



Broomfield Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Broomfield Parish Council held in Broomfield Village Hall on Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

24/153	Members attending. With both the Parish Chairman and Vice-Chairman absent, Cllr. Taylor proposed that the Chairman for the meeting should be Cllr. Barnes. This was seconded by Cllr. Faulds and all members were in agreement. Chair: Cllr Barnes, Cllrs Thomson, Faulds, Howell, Perera-Morris, Blake, Odelana, Taylor and Travis Also present, Clerk, Mark Hembury. Other absences: Cllr Scott Resolved. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bleet, Bowman and Boreham. Proposed by Cllr. Faulds and seconded by Cllr. Thomson. All in agreement. A further apology for absence was received from City and County Councillor, Mike Steel.
24/154	Declarations of interests None
24/155	To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th November 2024. Resolved. The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13th November are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr. Perera-Morris and seconded by Cllr. Faulds. One abstention and all others in agreement.
24/156	Public Question Time. No members of the public present.
24/157	To receive a report from the County Council for items not on agenda. The following written report was submitted by Cllr. Steel. Chelmsford North East Bypass construction to begin early next year The first phase of the Chelmsford North East Bypass will be constructed by Octavius Infrastructure Limited. Works are scheduled to begin in early 2025 and finish by spring 2026. The bypass, along with the new Beaulieu Park Station, will provide vital transport links to support planned housing and economic growth in the north of Chelmsford. The first section of the bypass, known as 1A, will connect to Beaulieu Parkway in the south. This will provide access to the A12 at Boreham Interchange via the Beaulieu Parkway Bridge. 1A will also join a new link road to the north – being built as part of the Chelmsford Garden Community – and Wheelers Hill roundabout on A131 Essex Regiment Way. The first section of the bypass is mostly funded by the government through the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). Funding is also being provided by Essex County Council, alongside developer contributions through Chelmsford City Council. The HIF was secured as a result of plans for the Chelmsford Garden Community. When complete, the garden community is expected to provide over 10,000 new homes and 5,000 sq m of employment space. This is in addition to green space, schools and other facilities. The HIF also includes commissioning Network Rail to build the new Beaulieu Park Station, which is due to be completed next year. The benefit of the CNEB, to Broomfield residents, should be that the CNEB becomes the main access to Chelmsford, from the north, and with a new station reducing the need to get to central Chelmsford, the B1008 Main Road Broomfield, becomes the last resort (after Essex

Regiment Way)! Of course there will still be traffic to the Hospital. To help with that, ECC have relaunched the Park & Ride shuttle service which runs every half-hour from 6:30am to 8:00pm, Monday to Friday. Highways Issues and Road Defects So far, I have submitted 59 separate defects to the member Led scheme, which will keep the extra team busy until next year. I can try adding more, but I believe I have probably used up my quota An additional £37M was budgeted for the above Members Highways scheme (£12M) and the “Priority One” initiative (£25M) over and above the standard £110M highways maintenance budget. The Priority one Initiative is addressing over 30 road resurfacing projects. In Oct, routine repairs across Essex amounted to 2,734 potholes, 1,236 pavement repairs, 12,089 drains cleared, 1,140 streetlights fixed. We are now approaching the season when roads get icy, and people often tell me they haven’t seen the gritters out or they went by too fast. Their speeds are strictly controlled to lay down the salt/grit to the optimum level! You can track the gritting trucks here https://www.essexhighways.org/roads-and-pavements/winter-travel/track-the-gritting-lorries And follow the named trucks - Monster Meltdown, PLOWIE, Gritty Gordon, Dermot Snow Cleary, Volder Grit, Grit Dunsnow, Gritty McGrit Face, Frosty, Maldon Salt, Colchester Gritty, Rupert Grit, Grit Expectations, Salty Snowflake, Gritty Gritty Bang Bang, Grit Notley, Jennifer, Gritta Thunberg, Weeley Salty, Gustav, Edward, Big_G, Slush Puppy, Dawn Raider, The Grit Gatsby and Spreddie Mercury. Bus shelter raised with me (but not in my division) – at Broomfield Parade: Patching Hall Lane - This shelter was removed due to a road traffic collision by Clear Channel. I am pleased to say that I managed to get this replaced Bus Transport We want more people to use public transport, and we need to improve the services. ECC aren’t in charge of the bus franchises (although this could change as a result of “devolution”). But ECC supplement services where bus companies don’t serve, usually because the number of passengers make it unviable. ECC try to fill these gaps, and Digigo has been very successful as an on demand service. Many people use the on-line app, but for those that are not able to do so, they can phone up. The phone lines have now been extended and are available from 9.00am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays). Our new phone line number is: 0345 603 7633 www.digigo.uk School Crossing Patrol (SCP) in School Lane: Unfortunately, the SCP has given her notice of resignation. Her last working day at the crossing will be Friday 20 December 2024. We are obviously sorry to be losing her after such a short time and have added this position into our recruitment advert on the www.workingforessex website. Please see attached poster for circulation.
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	All of our roles are permanent part time and term time only for approximately 7.5 hours per week and the current pay rate is £12.10 per hour. Our roles suit people who are fit and active, friendly, and approachable with a good sense of road safety and excellent communication skills. No previous experience is necessary and full training and uniform are provided. The school have been informed and asked to pass the poster to parents. Pylons Whilst our MP has been elevated to leader of the opposition, I wanted to make sure that she is still supporting local issues as our MP. So, Kemi joined me on a cold and windy Friday (22nd Nov), and landowner in the "Waltham Gap" along with one of the farmers for that area. We jointly continue to oppose the proposition of pylons spoiling our countryside, along with Essex County Council. We are pushing for alternatives but recognise that the most viable would be underground AC through the Waltham gap and continuing to the West of Chelmsford. Whilst this might cause much disruption in the short term, it would be better in the long term.
24/158	To receive a report from City Council for items not on the agenda. See item 24/157 above.
24/159	Correspondence None
24/160	Consultations HM Govt. – Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings. A wide-ranging discussion took place and a number of opinions were expressed regarding advantages and disadvantages of the proposals. As the consultation was directed at individual members, no Council view was required and members were encouraged to submit their own views.
24/161	Reports from Councillors on outside bodies Local Highways Panel – Councillor Steel (County and City Councillor) see report at 24/157. Woollards Charity – Councillor Faulds reported that there had been no meeting since her last report and that Christmas vouchers were ready to go out. Broomfield Hospital liaison – Councilor Blake stated that there had been no progress since his last report and contact with the Hospital Transport Co-ordinator was still to be arranged. Football Sports Clubs – Events and Fundraising Manager Donna Hance submitted a written report – The football season is now well under way and everything is running smoothly at present. Elderly Care Homes – Events and Fundraising Manager reports that The Council has been invited to the official opening of Broomfield Village Care Home on the 31st January. More details will follow. Transport – Councillor Thomson reported that the bus shelter at Broomfield Parade has finally been replaced. A complaint was lodged re the Skerry Rise bus stop at the recent drop-in meeting. The Infrastructure Team have asked for contact details for the Clerk as they wish to establish which bus shelters may be owned by the Parish Council. First Bus services X10/X30 will have a service on Boxing Day and New Years Day. There will be some minor changes to the X30 route. Schools – Councillor Bowman. No update Police – Councillor Scott. No update North West Parishes – Councillor Blake reported that there had been no recent meeting but

	the Parishes continue to work together to build a better relationship. There is an ambition to complete a landscape assessment for the west of Chelmsford area.
24/162	To note financial reports for November 2024 To approve the bank statement and reconciliation report for November 2024 To note cashbook, income and expenditure for November 2024. To note salary payments for November 2024. Resolved: The Council approves the financial records for November 2024 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £12,043.44. Proposed by Cllr.Faulds and seconded by Cllr.Blake. All in agreement.
24/163	Broomfield Parish Council Finance and Personnel Committee met on 27th November to consider the budget for 2025/26 and the associated precept request. A recommended proposal is now brought to Full Council for consideration. The budget of £246,483 is to be funded by a precept request of £228,478, other income of £17,030 and a contribution from reserves of £975. This will produce a Band D rate of £106.20 which is an increase of 2% on 2024/25. Resolved. Broomfield Parish Council approves of a budget for the financial year 2025/26 based upon expenditure of £246,483. A precept request will be made for £228,478. Proposed by Cllr. Barnes and seconded by Cllr. Taylor. All in agreement
24/164	A message has been received regarding plans for a Chelmsford Association of Local Councils. The attached letter explains the proposal and the Working Group involved are seeking to ascertain the level of interest in forming such an Association. The Parish Council is asked to consider a response to the request. A discussion took place regarding the invitation, but there was no strong support for the meeting at present as no clear benefit could be seen. The Council would be happy to receive more information in future.
24/165	The following Planning Application was received too late to be considered by the Planning Committee. Ref. 24/01589/FUL Broomfield FC Services Ltd. Proposal Retrospective application for 1.1m high fencing alongside the parking area. Approval for a pitch rail around the perimeter of the main pitch, and along one side only of the adjacent pitch. The Parish Council is asked to consider any representations it might wish to make. Resolved. The Parish Council decided they would make no comment.
24/166	The Chairman of the Planning Committee will provide an update on the recent Roselawn Farm Planning Appeal. Cllr. Blake referred to a summary of the position that he had previously circulated to members. The Examiner agreed with the City Council's position that the development was in the Green Wedge and settlement buffer. The Examiner stated that the impact on the environment would have been greater if the Saxon Way proposed development had been in place. There are insufficient pitches available for Travellers/Showman at present although sufficient numbers have been allocated within the Local Plan. The eleven families there at the moment would be allowed to remain for 3 years only at which time their permission to remain would cease. Cllr. Blake expressed his concern that there may still be insufficient alternative pitches built in three years time. The Council agreed that they would write a letter to Chelmsford City Planning Dept. to express their concern about the lack of available pitches.
24/167	Clerk's Update

	The Clerk reported that the lighting issue identified around the Village Hall and the uneven surface had been rectified – new lighting is now in place and the uneven surface on the path has been levelled.
24/168	To note minutes from the following Committees:
24/168.1	Finance and Personnel Committee – draft minutes from 27 th November These were noted.
24/168.2	Environment Committee – draft minutes from 20 th November. These were noted.
24/168.3	Planning Committee – draft minutes from 4 th December. These were noted.
24/168.4	Communications Committee – No recent meeting
24/168.5	School Lane Working Group – Chairman to provide an update. The Council Chairman was absent so an update would be provided at the January meeting.
24/168.6	Health and Wellbeing Group – Chairman to provide an update. The Council Chairman was absent so an update would be provided at the January meeting.
24/169	Matters for the next meeting Cllr. Blake suggested it would be a good idea to have someone from the Community Land Trust attend to provide an explanation as to what they are able to provide. The meeting concluded at 8.50 p.m.