



Broomfield Parish Council

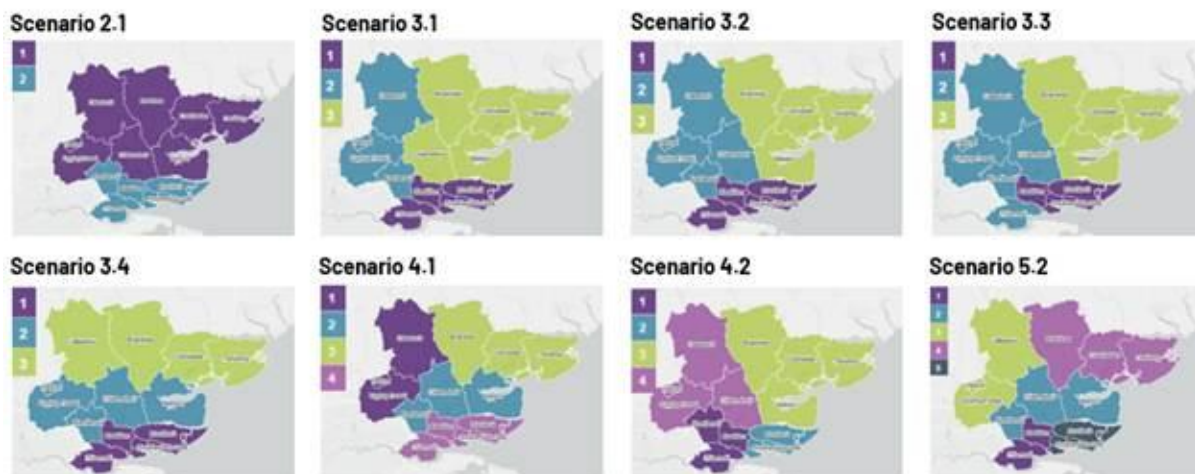
Minutes of a meeting of Broomfield Parish Council held in Broomfield Village Hall on Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

25/64	Members attending. Chair: Cllr Bleet, Cllrs Taylor, Odelana, Thomson, Perera-Morris, Boreham, Howell, Travis and Scott. Also present, Clerk, Mark Hembury and one member of the public. Resolved. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Faulds and Barnes. Proposed by Cllr. Perera-Morris and seconded by Cllr. Travis. All in agreement. An apology was also received from County and City Councillor, Mike Steel.
25/65	Declarations of interests To receive any declarations of interests from Councillors.
25/66	To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th June 2025. Resolved. The minutes of the Full Council meeting are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr., Boreham and seconded by Cllr. Scott. All in agreement.
25/67	To consider co-option to one of the vacant Councillor positions. The Clerk outlined the Council policy on co-option. Ballot papers were submitted with one candidate to be considered – Geoff Garfield. There was a unanimous vote to co-opt Geoff Garfield onto the Parish Council and acceptance of office forms were duly completed.
25/68	Public Question Time. The meeting may be temporarily suspended for up to fifteen minutes if members of the public wish to comment on agenda items or items of interest or concern to the parish. No questions.
25/69	To receive a report from the County Council for items not on agenda. The following written report was received from County and City Councillor Mike Steel. VAS and SIDs on streetlight columns This is something that I have been pushing for, for some time, and at last it has gone live. If a Parish Council wants to put up their own Speed Indicator Device (SID), in the past they had to request the LHP put up a pole (or poles) I can now report that ECC Highways are offering the possibility of street light columns to be used to place a VAS or SID on. PCs can apply via https://www.essexhighways.org/applications/apply-to-install-a-vas-or-sid-illuminated-sign ECC will charge the PCs to assess a number of streetlights - the benefit of this is that the PC can then move the SID around. The perceived wisdom is that SIDs have an impact for a couple of weeks, and so should be rotated regularly. LGR and Devolution The joint Essex County, 2 Unitaries, and 12 DCs have produced an options paper with 8 separate scenarios. The Chief Execs of each council will now review these and select a preferred option (although there is no absolute requirement that there is only one submission). The intention is to submit this by September 2025. The 8 options range from 2 to 5 Unitaries, with more than 1 option for the 3 and 4 Unitaries options.

Each option has been assessed against 6 criteria (score 3 max for each, total max score 18):

- Sensible Geography
- Efficiency and Resilience
- High quality public services
- Local identity
- Supporting devolution
- Community empowerment

The different options are shown below:



Based on the joint analysis, Scenario 3.2 scored highest, however this is still at a draft stage.

I know that Chelmsford City Council favour the 5 scenario option. However, both the 4 and 5 unitary options show an increased operational cost rather than a reduction like all the others. The economic case for 4 or 5 Unitaries does not look viable. Also, there is a concern that the 5 Unitary scenario, fragments the Adult Social Care Services so much, that it puts it at risk.

It is likely that ECC will favour a 3 Unitary scenario,

I note that the press (Essex Chronicle) are saying that the public have the chance to have their say and steer towards a Southend Council website claiming to act on behalf of all the Essex area. As far as I can see (and I could be wrong) there is no official public or Parish Council consultation, but individual District Councils may be doing this to get support for their preference.

It is likely that the joint September submission includes a 3 Unitary, and a 5 Unitary option, and leaves the Govt to decide which one. Given that the decision is being made by the Treasury, it is likely that the case with the best saving is chosen. This will be a Central Govt decision!

Pylons

	The next phase will be the DCO – which was forecast as summer 2025, but I suspect will be at the back end of the year. On that basis, I have been undertaking the following: • Our NW Parish Group have employed a landscape consultant to draft a response – when the DCO comes out. They also recently put in a proposal to NG for alternative route around the other side of Chelmsford • I have been working with Rosie’s group in order to understand their DCO objection – which in the main will be based on the Gunning Principles on consultation. They also have a few alternatives, which still includes the sea route (although unlikely to fly) and alternative route boosting to allow a lower power (and narrower trench) HVDC underground cabling for Norwich to Tilbury. • I also have an invite to meet the “Offset” MPs – but struggling with dates • Working with ECC on opposing on the basis that the consultations were inadequate in terms of impacts on the highway Most of this is really at the higher level rather than the detailed route. Some of my residents are telling me that they are receiving communication on “affected landowner” – I don’t have any official communication on this – but I am considering arranging an email common interest group – although this is well outside my ECC and CCC responsibilities. Church Green I have received a few complaints about parking on Church Green. It seems the popularity of the Kings Arms is having a detrimental impact on residents in Church Green, with cars parking on DYLS, or on the greensward. Parking wardens have come out, but during business hours, and the problem exist in the evening. I have asked SEPP if it is possible for wardens to visit out-of-hours. I have copied in Public Health as well. It seems that with the removal of the sleepers, it is allowing cars to get on to the green. I believe this is Parrish Council owned, and if you should consider bollards. I have copied your Clerk on emails
25/70	To receive a report from City Council for items not on the agenda. See minte reference 25/69
25/71	Correspondence Parking and other issues – Church Green, Kings Arms. The Parish Council had a discussion concerning the issues raised. They were informed by Cllr. Bleet that the City Council Planning Enforcement Team would be opening a case against the Kings Arms concerning the extension built at the back. Cllr Steel has requested attendance by parking wardens to deal with parking issues and has also asked for the yellow lines to be re-painted. It was agreed that the Environment Committee would be asked to look at vthe possibility or desirability of installing bollards on the Green to prevent parking on the grass.
25/72	Consultations SERP Speed limit – 20mph Cllr. Bleet stated that she would be writing a letter making the case for a 20mph zone in School Lane.
25/73	Reports from Councillors on outside bodies Local Highways Panel – Councillor Steel (County and City Councillor) see 25/69 Woollards Charity – Councillor Faulds. No report

	Broomfield Hospital liaison – Vacant Football Sports Clubs – Events and Fundraising Manager. No update Elderly Care Homes – Events and Fundraising Manager. No update. Transport – Councillor Thomson reported that the next changes are due on 27th July. There will be little local impact. There will be a revision of the Monday-Friday non-school days timetable for the X30 route although there is nothing on the website at present. Shuttle busses used for access to the Racecourse for the recent event were well used. Changes to the Sunday saver fares are coming, but details not yet known. Schools – Vacant Police – Councillor Scott. A meeting will be held next week. North West Parishes – Vacant
25/74	To note financial reports for July 2025 To approve the bank statement and reconciliation for July 2025 To note cashbook, income and expenditure for July 2025. To note salary payments for July 2025. Resolved: The Council approves the financial records for July 2025 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £14,343.64. Proposed by Cllr.Odelana and seconded by Cllr.Taylor. All in agreement.
25/75	To receive an update on the recruitment of a new Parish Clerk. Cllr. Bleet confirmed that the Finance and Personnel Committee had met and had agreed The job and person descriptions. The timetable agreed should see the advert for the post published on 23rd July. Cllr. Bleet requested members send a brief sentence about Broomfield to be included in the advert.
25/76	To consider the lease of the Barn by Broomfield Cottage Gardeners – due for its annual renewal in October. The Clerk reminded members that the lease for the Barn was usually due in October each year, but to ensure that the period of the lease coincided with the financial year, the lease was now due for renewal in April 2026. It was agreed that going forward, any increases in the lease would be in line with inflation. It was further agreed that the decision on the figure to be applied would be deferred to the October meeting.
25/77	To receive an update on the recently formed Chelmsford Association of Local Councils. Cllr. Bleet provided an explanation about the recently formed Association and its role and objectives going forward. The information was noted and Broomfield Parish Council will be joining at a cost of £40 per year.
25/78	To review the Council Recruitment Policy. Resolved. Subject to the deletion of the sentence starting ‘All applicants...’ The Council approves the Recruitment Policy as published. Proposed by Cllr. Perera-Morris and seconded by Cllr. Boreham. All in agreement
25/79	To consider a grant request from Broomfield Village Hall Charity. To improve the energy efficiency of the Village Hall, cavity wall insulation is to be installed. The Village Hall Charity requests a grant from the Parish Council of £810 to enable this to take place. Motion. The Parish Council approves of a grant of £810.00 to Broomfield Village Hall Charity for cavity wall insulation. Expenditure to be taken from CIL funds.
25/80	To ratify the recommendation made by the Finance and Personnel Committee regarding a change to the contract for the Events and Fundraising Manager FIN 25-6 minute refers. Resolved. The Parish Council approves of the change to the contract of the Events Manager

	as recorded in minute ref. FIN 25-6. Proposed by Cllr.Taylor and seconded by Cllr.Howell. All in agreement.
25/81	To receive an update on recent developments on the allotment site. Cllr. Bleet informed members that some Herras fencing had been installed on the allotment site and that it is expected a request will be made for additional funding. An agenda item for the September meeting will include an update on the fencing issues at the allotment site.
25/82	To consider the current policy on Broomfield Buddies. After some discussion, it was agreed that Cllrs. Travis, Taylor and Perera-Morris would assist Cllr. Bleet and would meet to draw up a policy for consideration.
25/83	To receive an update from the Clerk on matters arising from previous meetings. None.
25/84	To note minutes from the following Committees:
25/84.1	Finance and Personnel Committee – Draft minutes from 2 nd July These were noted.
25/84.2	Environment Committee – Draft minutes from Wednesday 19 th June. These were noted. The application for a grant for the paths would be taken to the September Council meeting.
25/84.3	Property & Planning Committee – Draft minutes from Wednesday 2 nd July awaits
25/84.4	Communications Committee – No recent meeting
25/84.5	School Lane Working Group – No recent meeting.
25/85	Matters for the next meeting