



Little Braxted Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Braxted Parish Council held at the Braxted Bakery on Tuesday 23rd July 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Barke, French, Howard and Jepson

Also Present: District Councillor Morgan and five members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Yeates.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Members declared any interests in matters on the agenda.

3. To Consider any requests from Members for Dispensations

There were no requests from Members with pecuniary interests for dispensations to enable them to participate on the item in which they have a pecuniary interest.

4. To Agree and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 4th June 2024

The Council agreed and approved the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2024 as a true record.

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

Members of the public spoke against the planning application for a five bedroomed house on land at the rear of the Green Man Inn, drawing the Council's attention to the use of green land, the long and narrow access road and the unsuitability of the design which they did not consider in keeping with the area.

Other members of the public spoke against the planning application for a replacement dwelling at Pasture Cottage, Heath Lane, drawing the Council's attention to the inappropriate design which failed to recognise the importance of the adjacent listed properties and the rural nature of the Lane.

6. To Comment on the following Planning Applications:-

a) Constuction of a detached five bedroomed house on Land Rear Of The Green Man Inn Green Man Lane Little Braxted

The Council agreed to object to this application. The Clerk was asked to draft an appropriate response and circulate it to Members and interested residents before its final submission to the District Council

b) Part two, part single storey replacement dwelling and the two accesses to be closed and replaced with one access.at Pasture Cottage Heath Lane Little Braxted Witham

The Council agreed to object to this application. The Clerk was asked to draft an appropriate response and circulate it to Members and interested residents before its final submission to the District Council

7. To Adopt a Bio-Diversity Policy

The Council agreed to adopt a bio-diversity policy, which is attached to these minutes.

8. To receive a financial statement as of 30th June 2024

The Council received and approved a financial statement as of 30th June 2024 including detailed income and expenditure, budget comparisons and a bank reconciliation supported by a bank statement, showing total funds as £11,340.33.

9. To Approve the Following Payments

The Council approved following payments

Document Reference	Payable To	In Respect of	£	Legal Powers
863	Cancelled			
864	H Bendall	Litterpicking	£67.53	LGA 1972, s.144
865	G N Mussett	Clerk's Salary	£161.21	LGA 1972 s112(1) & s112(2)
866	HMRC	Tax/NI	£175.00	LGA 1972 s112(1) & s112(2)
867	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	Internal Audit	£267.60	Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 reg 5
868	G N Mussett	Clerk's Salary	£161.21	LGA 1972 s112(1) & s112(2)
869	H Bendall	Litterpicking	£67.53	LGA 1972, s.144

10. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that Witham Road would be closed for one day on 30th June.

11. Closure

The meeting was closed at 7.47pm.

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

PREAMBLE

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Little Braxted Parish Council will, in exercising all its functions have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

This duty also means that town and parish councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

DEFINITION

According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet.

Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. It is the building block of our 'ecosystems'. These provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of Little Braxted.

In particular, Little Braxted Parish Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- support local businesses & council operations in the adoption of low impact practices.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

ACTIONS

Planning applications

- The council, when commenting on planning applications, will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats.
- It will support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.
- It will consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain.
- It will include policies in support of biodiversity within the neighbourhood plan.

Land and property management

- The council will carry out a biodiversity audit of its landholdings.
- The council will consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regard to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.
- Special care will be taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- The council will consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings.

Local community

- The council will raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.
- The council will engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- It will, where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

Partners

- Little Braxted Parish Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish.
- It will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of local sites of special

scientific interest (SSSIs) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.

This policy will be reviewed each year at the Annual Meeting, together with a summary of how the policy has been implemented in the previous twelve months.

ACTION PLAN

SITE / OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (Years)	REPORTING / PUBLICITY
Whole council area	Raise local awareness of biodiversity.	Gain local support for action.	Ongoing	Newsletter
Protect and support biodiversity	Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity.	Connect & diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing	
Village Green/War Memorial	Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs. Work with the county council on verge management	Sustain & enhance natural habitats. Protecting habitats Protecting/enhancing habitats		
The Built Landscape	Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan Encourage hedgehog/small animal highways with permeable boundaries	Protecting/enhancing habitats Extending habitats.	Ongoing	