



Little Braxted Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Braxted Parish Council held at the Braxted Bakery on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Barke, French and Yeates
Also present: Ten members of the public

1. Election of Chairman

Councilor James Barke was elected as Chairman.

2. The Chairman to Sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Barke signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Clerk.

3. To Agree to Award the Freedom of the Parish to the Out-Going Chairman

The Chairman gave thanks to Kit Speakman who had stepped down from the Council after twenty years. The Council agreed to award the Freedom of the Parish to Mr Speakman and the Chairman presented the certificate.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from District Councillor Morgan.

5. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Yeates declared an interest in item 8 as a Director of a minerals company operating in Essex. No other Councillors declared any interest in matters on the agenda.

6. To Consider any requests from Members for Dispensations

The Clerk reminded the Council that Councillor Yeates had previously been granted the right to remain and speak on matters on the agenda relating to the Minerals Plan.

7. To Agree and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 20th February 2024

The Council agreed and approved the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2024 as a true record.

8. To Note the Council's Responses to the Draft Mineral Plan Consultation

The Council noted the Council's responses to the Draft Mineral Plan Consultation which had been submitted by the Clerk on their behalf. The Clerk advised that despite widespread circulation of the draft there had only been three responses and none had been able to add substantive evidence to either support or oppose the five sites. The Council agreed to pledge £200 towards the cost of production

of an expert's analysis of the proposals, subject to receipt of that report and an invoice.

9. To Invite Members of the Public to speak on Matters Regarding and Affecting the Parish

A member of the public from Great Braxted enquired about the possibility of extending this Council's litterpicking regime to include Lea Lane, and was advised to ask Great Braxted Parish Council to consider the matter.

A member of the public enquired about the future of the Remembrance Day Service as Reverend Hilary was retiring and the Clerk advised that until Wickham Bishops Parish Council had agreed to fund their fair share of the costs no decision could be made.

10. To Receive a Financial Report as of 28th February 2024

The Council received and approved a financial statement as of 28th February 2024 including detailed income and expenditure, budget comparisons and a bank reconciliation supported by a bank statement, showing total funds as £6,966.66. The Council noted that this sum now included the grant funding from the Essex Community Foundation (£3,675.00) for a further three years litterpicking.

11. To Consider and Agree a Policy and Procedure for Co-Opting Councillors

The Council considered and agreed to adopt the policy and procedure for co-opting Councillors. The Clerk advised that currently there were four persons interested for co-option to the two places.

12. To Note and Agree Actions in Respect of the Remembrance Day Service

The Clerk advised that, further to the briefing note attached to the agenda, a substantially cheaper road closure quotation had been received and on the basis that for 2024 the costs be split between the three Parishes an approach had been made to Wickham Bishops Parish Council for them to commit to an equal (1/3rd) contribution of £120. They were due to consider this matter at their May meeting. The Council agreed this way forward for the 2024 Service.

13. To Note and Agree Payments Made Between Meetings

The Council noted and agreed the following payments made between meetings

Document Reference	Payable To	In Respect of	£
849	Microsoft	365Basic Subscription	£19.99

14. To Approve the Following Payments

The Council approved following payments

Document Reference	Payable To	In Respect of	£
850	Maldon District Council	Uncontested Election Expenses	£98.75
851	The Braxted Bakery	Room Hire for Meetings	£175.00

852	G N Mussett	Clerk's Salary	£161.21
853	H Bendall	Litterpicking	£83.61
854	HMRC	TAX/NI	£175.00

15. Clerk's Report for Information

a. A12 Update

The Clerk reported that an application for a Judicial Review had been made but there was no further information available as to by whom and on what basis, but the result was that the start of works was likely to be delayed by some time.

b. Quarry Liaison Committee

The Clerk reported that he had attended the recent Quarry Liaison Committee meeting, conducted by Essex County Council and attended by himself, a representative from Rivenhall Parish Council and the site manager. The site manager had advised that this was a very busy time, with two major contracts for sand (both in the London area) and the need to import inert materials for backfilling for the A12 project. The subject of the mud on the road had been raised and it was acknowledged that February had been the wettest on record which had exacerbated the problem. The wheelwash had been upgraded and a variety of sweeping measures tried. The site manager reported that they had been in contact with the Highways Agency regarding cleaning the A12 sliproads (and cycle path) but as these would require full road closures implementation was likely to take time. The increased export of sand meant the height of the spoil heap would be reduced. Consolidation for the A12 route had been stopped because of the poor weather so imported material was being stored in one of the voids. Rivenhall Parish Council reported issues with windblown dust in the summer months.

c. Braxted Pavilion

The Clerk reported that the rebuild and refurbishment of the Braxted Pavilion was nearly complete.

16. Closure

The meeting was closed at 7.52pm.