



Broomfield Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Broomfield Parish Council held in Broomfield Village Hall on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

24/186	Members attending. Chair: Cllr Bleet, Cllrs Faulds, Perera-Morris, Blake, Bowman, Boreham, Odelana, Barnes and Travis Also present, Clerk, Mark Hembury. One member of the public was present. Resolved. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Scott, Taylor, Thomson and Howell. An apology was also received from County and City Cllr. Mike Steel. Proposed by Cllr. Barnes and seconded by Cllr. Travis. All in agreement.
24/187	Declarations of interests To receive any declarations of interests from Councillors.
24/188	To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th January 2025. Resolved. The minutes of the Full Council meeting are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr. Bowman and seconded by Cllr. Blake. All in agreement.
24/189	Public Question Time. No questions asked.
24/190	To receive a report from the County Council for items not on agenda. The following written report was received from Cllr. Mike Steel. Essex County Council Issues: Devolution and Unitary Councils 5th Feb –The Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, informed the leaders of ECC, Southend, and Thurrock, that “<i>Based on our criteria of geography and readiness set out in the English Devolution White Paper, I am pleased to confirm that Greater Essex has been selected to join the Devolution Priority Programme.</i>” In addition it stated that the request for County local elections to be postponed from May had been accepted from May 2025 to May 2026. CNEB <i>The main works are now underway on Section 1A following the appointment of Octavius Infrastructure as contractor.</i> <i>Recent works have included:</i> • <i>Topographical and ecological surveys</i> • <i>An archaeological survey undertaken by Oxford Archaeology revealing past Roman use of the site</i> • <i>Groundworks for the delivery of the site compound offices/cabins</i> • <i>Preparation works for a UK power networks diversion</i> <i>The Chelmsford North East Bypass – Section 1A, January 2025 newsletter contains further details. This can be found attached to this email and on our project webpage here:</i> www.essexhighways.org/chelmsford-north-east-bypass

The benefit of CNEB to Broomfield, LW, GW, and other parishes, is that it should take traffic away from Essex Regiment Way, which will in turn take traffic away from the B1008 Broomfield main Road.

School Crossing Patrol (SCP) in School Lane:

No applications for the vacancy, as far as I know.

I have established that they will allow job share, although it is not their preference.

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.

Member Highway Initiative

I submitted the 3 holes at the Angel pedestrian crossing, and they have been repaired.

I did suggest that they might like to paint it at the same time, but they didn't!

Highway Appraisal commissioned by BPC

I have read your Highway Appraisal. My comments are:

- 2.10 claims "Main Road/School Lane junction with a number of accidents being recorded in the latest three-year period". Traffweb Collision data shows zero slight, or serious injury, or fatalities on School Lane, There are 2 serious injury accidents near the junction with B1008/School Lane.
- Speed surveys by ECC highways, along with the traffweb data, would make it unlikely that any of the proposals would progress through the LHP funding process.
- If BPC want to fund the proposals themselves, the front end of the process is the same – i.e., LHP has to validate the scheme, but once validated, it does not then need to go into the LHP funding queue and can be done quicker.
- Validation is based on Highways policy – my own view is that some of the proposals would not pass validation. The remedy then, is to request that the Cabinet Member overrules policy. I must warn you that this is very much by exception only.
- The costings in Section 4 are woefully misleading – e.g., an uncontentious change of speed limit is recorded in the LHP price guide at more like £20,000. Please note, if one road is made 20mph, all the roads off it, have to have 30mph and 20mph signs – i.e., the speed limit has to be shown every time it changes. And if you want all the adjoining roads to be 20mph, then it is known as a 20mph zone and has much higher criteria, including traffic calming, and a higher cost. .
- As stated above, the self-funded process has to start with LHP validation, which has to go through me. If validated (or agreed by Cabinet Member if it fails validation), the Highways direct works team need to then cost the scheme.

City Council Issues

Local Plan

The new Local plan went to the Policy Board 16th Jan for ratification to go out to consultation. New housebuilding targets have been allocated by the Labour Govt, which increases the annual build rate from the current 913pa to 1,454 pa. Chelmsford had almost completed their plan so have taken advantage of the “transition” arrangements whereby they can complete the current process (rather than start again) on the basis that they can meet 80% of the new target. The updated plan commits to 1,210 dwellings pa, so that it gets a reduction on the new targets for the next 5 years.

In terms of my City Council ward, the only change is the addition of site 14b at Ford End (20 dwellings). The initial draft also had 14a (20 dwellings) at Back Lane but public feedback supported removing this.

City Council are consulting on the:

- Chelmsford Local Plan - Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) Document
- Review of the Adopted Chelmsford Local Plan: Pre-Submission Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA).

City Council Planning prefer receiving comments online, using the specially designed Consultation Portal. Using the Consultation Portal helps to record comments accurately and process them quickly. Go to www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult to:

- Read the consultation documents
- Make your comments
- Sign up for alerts to future consultations.

Otherwise, representations should be made on a specially designed response form available online at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/lp-review or a paper copy can be provided by phoning (01245) 606330.

Opus Retirement Village 23/01787/FUL

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.

Have always see this an over-development of an area that is already subject to significant new developments. So, I was pleased when City Council refused it in Feb 2024 – it stated 11 reasons for such refusal.

The developer lodged an appeal which has now been decided and the appeal dismissed. It appears that the Council chose not to defend a number of the reasons for refusal (the RfR) on the basis of information that was submitted after it made its decision and the planning obligation that was subsequently agreed during the course of the Inquiry. This led to the effective withdrawal of reasons 6-11 by the close of the Inquiry. However, main Issues 5 resulted in the refusal by the Appeal Inspector - the effect of the proposal on the character and appearance of the area and its effect on the setting of two non-designated heritage assets comprising a World War II pillbox (the Pillbox) and Sparrowhawks Farm.

	Cllr. Blake suggested that a letter of be sent to the Director of Sustainable Communities, thanking them for their work to refuse the appeal. The Clerk said he would send the letter.
24/191	To receive a report from City Council for items not on the agenda. See report under 24/190.
24/192	Correspondence VAS installation delays – residents email. This was noted.
24/193	Consultations • Air Quality Consultation The meeting agreed to publicise the consultation and articles would be placed on the Parish Council website and Facebook site. • Chelmsford Local Plan Consultation The meeting agreed that the Planning Committee would look in detail at a response to the consultation at their next meeting under their delegated powers.
24/194	Reports from Councillors on outside bodies Local Highways Panel – Councillor Steel (County and City Councillor) see report under 24/190. Woollards Charity – Councillor Faulds reported that they hoped the new Nisa shop in the village would replace the Cooperative in accepting Christmas tokens. Broomfield Hospital liaison – Councilor Blake. Awaiting a response from the Hospital Travel Coordinator. Football Sports Clubs – Cllr. Bleet reported that there was to be a receptioin at the Civic Centre to receive a visiting German football team with connections to the village. Cllr.Bowman would be saying a few words. Elderly Care Homes – Events and Fundraising Manager. A number of the residents from the new care home are now attending the coffee morning. Transport – Councillor Thomson. No report Schools – Councillor Bowman. A visit is still to be arranged to discuss a number of issues. Police – Councillor Scott. No report. North West Parishes – Councillor Blake. No update.
24/195	To note financial reports for January 2025 To approve the bank statement and reconcilliation report for January 2025 To note cashbook, income and expenditure for January 2025 To note salary payments for January 2025 Resolved: The Council approves the financial records for January 2025 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £21,101.82. Proposed by Cllr.Barnes and seconded by Cllr. Faulds. All in agreement.
24/196	The Council will receive a presentation on Community Speed Watch, from the scheme co-ordinator, Mr. Geoff Garfield. Mr. Garfield introduced himself and went on to explain that there were currently two locations used in the village, School Lane and Main Road near the Angel. At present they meet every three weeks although he would like to increase the frequency when there are more volunteers – five at present and a minimum of three are required for an operation. Low

	numbers of drivers are being caught exceeding the speed limit recently. He would like to consider alternative locations and passed on his thanks to the current volunteers.
24/197	The Chairman will provide an update on the PIIP process and in particular will focus upon the prioritisation of projects and how this will be achieved. Cllr. Bleet suggested a number of small workshops are set up to discuss the projects which would make decisions much easier because of the judgement calls required. The first meeting would be on 5th March before Planning from 4-6 pm, the second meeting on 12th March. Cllr. Blake asked that a further request for a meeting on 12th March at 3pm be sent to Richard Stubbings. The Clerk agreed to do so.
24/198	The Council will be asked to consider a Highways report produced by Steve Aman, a Highways consultant engaged by the Parish Council. The meeting was impressed by the contents of the report. The Clerk explained that he had already sent a copy to Emma Featherstone at Essex County Council and a response from her was awaited. The Clerk explained that two items of expenditure meant that the budget previously agreed for the Highways Report had been exceeded by £87.64. Cllr. Blake proposed that the budget was increased by this amount to cover the cost of the invoice. Seconded by Cllr. Faulds and agreed unanimously.
24/199	The Council will be asked to consider the introduction of ‘corporate uniform’ for members. There was a positive response from the meeting to the idea – Cllr. Bleet asked for members to contact her with preferences such as zip-up, t-shirts, hoody etc. and further enquiries would be made into costs.
24/200	The Council will be asked to set a date for the Annual Parish Meeting and agree a format and make any arrangements necessary. A date of 7th May was agreed with the formal meeting taking place at 6pm. The Clerk would arrange to book the hall and a number of displays would be created to feature the Neighbourhood Plan and the PIIP projects and infrastructure.
24/201	Clerk’s Update The Clerk will provide the Council with an update on matters considered at previous meetings and any other issues that would be of interest. The Clerk reported that damage had been discovered to a chain link on a swing in the playground – someone had deliberately cut through the majority of the link. This has now been repaired. CCTV would be checked and a report of the damage would be made to the Police. An article would be considered for the next Bromfield Times highlighting awareness required for users of the playground.
24/202	To note minutes from the following Committees:
24/202.1	Finance and Personnel Committee – draft minutes from 22 nd January. These were noted.
24/202.2	Environment Committee – draft minutes from 18th December. These were noted.
24/202.3	Planning Committee – draft minutes from 5 th February. These were noted.
24/202.4	Communications Committee – No recent meeting

24/202.5	School Lane Working Group – Chairman to provide an update. Cllr. Bleet stated that a meeting would be taking place soon and the Highways report from Steve Aman would be considered.
24/202.6	Health and Wellbeing Group – No further update at this time.
24/203	Matters for the next meeting The meeting concluded at 9.03 p.m.