

Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 7 April 2025 at Bradwell Village Hall, Church Road, Bradwell

Present:

Cllr. Glenn Lockey (Vice Chair)
Cllr. Adam Deighton
Cllr. Craig Evans
Cllr. Antony Harding
Cllr. Lesley Kinder
Cllr. Michael Turner

In attendance:

Mrs. Nicki Watkins, Clerk & RFO
Cllr. Playle, County Councillor for Witham Northern
Four members of the public were in attendance

25-6/001 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed those present. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Dunn. Cllr. Lockey had spoken with Cllr. Dunn, and was pleased to report that he was in very good spirits. The Parish Council sent its best wishes to Cllr. Dunn and wished him a speedy recovery.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Walsh and Abram.

25-6/002 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members of the Council are subject to the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 (The Revised Code), adopted at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 13 May 2024. Appendix B requires Councillors to register and disclose pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. There were no declarations of interest.

25-6/003 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST

Four members of the public were in attendance.

A member of the public wanted to raise concerns regarding the safety of the haul road following a very serious incident which occurred on Friday 21st March.

The incident occurred when a contractor (who was not a direct employee of IWMF) failed to stop at both crossings when leaving the IWMF site. At the quarry exit end, the local resident had to brake hard to avoid the contractor's car. Unfortunately, at the second crossing on Church Lane, the contractor's vehicle again failed to stop, and the two were in a heavy collision. Whilst insurance details were exchanged, it later transpired that the contractor's vehicle was neither taxed nor insured.

Police did not attend the incident but have since stated that they cannot help as the contractor lives outside of their jurisdiction. The management of the IWMF seem unable to satisfactorily assist the Bradwell resident as the contractor does not work directly for them.

The member of the public wanted to make the Parish Council aware of the incident, and was seeking advice on how her concerns could be raised.

The Chair asked if anyone had been injured in the incident and was pleased to be told that serious injury had been avoided on this occasion. The Chair, and all other councillors, expressed their concern, not only that the incident had happened, but the unhelpful response from other parties.

Another member of the public cited a further incident where he had been threatened by an aggressive lorry driver using the haul road, who again, had failed to stop when using a crossing. The driver had used abusive language and acted aggressively while telling the local resident not to photograph his vehicle, nor report the incident.

The Chair requested to bring forward item 25-6/014 and noted that Cllr. Turner also wanted to speak about the haul road.

25-6/014

THE HAUL ROAD

**This item
was
brought
forward**

Cllr. Turner had previously raised concerns about the safety of the haul road which, in his opinion, was not fit for purpose. He had raised these with both the IWMF and BDC's Principal Planning Officer and considered it was only a matter of time before a fatal accident occurred. Whilst the IWMF had undertaken a traffic monitoring exercise, recording 54 vehicles in one day failing to stop, he felt his efforts had been ignored.

After some discussion, it was agreed the Clerk would write to a number of related parties to express the Parish Council's concern and seeking reassurances that steps would be taken to improve safety. This would include the IWMF, BDC Planning Officer, Essex Police and Essex Highways, and the Clerk should also liaise with Cllr. Playle to canvass his support in the matter. She would also invite IWMF to a future Parish Council meeting to answer questions and address concerns.

ACTION - CLERK

25-6/004

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Playle reported on the following:

- **Devolution** - Essex County Council, Southend City Council and Thurrock Council, along with all the district, borough, city councils in Essex and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, had submitted and published the interim report as required under the Government's Devolution Priority Programme. This was available for all to read, with the final report being required by September 2025.
- **Gully Cleaning and Links Road** - he had submitted a request to Essex Highways to consider clearing out the gullies whilst Links Road was closed for the Anglian Water project. To date, he awaited a response.
- **Bus Shelter** – he had also submitted a request for a new bus shelter to be installed along the A120 opposite Wadud's restaurant. It had been confirmed that BDC owned the bus shelter by the BP garage, and which would eventually be replaced as part of the on-going scheme.

Cllrs. Playle left the meeting at 8.05pm

25-6/005

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2025

Councillors received and considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 March 2025 and resolved to approve them as a true record.

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

Proposed: Cllr. Lockey; Seconded: Cllr. Kinder; All in favour, RESOLVED.

25-6/006 FINANCIAL REPORTS

- i. Councillors received and approved the financial statements to 31 March 2025.

Proposed: Cllr. Lockey; Seconded Cllr. Kinder; All in favour, RESOLVED.

Cllr. Deighton sought clarification on the Budget spreadsheet which referred to S.106 Funds available. The Clerk confirmed that the funds were secured from the Hanwick Farm development and that there were conditions to this. She would provide the details of the terms of the funds following the meeting and would remove the amount from the income section on the finance spreadsheet but note that funds would be available in due course.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Clerk had confirmed the advice from BDC was that “funds would be payable prior to the occupation of ‘more than four’ dwellings, so they could occupy 4 dwellings, but must pay before occupying 5 dwellings”.

- ii. Councillors approved payments for February 2025. The Clerk advised that there had been a further invoice since the spreadsheets had been produced from the EALC for £202.16. This was for the 2025/26 affiliation fees to both the EALC and NALC. There were no queries.

Proposed: Cllr. Lockey; Seconded Cllr. Deighton; All in favour, RESOLVED.

25-6/007 GRANTS & FUNDING

The Clerk reported that both County Councillor Grant applications (£400 each) to contribute towards the purchase of two salt bins (one for the recycling area, one for Hollies Road) and a bench for the wildflower area, had been approved. She would now place the order for these items, which Cllr. Deighton had kindly agreed to store until they were installed in their respective areas.

At the February meeting (Minute Ref. 24-5/246) and following the unexpectedly high quotes for a path at the playing field, Cllr. Playle had agreed to the Locality Fund request for the Parish Council to replace the broken bench along Church Road. Cllr. Playle had subsequently advised that there was no licence for the original bench, and the application meant the deadline for the approving the Fund could not be met. However, Cllr. Playle kindly agreed to approve and allocate some funds from the 25/26 budget to contribute towards both the cost of the new bench and of putting in a path from the highways to the bench (a further requirement).

The Clerk had sent Cllr. Playle the updated map showing the exact location of the bench. Cllr. Playle confirmed he had received this and requested this now be sent to Essex Highways to process the licence.

ACTION – CLERK

25-6/008 UNMETERED ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The Clerk reported that a number of invoices had been received from SSE relating to backdated unmetered charges from 2023. She had contacted SSE requesting further clarification be provided with regards to the charges, as she was concerned these were not correct.

The Clerk suggested that, once clarification had been provided in relation to the charges, the Parish Council consider paying the invoices by direct debit. Councillors unanimously agreed.

25-6/009 PLANNING MATTERS

25/00565/FUL, Church Farm House, Compasses Road, Pattiswick Bradwell, Essex CM77 8BG - Proposed Agricultural Barn

Councillors raised concerns regarding the scale of the proposed building and sought reassurance that the building would only be used for agricultural purposes. The Clerk would contact BDC Planning to request an extension for comments until the next meeting to enable Councillors further time to consider the proposals and would also contact Rosie Wood, a resident in Pattiswick, to assess feedback of Pattiswick residents.

ACTION - Clerk**25-6/010 PLAYINGFIELD**

Cllr. Kinder had nothing to report.

The Clerk advised that the annual RoSPA inspection would take place in May. The cost of this would be £80.00 plus VAT, with an additional fee of £4.00 per item over five. Last year the Parish Council was charged £20.00 for 5 additional items.

25-6/011 FOOTPATHS

There was nothing to report from the Footpaths' Officer.

25-6/012 VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Cllr. Harding reported the following:

- **A120 litter pick** - National Highways had undertaken a litter pick along the A120, paying particular attention to the residential part of the Bradwell stretch. They had collected six bags of rubbish and had also found some traffic management equipment. The Parish Council wished to publicly express thanks to Nigel Allsopp and his team for their hard work in noticeably improving the area, which everyone agreed looked much tidier;
- **Potholes** - Confirmation that the work at Hollies Road had now been undertaken. Cllr. Harding had previously reported the potholes at the recycling area to Bradwell Estates who owned this land. However, Ceres Property Management (who managed the estate) had confirmed that, whilst Bradwell Estates owns the majority of the land, the particular area where potholes where, is owned by Essex Highways. Cllr. Harding had therefore reported these to Essex Highways.
- **Bus shelters** – Confirmation that Cllr. Playle had applied for a new bus shelter for the bus stop opposite Wadud's and three new bins; one for this shelter, the other two for the bus shelter by the BP garage and the one next to Wadud's (heading towards Mark's Farm). He had also explored replacing this last bus shelter with a newer, eco-friendly one and had been quoted in the region of £9,000. Given the Parish Council owned and would be required to fund this, he suggested it be earmarked as a future/longer-term project.
- **Gully cleaning at Links Road** - Confirmation that Cllr. Playle had made a request for this to be cleaned given the road was closed.

Cllr. Lockey asked whether BDC had raised the **CCTV** camera at the recycling area. The Clerk had not been made aware of this and would contact the Street Scene Team for an update.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the **Spring Litter Pick** was scheduled to take place on Saturday 12 April commencing at 9am. The Parish Council would also be funding the amenity vehicle to be in attendance for two hours from 10am. It was agreed that Councillors would consider future litter picks and whether to continue funding the amenity vehicle for the parish, at the next Parish Council meeting.

ACTION – CLERK**25-6/013 LINKS SOLAR FARM**

The Clerk had continued in her attempt to obtain a response from Low Carbon on three outstanding points and had invited Ms Rodbard-Hedderwick to attend either the April Parish Council or the Annual Parish Assembly meeting in May, to provide an update on the solar farm and answer any questions the Parish Council or public might have.

She had also sent photographs of Links Road, provided by Cllr. Evans, where there appeared to be some damage to the road and verges, which residents believed to have been caused by vehicles accessing the solar farm. The Clerk had asked for confirmation of when remedial work would be undertaken as per the reassurances given when Ms Rodbard-Hedderwick attended the Parish Council meeting in October 2023.

To date the Clerk had not received a response. She would make a final attempt to obtain some answers but suggested that legal advice may be required, given the continued failure to engage with the Parish Council.

25-6/014

PARISH MAGAZINE

The Editor of the Parish Magazine had requested approval from the Parish Council that minutes be abbreviated for the magazine with reference to the full version being available on the website. The Clerk said there would be some impact to her work with reproducing these, but it was manageable. Councillors unanimously agreed to approve this on the proviso that it was clear full minutes were publicly available.

Proposed: Cllr. Turner; Seconded Cllr. Lockey; All in favour, RESOLVED.

25-6/016

VILLAGE SIGNS

Cllr. Turner had previously reported that the village sign in Bradwell was damaged and required repair. The Clerk had contacted a local contractor who had undertaken repair work to other Essex Parish Council signs and had requested a quote but was still awaiting this.

It was agreed to carry this item over to the next Parish Council meeting and consider the received quotes.

25-6/017

INFORMATION EXCHANGE & AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**Future agenda items:**

- Village signs – quotes to undertake a repair
- Review of Spring Litter Pick & future hiring of the amenity vehicle
- Planning Application – detailed consideration of planning application,
- PSPO – Consider how the Parish Council/residents should record incidents/evidence to provide to BDC
- Taking forward the Neighbourhood Watch Committee (if/when volunteers received)
- Follow up of incident and Haul Road and its ongoing suitability

Cllr. Lockey advised Councillors that, following her resignation, the Clerk would be leaving at the end of April. On behalf of the Parish Council, he thanked her for her work and confirmed that the new Clerk would commence on 28 April.

25-6/018

TO EXCLUDE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1950 'That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 24/198, 24h99, 24/200, 24,201,, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business subject to the public bodies admission to meetings Act 1960 Section L Sub-section'.

25-6/019

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on Monday 12 May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Bradwell. This would follow the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which would start at 7pm.

Items for inclusion in the agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk no later than **12 noon Friday 2 May 2025.**

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm