



Broomfield Parish Council

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

23/133	Members attending. Chair: Cllr Bleet, Cllrs Howell, Thomson, Travis, Blake, Barnes, Faulds, Taylor, Bowman and Perera-Morris. Resolved. An apology for absence was received from Cllr. Odelana. Proposed by Cllr Blake and seconded by Cllr Barnes. All in agreement. Also present was Councillor Mike Steel and one member of the public, Sharon Boreham.
23/134	Declarations of interests None.
23/135	To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th October 2023. Resolved. The minutes of the Full Council meeting of 18th October are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr. Barnes and seconded by Cllr. Blake. One abstention, all others in agreement.
23/136	Public Question Time. None.
23/137	To consider a co-option request. Two candidates were for consideration. Following a reminder of the Parish Council policy on co-optation, voting papers were issued to Councillors and following a short discussion a recorded vote took place. Gloria Scott and Sharon Boreham were duly co-opted as a Parish Councillors.
23/138	To receive a report from the County Council for items not on the agenda. The following report was given by Councillor Mike Steel. Highways: Update on the Member Led pothole scheme - I have submitted 38 of my 36 allowance – 24 have been completed, In terms of Broomfield - Broomhall Road (completed), outside the library (completed – they also did the one opposite), drain next to refuge island (completed – also reported 2 signs down – temps in place), Butlers Close (no date yet) LHP – I reported last month that the budget this year had been severely cut due to having to fund last year's delay in implementing schemes. I am attending the sub-committee this week, that makes recommendations for funding. Likely we will move all the planned schemes for this year, into next, including School Lane wig-wags. Mill Lane – I understand that SEPP are considering DYLS at the junction with the main road and that objections have been received. I am investigating. School Crossing Patrol – School Lane Unfortunately, we are losing our school Crossing Patrol Lady on School Lane from 24th Nov. She is going on to full time studies. I hope that parents have appreciated her role will thank her and wish her the best for the future - she has done a sterling job. We are now looking for a replacement – I have posted the advert on the Broomfield Facebook page.

GP Surgery provisions

I have been contacted by LW Patient Participation group (PPG), raising concerns about the worsening situation around GP surgery provision in the area.

I have contacted all the agencies involved in City Council Planning, County Council and NHS provision. It would seem that there isn't a shortage of funds/locations available via S106 and CIL but plans with the NHS are not progressing in line with original timescales. The Beulieu Park surgery building has now started but the winning surgery bidder did not progress (I don't know why). I now have an appointment with Daniel Doherty Alliance Director for Mid Essex, who should have the overall strategy for the area.

.

Recycling centre vehicle bookings – Public Consultation

Since January 2023, a pilot booking system has been in place at Essex County Council recycling centres. Following an evaluation of the trial, Essex County Council is proposing to retain a booking process permanently for all vehicles at their 21 recycling centres.

You can have your say on the proposal by completing the consultation survey before 19 November 2023. To read the evaluation, supporting documents and to complete the survey, visit www.essex.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebookings

The primary way to respond to the consultation is online via the ECC consultation portal, but you can request alternative options (such as a paper copy to fill in at home) by calling 0345 603 7625

ECC Draft waste Strategy

The draft Waste Strategy for Essex sets out the vision, targets and priorities of the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP). The strategy covers how we will manage waste from homes and businesses in the county for the next 30 years. Let us know what you think by completing our consultation. The consultation is open until Wednesday 22 November 2023.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/wastestrategy>

General's Bridge

With the bridge now in place, it will be interesting to get feedback on the traffic around the area.

Theoretically, there should be a reduction in quarry traffic using ERW/White Hart Lane route as well as lighter vehicles accessing the A12 from ERW, with an expected increase in cars along the RDR.

Previous complaints to me have been mainly around the noise of HGVs along RDR, This should get better, although the total amount of traffic along RDR will increase.

Proposed Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package also includes walking, cycling, bus and Park and Ride improvements to encourage safer, greener and healthier travel.

Plans to transform a vital gateway in Chelmsford have taken a step forward after Essex County Council was conditionally awarded £69 million of Government funding. This includes a hamburger roundabout (a new roundabout with a road through the centre of it), bus priority measures and walking and cycling improvements at the junction itself and on the approaches to and from the roundabout. The package will also see a 350-space expansion of Sandon Park and Ride and a 500-space expansion of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride.

The £81 million project will also be part funded by Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council. It can now move forward after the Department for Transport

approved the outline business case and agreed to contribute £68.75million of Major Road Network (MRN) funding, subject to certain conditions. The funding is dependent on planning consent and other processes, as well as a full business case. Work continued in developing the proposals further while the funding bid was being considered and planning applications are due to be submitted before the end of the year.

Based on the current programme, construction is scheduled to start in Spring 2025 and be completed in 2028. This will be subject to planning approval and acquiring the required land.

Construction will be carefully sequenced to minimise disruption, with early expansion of Sandon Park and Ride to meet the anticipated increase in demand during works at the Army and Navy junction and provide an alternative means of travel into the city centre.

For more information about the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package and to sign up for the project e-newsletter, please visit www.essex.gov.uk/armyandnavy.

National Grid – Pylons

Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk [County Councils remain united against Norwich to Tilbury onshore option | Essex County Council](#)

The 3 councils jointly commissioned an [independent report](#) and the leaders of all 3 are asking National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and the electricity system planner, National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) to consider the findings of the report.

The independent report questions the timings of the projects and this uncertainty brings into question the need case for NGET's preferred option, of a land-based pylon line. All 3 county councils have said that this option will harm the local economy, environment and the health and wellbeing of their communities. The Independent report also challenges the delivery date of 2030, and suggests that the need for additional transmission capacity would be closer to 2035. Such a delay is likely to reduce the cost of NGET developing an integrated offshore alternative, but it does accept that the most economical option probably still remains onshore overhead lines, and pylons. However, it makes a clear statement *"To ensure the UK's energy security, our clear preference is for a coordinated, offshore centred approach, delivered at pace to minimise onshore works"*

So the preferred choice of all three host county councils (Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk) remains an integrated offshore option, but only if it can be delivered within an appropriate timescale and without significant adverse impacts on sensitive coastal communities.

In addition, our MP Kemi Badenoch, is writing to the Minister for Nuclear and Networks at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to share this report and make it clear that the three councils: [County Councils remain united against Norwich to Tilbury onshore option](#).

I recently hosted Kemi at the Great Waltham/Little Waltham "pinch point" to emphasise just how close the pylon route is to the residential area and know heritage sites.

City Council Issues

Chelmsford Local Plan update

Last week the City Council's Policy Board reviewed the 'Local Development Scheme' (LDS) and recommended it for approval at Cabinet. The LDS is the Council's timetable for preparing and revising local development documents relating to the development and use of land in its area (in this case the review of the Local Plan which was adopted in 2020). It also includes details of other supporting documents including the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule and Supplementary Planning Documents. Chelmsford has a Local Plan in place up until 2036 and this

	current review would extend the life of the Local Plan until 2041. The Council is proposing to submit the revised Local Plan by 30 June 2025 and, if approved, it will be adopted by 31 December 2026. The next stage - the Preferred Options Local Plan Consultation (Regulation 18) - will happen during quarter 1/quarter 2 2024. Chelmsford City Council calls for new Gypsy and Traveller sites The Essex-wide Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment is being updated, which will include an updated assessment of need for pitches across Chelmsford. The numbers required are likely to increase due to changes to the methodology arising from a recent Court of Appeal decision. As part of this, the City Council conducted a 'call for sites' during October and November. Any sites submitted will be assessed to check their suitability, availability, and achievability for use. If a site is submitted through this process, it does not mean that it will be allocated for development. Once assessed, sites will then be considered as part of the ongoing review of the Local Plan. Chelmsford's 'Food Plan' Chelmsford City Council recently approved a 'Food Plan' which emphasises the need for sustainable and healthy diets, whilst acknowledging the challenges posed by cost pressures. The Plan is centred around improving health and wellbeing, recognising the impact of food choices on individuals and the environment. Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic have shaped its development, reinforcing the commitment to a thriving and sustainable local economy. There are few details on the implementation of the Plan and I am seeking further information on how it will affect Writtle residents.
23/139	To receive a report from the City Council for items not on the agenda. This was covered in the report given by Cllr Steel under item 23/138
23/140	Correspondence None received.
23/141	Consultations Chelmsford City Council – Call for Gypsy and Traveller sites. No suitable sites locally. No response required.
23/142	Reports from Councillors on outside bodies Local Highways Panel – Councillor Steel (County and City Councillor) See report under item 23/119 Woollards Charity – Councillor Faulds. It has now become apparent that the governing document of the charity requires four Councillors to be appointed to the board of trustees by the Parish Council. Broomfield Hospital liaison – No response received. Football Sports Clubs – Report from Events Manager circulated Elderly Care Homes – Report from Events Manager circulated Transport – Councillor Thomson. There appears to be ignorance about the £2 fare, which has been extended to December 2024. Schools – Councillor Bowman. A new Head Teacher has been appointed, Mr Sparks, who will start at Easter. Police – No report.
23/143	To note financial reports for October 2023 To approve the bank statement and reconciliation for October 2023

	To note cashbook, income and expenditure for October 2023. To note salary payments for October 2023. Resolved: The Council approves the financial records for October 2023 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £25,969.78. Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Faulds. All in agreement.
23/144	The Broomfield Parish Council Infrastructure Plan parts 1 and part 2 have been prepared that will be the basis for decisions to be taken regarding various projects that might be undertaken going forward. The Parish Council is asked to consider this plan and approve its adoption. Resolved. Broomfield Parish Council approves of the Infrastructure plan for adoption. Proposed by Cllr.Barnes and seconded by Cllr.Bowman. Two abstentions, all others in agreement.
23/145	Following the comments made during the Reg.14 consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan, a schedule of changes has been drawn up that will be incorporated within the text of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Council is asked to consider the schedule of changes. Resolved. The Council approves the schedule of changes for incorporation within the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the submission to Chelmsford City Council. Proposed by Cllr.Faulds and seconded by Cllr.Howell. Three abstentions, all others in agreement.
23/146	The Council is asked to consider the structure and contents of an appraisal system to be adopted for all Parish Council staff. Following an explanation by Cllr. Bowman, a discussion took place and it was agreed that further work would be undertaken to produce a system that could be adopted.
23/147	The Planning Committee currently has four appointed members – Cllrs Blake, Thomson, Bowman and Barnes. To allow for any enforced absence and to ensure any meetings are quorate, the Parish Council is invited to appoint up to two further members to the Planning Committee. It was agreed that this matter would be brought back to the next meeting in December.
23/148	The Council is asked to consider a report on a project to improve signage on the Parish Council/Village Hall estate. Resolved. The Council approves of the project to improve signage and to obtain a costing for the project as the next step. Proposed by Cllr. Bowman and seconded by Cllr. Faulds. All in agreement.
23/149	The Council is asked to consider appointing additional members to the Health and Wellbeing Working Group. Councillors Travis and Perera-Morris agreed to join the Wellbeing Working Group.
23/150	The Events and Fundraising Manager is submitting a grant application to Chelmsford City Council for revenue funding for the Village Hall Charity which is intended to support 'vulnerable people'. Up to £10,000 is available but must be match funded. The Council is asked to consider a proposal to support this application with a grant of up to £10,000, dependent on the outcome of the application. Resolved. The Council approves of the award of a grant of up to £10,000 in match funding to support the grant application to be made to the Chelmsford Discretionary Fund. Proposed by Cllr.Barnes and seconded by Cllr.Bowman. All in agreement.
23/151	To receive an update from the Clerk on matters arising from previous meetings. The Clerk provided an update on the following matters – Contact has been established with KEGS, and a site visit Has been undertaken to discuss the planting of trees on their boundary.

	A full hight basketball hoop has now been installed on the Angel Meadow hard-standing area. Precept figures have been received from the City Council. The Village Sign 'opening ceremony' will take place on Thursday 16th November at 3.30 pm.
23/152	To note minutes from the following Committees:
23/152.1	Finance and Personnel Committee – draft minutes from 25 th October. These were noted.
23/152.2	Environment Committee – draft minutes from 11 th October. These were noted.
23/152.3	Property & Planning Committee – draft minutes from 4 th October. These were noted.
23/152.4	Communications Committee – No recent meeting
23/152.5	School Lane Working Group – No recent meeting.
23/152.6	Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – No recent meeting.
23/153	Matters for the next meeting The meeting finished at 9.40 p.m.