

# **LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **DRAFT PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES**

**Minutes of the Parish Assembly Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Haywain Public House on Thursday 22nd May 2025.**

**In Attendance:**            **Councillor I Smith (Chairman)**  
                                 **Councillor N Stock**  
                                 **Councillor T Monger**  
                                 **Councillor K Hodgkiss**  
                                 **Clerk – Dawn Sauka**

15 Members of the public attended – meeting started 19.00pm.

### **Welcome by the Chairman.**

Welcomed everyone to the meeting. Informed everyone that this was the first of 3 meetings, this meeting would be followed by the AGM and General Parish Council Meeting.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Barrett  
Cllr Guglielmi

#### **2. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council**

Cllr Smith stated that this was his first year as Chairman, during this time we were able to welcome back Councillor Neil Stock, as well as welcoming Councillor Kate Hodgkiss to the PC for the first time, both of whom are a very welcome addition to the team, giving us a great mix of 5 councillors.

A plaque was organised to commemorate Major Tony Downes MBE, which has been added to the post of the Village Sign, joining the 75th Anniversary of D Day plaque.

War Memorial - The Parish Council would like to thank the residents responsible for the upkeep of the memorial, and giving their precious time. Thanks to Gregory Frostick for leading the Remembrance Day Service every year.

A lovely card was received from a couple from Kirby Le Soken who contacted me to compliment the village on the lovely daffodils along the various verges. It was an unexpected and a lovely surprise to receive.

We joined the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) which has become a valuable resource for us, with some interesting topics covered by them alongside the mundane fly tipping issues and such.

Unfortunately, we had to increase the precept for this year. This is the first time in 7 years, and was less than 6%, in comparison to other parish councils, which wasn't a huge increase, but we felt it was necessary in the current climate of rising living costs.

A Conservation Fund was started, which was initially to secure donations from primarily Corbeau, the road rally people, who are currently no longer running events in this area. This is something which I feel will prove useful with the recent developments we find ourselves at the centre of.

That brings me on to the EACN and the various substations. I won't get bogged down with lots of details on something covered in every one of our meetings, but just want to say that the Parish Council has been hard at work behind the scenes dealing with each and every issue this throws up, attending various meetings, consultations, and importantly, ensuring that we respond to each and every consultation, and correspondence from the bodies involved.

On a more positive note, we got our Community Library up and running in the shape of a classic red telephone box. Many thanks to Councillor Barrett for her hard work in organising the phone box, Stephen Sauka for securing it in situ, and to the many residents who have donated books, and the odd DVD, and who continue to stock it. I keep an eye out on my travels around East Anglia and must say we seem to have one of the best stocked phone boxes in the area with a great variety of genres! I can say it is not only used by the residents of Little Bromley, I've spoken to people who don't live here who have seen it and stopped to swap books too.

#### **Ongoing projects for next year –**

- Bus stop next to Wisteria Cottage, Signs and Shelters for both sides of road
- EACN and substations
- Memorial garden at St Mary's
- HGV's through Village

The Parish Council's Agenda, Minutes and various reports can all be found online via the village website - [littlebromley.org.uk](http://littlebromley.org.uk), And we can be contacted directly via [littlebromleypc@gmail.com](mailto:littlebromleypc@gmail.com) and via the Little Bromley Community Facebook page.

### **3. Report by a member of the Friends of Little Bromley Church**

**Bell's Project** – The project will return the bells and bell frame to full working order. This will mean that the bells can be rung for various community events and occasions, and for encouraging people to learn the art of bellringing. This project has now been running for two years, and the Friends have now agreed with the Churches Conservation Trust to go ahead with the project.

The Friends will be paying for the bells and bell frame repair, and the CCT is paying for repairs to the belfry windows.

The project is costing more than the original estimate, due to more extensive repairs needed to the wooden bell frame.

The costed amount is £65,500, and as at May 2025, 80% of the total cost has been already raised. This leaves a further £13,000 still to be raised through grants /donations and fund-raising events over the next few months. The Friends would be very grateful for any contacts with people, companies and charities who would be able to help with the funding.

Works will be carried out by J Taylor of Loughborough, starting in late summer 2025 and hopefully completed by the end of 2025.

There is a photographic display of the bells within St Mary's Church.

The Friends are also welcoming new committee members to help organise events, and volunteers to help with refreshments, flower arrangements. Also the Parochial Church Council are looking for volunteers to help with churchyard maintenance jobs. There is no charge to be a Friend – All you need to do is sign up to our Friends email list, so you can hear about events and news.

Event on the 25<sup>th</sup> May – Everyone is welcome. There will be Tea / Cake and music from "Colombines" with a short AGM at 3.30pm.

AGM – will report on Friends activities, the bells project and elect the committee for the year.

Please contact Carol Cordwell for more information

#### **4. Report by P.O.W.E.R**

Representative stated North Falls & Five Estuaries are at the planning inspectorate stage, and throughout the year they and residents have placed campaign signage along the main road through Little Bromley, which have now been updated and replaced. In April we had positive press coverage in the Harwich & Manningtree Standard. POWER will be keeping them informed of any further developments. Have engaged with other local councillors in the wider Tendring community. More recently POWER have had a stand at the VE80 celebrations held in Great Bromley with the new campaign banners made with funds received from the trustees of the LB Amenities Group (our thanks to them). These were also put up in readiness for the 10K which happened yearly through the village, making people aware of the new substations and the converter station. POWER attended last years Tendring Hundred Show, to make people more aware for the ongoing situation concerning Little Bromley and the surrounding parishes. Hope again to attend this year's show along with other campaign groups. The signs around the village are looking a little tired, so hope to refresh these with creative new eye-catching designs. POWER is looking for imaginative ideas that will capture the public eye. Stated that if people sent their email address to village database, this would enable them to be kept up to date with any important information, developments and deadlines responding to various consultations. Updates are also posted on the POWER Facebook page and website which is [www.savelittlebromley.co.uk](http://www.savelittlebromley.co.uk), currently looking for someone to manage the website.

Thank you to everyone that has supported the POWER group, and stated that they are always open and welcome new ideas.

#### **5. Public Participation**

None

#### **6. Date of next Meeting – 21st May 2026**

**Meeting closed at 19.15**

**Moved onto AGM**

