



Broomfield Parish Council

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

23/114	Members attending. Chair: Cllr Bleet, Cllrs Howell, Thomson, Travis, Blake, Barnes, Faulds and Odelana Resolved. An apology for absence was received from Cllr. Bowman. Proposed by Cllr Faulds and seconded by Cllr Howell. All in agreement. Other absence – Cllr Taylor. Also present was one member of the public.
23/115	Declarations of interests Both Cllrs. Thomson and Barnes declared an interest in agenda item 125 as they are both members of Broomfield Cottage Gardeners.
23/116	To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th September 2023. Resolved. The minutes of the Full Council meeting of 20th September are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr. Faulds and seconded by Cllr. Thomson. All in agreement.
23/117	Public Question Time. John Burrows, a Parish Councillor from Little Waltham raised the issue of an alternative route for pylons within the current National Grid consultation process. Councillor Blake agreed to speak outside of the meeting to consider the matter further.
23/118	To consider a co-option request. One candidate was 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. Shirley Pereira-Morris was duly co-opted as a Parish Councillor.
23/119	To receive a report from the County Council for items not on the agenda. The following report was submitted by Cllr Steel – Highways: Update on the member Led scheme - I have now submitted all 38 of my 36 allowance. 4 of these are in 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) Traffic Surveys LHP – the 2 speed/volume surveys have been carried out on School Lane at the requested points. I sent these to the BPC on 24th Sept There is good compliance with speed limits. School Lane East – avg 28mph, 85th percentile 33mph, avg weekday volume 4,387 vehicles (sum of both directions) School Lane West (near school) - avg 27mph, 85th percentile 32mph, avg weekday volume 4,719 vehicles sum of both directions) Traffic Police would view this as good compliance. You can view the detailed results which shows that there is some speeding at early daytime and evening/night hours. This is consistent with surveys in other 30mph areas, but you may wish to bring this to the attention of the traffic police. I have cross checked with surveys we did in 2015, 2018 and 2019. Results are very similar in terms of volume and speeds - if anything there is a drop in average speeds.

Parking restrictions - Following a walk round with your deputy Clerk and the SEPP manager, I note that Mill Lane is to have parking restrictions at the junction with Main Road, for a distance of 20m

Highways comments on Planning Application 23/01135/FUL - Proposed extension to petrol filling station forecourt and erection of single storey building to provide fast food takeaway.

From a highway and transportation perspective the impact of the proposal is NOT acceptable to the Highway mainly because the developer has not demonstrated that the proposal would be acceptable in terms of highway safety and efficiency.

LHP budgets

Due to a shortfall a number of schemes were not completed in 22/23. Assurances were given that unspent 22/23 budget would be carried over to 23/24 to complete these schemes, so it was decided by the LHP members to carry on with these schemes. However, subsequently, the budget was not carried over, and the carried over schemes have to be funded from this year's 23/24 budget.

This means that the new schemes that were provisionally allocated to the 23/24 funding, will need to be relooked at again. With the 22/23 carry over schemes using most of the 23/24 budget, it leaves only £32K to allocate, instead of the expected £250K. The LHP sub-committee will need to reconsider the list of schemes to see which of the schemes will be done this year, and which will now need to be done in 24/25.

Broomfield and Writtle schemes that I was expecting to be funded in 23/24 and will now be part of the consideration, are:

- Writtle – restriction on parking outside Drs surgery – although I managed to get SEPP to put something in place
- Broomfield – School Lane – addition of wig wags
- Great Waltham – footway handrail on steep slope

Launch of Saving the Day - Broomfield Road campaign

Essex County Council has launched a new campaign to highlight the alternative travel options available in Chelmsford, with a particular focus on the Broomfield Road corridor.

Broomfield Road is one of the city's busiest road corridors. It is used by approximately 17,000 vehicles a day and suffers from significant traffic congestion and delays, particularly at peak times of the day.

The new [Saving the Day campaign](#), which is part of our ongoing Safer, Greener, Healthier initiative, aims to highlight the alternatives to driving and how people can avoid the traffic. The superhero-themed campaign promotes the benefits of walking, cycling and travelling by bus, highlighting how swapping even a few regular journeys can save people time, money and hassle.

There are a number of good bus services in the area and, following the government's recent announcement of an extension to the bus fare cap scheme, people can travel for £2 a single journey until December 2024. For longer journeys into Chelmsford from the north of the city, such as the Braintree area, the Chelmer Valley Park and Ride also offers an alternative to driving into the city centre and is now just £3 a ticket.

Alternatively, cycling can also offer a very cost-effective alternative to driving, especially for shorter journeys. At the busiest times of the day, it can also be quicker, with cycling along Broomfield Road up to three and a half minutes faster than driving at peak times. As part of the Chelmsford City Growth Package, the county council created a new flagship cycle route along Broomfield Road, providing hybrid cycle tracks between the city centre and Patching Hall Lane.

The Saving the Day campaign will include various online, social media and outdoor advertising.

There are two free instructor-led cycle rides along the corridor taking place during the October half term to help familiarise people with the cycling routes along Broomfield Road and improve their confidence. Find out more at: www.essexhighways.org/news/20/boost-your-cycling-confidence-with-instructor-led-cycle-rides-in-chelmsford-this-half-term.

The council's sustainable travel team will also be working with local schools and promoting Bikeability cycling courses for schools and the support they can provide with travel planning.

For more information about the campaign, please visit the campaign webpage at: www.essexhighways.org/saving-the-day.

Bus Services

The consultation will commenced on 13 July 2023 and closed on 5 October 2023.

Some of my parish Councils sent separate comments and I made sure these were all submitted. I also arranged a session with the Digigo team and the Local Bus Network Community Engagement Lead 4th Oct at Chignal VH. I invited all my 11 Parish Councils to send reps to this meeting.

National Grid – Pylons

Chelmsford City Council considered their response to the 2nd non-mandatory consultation (they had an extension to the deadline). Basically, it reiterated previous comments on preferring the off-shore route - and continuing to strongly object to the proposals - the project is still considered premature and not all the potential alternative options have been fully explored and assessed. Notwithstanding the objection in principle, CCC also has very serious concerns about the heritage and landscape impact of the proposed powerline alignment and design which have not been fully assessed and as such the selection of the draft preferred alignment is also considered premature.

An amendment to refer to the Writtle Neighbourhood Plan was proposed and accepted.

Recycling centre vehicle bookings – Public Consultation

The [public consultation](http://www.essex.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebookings) on retaining the Recycling Centre Bookings process at Essex recycling centres is now live. You can access the consultation survey and supporting information at www.essex.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebookings

The consultation will run for six weeks from Monday 9 October until Sunday 19 November.

We want to reach as many residents, businesses and organisations as possible, so your support in promoting the consultation is invaluable. The best way for residents to have their say is by completing the survey.

“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.”

	Community Ownership (Kings Arms) I have put the Clerk in touch with the team in Roxwell City Council Travelling Showman site City Council obtained an Injunction Order from the High Court which was served on the occupants of the land. This Order prohibits the bringing on of any further caravans, mobile homes or other structures, or the carrying out of any further works of development in connection with the preparation of the land as a residential caravan site. The site has been monitored to ensure that no breach of the terms of the Interim Injunction. A hearing was scheduled for 12 October 2023 at the High Court to confirm the Order at which the Court agreed to make a continuation to the Interim Injunction Order. This Order was served on the land 17th Oct. A further hearing is to take place at the High Court early in the New Year (subject to court availability) - following the determination of planning application reference 23/01487/FUL. The occupiers of the land have submitted a planning application which seeks consent for the change of use of the land to a showmen's quarters – reference 23/01487/FUL I have asked for the application to go to Planning Committee.
23/120	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 23/119
23/121	Correspondence None received.
23/122	Consultations Chelmsford City Council – proposed extension to the Public Spaces Protection Order. This was noted.
23/123	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. A meeting took place last week. Donna Hance, Events Manager, is now a member of the Committee. A number of grants were made to assist school pupils attend a residential trip. Broomfield Hospital liaison – Councillor Blake will again attempt to make contact with the hospital. Football Sports Clubs – No update. Elderly Care Homes – No update. Transport – Councillor Thomson. Comments have been submitted for the current consultation regarding several routes. A number of planned meetings have been cancelled. On 29th October planned changes come into effect on routes C1, X10 and X30. Fewer buses will travel along Main Road. The £2 fare has been extended to December 2024. Schools – Councillor Bowman. Has assisted sixth formers at CVH whilst interviewing candidates to take over from the retiring headmistress. Police – No report.
23/124	To note financial reports for September 2023 To approve the bank statement and reconciliation for September 2023 To note cashbook, income and expenditure for September 2023.

	To note salary payments for September 2023. Resolved: The Council approves the financial records for September 2023 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £114,047.26. Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Faulds. Eight in favour, one abstention.
23/125	To review the annual charge made to Broomfield Cottage Gardeners for the rent of the Barn. It was agreed that the Clerk would confirm the cost of insuring the Barn with a view to moving the rental for the Cottage Gardeners to a level where they are not subsidised for the use of the Barn. A proposal for the current year is £412 for the small Barn plus covered area or £600 for the larger Barn plus covered area. Cllr Travis offered his assistance to facilitate a meeting with the Cottage Gardeners.
23/126	Following a series of meetings and discussion of options, the Council wishes to approve a proposal for the removal of the sleepers on Church Green at a cost of £5184.00 As there is no specific allocation within the budget, consideration will need to be given as to where any agreed expenditure would come from. Resolved. The Council approves of the removal of the sleepers on Church Green at a cost of £5184. The spend will be taken from the Village Maintenance budget, with a virement of £4000 from code 4235 (van replacement) and £1000 from code 4055 (Special Constables). Proposed by Cllr. Barnes and seconded by Cllr.Faulds. All in agreement.
23/127	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 this schedule of changes. Motion. The Council approves the schedule of changes for incorporation within the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Due to the detail to be considered within the Neighbourhood Plan, it was decided that further time is required to allow Councillors the opportunity to read the Plan at length before asking them to approve the Schedule of Changes. Councillor Blake would circulate the necessary documentation. There being no proposer, the motion failed.
23/128	Budget for the financial year 2024/25. The budget planning process for next year has started and a draft budget will be presented to the Finance Committee on 22nd November. A proposed budget will then be presented to the Full Council meeting on 20th December for approval. The precept demand must then be submitted to the City Council by a date in early January. Details of the tax base to be used for next year should be received from the City Council soon. Members are asked to note the timescales above and make comments as necessary. This information was noted.
23/129	Following letters of complaint, it was agreed that a review would be undertaken into the use of Centenary Wood by Jayne's Nursery. The Council is asked to consider this matter. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for a visit to Centenary Wood to see what activities took place when the Nursery were present. A subsequent meeting would then be arranged with Jayne's Nursery to discuss the review.
23/130	To receive an update from the Clerk on matters arising from previous meetings. The Clerk provided an update on the following matters – The new Village Sign is due to be installed this Friday on Angel Green. Arrangements will be made for an official unveiling, with hopefully the Mayor or Deputy Mayor in attendance. In the absence of the required ten letters, a co-option notice can be published from this Friday onwards, advertising the current Councillor vacancies.

	Contact has been established with KEGS, and a site visit is being arranged to discuss the planting of trees on their boundary.
23/131	To note minutes from the following Committees:
23/131.1	Finance and Personnel Committee – no recent meeting to consider.
23/131.2	Environment Committee – draft minutes from 11 th October. These are not yet available.
23/131.3	Property & Planning Committee – draft minutes from 4 th October. These were noted.
23/131.4	Communications Committee – No recent meeting
23/131.5	School Lane Working Group – No recent meeting.
23/131.6	Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Minutes from 5th October were noted.
23/132	Matters for the next meeting Infrastructure Plan The meeting finished at 9.48 p.m.