



## BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Laura Brooks-Payne  
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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm at Fanshaws Room, Brickendon Lane, Brickendon Liberty.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Tony Roberts (Chair), Cllr Hannah O'Donnell, Cllr Philip Cosford, Cllr Amanda Whitaker, Cllr Alistair Whitaker

**NOT PRESENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** District Cllr Tim Hoskin, 5 members of the Public, Clerk – Laura Brooks-Payne

- 1. To receive apologies for absence and approve:** Cllr Jonathan Kaye
- 2. To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:** Cllr Amanda Whitaker & Cllr Alistair Whitaker for item 6.5
- 3. To approve minutes of Parish Council meeting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024:**  
Unanimously approved.

**4. To receive a report from District Cllr Tim Hoskin:**

Cllr Hoskin reported that there is currently a government consultation re: Devolution. It was noted that this covers the whole of England and could affect how local Councils operate. There have been new house building targets issued by the new government, putting further pressure on the greenbelt. It was noted that Harlow and Gilston Garden Town new homes development has been approved which will bring circa. 30,000 new houses into the area. Solar Together will be providing subsidised solar panels for properties in East Herts and a press release should be published next week. One final round of the UK Shared Prosperity fund will be advertised in due course.

**Standing orders suspended for public participation**

**5. Comments from members of the public:**

A resident advised that he is attending a talk in St Albans re Devolution next week and will feedback relevant information to the PC.

**Standing orders reinstated from here**

**6. OPEN SPACES**

**6.1 To update on two new Defibrillator locations:**

Cllr Roberts advised that he is still awaiting a quote from an electrician, to install despite contacting a few.

Cllr Roberts will speak to the landlord at The Woodman & Olive Pub regarding a location there. A resident had been in touch with the Clerk via email for a second time regarding the possibility of installing another defibrillator in the area of Swallow Farm Grove. Cllrs discussed that the Parish now has 6 defibrillators of which one is in close proximity to the vicinity and therefore at the present time will not be providing another unit.

### **6.2 To update on the purchase of the Village Green:**

Cllr Roberts reported that there have previously been delays between Longmore Solicitors and the land registry. Previous lease information had been requested by the solicitor which has been provided by Cllr Roberts.

### **6.3 To organise a working party to undertake some ditch clearing:**

Cllr Roberts advised that ditch clearing is required, in the first instance, in Brickendon Lane adjacent to Bourne Orchard. A working party has not been progressed as yet. Cllr Alistair Whitaker suggested that there are a few residents that may be willing to help. Cllr Roberts and Cllr Alistair Whitaker will organise this for the beginning of March.

### **6.4 To organise a litter picking date:**

Cllr Roberts proposed a date of the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Cllrs discussed and approved the date. Brenda Lambie will add the date to the website.

### **6.5 To discuss and agree quotation for fencing surrounding the village green:**

Cllr Roberts advised that three quotes had been sought. Cllrs (excluding those in item 2) discussed and unanimously agreed to offer the contract to The Whitaker Brothers. Funding for the project will be added to the precept. Cllr Roberts will organise for the work to take place.

## **7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE**

### **7.1 To receive the latest minutes:**

The meeting took place on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025, minutes not written to date.

Cllr Roberts reported the following;

It was noted that there is a leak coming into the ladies toilet at the village hall from the roof. The area affected is part of the roof box gutter which is shared by the immediate neighbour. FRC and the neighbour will share the repair cost. It was reported that the tennis court will have regular maintenance 3 instead of 4 times a year. It was also noted that there is interest in the local area for a tennis club which will be progressed.

The children's Christmas event went well though there were a few non-attendees. The Christmas meal was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Summer Fete, which will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025, is in the preliminary stages of planning by the committee. The Summer Village Event will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025, though on a slightly tighter budget. The Farmers Boy will be holding an event on VE Day.

With respect to the Seniors Christmas Lunch event, thanks also went to Cllr O'Donnell for organising the attendees along with the purchase and distribution of the Christmas Hampers.

## **8. LOCAL CRIME**

### **8.1 To receive a report on incidents of local crime:**

The Clerk had circulated reports from November and December 2024.

December 2025 - 2 X Attempted Burglary – Brickendon Green. Damage caused to the lock of an outbuilding/barn.

Report as follows;

Residential Burglaries are expected to have increased at this time of year, there has been a slight upward trend in crimes such as shed break ins and theft from motor vehicles, particularly van break ins.

Please always ensure doors and windows are always closed and locked, and do not leave any valuables on display or tools in vans.

The East Herts Neighbourhood Policing Team have been involved in identifying numerous patrols, in particular in the early to late hours of the evening in response to Hare coursing and poaching across area's of East Herts. This has been a positive result with 3 x person being stopped in a vehicle just before Christmas believed to be involved in poaching.

If you need to report a crime in progress, please call 999, for all other please use 101 or online reporting <https://www.herts.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

The Herts Connected system delivers Hertfordshire police's crime alerts. Registered local residents can receive the latest crime or emergency updates and alerts, as well as information about policing events in your area. Local residents can get involved in helping to make their local area a safer place, tell us what police should be doing in their area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe, and tell us what matters are causing local communities harm.

The more residents that register, the better informed and safer our communities will be. We would be most grateful if you could continue to share the link below in any parish communications, and especially on social media, to encourage as many local residents as possible to sign up.

<https://www.hertsconnected.co.uk/>

Additional Crime Prevention Advice can be found via this link:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

Cllr Roberts reported that there have been various incidences of fly tipping on Back Lane. Cllrs discussed installing a camera or/and installing signs though this was discussed as likely being ineffective.

## **9. PLANNING**

### **9.1 To receive the latest planning report & discuss applications:**

The Clerk circulated the latest planning summary. There is one new application which Cllrs will visit in the coming week.

### **9.2 To discuss recent applications, any new planning enforcements & progress on any outstanding:**

Cllr Roberts briefly went through the outstanding enforcements. Cllrs were surprised that permission had been granted for application 3/24/1116/FUL

## **10. TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS**

### **10.1 To discuss and report on any issues arising:**

It was noted that Mangrove Lane will be closed for three days 30<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February.  
Cllr Amanda Whitaker reported:  
10-14<sup>th</sup> February – Roadworks on Brickendon Green

## **11. ENVIRONMENT**

### **11.1 To update on installing Electric car charger points in the Parish:**

Cllr Roberts reported that the contractor has retracted the recent offer discussed in previous minutes, for rural areas. Other contractors are being sought and may be interested to instal EV points in more rural areas. Cllr Roberts will progress.

### **11.2 To update on the Environmental Improvement Grant Scheme:**

Cllr Roberts explained that two residents have organised for Countryside Management Services (CMS) to attend the village green on 4<sup>th</sup> February to carry out some maintenance work/clearing. When the next grant scheme is available, the Clerk will pass this information to the residents.

### **11.3 To update on the potential "naturalisation" of areas on the village green:**

See Item 11.2.

### **11.4 To update on possible erection of bird & bat boxes on trees on the village green:**

Cllr Roberts has advised the resident who recently wrote the report, to liaise with interested residents in item 11.2 in order to collaborate on the project.

## **12. FINANCE**

### **12.1 To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts:**

The Clerk had circulated the latest statement prior to the meeting. Cllr Roberts briefly went through the accounts. Accounts were unanimously agreed and approved.

### **12.2 To discuss and approve the budget & precept for 2025-2026:**

The precept requirement was again discussed after having gained three quotes for the fencing required in item 6.5. It was discussed and unanimously agreed that the precept amount requested will be £28,250, which includes a one-off amount towards the fencing of the green.

### **13. Matters for future consideration:**

Fly tipping to be added to the local crime item on the next agenda.

### **14. Confirmation of the dates of the next meeting Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025: Date approved.**

### **15. To close the meeting:** Cllr Roberts closed the meeting at 9pm