



Broomfield Parish Council

**Minutes of a meeting of Broomfield Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 7.30 p.m.**

23/36	Members attending. Chairman Cllr Bleet. Other members attending, Cllrs Taylor#, Thomson, Howell, Odelana, Perry, Barnes and Scott Also present Clerk, Mark Hembury. There were two members of the public present. Other absences, Cllr Mike Steel. Resolved. An apology was accepted from Cllrs Blake, Bowman and Faulds. Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Barnes Agreed unanimously.
23/37	To receive any Declarations of interests from Councillors No declarations received.
23/38	A co-option application was received from Peter Travis. Following a short discussion and recorded signed vote, Peter Travis was unanimously co-opted as a Parish Councillor and completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
23/39	To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th May 2023. Resolved. The minutes of the Full Council meeting are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Thomson and seconded by Cllr Howell. Two abstentions and all others in agreement.
23/40	Public Question Time. A question was asked regarding the potholes in the lane leading onto the Village Hall site. It was possible to confirm that a quote for the repairs had been approved at the last Environment Committee meeting on 14th June. A question was asked regarding the undergrowth alongside Felstead Field and the need to trim the hedge. Cllr Barnes confirmed that he would forward details of the land agent for the Marriage family to the Clerk for a letter to be sent requesting the hedge be trimmed. A question was asked regarding the footpath leading onto the Village Hall site and the trees growing over the fence from the Angel PH. The Clerk confirmed that the over-hanging branches would be trimmed back.
23/41	To receive a report from the County Council for items not on agenda. Cllr Steel provided the following report – ECC report Member Led Carriageway Pothole Scheme The scheme has now completed and all the potholes I submitted have been filled. I even managed to get the A131 north of Sheepscote roundabout on the list and the 12 holes have been filled. A new scheme will be starting shortly and will operate in the same way as the last one. As you know I was particularly dynamic in making sure the potholes in my division were addressed and went well beyond my allowance of 36, actually putting in 52. I want to make sure that we make full use of the new scheme. Please let me know about your worst potholes in the road. I need: • Location – preferably What3words

- Photo
- Description

Last time, not all Cllrs used their allowance, and the scheme had to be extended. This won't happen this time, and I need to start submitting soon. So please send me your requests ASAP.

RideLondon:

The event seemed to be successful. I visited various point along the route in my division, including the Vehicle Crossing Point in Writtle..

I have been asked about grant funding from RideLondon - please see the link below; this will take you to the funded projects;

<https://www.activeessex.org/london-marathon-foundation-funded-initiatives/>

Digigo:

We are now more than half way through the 2 year Digigo pilot, funded by ECC. Whilst it is very popular, it has not reached sustainable levels and I am trying to promote it more. I am submitting articles to all my local Parish News that are within Digigo coverage. This is too valuable a service to the rural areas, to lose it because it is underused.

Community Initiative Fund

The CIF has been relaunched for 2023-24. The £350,000 fund is administered on by EALC on behalf of ECC. and is open to voluntary organisations, community groups and Town and Parish Councils with projects which strengthen communities and make Essex a great place to live and work.

There are two levels of grant:

- grants up to £10,000 towards capital or revenue projects that benefit the wider community
- micro grants up to £1,000 to help grassroots groups reduce social isolation, improve wellbeing or help communities connect

Projects should have community backing and show that they help meet a real community need. They could be to:

- create, buy or develop new community assets
- enhance existing community assets
- enhance or develop initiatives that strengthen a community, including cultural initiatives

This year £300,000 is allocated to the main CIF round with grants of up to £10,000 available to support projects that demonstrate a real community need.

The deadline for full applications to the main CIF round this year is 18 August 2023.

Groups can apply to the fund by visiting <https://www.ealc.gov.uk/community-initiative-fund/>.

School crossing patrol

I previously reported that I had arranged for a School Crossing Patrol to operate at the zebra crossing on School Lane and managed to get this funded. I am pleased to say that this started to operate after half term, from 5th June. This will operate between **08:15 am – 09:00 am and 14:50 – 15:35 pm.**

Parents and carers, please follow the safety instructions:

- Avoid crossing at points away from the official school crossing patrol site.

- Keep together with your child when approaching the crossing and keep a secure hold of any small children
 - Wait at the kerbside until the patrol is in position in the road and only cross when instructed it is safe to do so.
 - Remain at the kerbside if the patrol is walking back from accompanying a previous group.
 - Refrain from using mobiles or headphones when using the crossing.
 - Keep alert and aware of traffic whilst on the crossing.
 - Avoid distractions and collisions on the crossing by dismounting from cycles and scooters at the kerbside and walk across the crossing.
- Motorists, please note that by law, you must stop when signalled to do so by an SCP.

Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy - public consultation launched

Highways have launched a public consultation on the Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy. In Essex, around half (49%) of CO₂ emissions are from transport and it is the largest contributor to poor air quality across any economic sector. Over half of these emissions come from cars and a third from heavy and light goods vehicles. Responding to the climate crisis, Essex County Council has committed to reducing the county's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, in line with UK statutory commitments. Alongside this, the Government is phasing out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030 to accelerate the transition towards all new vehicles being zero emission. Switching to electric vehicles (EV) will help contribute to the net zero goal and improve air quality, but to make this a reality and aid EV growth in the county, people need access to a reliable, convenient, accessible, and fairly priced network of EV charge points. The Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy aims to support this by setting out how Essex County Council will work with local authority partners and the private sector to enable the delivery of charging points in key locations to maximise use – delivering the “The Right Charger in the Right Place”.

Key stats -

- There is potential for 50,000 EVs in Essex by 2025, rising to 220,000 by 2030
- There are currently 300 registered public charge points in the county. It is predicted we will need a minimum of 1,500 by 2025, rising to 6,000 by 2030
- The projected increase in uptake of EVs could reduce car and van CO₂ emissions in Essex by around 70% by 2040.

To support the development of the strategy, it has now reached a stage at which we would welcome views to help refine it further. The six-week public consultation is open until Sunday, 30 July 2023. You can read more about the strategy and take part in the consultation via the scheme webpage at: www.essexhighways.org/ev-strategy. Our project team can be contacted at ElectricVehicleStrategy@essexhighways.org

23/42	To receive a report from the City Council Cllr Steel provided the following report –
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20/02064/OUT Outline Application and 21/00881/FUL Full Application, Strategic Growth Site North Of Woodhouse Lane Broomfield Chelmsford Essex and Broomfield Hospital Approach Broomfield Chelmsford CM1 7ET – were considered at the August 2022 Planning Committee. This included the delivery of a link road, at the end of the new estate Spine road, for staff into the hospital – on hospital grounds with implementation and ongoing maintenance funded by Bloor Homes. Despite an MOU between Bloor Homes and the Hospital, MEHT pulled out of the agreement shortly before the committee meeting. Bloor was instructed to sort this out and the planning decision was deferred pending such an agreement. An alternate proposal for a funded P&R bus for staff/visitors was suggested but was subject to being brought back to the Planning Committee.

Since the meeting of the Planning Committee, Officers have worked with both Bloor Homes and the Hospital Trust in an effort to secure the provision of the hospital link road. In March 2023 the NHS Trust confirmed their position in a letter to Officers. This confirms that agreement on the future maintenance arrangements, costs and liability for the proposed link road could not be reached. This is despite the applicant's offer to pay a maintenance sum to The NHS Trust.

Consequently, the proposed 'Alternative Transport Strategy' is a shuttle bus service between the Chelmer Valley Park and Ride and Broomfield Hospital. Funding of £1,350,000 would be provided by the Applicant. The proposal is to secure this through the Section 106 legal agreement.

I will be attending the Planning Committee Meeting of 20th June and I will express my concerns

- A link to Broomfield Hospital is a requirement of Local Plan Growth Site Policy 8 and Strategic Policy S9 of the Chelmsford Local Plan. The hospital link road formed part of the adopted masterplan for the application site and was allocated as a measure to mitigate an increase in vehicular traffic on Blasford Hill. At the time of the adoption of the Local Plan in May 2020 it was understood that the formation of the link road was an objective shared by the Hospital Trust.
- By not implementing the link road, all traffic into the hospital will continue to use Hospital Approach and the associated roundabout – the possible mitigation of reducing the traffic levels on Hospital Approach roundabout by having an alternate route, has been lost.
- Blasford Hill is already overloaded with traffic and the Local Plan included mitigation which has now been removed.
- It is disappointing that the Hospital/MEHT have failed to accept a reasonable offer to alleviate the potential problems.
- Furthermore, I am concerned as to whether the P&R solution is viable. MEHT continue to offer free staff parking, post Covid. Whilst I support such an initiative, it has to be said that staff would not choose a P&R solution, with the extra journey time, when they can park on the hospital site without charge.
- I am disappointed that MEHT do not seem to want to engage in any initiative to reduce traffic levels!
- The Local Plan originally proposed 450 homes on the site. This has been extended with a proposal of 512, which when added to 2 independent sites of 21, now totals 533 dwellings – an 18% increase!

Given the issues highlighted above it is difficult to see how the Planning Committee are okay to approve an application that exceeds the Local Plan by 18% and does not contain one of the planned mitigation requirements

	I am pleased that whilst the hospital link road is no longer proposed, changes and closures to parts of Woodhouse Lane are still proposed. These amendments and closures are required to provide improved access for residents of Woodhouse Lane, to remove a potential vehicle through route from the development on the existing narrow lane to Hospital Approach and Blasford Hill and to provide safe and sustainable walking and cycling routes. Opus Retirement Village Given the issues highlighted in the above applications, I was very surprised to receive an invitation to an Opus consultation for an Integrated Retirement Community – on a site north of the Bloor Homes application. I believe all residents of GW have received such a booklet. I sat through a presentation to LWPC by Opus. There is a public consultation at Little Channels 21 June https://opuslittlewaltham.co.uk/ This all came out of the blue and was a surprise to myself and the planning dept. I believe Opus have responded to a call for sites from City Council, but this has not been assessed yet. I have spoken to Opus and told them it's in the wrong place. It's not in the local plan and outside the settlement boundary. I think you need to go to their consultation 21 June and make your thoughts known. Cllr Bleet provided the meeting with a summary of the City Planning Meeting from the previous evening in relation to the agenda item concerning the £1.35m from Bloor Homes for traffic mitigation. A number of individuals spoke, including Cllr Steel, Cllr Wilson and Cllr Blake, who put forward a powerful argument in favour of an amendment to the motion for consideration. The Planning Committee did approve the amended motion, which provides the Parish Council with more flexibility to consider a range of projects. The Council wished to record their thanks for the efforts made by Cllr Blake on behalf of the Council and Broomfield residents.
23/43	Correspondence None received.
23/44	Consultations None received.
23/45	Reports from Councillors on outside bodies. Local Highways Panel – Councilor Steel. No recent meeting. Woolards Charity – Councillor Faulds.No recent meeting. Broomfield Hospital Liaison – Councillor Blake. No update. Football Sports Clubs – Events and Fundraising Manager. No update Elderly Care Homes – Events and Fundraising Manager. No update Transport – Councillor Thomson reported that there had been very few timetable changes recently.The next series of changes are due in July. Schools – Councillor Bowman. The Clerk confirmed that the road safety signs requested by Broomfield Primary School had arrived. Police – Councillor Scott reported that she had attended a conference organised by Essex Police that was about working with the local community and focusing on diversity and inclusion.
23/46	To note financial reports for May 2023. To approve the bank statement and reconciliation for May 2023 To note cashbook income and expenditure for May 2023 To note salary payments for May 2023 Resolved: The Council approves the financial records for May 2023 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £17,022.61. Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Scott. Agreed unanimously.

23/47	To review the Council’s Internal Control Strategy document. Resolved: The Council’s Internal Control Strategy document is approved. Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Taylor. Agreed unanimously.
23/48	To review the Council’s Risk Management document. Resolved. The council approves Risk Management document. Proposed by Cllr Thomson and seconded by Cllr Scott. Agreed unanimously.
23/49	To approve the annual return for publication. a) Resolved: The Council approves the Annual Governance Statement 2022-23. Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Taylor. Agreed unanimously. b) Resolved: The Council approves the Accounting Statement 2022-23. Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Taylor. Agreed unanimously.
23/50	To approve a virement of £300 from Councillors Allowances (code 4065/100) to a new expenditure code – Chairman’s Allowance, to provide for minor disbursements. Resolved. The Council approves the virement as requested. Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Scott. Agreed unanimously.
23/51	To consider amendments to the Council Grants Application Policy. Resolved. The Council approves the amended Grants Application Policy. Proposed by Cllr Perry and seconded by Cllr Taylor. Agreed unanimously.
23/52	To consider a request from the Sole Trustee of Broomfield Village Hall for a grant of £5000 to cover operating expenses. Resolved. The Council approves of the grant request of £5000. Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Barnes. Agreed unanimously.
23/53	To review the Council Policy on Communication and Transparency. It was decided that the policy would be taken before the Communications Committee for their review.
23/54	To consider terms of reference for the Communications Committee, Health and Wellbeing Working Group and the Development Working Group. It was decided that the Clerk would prepare a document to be considered further at the the meeting of the Council.
23/55	To consider the results of the Annual Parish Meeting survey 2023. These were noted. #Cllr Taylor leaves
23/56	Update from the Clerk The Clerk informed the meeting that the road safety signs ordered for Broomfield Primary School had arrived and would be delivered to the School. The Clerk provided an update on the latest proposal for Electric Charging points in the Village Hall car park.
23/57	To note minutes from the following Committees:
23/57.1	Finance and Personnel Committee – Noted at Council meeting of 20th April.
23/57.2	Environment Committee – minutes from 14th June not yet available.
23/57.3	Property & Planning Committee Draft minutes of 7th June were noted.

23/57.4	Communications Committee – No recent meeting
23/57.5	School Lane Working Group – No recent meeting.
23/58	Matters for the next meeting General update on the Neighbourhood Plan. The meeting closed at 9.22 p.m.