School Lane School Crossing Patrol (SCP)** I understand from the Employment Vetting Team that the process is still ongoing, so we are a little way off the appointment being finalised just yet.

**SID Poles** LHP requests for additional SID poles require a speed survey to show speeds in excess of the speed limit by 10mph. Alternatively, the Parish Council can fund these. I previously reported that a cheaper option will soon be available whereby the Parish Council can request existing lampposts to be audited to assess if they can be used to mount a SID. I was hoping the process would be in place by march, but it is delayed and I do not have a date yet.

**2023 RideLondon-Essex** RideLondon will return Sunday 28th May along the same route as last year. This route goes through 3 of the Parish's in my division, but also effects all the others. Because of the issues last year, I insisted on being on the Steering Group and particularly wanted to make sure that the businesses that were badly affected last year, do not suffer the same issues. More info at [ridelondon.co.uk/community-info](http://ridelondon.co.uk/community-info) including info on how local access will operate. There will be two Public Meeting/Consultations in my division: • 13th March at Writtle College • 6 th April in Great Waltham

**Highway Rangers Service:** The Chelmsford Highway Rangers service is administered by Chelmsford City Council but funded by ECC. ECC have given notice that they intend to cease funding the service as part of budget savings. Given that the service addresses County Council, City Council and Parish Council tasks, the Conservative group proposed an amendment to the City Council budget for City Council to continue the service and to be funded by freezing members allowances and better projections on the refurbished theatre income. Unfortunately, the amendment was defeated at the City council budget meeting. All parities accept that the Highway Rangers offer a valuable service that address those tasks

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|               | <p>that generate pride in our environment that otherwise can only get done by a more elongated enforcement process.</p> <p><b>LHP</b> The scheduled LHP meeting for 17th March has been delayed to 20th April. This meeting would ratify the Sub-team proposals for funding. So I am not able to add any update from the last report. Broomfield Village Gateway LCHE142002 – site meeting being arranged.</p> <p><b>Traffic Issues</b> On 24th Feb there was major congestion on the B1008 because of UKPN traffic lights on Blasford Hill – which caused traffic to be backed up into the hospital for 2 hours in the evening rush hour – and hardly any queue on the north side of the lights. Over the weekend I contacted Highways OOO, Highways Traffic Management and UKPN and managed to get them removed by Monday morning. This was an emergency permit from UKPN (which can't be refused by Highways) but did have conditions that traffic must not be stacked either way by more than 150m and the only way to do that is to have manually operated traffic lights. Also, the permit was for verge work. So UKPN did not comply with the permit and that will be followed up. I have addressed these sort of issues before on this road – hence the 150m condition.</p> |
| <b>22/187</b> | <p><b>To receive a report from the City Council for items not on the agenda.</b></p> <p>No report was received.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>22/188</b> | <p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>None received</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>22/189</b> | <p><b>Consultations</b></p> <p>None received</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>22/190</b> | <p><b>Reports from Councillors on outside bodies</b></p> <p>Local Highways Panel – Previously covered by Cllr Steel.</p> <p>Woollards Charity – No update since the last report.</p> <p>Schools – Councillor Bowman reported that Chelmer Valley High School are having issues with recruitment and are asking if they can use the parish noticeboards to advertise.</p> <p>Shadow Council – Councillor Bowman reported that Suzanne Walker had been recruited as the new parish manager/clerk.</p> <p>Transport – Councillor Thomson reported that X30 timetable has still not been completed. A meeting is planned soon.</p> <p>Licensed Premises – Councillor Perry reported that there had been fly-tipping at the Kings Head.</p> <p>Police – No report</p> <p>Hospital Liaison – Not currently taking place.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>22/191</b> | <p><b>To note financial reports for February 2023.</b></p> <p>To approve the bank statement and reconciliation for February 2023</p> <p>To note cashbook income and expenditure for February 2023</p> <p>To note salary payments for February 2023</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> The Council approves the financial records for February 2023 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £22,154.54 Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Faulds. Unanimously agreed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>22/192</b> | <p><b>To approve a new laptop for the Deputy Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Resolved.</b> The Council approves of the purchase of a new laptop for the Deputy Clerk at a cost of £1054 including set-up and support. Proposed by Cllr Steed and seconded by Cllr Spiller. Agreed unanimously.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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| <b>22/193</b>   | <p><b>To consider the completion of an infrastructure plan for the parish.</b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> The Council approves of the completion of an infrastructure plan by the Working Group based upon the model used in the attached document. Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Blake. Agreed unanimously.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>22/194</b>   | <p><b>To recognise the service given to the residents of Broomfield Parish over many years by retiring Councillors Les Steed and Ros Mercer.</b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> The Council approves of a motion being sent to the Broomfield Village Hall Charity Trustee to name the large village hall 'The Les Steed Hall' and the small hall as 'The Ros Mercer Hall'. Following much debate, there was no proposer for this motion, which therefore failed. The Council agreed that a record of their thanks to Councillors Mercer and Steed should be made.</p> |
| <b>22/195</b>   | <p><b>To receive an update from the Clerk on matters arising from previous meetings.</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that dates for both the closure of accounts and the internal audit had been confirmed. A letter had been received from the local M.P. Kemi Badenoch confirming a new review would be undertaken regarding the pylons project. One company had provided a quote for the EV charging points and two others would also be providing quotes in due course.</p>                                                                                   |
| <b>22/196</b>   | <b>To note minutes from the following Committees:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>22/196.1</b> | Finance and Personnel Committee – None since last Council meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>22/196.2</b> | Environment Committee – Draft minutes from 8 <sup>th</sup> March not yet available. Cllr Steed provided a report on the matters discussed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>22/196.3</b> | Property & Planning Committee – Draft minutes from 1 <sup>st</sup> March not yet available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>22/196.4</b> | Communications Committee – No recent meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>22/196.5</b> | <p>School Lane Working Group</p> <p>Cllr Bleet reported that three people had been trained for the Speedwatch initiative. The School Crossing Patrol is being progressed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>22/197</b>   | <p><b>Matters for the next meeting.</b></p> <p>The meeting finished at 9.15 p.m.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |