



Broomfield Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Broomfield Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 18th January 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

22/145	Members attending Chairman: Cllr Bleet Other members: Cllrs Thomson, Perry, Faulds, Steed, Bowman, Mercer, Scott Blake, Howell and Barnes. Also present: County Councillor Mike Steel, Clerk, Mark Hembury, and one member of the public. Resolved. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Spiller and noted for Cllr Daden. Proposed by Cllr Blake and seconded by Cllr Faulds. Unanimously approved.
22/146	Declarations of interests None received.
22/147	To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st December 2022. Resolved. The minutes of the Full Council meeting are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Mercer and seconded by Cllr Thomson. All in agreement.
22/148	Public Question Time. No questions asked.
22/149	Report from County Councillor Mike Steel Council Tax 23/24: New Central Govt legislation caps County Councils increases to 5% total (2% on Adult Social Care and 3% for other services) and 3% total for District Councils like Chelmsford City Council. Essex County Council are proposing to increase by the max allowed on Adult Social Care, but only half of the allowance for other services – i.e., a total of 3.5%. Around 45% of the budget (£506M) goes on Adult Social Care which means that the remaining services have to share the other 55% (£618M) – Children and Families, Highways maintenance and Sustainable Transport, Environment and Climate Change Action, Other Front Line Services, and Support Services. The budget proposal includes provisions for considerable savings in order to balance the books and accommodate the current inflation rates of 10.7%. Adult Social Care serves around 15,000 Essex residents of a total of 1.5M, i.e., 45% of the budget goes on 1% of the population – a difficult concept but a reassuring one in that residents know that the service is there when they most need it. ECC consider keeping the rate as low as possible to be important in today's Cost-of-Living crisis and ECC will remain in the bottom third for tax rates across County Councils. Hollowgate update Persimmons have committed to replace the gate (angle ground off) if possible. I have asked ECC Highways to pursue a permanent block – emergency services asked to comment but we have received no response. I have suggested that we proceed with a TRO. Persimmons have said that they would be okay to block the road as soon as a TRO is approved. Police are supposed to be monitoring illegal usage. I have sent them several reminders. I also met with the new Chelmsford DCCI and raised it with him – he was already aware of the situation, so my persistence has filtered up!

20 is Plenty Campaign

As this is on the January agenda, I am repeating my report from last month:

I have formally sent a question to the Highways Cabinet member as follows:

A pressure group called “20’s Plenty” is being promoted to Parish Councils by EALC.

Their campaign objectives are to:

- Agree and adopt a Parish Council to pass a motion to support the campaign for 20mph where people live, work and play based on the attached template at : https://www.20splenty.org/parish_council_motion to call on ECC to implement 20mph in their parish
- Communicate benefits of 20mph to parishioners: o You can use the template article for Parish Magazines, see
- Write to Transport Authority (ECC) - address to ▪ Lead Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council (Cllr Lee Scott) supporting 20mph
- The call for 20mph is the speed limit across whole communities - not linked to road status in “roads hierarchy”, PR1, PR2 etc. It goes on to say that this is road signs only, low cost installation, and that no civil engineering required; and there is no need to delay the process or introduce the cost of additional data collection: adequate data is available from existing programmes elsewhere. This is a very assertive campaign and they claim to have already presented to 120 councillors from over 40 Essex Parish Councils, with more webinars planned for November. I expect County Cllrs and Cllr Lee Scott to be flooded with requests to support the campaign.

Specifically, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. Does ECC Highways support the 20mph campaign and in principle accept the merits of 20mph in all urban and rural areas where cars and pedestrians mix?
2. I understand that ECC are currently updating the Functional Route Hierarchy Review followed by a revision of the Essex Speed Management Strategy, which may inform Highways view on 20mph in all urban and rural areas. When will these documents be completed and available for view by members and the public?
3. Following these document reviews being published, will there be a clear statement on ECC Highways view on 20mph in all urban and rural areas?
4. In the meantime, how will Cllr Scott respond to the motions from Parish Councils and letters from the public on the subject.
5. Will Cllr Scott advise how Members should respond when asked the same?

I have received the following response from Cllr Scott:

Thank you for writing to me regarding the pressure group “20’s Plenty”. I have had direct correspondence from them myself, and am aware of the correspondence that has been sent to Parish and District colleagues. I am able to confirm that I will consider all of the information that has been sent, and can also confirm that there is a very large piece of work underway at the moment, part of which will look at a Speed Management strategy throughout Essex. This piece of work is extensive, and so it is too soon for me to be able to predict when this will be complete, or the results of this. Once further information is available it will be shared.

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. This decision has been “called in” and I am a member of the Scrutiny committee which will review the decision (I am the deputy Chair). I have collated a list of all the recent tasks addressed by the Chelmsford Highway Rangers and will seek to understand how these will be provided in the absence of the Rangers.

Broomfield School Crossing Patrol

I have submitted a scheme request to address congestion around Broomfield Primary School at start/leave times. Suggestions for solutions include School Travel Plans, School Streets, 20mph past the school, means to prevent overspill from the pavement. I noted that BPC are willing to contribute £19,000

I arranged for the ECC Sustainable Travel Planning Officer (Nick Hill) to meet the School Head (Heather and Tracy) to help revive the School Travel Plan. They’re both very keen to organise all the things they’ve got going on, and add more initiatives, to help more pupils walk, scoot or cycle to school.

Nick and I have been discussing what infrastructure options could be considered for enhancing safety during the congestion period – along with Jon from LHP, and Nicola from SERP. The signage has been reviewed and is adequate for the School Crossing Patrol (SCP) function, but there is a recommendation for wig-wags (at school times) which has been recommended and has been captured as an LHP scheme (£11,000 cost). Policy does not allow mix of 20mph variable wig-wags and an SCP – so it needs to be one or the other – i.e., SCP with wig wags, or 20mph wig-wags. However, 20mph variable at school start/stop will be hard to justify as speeds are low outside the school at that time! Of course, BPC could fund. But once done, it excludes the SCP option. Still, no one has applied for the SCP role! If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact us at schoolcrossingpatrol@essex.gov.uk or gillian.palmer@essex.gov.uk, stating Broomfield (or contact me). The role generally suits people with a positive and friendly attitude with good communication skills who are active and reliable.

There was also consideration given to railings, but the requirement for them to be set back 450mm from the road edge, would reduce pavement width (which may increase risk) and also railings can have the problem of “trapping” people on the road.

With the £19K commitment from BPC, we need to best decide what to fund!

Member Led Pothole Scheme

I have now entered in all my 36 pothole allowance. I am pleased to say that towards the end, there was difficulty in finding more potholes to make sure I used all of my allowance.

However, the recent snow and rain have created some new ones. It is frustrating to hear that some County Cllrs have not used any, or all of their allowance, and the deadline was extended to 15th Jan 2023 (latest report shows that County Cllrs have used only half the allowance across the board!). Therefore, I have entered some more, taking me up to 44 (officially –

	although I have reported some multiple holes as a series – so the total is more like 80 potholes!) I have attached the latest report on the repairs.
22/150	To receive a report from City Councillors for items not on the agenda. No report received
22/151	Correspondence Letter received, parking in Mill Lane. The Clerk was asked to contact the informant and ask for more information on the nature of the problem, especially when it was taking place.
22/152	Consultations None received
22/153	Reports from Councillors on outside bodies Local Highways Panel – No update. Woollards Charity – No update. Schools – Councillor Bowman would be meeting with the Primary School head teacher in the following week.. Shadow Council – Councillor Bowman The precept request had been submitted to the City Council and was waiting for a response. A bank account had been opened. The Clerk role has been advertised and there has been some interest. The website has gone live and there is also a Facebook page. Information is being circulated regarding the vacancies for Parish Councillors to be filled. Transport – Councillor Thomson reported that there was a new fares scheme where a single journey costs only £2 but was only in operation until 31st March. A day ticket was available for £10. Some changes will take effect for the routes X10 and X30 from 19th February. A new sign had been installed at the stop outside the Angel PH. Licensed Premises – Councillor Perry reported that the warm hub would be re-starting at the Angel after the Christmas and New Year break. New leaflets are being prepared to advertise the warm hubs around the village. Police – Councillor Scott reported that she would be meeting with the police on Monday next. Hospital Liaison – Councillor Mercer/Blake. No progress to report.
22/154	To note financial reports for December 2022. To approve the bank statement and reconciliation for December 2022. To note cashbook income and expenditure for December 2022. To note salary payments for December 2022. Resolved: The Council approves the financial records for December 2022 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £20,779.33 Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Perry. Approved unanimously.
22/155	To approve the appointment of Heelis and Lodge as the internal auditor for the accounts for the financial year 2022/23. Resolved: The Council approves of the appointment of Heelis and Lodge as internal auditor for the accounts for the financial year 2022/23. Proposed by Cllr Steed and seconded by Cllr Blake. Agreed unanimously.
22/156	To consider progress on the 5-year Development Plan. The Chairman provided members with an update. Further Communications Group meetings are required to improve communication. A new Development Plan going forward will be organised by Committees and will incorporate the Neighbourhood Plan as well as the

	Felstead Field bus stop. A meeting will be arranged for February. The Development Plan would feature at Council Meetings as a regular agenda item once each quarter. Cllr Blake proposed a vote of thanks for all the work done by the Chairman regarding the Development Plan. Members working on the Development Plan are Cllrs Bleet, Blake, Barnes, Faulds and Thomson.
22/157	To consider a policy that will determine how any CIL money held is spent. Cllr Blake stated that the emphasis should be on what the parishioners feel is important. Cllr Mercer stated she thought the CIL policy and the Development Plan should go hand in hand. The Neighbourhood Plan was also important as it included residents' views. Any ongoing maintenance has to be factored into spending plans. The Chairman stated that all feedback would be incorporated within the document. A group would meet to look at the new plan and would include Cllrs Thomson, Faulds, Barnes and Blake.
22/158	To outline Essex County Council policy on roadside salt bins and to update members on the Salt bag Partnership Scheme and proposed locations. The Clerk provided an update on policy and in particular why no salt bins could be requested locally due to the lack of the necessary gradient on roads and the absence of sharp bends. The Salt Bag Partnership Scheme has been circulated on the website and volunteers have been requested, but none have come forward to date. An article will be prepared for the next edition of the Broomfield Times and the Parish Facebook account. Cllr Blake asked for a vote of thanks for Cllr Steed for continuing to deliver N.P. leaflets despite sustaining a nasty injury.
22/159	Planning Applications. Due to the Christmas and New Year break, there was no Planning meeting on the 4th January. The Council is asked to consider the following Planning Applications: 1) 22/02174/FUL Broomfield Hospital 2) 22/02199/FUL 19 Mashie Link 3) 22/05235/TPO 12 Broomhall Road Resolved. Broomfield Parish Council makes the following comments – 1) No comment. Proposed by Cllr Thomson, seconded by Cllr Blake. All agreed. 2) No objection. Proposed by Cllr Mercer, seconded by Cllr Blake. All agreed. 3) No objection. Proposed by Cllr Mercer, seconded by Cllr Thomson. All agreed.
22/160	To receive an update from the Clerk on matters arising from previous meetings. The Clerk provided the following updates – The Parish Council website now has a new map feature with the facility to display a wide range of information. Feedback would be appreciated. There is also a new e-newsletter sign-up option on the front page of the website. Everyone is encouraged to add their details. Before the first e-newsletter can be produced, we need to have residents signed up not receive it.
22/161	To consider a request for the purchase of a commemorative plaque. Resolved: The council approves of the purchase of a commemorative plaque for St Mary's Church tree-planting initiative at a cost of £84. Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Perry. All in agreement.
22/162	To note minutes from the following Committees:
22/162.1	Finance and Personnel Committee – None since last Council meeting.

22/162.2	Environment Committee – Draft minutes from 14 th December. These were noted.
22/162.3	Property & Planning Committee – Draft minutes from 7th December. These were noted.
22/162.4	Communications Committee – No recent meeting
22/162.5	School Lane Working Group – Cllr Bleet stated that most of her comments are covered in the report by Cllr Steel regarding the Local Highways Panel referral regarding School Lane. A further meeting would be arranged to agree plans Speedwatch training would be taking place in the village hall next Saturday. Cllr Blake
22/163	Matters for the next meeting. The meeting concluded at 21.24 hrs.