



Broomfield Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Broomfield Parish Council held in Broomfield Village Hall on Wednesday 11th June 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

25/38	Members attending. Chair: Cllr Bleet, Cllrs Taylor, Odelana, Barnes, Thomson, Perera-Morris[#], Boreham, Howell, Travis and Scott. Also present, Clerk, Mark Hembury Resolved. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Faulds. Proposed by Cllr. Travis and seconded by Cllr. Taylor. All in agreement. An apology was also received from County and City Councillor, Mike Steel.
25/39	Declarations of interests None were received.
25/40	To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th May 2025. Resolved. The minutes of the Full Council meeting are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr.Thomson and seconded by Cllr.Barnes. All in agreement.
25/41	Public Question Time. No members of the public present.
25/42	To receive a report from the County Council for items not on agenda. The following written report was submitted by Cllr. Mike Steel. Highways It has just been announced that the LHPs will be closed to new applications. There is an increased budget this year (£6M across Essex), but it will be used to clear the extensive backlog. I asked about situations where Parish Councils wish to fund schemes, as the front end of the process is common to both – i.e., the validation process. I was reassured that this will be catered for. However, there is the intention to prioritise existing scheme designs, so access to design resource may be difficult. I asked if the design has to be done by Highways, and was told yes. Self funding schemes that do not require extensive design are more likely to go ahead. In terms of the Average Speed Cameras (ASC) on the RDR, the scheme is progressing. The camera supplier has quoted for the works and ECC are awaiting an order from the developer, Vistry. Once the order is received, there is a minimum 12-week lead-in time. Essex Highways are awaiting a set of drawings to technically review and to complete their safety audit, this will include matters such as the location of required signage. Your Clerk asked about the timescale as you are considering TruCam. Knowing how slow developers and Highways are, I would say that we would be still a year away, at least. My own Parish council are looking at employing TruCam. SERP and Traffic Police Day in Broomfield 21st May 2025 I joined the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) in Broomfield for a focused Vision Zero Day, as part of the ongoing shared commitment to eliminate all road deaths and serious injuries by 2040.

Coinciding with Walk to School Week, our engagement team spent the morning speaking with parents on the school run about road safety and the everyday challenges they face. Some voiced concerns about local speeding and driver behaviour, highlighting why community-level conversations are so important. Children received Vision Zero stickers as part of a continued effort to promote safer journeys from a young age, and a number of parents also pledged their support for the Vision Zero movement.

Meanwhile, the widescale enforcement team of 15 officers were joined by the local [Community Speed Watch](#) team and carried out proactive checks throughout the area. Officers stopped 35 individuals, resulting in:

- 12 offences for mobile phone use while driving
- 3 for failing to wear a seatbelt.
- 2 for other traffic violations.
- 6 vehicle stop checks.

The team also ran TruCam speed enforcement across multiple sites, recording the following:

- Maldon Road, Great Baddow: 24 offences
- Ongar Road, Writtle: 7 offences
- Downham Road, Downham: 8 offences
- High Street, Stock: 3 offences
- Lordship Road, Writtle: 0 offences
- A138 Chelmer Road, Chelmsford: 25 offences
- A131 Beaulieu Parkway: 28 offences

Officers also seized four vehicles being driven without valid insurance- driving uninsured is illegal and irresponsible. Alarming, one of the vehicles was carrying a young family, including a baby incorrectly secured in an inappropriate seat, putting lives at considerable risk. This driver received a £300 fine and six points on their licence.

Additionally, during onsite conversations, one driver claimed to not be wearing a seatbelt due to claustrophobia; seatbelt use is not optional, it is the law and remains one of the simplest life-saving actions a driver or passenger can take. Another driver admitted to sending a picture to their partner, who was in hospital; regardless of circumstances, using a hand-held mobile phone behind the wheel is illegal and dangerous- even a moment's distraction can lead to devastating consequences.

County Councillor Mike Steel, representing the Broomfield division, joined on-site and reflected on the importance of the day.

He said: "It has been great to attend the Chelmsford Vision Zero Day, to see the fantastic work of the SERP. Road safety is high on my agenda, and I am actively talking to Essex residents about their concerns."

He added: "There were six deaths on Chelmsford roads alone last year- which is six too many. It's vital that we all get on board with Vision Zero and all play our part in making our wonderful county safer for all."

The SERP will continue to patrol communities across Essex, bringing together education and enforcement to change behaviours, start conversations, and help people make better choices on our roads, with the objective of encouraging consistent, responsible driving, not just when enforcement is expected. By operating flexibly countywide, the team aims to support a culture of everyday road safety, where good decisions are made to protect everyone on the r

And thanks to the VH (Donna and Les) for supplying tea and coffee for all of us.

Broomfield PC were invited to attend.

I must also add that the School Crossing Patrol (SCP) position is still vacant for School Lane. It surprises me that out of the 4,000 or so residents in Broomfield, no one wants to take the post, even though they complain about the traffic on School Lane.

Visit of MP Kemi Badenoch to Broomfield:

On 9th May I accompanied our MP, Kemi Badenoch, to a number of places in Broomfield. We first went to Broomfield British Legion, in Saxon Way, to talk to veterans and committee during VE week. I am a member of the BL, in my own village, so I know about the wonderful work the BL do. The Broomfield branch has recently re-opened. Please do support them.

Then we went to Chelmer Valley High school (CVHS). The school put on some great displays of their GCSE courses, and other clubs – astronomy, electric car racing, Broomfield play area proposals, drama club, and more. CVHS has a wonderful reputation. Like many schools, it is suffering the impact of NI employer contribution increases and recruiting enough science/maths teachers. 2 of my children went to CVHS and are doing very well!

Our last visit was to Farleigh Hospice who told us about their 70 in-patients, but also about their 170 people they help in their own homes. They do an amazing job and most of their funds come from donations and fundraising – they have to raise £7.4M a year by these means which has not been helped by the employer NI increases which have added £250,000 to their costs! Please support them in any fundraising venture or donate <https://www.farleighhospice.org/>

Road Safety Issues

Whilst this affects mainly the southern part of my division, I am including it in the report, in order to show the priority given to roads that record fatalities, and serious injury accidents. These can be seen on Essex traffweb <https://essex.traffweb.app/traffweb/3/Collisions> which records slight injury, serious injury, and fatalities – as recorded by the police. ECC Highways do not keep a record of other accidents (which do not have to be reported beyond insurance companies), and does not make comparisons between traffic schemes using such data.

There is a proposal to reduce the speed limits on the A414 between the Widford Roundabout and the B181 Tylers Green. This speed limit reduction is being sought for safety reasons following a high number of fatal collisions in the past 12-18 months. These reductions are initially temporary (18 months), but the intention is to make them permanent.



I met with the Team Leader Rd Safety Engineering (who runs the Casualty Reduction initiatives), and he revealed that they are also looking at Average Speed Cameras along the route, funded by DfT – Safer Roads.

I have commented on the proposals – specifically that the current situation does create some confusion in that travelling from Chelmsford to the M11 junction, a driver goes through 7 different speed limits. The proposal lessens this to 6, but still has numerous changes, which leaves a driver wondering what speed limit they are in. My suggestion is that the whole road is made 40mph, except the 30mph through a couple of populated areas. The response I got was: *“Each of the speed limit reductions will be clearly signed with the appropriate terminal signing and repeater signing, the speed limit reductions have been applied in conjunction with road user perception of appropriate speed limits of road users using this section. If we substantially reduce a speed limit say by 20mph (from National to 40mph) and the nature and environment of the road does not reflect this, (i.e long straight sections, with good forward visibility) it may result in dangerous overtaking manoeuvres which means we create another issue. This is however something we could review before moving forward with a permanent proposal”*

Also, I stated that I would welcome similar consideration for the A1060.

The Casualty Reduction Team are still investigating a fatality there and tell me that the Police’s investigation / Forensics report and Coroner’s investigation, are still ongoing so they can’t publish their internal report yet, which is still being collated ready for internal review.

In the meantime, I decided to raise an LHP request for the A1060.

However, note, LHPs are now closed to new schemes and funds (increased to £6M across Essex) will be used to clear out the substantial backlog. Whilst I made the A1060 submission before the announcement was made, I do not know if it will be considered.

I will be attending the Coroners findings on the 30th May.

LHP Request:

Location of the issue: Junction of A1060 and Vicarage Road, Roxwell

Parish: Roxwell CP

Issue type: Safety_reviews,Speed_limit_reduction,

Details of request:

Requested by: County Member

On the 20th September, 2024, there was a fatality at this junction. A vehicle turning right, from Vicarage Road, was hit and the driver killed. The problem is that the visibility splay from the turning is restricted in both directions because the road bends back towards Vicarage road, on both sides. The speed limit at that point on the A1060 is 60mph (PR1), but the visibility from the junction is less than that required for such speeds. There are no obstacles impairing the view - it is just the bend of the road. The only solution is to get the speed down on the A1060 - so the suggestion is reducing the speed limit to 40mph at this section (or longer - other junctions have similar issues)

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Further supporting evidence:Essex Traffweb shows the fatality. The Casualty Reduction team have been looking at this but there is no guarantee that it will result in a change.

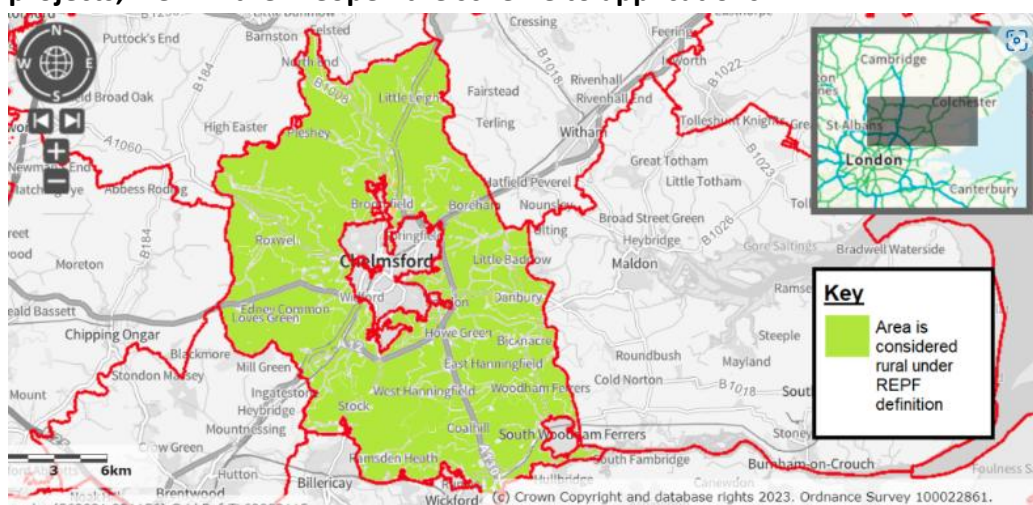
Rural England Prosperity Fund Grant Scheme - now open to applications

Chelmsford City Council's Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) is now open to applications.

The Fund is to support capital projects that improve productivity and strengthen rural economies and communities. The Fund is aimed at both rural businesses and rural community groups.

Chelmsford City Council is inviting applications for funding of capital projects up to the value of £10,000. Applications should have 20% of match funding in place. Full eligibility criteria and further details can be found on our website: www.chelmsford.gov.uk/repf. The webpage also contains a link and instructions for an eligibility map which details the areas within Chelmsford that are classed as 'rural' by DEFRA for the purpose of this fund. (GW is covered)

Applications should be received by 30th June 2025. If funding remains following this call for projects, we will then reopen the scheme to applications.



25/43	To receive a report from City Council for items not on the agenda. See agenda item 25/42.
25/44	Correspondence None received.
25/45	Consultations None received.
25/46	Reports from Councillors on outside bodies Local Highways Panel – Councillor Steel (County and City Councillor) See item 25/42 Woollards Charity – Councillor Faulds. There was no update. Broomfield Hospital liaison – Councilor Bleet stated that Cllr.Blake met with the hospital representative recently, who is new in post and learning about the issues, and had a walk-about. Football Sports Clubs – Events and Fundraising Manager No update. Elderly Care Homes – Events and Fundraising Manager. No update. Transport – Councillor Thomson stated that she attended a drop-in on Wednesday 4 th June. Surveys are now being conducted via QR codes – she asked that paper copies be made available. This was agreed and a copy should be sent to the Clerk. There were no local timetable changes on 1 st June. ‘Interviews’ are now being conducted at railway and bus stations as part of the survey process. Next timetable changes are on the 27 th July. Schools – Vacant Police – Councillor Scott. No update North West Parishes – Vacant Cllr. Perera-Morris [#]
25/47	To note financial reports for May 2025 To approve the bank statement and reconciliation for May 2025 To note cashbook, income and expenditure for May 2025. To note salary payments for May 2025. Resolve: The Council approves the financial records for May 2025 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £27,551.80. Proposed by Cllr.Barnes and seconded by Cllr. Howell. All in agreement.
25/48	To review the Council’s Internal Control Strategy Document. Resolved The Council approves the published internal control strategy document for 2025/26. Proposed by Cllr. Scott and seconded by Cllr. Barnes. All in agreement
25/49	To review the Council’s Risk Management Document. Resolved. The Council approves the published risk management document. Proposed by Cllr.Perera-Morris and seconded by Cllr. Boreham. All in agreement.
25/50	To approve the annual return for publication. Resolved. The council approves a) The Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 Proposed by Cllr. Barnes and seconded by Cllr. Taylor. All in agreement b) The Accounting Statement 2024/25 for publication. Proposed by Cllr. Odelana and seconded by Cllr. Taylor. All in agreement.
25/51	To note the internal audit report and agree to adopt any recommendations made. This was noted.
25/52	To approve the appointment of Cllr. John Barnes as a trustee of the Woollards Trust. Resolved. The Council approves of appointing Cllr.Barnes as a trustee of the Woollards Trust. Proposed by Cllr. Taylor and seconded by Cllr.Howell. All in agreement.

25/53	To review the Council Recruitment Policy. Due to some doubts about the wording of one paragraph, this matter was deferred to the July meeting to allow the Clerk to seek advice from Work Nest, the Council's HR advisors.
25/54	To review the Council GDPR Policy. Resolved. The Council approves the GDPR Policy as published. Proposed by Cllr.Scott and seconded by Cllr.Travis. All in agreement.
25/55	To review the Council Complaints Policy. This item was deferred until the July meeting to allow the Clerk to seek clarification over several paragraphs in the policy.
25/56	To review the Council Freedom of Information Policy as published. Resolved. The council approves the Freedom of Information Policy as published. Proposed by Cllr. Travis and seconded by Cllr.Boreham. All in agreement.
25/57	To review the Council Social Media Policy Resolved. The Council approves the Social Media Policy as published. Proposed by Cllr.Odelana and seconded by Cllr.Perera-Morris. All in agreement.
25/58	To review the Council Equal Opportunity Policy. Resolved. The Council approves the Equal Opportunities Policy as published. Proposed by Cllr.Travis and seconded by Cllr.Boreham. All in agreement.
25/59	To consider a grant request from Broomfield Village Hall Charity. Due to the absence of both the Events Manager and Cllr.Faulds for a period of approx.6-8 weeks, the village hall needs to temporarily increase the hours of a member of staff to provide essential cover. A grant to cover 42 hours of additional time amounting to £575.00 is requested. Resolved. The Parish Council approves of a grant of £575.00 to Broomfield Village Hall Charity to cover additional staff hours. Proposed by Cllr.Taylor and seconded by Cllr.Scott. All in agreement.
25/60	To approve the establishment of a Community Land Trust to take on the responsibility of delivering community housing as outlined in the recently approved Broomfield Neighbourhood Plan - distinct from the Parish Council, which will be afforded support and office space for meetings. Resolved. The Parish Council agrees to the establishment of a Community Land Trust as described. Proposed by Cllr.Thomson and seconded by Cllr. Perera-Morris. All in agreement.
25/61	To receive an update from the Clerk on matters arising from previous meetings. None to be made.
25/62	To note minutes from the following Committees:
25/62.1	Finance and Personnel Committee – Noted at Council Meeting of 20 th April
25/62.2	Environment Committee – minutes from Wednesday 15 th May. These were noted.
25/62.3	Property & Planning Committee – minutes from Wednesday 5 th June. These were noted
25/62.4	Communications Committee – No recent meeting

25/62.5	School Lane Working Group – No recent meeting.
25/63	Matters for the next meeting Employment of a new Clerk. The meeting closed at 8.59 pm