



Broomfield Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Broomfield Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

22/164	Members attending. Chairman: Cllr Bleet Other members: Cllrs Bowman, Faulds, Howell, Thomson, Spiller, Perry, Blake, Daden, Steed, Mercer and Scott[#] Also present Clerk, Mark Hembury and Deputy Clerk Nicola Goulter. There were three members of the public present. Resolved. An apology was accepted from Cllr Barnes. Proposed by Cllr Steed and seconded by Cllr Blake. Agreed unanimously.
22/165	Declarations of interests None received.
22/166	To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th January 2023. Resolved. The minutes of the Full Council meeting as amended are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Bowman and seconded by Cllr Faulds. Agreed unanimously.
22/167	Public Question Time. A member of the public raised concerns that Donna Hance was leaving the Village Hall and stated that the Hall was now so busy and everyone was talking about it. All ages are involved, including younger ones. For the first time in a long time, it feels like a proper community. Cllr Blake was able to reassure the member of the public that Donna Hance was not leaving and agreed that the work she had been doing was outstanding. An item later in the meeting would deal with the possibility of transferring her employment to the Parish Council.
22/168	To receive a report from the County Council for items not on agenda. Councillor Mike Steel provided the following report – School Lane Traffic Issues: I have been working closely with Broomfield PC and the primary school to see what we can do to improve the safety around the school. I managed to get the zebra crossing repainted and also to get sanction for a School Crossing Patrol (SCP) there. I am pleased to advise that we have at last got an applicant for the role, subject to satisfactory checks. I have had the site audited and the signage is satisfactory, but I have also requested additional safety measure to include wig-wags at school entrance/departure times. I have submitted an LHP request for this and it has been validated and costed at £11,000. This can go into the LHP queue or BPC could consider funding it. Member Led Pothole Scheme I deal with many issues via my email inbox, and most are to do with carriageway and pavement defects. We have just come to the end of a “Member Led Pothole” scheme where each County Cllr was given an allowance of 36 potholes. I contacted all my 10 PCs to nominate their worst holes. It seems some County Cllrs did not use all, or any, of their allowance, so I kept submitting them. I have submitted over 80 holes, which are progressively being done (should be all done by April). It does mean I have been getting more complaints

about roadworks. I have thanked the Highways Cabinet Member for running the scheme and suggested that an equivalent pavement scheme be set up, and he is doing exactly that. With a new member Led scheme of £4M to address more potholes and pavement defects. I will consult with my Parish Councils to select the worst and mostly used!

Hollowgate update

Following a positive response from the Emergency Services, ECC Highways have agreed that a permanent block can be implemented without the need for a new TRO. Consequently, Persimmons have now put a temporary barrier in place – a large concrete block! I will review the permanent solution with Highways, but if anyone has looked at the temporary solution, I am sure they will agree that it will take some shifting!

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. 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.

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 including info on how local access will operate. There will be two Public Meeting/Consultations in my division: - 13th March at Writtle College, and date-to-be determined in Great Waltham

Recycling Centres Booking system

ECC have decided to implement a booking system for the Recycling Centres from Monday 13 March. This was a Cabinet decision and I have to admit that I am not fully on board with it! I understand this is to help manage waiting times, reduce congestion, and improve the customer experience. The booking process has already been trialled using the Rayleigh Recycling Centre. I am a member of the Scrutiny Committee that reviews this decision and I will ensure that the decision is well scrutinised. - in terms of benefits and drawbacks (e.g., impact on fly tipping). Some sites do suffer queues, sometimes backing onto major roads. I am told that just applying the booking system to these, could result in residents travelling to other sites and creating queues there. There is no restriction on the number of bookings you can make as long as the waste you are disposing of is household waste. I understand that same day booking will be introduced. More info at <https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/booking-system-planned-for-essex-recycling-centres>

Park and Ride Consultation

I attended a presentation on 25th Jan where the expansion of the Chelmer Valley P&R was presented. There is an expectation that demand will increase with the extensive new developments on the North and East side of Chelmsford and as WFH patterns return to pre-Covid normal. ECC decided to expand existing facility by 500 spaces rather than operate a new P&R Widford. Public consultation runs 30 Jan to 12 March. Two drop in consultations will be held at High Chelmer Shopping Centre. 9 Feb and 25 Feb. Decision Spring 2023, Construction 2025 to early 2028.

Climate and Traffic

I attended a presentation on the effect of traffic on Climate change. Without going into detail, an interesting comment was that traffic levels are approaching pre-Covid, but central City car parks have not recovered by a long way. With the expansion of WFH, commuter journeys have dropped off (hence the empty car parks), but the people at home are making more short journeys!

ECC is promoting bus travel (Digigo, £2 single fare cap on buses to March 23), School Streets, Walkable Neighbourhoods, Bike Loan, eScooters, Essex Pedal Power promotion, RideLondon, Local Walking and Cycling projects (LCWIP), Travel Essex Journey Planner, Bikeability Training, Cycle routes, Car-free day for 2023 promotion.

Parish and City Council Your vote matters on 4 May 2023

This May, local elections are happening to elect councillors to all wards across Chelmsford City Council, as well as some parishes. Councillors make important decisions about your local area so make sure to vote and have your say! Everything you need to know about the elections can be found at

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/elections.

Registering to vote - You need to register before you can vote in UK elections and referendums. You can do this at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>. The deadline to register is Monday 17 April 2023. You don't need to re-register if nothing has changed since you last voted, such as your name or address.

Voter ID - You now need to bring photo ID to vote in person. There are lots of different versions of ID that will be accepted, including passports, driving licences, bus passes and blue badges. If you don't have any ID that you can use, you can apply for a voter authority certificate for free before Tuesday 25 April. Visit <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID>.

Postal and proxy votes - If you will be away or can't make it to your polling station on 4 May 2023, you can apply to vote by post or by proxy on the Chelmsford City Council website: www.chelmsford.gov.uk/elections. The deadline for a postal vote is Tuesday 18 April, and the deadline for a proxy vote (appointing someone to cast your vote for you) is Tuesday 25 April.

Could you be a councillor? - If you want to get involved in local democracy, then you can either stand as a representative of a political party or as an independent candidate. The deadline for nominating yourself is Tuesday 4 April. A briefing session will take place in early March. Find out more at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/stand-for-election/.

A personal note – Mediation between BPC and Cheerful Chai

For those that don't know, I volunteered back in April 2021, to Chair a mediation process between BPC and Cheerful Chai (having been trained in negotiating).

Mediation is a process whereby both sides trying to reach a mutually acceptable position/compromise, rather than arbitration which imposes a solution. Either party can choose to halt the mediation process at any point.

	I believe that the meeting of 15 th Feb 2023, will be the third time we have met in order to try to resolve the issues around access, car parking, Rights-of-Way, bin collection, supplies delivery. The feedback is part of the BPC meeting agenda.
22/169	To receive a report from the City Council for items not on the agenda. No report was received.
22/170	Correspondence Letter received – Mill Lane Cllr Daden was able to confirm that yellow lines have been applied for at this location in the summer. The Clerk was asked to forward the letter to County Councillor Mike Steel for him to include within his list of required pavement repairs. The Clerk would also report the defects via the County Council website. Letter received – Dogs The Chairman explained the difficulties of introducing any ban on dogs without leads if that was considered appropriate. The Chairman and Deputy Clerk would visit the informant to discuss the matter further.
22/171	Consultations - Cllr Scott arrives[#] Chelmer Valley Park and Ride. The Chairman made comments relating to a number of the positive outcomes for the extension of the park and ride, including a hoped for reduction in traffic through Broomfield. There were some concerns regarding the location of the bus pick up point. The matter will be referred to the Planning Committee for them to make a formal response.
22/172	Reports from Councillors on outside bodies Local Highways Panel – No report Woollards Charity – Councillor Faulds reported that they met last week. Christmas vouchers were given out. Broomfield Primary School summer trip would be supported financially. A web site will be developed. Schools – Councillor Bowman reported that she met with the head of the Primary School last week. The Head was keen to participate in the Salt Bag Scheme, but would need volunteers. Shadow Council – Councillor Bowman reported that candidates for the Clerk role have been shortlisted for interview – she will sit in as an independent person as the candidates are all known by some of the panel. Flyers advertising the Councillor post for the election will be sent out. Transport – Councillor Thomson reported that timetables for the X10 and X30 are now on the First Bus website – most will go along Main Road, but some don't. There is a meeting for transport reps on the 17 th March when the issue of not going to Broomfield Hospital will be raised. Licensed Premises – Councillor Perry reported that other local pubs in the Mitchel and Butler chain are undergoing refurbishment – hopefully The Angel will be included at some stage. Police – Councillor Scott reported that the next meeting would be on 20 th March and would now be bi-monthly. The local PCSO is now in touch with Donna Hance, having called into the Village Hall. Hospital Liaison – Not currently taking place.
22/173	To note financial reports for February 2023. To approve the bank statement and reconciliation for February. To note cashbook income and expenditure for February 2023 To note salary payments for February 2023

	Resolved: The Council approves the financial records for February 2023 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £12,312.55. Proposed by Cllr Faulds and seconded by Cllr Mercer. Unanimously agreed.
22/174	To agree a date and format for the Annual Parish Meeting. The date for the Annual Parish Meeting was set for 24 th May. Advantage would be taken of the Coffee Morning attendance to seek views and [provide a range of presentations. As Donna Hance would be on leave, a number of volunteers would be required to help – Cllr Bowman agreed to assist as did Cllr Steed and his wife, once he had confirmed with her.
22/175	To receive a briefing from the Clerk on the May elections. The Clerk provided an update to members. It was agreed that to avoid any complications due to the period of purdah for the local elections, there would be no April Council Meeting held.
22/176	To consider the transfer of employment of Donna Hance from the Village Hall Charity to Broomfield Parish Council. Resolved: Following the approval of the Sole Trustee of the Village Hall Charity, the Parish Council approves of the transfer of employment of Donna Hance from the Village Hall Charity to Broomfield Parish Council effective from 1 st April. Proposed by Cllr Mercer and seconded by Cllr Faulds. One against, all others in favour.
22/177	To consider the commission of a consultation to examine the feasibility of installing electrical charging points on the Village Hall site with the associated costs as shown on the associated documentation. It was agreed that the Clerk would continue to research costs with EV charging point suppliers to ensure that a best value quote had been obtained before any decision to take the project further was considered.
22/178	To approve a service maintenance contract with Link CCTV for the Village Hall CCTV system. Resolved: The Parish Council approves of an annual maintenance contract with Link CCTV at a cost of £1589.13. Proposed by Cllr Steed and seconded by Cllr Scott. Unanimously agreed.
22/179	To receive an update from the Chairman on the latest mediation meeting relating to the vehicular right of way and other related issues. The Chairman reported that the proposed meeting had been cancelled by Myra Kauser from Cheerful Chai, who had asked that an alternative day, ideally a Friday afternoon, could be considered. The Clerk would explore possible dates with all parties.
22/180	To note minutes from the following Committees:
22/180.1	Finance and Personnel Committee – None since last Council meeting
22/180.2	Environment Committee – Draft minutes from 8 th February. Cllr Steed provided a report on the matters discussed.
22/180.3	Property & Planning Committee – Draft minutes from 1 st February. These were noted.
22/180.4	Communications Committee – No recent meeting
22/180.5	School Lane Working Group Cllr Bleet reported that the Group had met recently and were frustrated that so little progress had been made regarding the School Lane issues. There was good news that a School Crossing Patrol may finally become a reality subject to final checks on the applicant. A request for improvements to the layout of School Lane has been submitted to the Local Highways Panel, and a decision is awaited.

22/181	Matters for the next meeting The School Lane Working Group Charging Points
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