

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at The Haywain Public House, on Thursday 21st November 2024 @ 7.30pm

In Attendance:

Councillor I Smith (Chairman)
Councillor C Barrett
Councillor T Monger
Councillor N Stock
Clerk – D Sauka

Meeting commenced @ 19.30pm

7 members of the public attended.

85/1. Apologies to be received and accepted

Cllr C Guglielmi
Cllr Z Fairley
Mr G Knott – Footpath Warden

85/2. Members Interests

- To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, other Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interests
None

85/3. Reports

- a) County Councillor – Submitted December 2024 & January 2025 reports, to be published on website and entered into records
- b) District Councillor – sent a report covering the agenda item 85/15 (see below)

c) Parish Councilor's – Cllr Smith reported sad news that Ann Clark passed away peacefully in her sleep on December 17th. Ann had been unwell for a few weeks with the cough and cold, but due to a weak heart and lungs it got the better of her.

Ann and Steve moved to the Village in 1984 (40 Years). Ann loved living in the village and became involved with the Amenities Group helping organise events at the Haywain. For many years she helped organise the village litter pick and the village Christmas Dinner. We were told that she wanted to end her days living in the village, not expecting this to be so soon but we are glad she got her wish. She will be dearly missed.
Funeral to be held on 24th January 2025 at 10:15am at Weeley Crematorium.

Cllr Smith attended a meeting online with TDALC – 22 participants attended.
Northfalls consultation opens on the 28th January 2025. Devolution explained, Reports of littering and flooding issues across Essex, stated that village hall parking & village bins were being used inappropriately.

Cllr Smith & Cllr Barrett attended a webinar regarding proposals for devolution, hosted by Tom Blake (Director of Unlock Democracy) and John Denham (Member of Labour Party). With 100 attendees. There will be 3 varying levels of authority. Smaller district councils will be abolished in favour of larger authorities. 15 district borough councils will merge into 4 unterritorial authorities (500,000 per authority).

Available for viewing online through YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaMlIVZ2Fws>

Cllr Stock stated that Tendring will merge with Colchester & Braintree with a loss of 1000 local councillors and 33,000 nationally. Elections have been suspended for May 2025, and elections will be held for Mayors in 2026, who will have powers over authorities – yet to be defined. Parish Councils may also be forced to merge with other Parish Councils.

- d) Footpath Warden – Nothing untoward to report
- e) Police Report – Did not attend

85/4. To agree:

- Minutes of the PC meeting held on the 21st November 2024
Cllr Smith Proposed minutes to be correct, 2nd Cllr Barrett- Unanimously agreed
Signed by Cllr Smith

85/5. LBPC Council member

Casual Vacancy - Remains open

85/6. 2025/2026 Precept

Cllr Smith proposed that we increase our precept by £100, taking the yearly amount to £1,800 from £1,700 - accounting for increase in cost of living. 1st increase for 7 years. 2nd Cllr Monger. Unanimously agreed.

85/7. LBPC Communications

- **Auto response** – Clerk to organise.

85/8. St Mary's Church

- **Churchyard Planting (LBPC Conservation fund)**
- **Memorial Garden**
- **£137 Grant monies – Grass Cutting**

Cllr Stock stated that after the previous meeting he wrote to the treasurer of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to explain our position regarding monies for the grass cutting, and the usage of St Mary's Church. This correspondence prompted a meeting with Mr Gregory Frostick, who is Chairman for the PCC, and The Friends of St. Mary's Church and church warden. Cllr Stock explained that the Church comes under the jurisdiction of the Churches conservation Trust, responsible for closed churches, and the church yard comes under the PCC, therefore two separate entities. The church can be used for Christian worship up to 6 times a year. The Conservation trust delegates the responsibility to the Friends for the usage and what events are held at the church. The PCC are also responsible for Great Bromley Church (an active church) which donates monies towards the grass cutting at St. Mary's. Mr Frostick stated that the friends work closely with the trust who want the friends to be responsible for the cleaning and look after the welfare of the church. They encourage events to be held at the church, which brings in funds for support. Stated that since covid there have been limited activities, and also members of the friends have dwindled. There is a couple events planned for the summer but stated that the church is available to hire for community interests and entertainment events. The hirer would need to contact the Trust to organise and discuss costs. The Friends are also open to discuss events where donations would be expected to help cover costs. i.e electricity, repairs, cleaning etc. Mr Frostick also stated that he would welcome new Friends members and volunteers. Also, currently St. Mary's is fund raising for £60,000 towards the restoration of the 1420 Medieval church bells. The Essex Bell Ringers have applied for a grant, and hopeful that this will be awarded. It would be lovely to hear the bells ringing again in the village.

Mr Frostick also commented on the Memorial Garden. PCC have voted that they requested from the diocese authority to proceed. Area has already been identified where ashes can be interred, with an appropriate small stone of remembrance placed above. He is hopeful that this will be resolved and up and running by late spring. Cllr Smith thanked Mr Frostick for coming and explaining the situation. Cllr Stock stated that it was evident that more Friends were needed to help organise more events and upkeep of the church.

85/9. Invoices to be paid

None

85/10. Planning

- None

85/11. Lorries (Over 7.5 Tonn Lorries)

No Update

85/12. Bus Stop / Shelters – Love your Bus Grant Fund

- Cllr Barrett confirmed that she has applied for the grant but there is a stipulation that it is no replacement of shelters. (we have NO bus shelter) Cllr Guglielmi responded to clerk correspondence, stating that he will give his support. Clerk stated that the parish currently has £12.57 in 106 monies.

85/13. Major Downes MBE

- **Plaque 1930 – 2023**

Clerk stated that she had made enquiries regarding materials & costs.

Cllr Stock proposed that the council spend up to £100 on plaque. 2nd Cllr Smith.

Unanimously agreed. Clerk to organise.

85/14. War Memorial

Promised response by end of November. Cllr Barrett made contact with Historical Britain to be told that this was not a priority/urgent matter. Member of the public suggested to apply for a local listing.

85/15. P.O.W.E.R – People Opposing Widespread Electrical Ruin Campaign Group

- Great Grid Upgrade - Pylons and Proposed Substation
- Five Estuaries Windfarm - Underground Cables and Proposed Substation
- North Falls Windfarm - Underground Cables and Proposed Substation

Cllr Fairley sent report - Not much to report since last time

Five Estuaries - Third preliminary hearing sessions have been happening week commencing 21st January.

North Falls - First preliminary hearing commences 28th January.

National Grid N2T are meant to be carrying out localised consultation in Little Bromley/Ardleigh wards in connection with changes to their application. The main one of which seems to be their permanent access road in Little Bromley where the route across agricultural land is being amended. This local only consultation is supposedly meant to run from 21st January for 28 days. Then, they will be looking to submit their DCO mid 2025 (see link). Has anyone received a letter about this? It was noted that nobody had received any notification of this. This is our opportunity to strongly put any changes forward.

- **Tarchon-** Have approached landowners, local District Councillors and Parish Councils. They have also now had meetings with TDC/ECC. They have not shared any planned landing point, route, or Interconnector site with TDC/ECC at this stage. It was reported from Councillor Monger that one of the proposed sites is at the end of Chequers Road but it should be noted this is only hearsay as this present time.

Please see all links below to all Project Information pages where you can register to partake in any of the hearings.

[Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm - Project information](#)

[Norwich to Tilbury - Project information](#)

[North Falls Offshore Wind Farm - Project information](#)

- **POWER - Village Signs**
Signs tidied up, some removed and resituated.

85/16. Correspondence

- **Covidn- 19 Day of Reflection 2025 – 9th March 2025**
After discussion it was decided that the village would not be taking part.
Mr Frostick reminded the Council that the church could host this sort of event if there was any interest, as it is there as a community asset.

85/17. Urgent items

85/18. Public Participation

Member of the public suggested that we reinstate the litter pick as there has been a lot of littering recently. Cllr Smith stated that this was originally organized by the amenities group not through the Parish Council. There has already been unofficial litter picks by the villagers and if they wanted to arrange another one to go ahead. Cllr Smith stated he would be willing to contact TDC to get gathered rubbish collected.

Cllr Barrett stated that she ordered 315 saplings from the woodland trust. 105 medium white, 105 wild wood & 105 medium year-round color. Cllr Smith stated if any interest to contact Parish Council / Cllr Barrett.

Member of the public asked about the noticeboard which keeps coming open in the high winds. Clerk stated that she was in the process of having another lock put on, and also looking at renovating / staining cabinet.

85/19. Next meeting date

Thursday 20th March 2025

Meeting closed @ 20.45

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

Name:.....

Position:.....