



Broomfield Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Broomfield Parish Council in Broomfield Village Hall
held 11 September 2024 at 7.30 pm

24/93	Members attending Chairman: Cllr Bleet Councillors: Perera -Morris, Boreham, Howell, Thomson and Odelana, Barnes and Blake Other members: Donna Hance Events and fund-raising Manager and Nicola Goulter Deputy Clerk. Apologies: Cllr Scott, Taylor, Bowman and Faulds, No apologies received from Cllr Travis Resolved: To record and accept apologies for absence Proposed by Cllr Blake and Seconded by Cllr Thomson. All in agreement
24/94	Declarations of interests None
24/95	To approve the previous minutes held on the 4 September 2024 Resolved: The minutes of the Full Council meeting of the 4 September are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Blake and seconded by Cllr Thomson All in agreement.
24/96	Public Question Time. None
24/97	To receive a report From the County Council for items not on the agenda Broomfield Hospital staff parking charges: The hospital are reintroducing Staff Parking Permits and charging from September. This is something many Trusts have already done. Staff car parking charges were suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic, with the Government covering the lost income to NHS organisations. That funding stopped at the end of March 2022 and the Trust has since covered the cost and would continue to face significant financial losses if they did not re-introduce staff parking charges. Providing free parking has also led to a significant increase in the number of staff driving into work, meaning they have unsafe numbers of cars parking on site. The number of permits currently allocated far exceeds capacity, so everyone who already has a parking permit will have to reapply and demonstrate that they meet the standardised criteria. The process begins in August. Lower-paid staff who are eligible for permits – working at bands 2 and 3 – will not be charged to park. Most staff will be paying less than they were before the pandemic. Benefits of introducing parking permits: There will be a more equitable system of parking with an agreed criteria across our main sites. • maintain safe levels of parking on the sites. • Staff will be encouraged to use public transport or greener forms of transport to reduce the environmental impact. • Money will be reinvested into the car parking infrastructure and sustainable travel initiatives. The hospital are aware that the new system will mean some people who currently drive to work will not be allocated a permit and will therefore need to explore other forms of transport

Shuttle service relaunched with seamless travel to Chelmsford hospital.

The Chelmer Valley Park and Ride will return to Broomfield Hospital on Thursday 1 August. It will run every half-hour from 6:30am to 8:00pm, Monday to Friday.

The shuttle will be run by Essex County Council's minibus fleet, Ugobus, with standard Park-and-Ride [ticket prices](#).

The Chelmer Valley to Broomfield Hospital service closed during the Covid-19 pandemic. The council has since been working with the Mid Essex Hospitals Trust to see it reintroduced. Demand for parking at Broomfield Hospital frequently exceeds the number of spaces available, so the return of this service will help to take away the stress of finding a space for staff and patients and ease parking pressure at the hospital site.

The shuttle bus service will run every half-hour from 6.30am to 8.00pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays). Normal park and ride ticket prices will apply, with NHS staff paying a discounted rate of £1.50 for the Broomfield Hospital route.

A particularly wet and warm year has led to accelerated plant growth along the county's roads and pavements.

Overgrown grass is being cut back across Essex to keep roads and footpaths safe following unprecedented temperatures and rainfall. Essex Highways has launched its grass-cutting programme to clear verges along the A13, A130, A133, A127 and A1245.

The programme includes rural areas around Colchester, Epping Forest, Tendring and Uttlesford. Other areas will be addressed by the relevant district, borough and city councils. Grass within a metre of road edges is trimmed twice a year by Essex Highways to ensure clear lines of sight, improved visibility and safer navigation.

Recent months of heavy rainfall and warm temperatures have resulted in plants growing at faster rates.

East Anglia saw its wettest February since records began, according to the Met Office, as well as its warmest ever spring.

Essex Highways is working with Essex County Council's arboriculture team to preserve vital wildflower species and support local biodiversity where it is safe to do so.

Vegetation maintenance is one of the key areas which will benefit from the [£25 million Priority One funding boost](#) recently announced by the council for Essex Highways.

Note – I have already arranged monitoring and extra cuts at the junction between Great Waltham and Little Waltham

Local Transport Plan 4

Essex County Council has launched a public consultation on its Essex Transport Strategy, formally known as the Local Transport Plan.

The strategy will provide an overarching plan for transport across Essex and outline the council's vision.

The consultation focuses on key themes and outcomes as an opportunity for the public to provide feedback, helping inform further development of the strategy.

The consultation also proposes a new 'Place and Movement' approach. This would introduce a more flexible and people-focused way to categorise roads and streets in Essex.

ECC are still in the process of developing the strategy and this public consultation is an early opportunity for people to provide feedback on the key principles.

The initial public consultation will run for seven weeks, closing on Sunday 22 September 2024, and can be accessed at

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/essex-transport-strategy/>

A second consultation on the full draft strategy and a programme of planned investment in different parts of Essex is expected to take place early next year.

I have attended presentations on this and my own view is that this is overdue and vague. It includes a methodology for new classification of roads into a 3 by 3 matrix based on “place” and “movement” (rather than the existing 3 – PR1, PR2, Local Road) but it does not go far enough and say what roads will be what. Furthermore, there it indicates that PCs will not be consulted on the allocated classifications (although District Councils will). I have expressed my disappointment with the strategy document.

Improvements to the Highways Tell Us tool

Improvements have been made to the Essex Highways Tell Us tool to make it easier for residents to report issues on the county’s roads.

The improvements made to the Report It tool in recent weeks include:

- ability to report some urgent issues such as large potholes, fallen trees or flooded roads online
- an option to tell us that a known issue has got worse
- the ability to sign up to updates on an issue, allowing Essex Highways to make the reporting map clearer
- defect photos so residents can decide if the issue they wish to report is an existing one, or something new

A successful trial of reporting urgent issues online took place between February and April. During the trial, 242 online enquiries were received with 58% requiring emergency action. The number of emergency issues reported during the trial increased by 84%, highlighting the effectiveness of the new online reporting option.

Other positive outcomes from the trial included a significant reduction in the average time taken to make issues safe, with response times reduced by more than half.

The number of highways-related calls also reduced, saving approximately 23 hours of call centre agent time in March alone.

Highways Issues

The addition of Wig wags to the crossing on school Lane is still scheduled for Q3 (Oct to Nov 24). These were sanctioned on the basis of there being a School Crossing Patrol at the site!

RDR speed cameras

The reserved matters approvals for the northern and eastern sections of the RDR (Beaulieu Parkway) required the developer to undertake speed surveys within 6 months of the road opening (31st October 2023). Countryside had until the end of April 2024 to undertake the surveys and then a 2 year period to install the average speed cameras; some initial surveys were undertaken by the developer before the bridge opened.

The surveys have been completed; however, the consultant has been awaiting a discussion with the City and County Councils regarding Countryside’s proposed access junction off Beaulieu Parkway to serve part of Zone 2 of the Chelmsford Garden Community as that will impact upon vehicle speeds along the northern section of Beaulieu Parkway between roundabout 3 with Commonwealth Link and roundabout 4 with Remembrance Avenue. Countryside will look to issue their Technical Note on the speed surveys, initially to Essex Highways and here will then be a need to review of the note with discussion between the authorities and subsequently with the consultant and Countryside before agreeing the next steps.

I have asked for an update.

To add a personal note – I do use that route, and I have to say that it is a great asset in reducing the traffic on ERW and White Hart Lane. But the feel of the RDR is not 40mph! I stick to the speed limit but it is frustrating to be overtaken, especially when such a vehicle turns into one of the adjacent estates – you would think that the residents might support keeping to the speed limit!

CCC Report

	23/01787/FUL Field North Of Montpelier Farm Main Road Little Waltham Chelmsford Essex Erection of an Integrated Retirement Community (Use Class C2) comprising; a Village Care Centre, 58 bedroom care home, 45 care suites (comprising one and two bedrooms), 100 care apartments (comprising one and two bedrooms), wellness spa, open space and associated works including car parking, access, hard and soft landscaping and associated engineering works Please note that this has gone to appeal. It was originally refused in Feb 24 for 11 separate reasons!
24/98	To receive a report from City Council for items not on the agenda – included above.
24/99	Correspondence None
24/100	Consultations To agree a response to the ‘Open Consultation on Proposed Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework’ Resolved. Draft response approved and delegated to planning committee
24/101	Reports from Councillors on outside bodies Local Highway Panel – Councillor Steel (County and City Councillor) Woollards Report – Councillor Faulds. Donna Hance reported on behalf of Cllr Faulds. The application process has been updated. New application forms to be sent to residents already in receipt. GDPR has been introduced to coincide with government guidelines. Broomfield Hospital – Councillor Blake. Cllr Blake reported that he has attempted to contact the Estates Manager and not yet had a response. Football Sports Club- Events and fundraising Manager – Donna Hance reported that communications between the Club and Parish Council is excellent and both parties are working well together. A couple of members from the Football Club are regular helpers on a Thursday at the lunch club and volunteer for kitchen duties. Elderly Care Homes. - Events and Fundraising Manager – Reported that Madelyne Court were successful in raising £400 for an interactive game’s unit. Broomfield Village Care Home will have staff available as volunteers to help with cooking, gardening and other jobs as the opening date for the Care Home has been pushed back. Transport-Councillor Thomson. - Cllr Thomson reported that the Bus timetable for the Stansted Buses in particular need verifying as the timetables are not accurate and confusing. Schools – Cllr Bowman. Not present Police- Cllr Scott- Not present North West Parishes – Cllr Blake Cllr Blake reported that there had been no recent meetings.
24/102	To Note Financial reports for July 2024 To approve the statements and reconciliations for July 2024 To note cashbook, income and expenditure for July 2024

	To note salary payments for July 2024 Resolved. The Council approves the financial records for July 2024 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £3,670,06
24/103	To note the bank statements and reconciliation for August 2024 To note cashbook income and expenditure for August 2024 To note salary payments for August 2024 Resolved: The council approves the financial record for August 2024 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £20,134.60
24/104	To agree a response to the email received from Kirsty Dougal – The committee agreed that an appointment should be made by the Clerk to arrange a meeting with himself and Cllrs Blake and Bleet to decide how to agree spend on traffic alleviation in Broomfield.
	To consider how an infrastructure Forecasting Tool can be used to incorporate aspirations with in the N.P into the Development Plan. All agreed to the Infrastructure Forecasting Tool to be loaded on to One Drive and be updated by Deputy Clerk. This will show all aspirations from the Neighbourhood Plan and Capital expenditure from the Development Plan which will also be updated and put on One Drive.
24/105	To consider a grant request by St Marys Church Resolved – It is with regret at this current time that Broomfield Parish Council are unable to fulfil the wishes of St Marys Church by offering a grant as the Parish Council grant funding has been spent for this year. General Reserve is very limited this year and so cannot currently be spent. Broomfield Parish Council also require a grant request prior to the work commencing, '4.7 The Applicant shall provide a written account of how the grant has been used to Broomfield Parish Council within three months of the grant being paid.' Council agreed to meet with the Church to discuss future applications.
24/106	Agreed – The Parish Council approves of the allocation of up to £2,000 from the Training Budget for a course of instruction to enable the Events and Fundraising Manger to obtain a full Driving Licence. Resolved Proposed by Cllr Perera-Morris seconded by John Barnes. All in agreement It was also agreed that the Events and Fundraising Manager could proceed to apply for a grant to purchase a used EV transporter van. This would enable us to transport large items and also transport people to events as community transport is cancelling frequently.
24/107	Councillor Bleet requested an additional 15 minutes for the meeting
24/108	At the council Meeting held on 20th July 2022, it was agreed to provide a grant of £1000 to the Village Hall to assist in staging a Music Festival minute 22/29 refers. It has not been possible to arrange this event, and the Village Hall is now asking that this grant be used towards the replacement of the sound system in the Village Hall, to include a new hearing loop. Resolved. The Parish Council approves of the grant being re-allocated to the purchase of a replacement sound system for the village Hall.
24/109	At the August meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee, It was agreed that an approach would be made to the Parish Council for the purchase by the Parish Council, of a 20x10m portable unit to be used as an office and storage unit for the staff at the Village Hall costing £6000. If agreed, a planning application would be required. The Parish Council is asked to consider this proposal. Resolved. The committee members discussed the prospect of having a portable cabin for office use by the Village Hall. All matters were discussed such as lack of storage, lack of

	office space. Cllr Bleet and committee members would rather explore other options available such as the change of use of the small barn on the allotment site. It was requested that the Clerk organises a pre-application meeting with the planning dept for himself. The Events and Fundraising Manager and Chairman of the Trustees and Villager Hall Committee to look at options.
	Matters for the next meeting. Meeting closed at 10.00 pm