Broomfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Broomfield Parish Council held in Broomfield Village Hall on Wednesday 14th October 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

Members in attendance	M Bleet (Chair), N Kiddier, G Garfield, A Faulds, C Taylor, S Perera-Morris, G Wadeson, S Boreham, D Grewal, A Thomson, D Howell, A Odelana, G Scott
Members not in attendance	none
Others in attendance	A Wood, Clerk and RFO D Hance, Events and Fundraising Manager ECC/CCC Cllr M Scott CCC Cllr S Shah

FC26/110 **To receive apologies for absence**
No apologies were required.

FC26/111 **To receive Councillors declarations of interests and dispensations requests**
Cllrs Wadeson and Faulds declared a non-pecuniary interest in the grant application from the Broomfield Community Land Trust.

FC26/112 **To approve the minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on 9th September 2026**
The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Bleet as a correct record.
Proposed: Cllr Garfield
Seconded: Cllr Grewal
All Agreed.

FC26/113 **To hear from Essex Police and PSCO**
Due to shift patterns, the police were unable to attend. Cllr Grewal will arrange an alternative date.

FC26/114 **Public Participation session**
No members of the public were present.

FC26/115 **To receive a report from the County and City Council for items not on agenda**

- Cllr Steel spoke to his written report (appendix) and advised that a meeting had taken place between the local authority and the residents regarding the Mill Lane footpath stile had taken place.
- Cllr Shah reported on the September policing meeting and highlighted issues with anti-social behaviour and the use of catapults and crossbows. The Water Forum was well attended with stakeholders contributing and a grant application being submitted to Anglian Water for paddleboards, coaches and youth education on water safety. Cllr Shah will be convening these forums on a quarterly basis.
- The deferred Local Governance Review and City and County Council finances were discussed, and concern was raised by Cllr Shah about what has been spent up to now on LGR and that no record has been kept about wasted officer time. A refund will be requested from government to cover the costs.

Both Councillors left the meeting at this point.

FC26/116 **To receive reports from Councillors on outside bodies**

- Cllr Faulds reported that the Christmas Voucher with NISA has been agreed for this year.
- Cllr Scott reported that the Girls Space project has been finished with the planters arriving next week.

- Cllr Thomson reported on issues with Broomfield Road being closed and the effect on bus routes. It was requested that issues experienced by the councillors, need to be reported to Cllr Thomson to raise a complaint.

FC26/117 **To receive any matters for report (but not for resolution)**

- Mrs Hance reported that meetings with four architects have taken place and that we are awaiting quotes. These will be considered by the village hall management committee and trustees.
- Repair works to the speed hump at the village hall is being addressed by the contractor.

FC26/118 **Parish Council finances**

a) To approve the bank statement and reconciliation for September 2026

b) To note cashbook, income and expenditure and balance sheet for September 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to receive, note and approve the above reports (a and b) for September 2026.
Proposed: Cllr Wadeson
Seconded: Cllr Garfield
All Agreed.

FC26/119 **Specific projects and discussions**

a) To arrange the Action Plan working group meetings (Cllr Bleet)

Cllr Bleet advised that two dates have been arranged for the working groups, and an additional date may be added. Cllrs have confirmed their preferred attendance.

b) To confirm the Angel Meadow field hire fees for private events and football

It was **RESOLVED** that the fees would be set at £250 per day for private hire and £50 per weekend for football matches. <u>This will take immediate effect</u>. It was further agreed that a limit on the number of private hires will be in place, in collaboration with the village hall.
Proposed: Cllr Taylor
Seconded: Cllr Wadeson
All Agreed.

c) To consider the following grant applications

a) Application for £1750 for installation of a HVAC system at the Legion Hall. This grant was **APPROVED.**
Proposed: Cllr Taylor
Seconded: Cllr S Perera-Morris
All Agreed.

b) Application for £1000 to further support the creation of the Broomfield Community Land Trust with the grant being held by the parish council and payments made on receipt of invoices on behalf of the CLT. This grant was **APPROVED**.
Proposed: Cllr Bleet
Seconded: Cllr Wadeson
All Agreed.

d) To follow up on the Village Survey and results

Cllr Bleet requested this be deferred to the next meeting.

e) To adopt a Developer Engagement policy

The Clerk presented the document, and it was **RESOLVED** to approve this policy
Proposed: Cllr Garfield
Seconded: Cllr Kiddier
All agreed.

FC26/120 **To note minutes from the following Committees**

a) **Finance and Personnel Committee** – no meeting in September
b) **Environment Committee** – Draft minutes from the 16th September were presented
c) **Planning Committee** – Draft minutes from the 5th October were presented

FC26/121 **Councillor training and development update**

Feedback on the following courses were shared with other councillors

- Cllr Garfield – Council Finance Course, 30th September
- Cllr Bleet and Faulds – NALC Climate webinar 30th September

FC26/122 **To receive an update from the Clerk**

a) Berwick Avenue Playground update

The Clerk presented suggestions received from CCC regarding the new playground at Berwick Avenue scheduled for the next financial year. It was agreed that the Clerk add a budget line of £17000 to enhance the equipment to be installed (with the budget to be agreed at a later meeting). Cllrs requested that equipment be accessible and that they are consulted on the equipment chosen.

b) VAS license update

The Clerk advised that she has signed the agreement with Essex Highways for the installation of a VAS for a period of six years. She is now waiting for the actual license and will be obtaining a quote for the installation work.

FC26/123 **Items for inclusion in the next agenda**

- Village Survey and results

FC26/124 **Chair to close the meeting**

Cllr Bleet closed the meeting at 9.10pm

The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 11th November at 7.30pm

FC26/115 Cllr Steel's report (as received)

ECC report

Highways
ECC Highways are claiming that there is a 60% increase in pothole repairs on roads across Essex comparing July 2026 with July 2025- Essex Highways | Essex County Council. This follows the claim that overall road repairs for the first full quarter of the financial year rose by 30% year-on-year. However, I am concerned that official metrics from the Place Scrutiny Board show counter performance to this. The presented metrics MI1 and Mi2 show that the total number of outstanding defects on PR1, PR2, and local roads, was 23,749 in July 2025 compared with 29,006 in July 2026, which is actually a 22% increase in outstanding defects. I have requested justification of the 60%/30% claim and if it is confirmed, why outstanding defects are increasing over the same period. I believe that there is a concentration on carriageway defects, so it may be a difference in definition of "number of pothole repairs" versus "number of defects"!

On the positive side, my 3 roads that I submitted for the MHI replacement process, have been done (actually 4) – Breeds Road GW, Pleshey Road, Paradise Road Writtle, and St Michaels Drive Roxwell.
On the negative side, with MHI/LHP ceased, ECC Cllrs have no direct means of getting defects/issues resolved and can only escalate existing Track-It references, but generally get referred to the inspection process which focusses on safety – so pavements are low down the list. It means I am having difficulty getting any attention to defects raised by residents.

As part of the "pothole emergency" there is also an intention to replace the maintenance criteria with a 5X5 matrix of Likelihood of an incident caused by a defect (score 1 to 5), times Consequence of an incident (score 1 to 5). With repair times ranging from 40 days to 2 days for scores of 15 to 25. Below that score repair time is "consideration of repair under planned maintenance" or only if other repairs are going on. It comes down to a subjective assessment of the likelihood and consequence of an incident caused by a defect. How this works in practice, is not clear. My initial concerns are that non-safety defects will be so far down in the queue that they never get done. E.g., the sunken drains on the RDR – which are noisy and irritating but not a safety issue! Also, how do broken signs feature in likelihood/consequence argument? The 2 affected County Cllrs have tried escalating the RDR drains, but I have not had a response yet.

VAS
I note the successful licence to install and maintain for a temporary period of 6 years one Vehicle Activated Sign and Solar Panel ("the VAS and Solar Panel") on the existing street lighting column number 39 – Unit ID 202296 on Main Road (South of Deverill Close), Broomfield, Chelmsford, Essex ("the permitted area") and as shown by a blue circle on the attached Site Location Plan ("the Plan") and indicated below.

LGR
LGR is now postponed or cancelled.
Which means that Chelmsford City council elections will go ahead in May 2027, along with Parish Council elections.
I understand that Devolution is still happening at there will be Greater Essex Mayor elections at some point.

Pylons
NGET have now submitted planning applications for temporary compounds in advance of the decision on the DCO. Closing date for comments is 23rd October 2026:
26/01209/FUL – Land north of Beaumont Otes Chignal Road Chelmsford
26/01210/FUL – Land north of Brittons Hall Farm, Mashbury Road, Chignal St James
26/01194/FUL – Centre of pond 183m from Wits End, Bishops Stortford Road, Roxwell
26/01225/FUL – Land south east of Lowley Farm, Goodmans Lane, Gt Leighs
26/01193/FUL – Land south of Windmill House, Chelmsford Road, Gt Waltham
26/01227/FUL – Land south west of Little Stonage Farm, Essex Regiment Way, Gt Waltham (sic)

The City Council planning system is notoriously slow for viewing documents so I have arranged some direct download links for the associated documents

26/01209/FUL - 26-01209-ful

26/01210/FUL - 26-01210-FUL

26/01194/FUL- 26-01194-FUL

26/01225/FUL - 26-01225-FUL

26/01193/FUL - 26-01193-FUL

26/01227/FUL -
https://chelmsfordcity.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/SustainableCommunities/DM/IgAa2od144VWS5_8N1SBKlR_Af6DSitgn0VctVhn8Aez0yY?e=VL630a

National Scheme of Delegation for Planning Applications: - applies to CCC and ECC
New national planning delegation regulations come into force on 31 October 2026. The Government's intention is that most planning applications should be determined by planning officers, with Planning Committees focusing only on the most significant proposals.

Planning Applications will be dealt with as 2 Categories

Schedule 1: Always Delegated to Officers
These applications cannot be referred to Planning Committee and must be decided by officers. Examples include: Householder applications (extensions, fences, etc.)

- Minor commercial developments
- Minor residential schemes (fewer than 9 dwellings or under 0.5ha)
- Permission in Principle applications
- Non-material amendments
- Certificates of Lawfulness
- Discharge of Conditions
- Prior Approval applications
- Most Reserved Matters applications (except very large schemes)

Schedule 2: Presumed Delegated, but May Go to Committee

- Listed Building Consents
- Applications linked to Listed Buildings
- Larger planning applications
- Retrospective applications
- Large Reserved Matters applications (500+ dwellings)
- Advertisement consents
- Tree Preservation Order (TPO) works
- Variations of conditions on Schedule 2 permissions

The decision on whether a Schedule 2 application can be considered by committee is made by a Gateway meeting which comprises the Planning Committee Chair, and the Chief Planning Officer
An application will only go to committee if it raises: Significant economic, social or environmental issues for the local area; or Significant planning matters having regard to the development plan and material considerations.
The biggest change is that a Cllr's request alone will no longer be enough to bring an applications before Planning Committee. For Schedule 2 applications, City/ECC Cllrs will need to demonstrate to the Gateway Members, that the application raises significant local issues or significant planning policy matters capable of passing the new Gateway test.

The likely effect is that fewer applications go to committee and Cllrs feel that they have less control over the decision process. In my opinion, where there is a strong link between policy, and Cllr views, (like at Chelmsford City Council), I cannot see that it will be a major issue. Where there is frequent disagreement, it may cause some contention. The 31st Oct date applies to the date of determination – so the Pylons temporary compounds will likely have to follow it. I have made enquiries as to whether I can call this to committee.

CCC report

Wheelers Farm Licence
2 applications: - LDN Wild Ltd - Wheelers Farm, Little Waltham, Chelmsford, CM3 3LZ – One is to increase the 5,000 people events to 2 per year– there are currently limitations on the number of 3,000 and 5,000 events. The second application is to have an event at 7,500.
I registered objections, specifically to the 7,5000 licence, and in particular about the Traffic Management (TM) arrangements. Consequently, the application went to committee on 2nd October and I spoke about my objections and concerns. Also speaking were LWPC, CGC, and local resident/
Prior to the meeting I did:

1. Contact Essex Highways and reviewed their comments on the TM requirements – they had no objections but did outline their requirements which would be implemented through SAG meetings.
2. Meet with LDN Wild (along with my fellow City Cllr Seena Shah) – 21st Sept 26

Highways listed the recent events at this location and assured me that they review the outcomes of every event and work with organisers and partner agencies to continually refine and improve traffic management arrangements. Highways state that the organisers have demonstrated a positive and proactive approach throughout this process, engaging constructively with Essex Highways and SAG partners and implementing enhancements where required. The organisers indicated that the proposed 7,500-capacity licence would not be utilised for a Boat Club-style event (I understand this to be the younger demography – and the type that caused most issues). They have also confirmed that engagement with the organisers will continue at an early-stage next year, bringing forward their traffic management proposals for review. This will allow \Highways to assess the arrangements against anticipated attendance levels and incorporate the lessons learned from this year's events. The meeting with LDN wild was constructive and helpful. They also stated that the 7,500 event would not be for a Boat Club style event. Also, that one licence is to make the 5,000-capacity permanent, and the 7,500 licence is temporary licence for a one-off “test” event to demonstrate that they are capable of managing such larger events. They also stated that they would ensure that Domsey lane was closed for each event going forward.

As my major concerns were around Traffic Management, I went into the Licence meeting with a reduced concerns of traffic and safety disruption. However, as I said at the meeting, the issue of noise for close by residents, seems impossible to mitigate, other than not having the events at all.

The meeting lasted 2 ½ hours! Mostly presentation by LDN Wild Ltd, and by solicitors for local resident. As per all licence meetings, the committee retires to a separate meeting *in-camera* and we only get to know the decision and reasoning when the minutes are released. My expectation was that the licence would be agreed but there may be a restriction on frequency. However, the decision by the licencing committee was to allow the licence requests in full.

FC26/103 Financials reports

Date: 08/10/2026	**Broomfield Parish Council**	**Page: 115**
Time: 09:24	**Cashbook 5**	**User: A.WOOD**
	Unity Trust Current Account	**For Month No: 6**

Receipts for Month 6 — **Nominal Ledger Analysis**

Receipt Ref	Name of Payer	£ Amnt Received	£ Debtors	£ VAT	A/c	Centre	£ Amount	Transaction Detail
	Balance Brought Fwd :	**5,242.09**					**5,242.09**	
Jones	Banked: **01/09/2026**	**75.00**						
Jones	Stuart Jones	75.00			1900	230	75.00	Payment of stihl brushcutter
INT	Banked: **01/09/2026**	**373.55**						
INT	Redwood Bank Ltd	373.55			1090	110	373.55	Interest
INT	Banked: **02/09/2026**	**392.38**						
INT	CCLA	392.38			1090	110	392.38	Interest
	Banked: **03/09/2026**	**20,000.00**						
TFR	CCLA Deposit Fund	20,000.00			220		20,000.00	TFR to C/A
BFC	Banked: **15/09/2026**	**750.00**						
BFC	Broomfield Football Club	750.00			1200	210	750.00	Hire of angel meadow
	Banked: **16/09/2026**	**20,000.00**						
TFR	CCLA Deposit Fund	20,000.00			220		20,000.00	TFR
	Banked: **16/09/2026**	**20,000.00**						
TFR	Unity Trust Savings Account	20,000.00			216		20,000.00	Tfr to Current Account
BVH	Banked: **18/09/2026**	**5,235.98**						
BVH	Broomfield Village Hall	5,235.98			4900	110	5,235.98	Refund BVH payroll M6
BCGS	Banked: **24/09/2026**	**27.67**						
BCGS	BCGS	27.67			1205	250	27.67	Barn energy
CCC	Banked: **25/09/2026**	**118,533.50**						
CCC	Chelmsford City Council	118,533.50			1076	110	118,533.50	Precept
Total Receipts for Month		185,388.08	0.00	0.00			185,388.08	
Cashbook Totals		190,630.17	0.00	0.00			190,630.17	

Payments for Month 6 | **Nominal Ledger Analysis**

Date	Payee Name	Reference	£ Total Amnt	£ Creditors	£ VAT	A/c	Centre	£ Amount	Transaction Detail
03/09/2026	Daisy	9/5	82.96		13.83	4140	110	69.13	Telecoms
04/09/2026	Euroffice	8/23	59.88		9.98	4100	110	49.90	Stationery
04/09/2026	Chignal Parish Council	9/4	701.12			4120	110	701.12	Cost of Pylon report works
04/09/2026	JCM Services	9/3	1,206.90		201.15	4250	210	1,005.75	Grounds maintenance 3/4
11/09/2026	O2	9/6	24.60		4.10	4085	110	20.50	Telecoms
11/09/2026	Essex Digital Copiers	9/10	52.40		8.73	4095	110	43.67	Photocopier contract
11/09/2026	NALC	8/19	42.00		7.00	4060	100	35.00	Climate Course
15/09/2026	VALDA Energy	9/13	33.25		1.58	4505	500	31.67	Barn electric
16/09/2026	Corporate Multipay	TFR	683.41			225		683.41	TFR
16/09/2026	NALC	9/17	42.00		7.00	4060	100	35.00	Climate course
16/09/2026	Cloudy Group Ltd	9/6	2,769.00		461.50	4140	110	2,307.50	IT Contract
16/09/2026	CCLA Deposit Fund	mispost	20,000.00			220		20,000.00	mispost
18/09/2026	MB Surfacing Ltd	9/7	14,500.00		2,416.67	4280	210	12,083.33	Angel Lane
						315	0	-12,083.33	Angel Lane
						6000	210	12,083.33	Angel Lane
18/09/2026	Trade UK	8/16	11.98		2.00	4400	240	9.98	screws
18/09/2026	Trade UK	8/14	26.88		4.45	4400	240	22.43	brush & ronseal
18/09/2026	J & M Payroll ADMIN	9/8	19,604.51			4000	100	10,563.19	M6 Payroll
						4020	100	1,291.28	M6 Payroll
						4030	100	2,514.06	M6 Payroll
						4900	110	5,235.98	M6 Payroll
18/09/2026	MB Surfacing Ltd	9/7	50.00		8.33	4280	210	41.67	resurfacing of Angel Lane
						315	0	-41.67	resurfacing of Angel Lane
						6000	210	41.67	resurfacing of Angel Lane
25/09/2026	Sue Lees Consultacy	9/19	700.00			4510	110	700.00	New website development
						330	0	-700.00	New website development
						6000	110	700.00	New website development
25/09/2026	Trade UK	9/1	19.36		3.23	4260	210	16.13	Tool box/smart straw
25/09/2026	Essex County Council	9/14	1,086.43			4280	210	1,086.43	VAS application
						315	0	-1,086.43	VAS application
						6000	210	1,086.43	VAS application
25/09/2026	Trade UK	8/28	11.89		1.98	4265	210	9.91	Tool box
29/09/2026	Soc of local clerks	9/9	70.20		11.70	4050	100	58.50	Planning Course - KH
29/09/2026	Jisc Services Ltd	9/12	90.00		15.00	4510	110	75.00	Domain name renewal
30/09/2026	Bank charge	CHGE	10.15			4075	110	10.15	Bank charge
	Total Payments for Month		61,878.92	0.00	3,178.23			58,700.69	
	Balance Carried Fwd		128,751.25						
	Cashbook Totals		190,630.17	0.00	3,178.23			187,451.94	