



Little Braxted Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Braxted held in The Braxted Bakery,
Witham Lane, Little Braxted on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 at 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Kit Speakman, Parish Council Chairman (in the Chair) and three members of the public.

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Parish Councillor Bendall and District Councillor Bass.

2. To Agree and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 23rd May 2017

The meeting agreed and approved the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2017 as a true record.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a report on the past year of the Parish Council, as follows:-

“Once again it is my pleasure to recap the events of the past year.

From a Parish Council point of view it has again been a very exciting year, and one in which we have attracted significant amounts of external funding to try and deliver positive projects for the village, and started some new projects.

We have campaigned and fought hard to get Essex County Council address the highways issues raised in the Parish Plan. You may have noticed the “spotters” counting vehicles and pedestrians passing the Green Man recently; part of our campaign to make Lea Lane safer for pedestrians. We have seen additional signage at Colemans Bridge to prevent HGV's using Witham Road, and have been promised the same at the Kelvedon Road junction by the old schoolhouse. We have submitted and are awaiting the result of a grant application to erect further HGV signage at the newly constructed farm access road in Witham Road, and to enhance the bridge between Little Braxted and Witham Parishes.

This time last year we had just circulated our Housing Needs Survey. This year I am pleased to announce that, following analysis of the survey, we have commissioned Hastoe Housing to investigate a small-scale development open to residents and those with a documented local association. Hastoe are currently at the site identification stage.

Also during this last year we have been able to attract further grant funding to enable us to continue to employ a part-time litter picker – with increased hours (well, from 12 hour/week to 1.25 hours/week). Even just one hour a week has made a difference to the volume of litter in the verges and hedgerows, and we hope this will continue.

With Greene King's approval and with the support of its landlord Adam we have installed the defibrillator at the Green Man,. Being able to use a defibrillator quickly can save

lives, and whilst we would wish it was never needed, knowing it is there is a reassurance to us all. This has been funded by the Little Braxted Community and Educational Trust. The Trust is currently looking at ways to improve high-speed broadband coverage throughout the Parish.

On the subject of the Green Man we are pleased that its future seems more secure following its sale by Greene King and hope it will return to its former glory. We continue to be grateful to the Braxted Bakery for hosting our Parish Council meetings. Between these two businesses and others we now have a number of residents who actually live AND work in the Parish.

Looking ahead, the biggest challenge to our community is still the new route of the A12. The announcement of the final route has been delayed leaving us all in the dark – as soon as we know we will let you know.

On the subject of keeping you informed, the General Data Protection Regulations require us to ensure we have your approval to retain and use your email address. There is a supply of forms to complete here to remain on our email list – if you can't complete it now, email the Parish Clerk when you are ready and he will send you the form.

As a Parish Council we rely on our residents who put so much of themselves into helping us. Mandy Chapman for organising Neighbourhood Watch, Jon Aldis who keeps the Village Green and War Memorial tidy, Heather Bendall for being our litter-picker, and Gary and Sarah for letting us hold our meetings here at the bakery. A big thanks to them all, also my fellow Councillors, and our Parish Clerk for keeping us on the straight and narrow, and most of all lawful.

4. Public Forum

A member of the public reported that there had been three incidents involving HGV's using Witham Road in the past week alone, resulting in damage to her property, as well as the County Council's bridge over the River Blackwater. It was suggested that some form of sturdy width restriction was required. The Clerk indicated he would be writing to Essex County Council Highways on the matter.

The Chairman reported that there had still not been any announcement on the new route of the A12.

Members of the public regretted the loss of the Braxted Bulletin. It was reported that it had been hoped to find a new editor. Those present asked whether, for a small fee, the Council could take a page in the Village Emporium which was now being circulated in the village. The Clerk stated he would investigate and report to the Parish Council.

5. Closure

The meeting was closed at 7.22 p.m.