



Broomfield Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Broomfield Parish Council Held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

22/29	Members attending. Chair: Cllr Mercer, others present Cllrs Blake[#], Thomson, Howell[#], Perry, Bowman, Faulds, Daden, Steed and Scott. Officer present, Council Clerk Mark Hembury. One member of the public was present. Also present was Donna Hance, the Village Hall Events and Funding Manager. Resolved Apologies were accepted from Cllr Barnes, Cllr Bleet Proposed Cllr Steed and seconded by Cllr Faulds. Unanimously approved.
22/30	Declarations of interests None received
22/31	To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th May 2022. [#]Cllr Howell and Cllr Blake arrive. Resolved The minutes of the Full Council meeting are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Faulds and seconded by Cllr Bowman. Two abstentions, all others in agreement.
22/32	Public Question Time. Mr. Chris Gardiner wished to update Councillors on the Speedwatch initiative having recently attended a meeting at Fire services headquarters in Kelvedon – 70 groups across the County are active. A certificate recognising the work of the Broomfield Speed Watch Group was presented to the Council.
22/33	To receive a report from our County Councillor for items not on the agenda. RideLondon The events on 28th (GW and Chignal) and 29th June (GW, Chignal and Writtle), were well managed. The VCPs and Pedestrian crossings were in place. On the 28th, I visited some of the businesses along the way with Cllr Lee Scott (Highways Cabinet Member). I am still receiving complaints from residents and businesses. ECC have not signed a 5 year contract. Cllr Scott has promised me a review before any commitment. I have insisted on being part of that review. <u>East Anglia GREEN – from Norwich to Tilbury - UPDATE</u> Update on my activities in relation to the Non-statutory consultation briefing 21 April to 16 Jun 2022

I attended the Chelmsford area Webinar, the consultation event at Writtle and have read the full report and appendices.

Parish Councils

The local parishes have formed a North West Group, of which I am a member. We have met several times, and expanded to include Margaretting and Ingatestone – there are now about 10 PCs represented+ local protest group.

ECC

ECC have now produced a response as follows which strongly objects to the current proposed route:

Essex County Council statement on National Grid's East Anglia Green project

Cllr Lesley Wagland OBE, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning, said: "Essex County Council intends to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposals being put forward in the non-statutory consultation in respect of National Grid's East Anglia Green project.

"The County Council, along with residents, districts and parishes have only had a very short time to respond to the proposed scheme and have had very little engagement prior to May 2022 on the proposals.

"We have clearly expressed our ambition to be net zero by 2050 and the production of power from windfarms is a critical part of this, however, we have serious concerns not only about the route, but also how carbon heavy the proposed scheme of overhead pylons is.

"We are of the view that there has been insufficient consideration of alternative approaches which would allow for the required infrastructure but without the sheer scale of the damage to the environment, landscape and the difficulties of this project going ahead, all at the same time as multiple large-scale infrastructure projects which have the potential to cause major disruption across the East of England.

"We believe that new offshore generated electricity should be transmitted offshore, which is why we need an offshore grid. This is firmly in the interests of business - both offshore windfarms themselves and wider interests e.g. our Freeports - and would help to futureproof the network. Such an alternative approach could avoid all the physical constraints of an above or below-ground solution, retain ease of access for ongoing maintenance and provide a more direct point of connection for any current or future off-shore wind farms. This is a much better option and one which would be more likely to receive support from ourselves and residents.

"We are working with the leaders of the city, district and borough councils through forums such as the Essex Leader and Chief Execs forum to share our concerns so that we respond with one voice and align ourselves with our colleagues in Norfolk and Suffolk. We will also be asking to meet with National Grid to discuss our concerns directly."

Cllr Peter Schwier, Essex County Council's Climate Czar, added: "We welcome plans for renewable wind farms off the East Anglian coast, however, we are completely opposed to the transmission of the power generated via the proposed 50m high voltage pylons. These would be in the sky for generations to come and have a long-term negative impact on our wonderful Essex countryside as well as the county generally.

“This pylon infrastructure is neither wanted nor needed considering the viable option of undersea power cables. These cables could transport power to where it is needed, helping future proof energy supplies and boost energy security, without adversely impacting on residents, businesses and communities across Essex.”

City Council

I have raised it at the Policy Board meeting of 26th May. City Council are not ready to respond yet and have requested an extension. An extension has been granted to City Council until 16th July, and they will consider it at the 14th July Policy Board, which I will join.

MP

I have met with Kemi and made sure she is aware of all the concerns of the residents. Consequently, she has written a joint letter to National Grid, along with 5 other MPs covering Suffolk, Norfolk, Harwich, Essex, Bury St Edmunds (The full letter is copied below)

In summary, it states that they support an offshore solution, support OffSET, why was only one option presented for consultation, and Central Govt's commitment to delivering an offshore grid.

Homes for Ukraine Scheme Update 01.06.22

Key figures:

- In the Essex County Council area there are now 947 registered sponsors, including 83 new sponsors over the past 2 weeks. The number of requests involves 2,117 individual guests, with 192 new guests registered over the past fortnight.
- 846 guests have now arrived.

Member Led Carriageway Pothole Repair Programme

Highways have launched a new Member Led Carriageway Pothole Repair Programme to address the worst pot holes of each area.

Each ECC Cllr gets to nominate 36 potholes that will be fixed between 13th June and the end of the year.

I have 10 parishes in my division, so can you each nominate 3 potholes? (If it's a **close** group of several, I will try and count that as one)

Your identified potholes should provide us with road names and as much as possible, precise locations. You can use maps or 'What3words' or house numbers etc to help us identify locations.

These have to be carriageway potholes, and pavement defects are not included (I have asked, as I think previous schemes did include them – but not this time)

I would imagine that your worst 3 would have already been reported, so it would be useful to include the Track – It Ref number. However, if you know a repair is scheduled, don't add it to this list.

- If possible, include at least two good photographs of each defect. It would be most helpful if one photograph is a close-up of the defect, and the second one shows the position of the defect in the road, relative to adjacent properties and identifying landmarks. Please do not put yourself or others at risk when taking photographs.
- Please be as accurate as possible – include road and village/town name but also, where possible, details of house number(s) or business(es) that the defect is adjacent to.
- Please note any other useful information that you think might help us. For instance, if the road is narrow or parking is tight; and so on.
- Please note if the defect is outside a ‘higher risk’ area – for instance if there is a children’s nursery, school, college, or care home adjacent. Local intelligence will help us plan to do the works safely.

The work will be done in 2 tranches, starting 11th July and 10th Oct, for my division. I need your input before 11th July if you want to be in the first tranche. Please stick to the worst 3 potholes. If you send me more, I will choose 3 at random.

Digigo

Digigo is a Pilot funded by Essex County Council for an initial two-year period in two separate operational areas – Braintree and Chelmsford.

The service comprises 6 electric mini-buses operating from the Braintree GRIDSERVE electric forecourt. Using the app, passengers select their pick up and drop off points, and the system automatically calculates the route, catering for any pickups along the way. The app displays ‘virtual stops’ near to the pick-up locations, meaning that passengers are just a very short walk away from pick-up.

I have asked some of my Parish Councils in the coverage area, if they would like a roadshow event on this:

- Digigo attended Chignal Parish Council coffee morning 1st June
- Little Waltham Digigo roadshow is arranged for 12 noon Friday 10th June in the Tufnell Hall car park
- Great Waltham is arranged for 17th June
- Broomfield is being planned
- Pleshey have requested a session

For more info - www.digigo.uk

eScooters

The Spin e-scooter trial is being taken over by a new company called TIER.

The existing e-scooters will be swapped for new ones overnight on 5 June, for launch on 6 June. (I have already noted the new scooters, which are bright green)

We will update our website, and run some social media posts, alongside a press release being issued by TIER.

Please see attached a briefing note from Spin/TIER containing further information

Highways repair

I reported that the section of Broomfield Road, which is plagued by many pot holes resulting from the utility trench repair, will be resurfaced. This is now planned for 27th June 2022 for 9 nights (20.00 to 05.00).

I have asked if they will repaint the crossing at the same time – awaiting an answer.

You can keep up to date on the closure via the link <https://one.network/?tm=3D127541370>

	School Crossing Patrol Awaiting the design audit on the crossing by the LHP.
22/34	To receive a report from City Councillors for items not on the agenda. Cllr Daden reported that there were no formal enquiries being made into activities at Roselawn Farm at present, but that residents should keep a diary of what they observe.
22/35	Correspondence Governance Review – Shadow Councillor. Cllr Jo Bowman is nominated as the shadow Councillor for the new Parish to be established as a result of the Governance Review. Cllr Mercer informed the meeting that she had attended the recent meeting of the Association of Chelmsford Local Councils. Representatives of five Councils attended. The cleaning of road signs was raised as an issue. This was the first such meeting to be held for some time and there will be further attempts to re-new the meeting.
22/36	Consultations None received
22/37	To review representation on external bodies and arrangements for reporting back. Local Highways Panel – Cllr Daden reported that there was a meeting coming up on 30th June and would raise the matter of the Northern Gateway Project. Cllr Blake will provide a map to assist Woollards Charity – Cllr Faulds confirmed there had been no recent meeting, but they have agreed to meet to discuss future events. Transport – Cllr Thomson has attended a recent meeting and is able to confirm that the Travel Essex App appears to be working well. The Clerk agreed to contact First Bus regarding the missing bus stop in Main Road opposite Erick Avenue. Schools – Cllr Bowman has sent emails to both local primary and secondary schools introducing herself, but has not yet received a response. Licensed Premises – Cllr Perry has made enquiries regarding the future of the Kings Arms but has no news to date.
22/38	To note financial reports for April 2022. To approve the bank statement and reconciliation for April 2022. To note cashbook, income and expenditure for April 2022. To note salary payments for April 2022. Resolved. The Council approves the financial records for April 2022 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £91,032.41 Proposed by Cllr Faulds and seconded by Cllr Thomson. All in favour.
22/39	To review the Council's Internal Control Strategy document Resolved. The Council approves the published internal control strategy document for 2022/23 Proposed Cllr Perry and seconded by Cllr Blake, approved unanimously.
22/40	To consider the internal auditor's report for the year 2021/22 and recommend any measures for implementation. Resolved. The Council approves of the internal auditor's report as published. Proposed by Cllr Steed and seconded by Cllr Faulds. Approved unanimously.
22/41	To approve the annual return for publication. Resolved. The Council approves a) The Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 Proposed by Cllr Blake and seconded by Cllr Steed. Agreed unanimously.

	b) The Accounting Statement 2021/22 for publication. Reposed by Cllr Daden and seconded by Cllr Faulds. Agreed unanimously.
22/42	To review the Council Policy on Communication and Transparency. Resolved. Due to the amendments to be made, this matter will be brought back for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.
22/43	To consider the Council Risk Management Assessment document. Resolved. The Council approves of the Risk Management Assessment document as published. Proposed by Cllr Steed and seconded by Cllr Blake. Agreed unanimously.
22/44	To approve a quote for drainage work on Parsonage Green pond. Resolved. The Council approves of the quote of £3600 for the clearance of the culvert from Parsonage Green pond. Expenditure to be taken from the earmarked reserve for Village Maintenance. Proposed by Cllr Steed and seconded by Cllr Bowman. Agreed unanimously.
22/45	To receive an update on the School Lane issue. Cllr Mercer reported that Nicola Foster from the Safer Essex Roads Partnership visited the site on May 19 th . A recommendation has been made to re-shape Angel green, which would have the effect of slowing traffic and giving more space to pedestrians. It is hoped to move forward on the Speed Watch Scheme. A further meeting is set for 7 th July. Cllr Blake stated that the Neighbourhood Plan suggests traffic lights be introduced at the junction.
22/46	To consider the feedback from the Annual Parish Meeting Cllr Mercer provided a report on the Annual Parish Meeting and this was noted.
22/47	To consider the decisions made at the Trustee Meeting of 11th May These were noted.
22/48	To receive a report from the Village Hall Events Manager on the Jubilee celebrations. A report was presented by Donna Hance, the Village Hall Charity Events and Funding Manager, covering the activities taking place for the Jubilee Celebrations. This was noted. A vote of thanks was given for the hard work of the Events Manager in making the various activities such a success.
22/49	To consider Church Green and the various issues that need to be addressed. Following a discussion of the various issue involved, Cllr Mercer agreed to liaise with the Environment Committee to organise a meeting with residents to seek their views.
22/50	To receive an update from the Clerk on matters arising from previous meetings. The Clerk reported the following – • All Councillors now have access to the Sharepoint system and instructions for logging in were circulated. • The order for a new Village Sign has been placed and an illustration of the agreed design was circulated. • The vacancy for a Parish Councillor has been formally published. • A replacement member of staff for Wendy had been found, but then withdrew her application. A new advert will be published. • The Three Villages Walk is supported by all Parish Councils involved. Essex Highways have confirmed the existing sign posts can be used for new signage. • The new website should be going live on 4th July.

22/51	To note minutes from the following Committees:
22/51.1	Finance and Personnel Committee – Noted at Council Meeting of 20 th April
22/51.2	Village Amenities Committee – Noted at Council Meeting of 20 th April
22/51.3	Property & Planning Committee 1 st June (not yet available)
22/51.4	Communications Committee – no recent meeting.
22/51.5	School Lane Working Group – no recent meeting.
22/52	Matters for the next meeting None The meeting finished at 9.40 p.m.