



## Little Braxted Parish Council

---

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Braxted held at the Braxted Bakery, Witham Road on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor James Barke, Chair of Parish Council and seven members of the public.

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

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **2. To Agree and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The meeting agreed and approved the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 as a true record.

#### **3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave a report on the past year in the Parish:-

“I welcome you all to this, my first Parish Meeting as Chairman of the Parish Council. I must start by thanking former Chairman Kit Speakman for his twenty years service on the Council, and hope that we may continue to benefit from his knowledge. Later this evening, at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, we hope to welcome new blood to the Council.

The Parish Council continues to monitor planning applications, of which there have been few this past year. Essex County Council have at last acknowledged the issues with HGV's attempting to use Witham Road to access the A12, and we hope to see positive measures to restrict HGV access. Whilst we have been assured that our direct access to the A12 at the Witham North junction will remain the question as to if, and when, the A12 widening will occur remains uncertain.

Matters imposed upon us by higher authorities, particularly the review of the Essex Minerals Plan and (imminent) the review of the Maldon District Local Plan, mean that, whilst we will be consulted, we may find issues we object to still proceeding, so it is important that our responses include references to what could be a beneficial “gain” for the Parish – whether in reducing traffic, lorry management schemes, or some other community benefit.

We remain grateful to the Essex Community Foundation grant funding to enable us to continue to employ a part-time litter picker. In just a few hours each week, Heather makes a real difference to the volume of litter in the verges and hedgerows, and we hope this will continue. The Council last year increased the area being litterpicked to include Little Braxted Lane, Rivenhall

from the A12 to the river, and we know from comments made by Great Braxted residents that they envy Heather's efforts in our Parish.

The Little Braxted Community & Education Trust, via Essex Community Foundation funded a second defibrillator which is sited at the Braxted Bakery, and also funded two speed activated signs warning drivers to slow down through the village. There has already been a noticeable reduction in vehicle speeds in daytime through the Kelvedon Road and we use the data from the signs to target when the regular speed checks undertaken on our behalf by Maldon District Council take place. Before the introduction of the signs these speed checks resulted in a number of drivers having to attend a speed awareness course, but since their introduction few vehicles have been caught in the speed checks.

As a Parish Council we rely on many residents who put so much of themselves into helping us. I would particularly like to thank John Aldis for maintaining the War Memorial and the grounds of St Nicholas' Church, and Sarah Howard for use of the Bakery for our meetings. Thank you also to those involved in the Remembrance Sunday service at the Cenotaph which was extremely well supported. It was great to see so many young people involved in the scouting community in attendance too. For 2024 it remains to see whether we have a Minister leading the service, but arrangements are being made for the road closures.

Finally, I am deeply indebted to my fellow Councillors for the time they willingly give and also thank Gordon, our Parish Clerk, who goes above and beyond to help us drive the Parish forward. His knowledge, enthusiasm and attention to detail are invaluable."

#### **4. Public Forum**

No members of the public had any matters to raise.

#### **5. Closure**

The meeting closed at 7.05p.m.