



Little Bromley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 JULY 2026 AT 7:30PM AT THE HAYWAIN PUBLIC HOUSE, LITTLE BROMLEY

Parish Councillors in attendance:

Cllr Neil Stock (Chair)
Cllr Christine Barrett
Cllr Kate Hodgkiss
Cllr Iain Smith (Vice-Chair)

Also in attendance:

Tendring District Councillor - Cllr Zoe Fairley
Parish Clerk and RFO - Lizzie Ridout

Members of the public: 9

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were submitted by Cllr Monger.

2. Minutes of the last meetings

The minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Thursday 21 May 2026, previously circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Thursday 21 May 2026, previously circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by: Cllr Smith, **seconded by:** Cllr Hodgkiss, agreed by all and **RESOLVED.**

3. Declarations of Interest

Members were requested to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or other relevant interests, and the nature thereof, in respect of items listed on this agenda. There were none.

4. Public Participation

A resident raised concerns about a footpath that had been moved during works, making the area tidier but altering the alignment. Members agreed to inspect the site.

Cllr Barrett updated those present on the plan to provide a welcome letter to new residents, noting that a draft had been prepared.

5. Briefing on Fly-Tipping Management and Enforcement

Officers from Tendring District Council (TDC) attended the meeting to brief the Council. They outlined the operational process for dealing with fly-tipping, explaining that all reports were reviewed and investigated, with clearance normally taking place within seventy-two hours, although waste was often removed on the same day. Delays could occur where evidential material needed to be collected before clearance. Officers noted that in March the service had experienced severe staffing shortages combined with unusually high demand, which had affected response times.

Officers clarified the division of responsibilities between agencies. Essex Highways was responsible for fly-tipping on the carriageway due to safety considerations and their powers to close roads, while TDC was responsible for clearing waste on verges and land under district control. They advised that the police should be contacted first if a road was blocked, as this constituted an emergency and enabled the police to make the scene safe and escalate to Essex Highways where necessary.

In relation to enforcement, officers reported that Fixed Penalty Notices of £400 had been issued, with further notices pending. They explained that the evidential threshold for prosecution was high, requiring proof beyond reasonable doubt. Vehicle-keeper liability could be used where fly-tipping was captured on CCTV, enabling enforcement even if the driver was not directly identified. Officers emphasised that publicising enforcement outcomes was an important deterrent and formed part of their wider strategy.

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Residents expressed frustration about the lack of feedback after reporting incidents and about being passed between Essex Highways and TDC when seeking assistance. Officers apologised for these experiences and acknowledged that communication needed improvement.

Officers also noted that clearance of fly-tipping on private land was costly and not automatically the Council's responsibility. Parish Councils could assist by helping to identify landowners where appropriate.

Finally, officers explained that TDC hoped to establish a multi-disciplinary enforcement team to strengthen the district's response to anti-social behaviour, waste offences and environmental enforcement. The Chair thanked the officers for attending and for providing a comprehensive and open briefing.

6. Environmental Health issue

Members noted the formal briefing note from TDC's Environmental Health team regarding the fly issue affecting parts of the parish.

TDC officers provided a district-wide update on the recent fly infestation. They explained that multiple agencies had carried out investigations across the area, but no single source had been identified. Officers noted that prevailing weather conditions had created ideal breeding environments for cluster and other types of flies, which had significantly contributed to the scale of the problem. They further reported that the issue was not confined to Tendring, as similar outbreaks were affecting many areas nationally.

7. Planning determination

REFERENCE	DETAIL	LOCATION	DECISION
26/00590/DETAI Mr Dan Baldwin - Friendly Homes Ltd	Submission of details under Outline Planning Permission 23/00439/OUT considering access/scale/appearance /landscaping/layout for the erection of 2no. dwellings.	Hunyani Ardleigh Road, Little Bromley CO11 2QA	Approval - Reserved Matters/Detailed 17.06.2026 Delegated Decision

The planning determination was noted.

8. Confirmation of Order - 26/00007/TPO Land West of Hunyani, Ardleigh Road, Little Bromley

Members noted Tendring District Council's confirmation of the Tree Preservation Order made on 6 March 2026 and effective from 9 March 2026. The Order was formally confirmed on 9 June 2026, protecting the identified trees due to their positive contribution to local amenity.

Members expressed their appreciation to TDC's Tree Officer, Clive Dawson, for his work in progressing and securing the Order.

9. Reports

- County Councillor – not received.
- District Councillor – Cllr Fairley's report had been circulated to members and uploaded to the Parish Council website. Cllr Fairley further reported that the Spratts Lane road sign had been knocked over and she had reported the damage to Tendring District Council and informed the Clerk. It was not yet known when it would be replaced, but it appeared someone had simply driven into it.
- Parish Councillors
 - Cllr Stock raised concerns that a street-name sign near the church had been changed from Church Road to Barlon Road, causing confusion for residents and postal deliveries. Members noted that the Post Office continues to recognise the address as Church Road. It was agreed that the matter should be referred to Tendring District Council's Street Naming Officer for clarification and correction if required. Cllr Fairley undertook to make the enquiry.
 - Cllr Stock also noted that the forthcoming Clacton by-election was likely to require significant Tendring District Council resource over the coming weeks, which could affect capacity in some service areas.

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- Cllr Barrett reported that Cllr Monger had raised concerns regarding potential Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) near the A120, and that Clive Dawson would be attending to inspect the location.
- Members noted that the VAS unit had been repaired, with Cllr Monger obtaining and fitting a replacement battery. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Monger for resolving the issue.
- Cllr Barrett also reported recent power blips affecting the parish. UK Power Networks were investigating, and it was agreed to write to UKPN to express the Council's concern. Cllr Barrett confirmed she would progress this matter.

A resident asked Cllr Fairley whether a Judicial Review might be possible in relation to the National Grid upgrade proposals affecting the parish. Cllr Fairley confirmed that she would raise the question with the relevant officers and obtain a response for the resident and the Parish Council.

- d) Footpath Warden – reported that he had been involved in a meeting with representatives from Five Estuaries regarding the Bromley 10K, local public footpaths, and the wider network of lanes that may be affected following future infrastructure works. Five Estuaries advised that there would be a need to engage directly with local communities as part of their ongoing work. The Footpath Warden would share the correspondence with Cllr Fairley.
- e) Clerk
The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from TDC confirming that, from 29 June 2026, councils must not publish councillors' home addresses in public Registers of Interests or contact lists unless a councillor expressly requests publication. Members noted that Little Bromley Parish Council already does not publish home addresses and was therefore compliant with the updated legislation.

10. Neighbourhood Plan update

There was no substantive update at this time, and work continued on preparing a response to Tendring District Council's Planning Policy team.

11. Memorial Garden – St Mary's Church

Cllr Barrett reported that the four oak posts had been installed and the garden was awaiting use. It was noted that the item would be removed from the next agenda as the project was now largely complete. Details of the process would be added to the village website, including guidance on how residents may request the placement of memorial plaques and information on how the garden is intended to be used and maintained.

12. Village Planters

Members received an update on the maintenance of the six village planters. Cllr Hodgkiss reported that one planter had been relocated next to the phone box, and that all planters had now been planted up for the season. Cllr Monger had been watering them regularly. Members noted that if any residents wished to assist with the ongoing maintenance and watering of the planters, they were encouraged to get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

13. Local Plan update

Members received an update on proposed development affecting Little Bromley and considered the implications for the parish. It was reported that a proposed development of 17 houses on Shop Road had been objected to, with officers agreeing and removing the allocation from the draft plan. However, the Planning Committee subsequently reinstated the site.

Members agreed that a letter would be sent to Tendring District Council to express the Council's concerns, including that Little Bromley Parish Council had not been given the opportunity to speak at the Committee, and to seek clarification on the decision-making process.

14. Infrastructure Projects

National Grid – N2T Project

Members received an update on the National Grid Development Consent Order (DCO) application, which continued to progress through the Planning Inspectorate's Examination.

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Deadline 6 responses had been submitted on behalf of Ardleigh and Little Bromley Parish Councils, and were available to view on the Parish Council website.

Separately, members noted that Tuesday 14 July had been the deadline for responding to National Grid's consultation on proposed enabling works - works that National Grid wished to undertake ahead of the DCO decision. Although no planning application had yet been submitted to Tendring District Council, National Grid intended to do so later in the month.

In the Little Bromley area, the proposed enabling works comprised:

- A new permanent access road south of Little Bromley
- Road widening along Bentley Road and Ardleigh Road
- Site access points on Little Bromley Road, Bentley Road and Ardleigh Road
- Three temporary construction compounds
- Permanent extension and widening of the A120 slip road at the junction with Bentley Road

The Parish Council had submitted objections to the enabling works, and the objection was available on the Parish Council website.

Members agreed to monitor the forthcoming planning applications to TDC closely, as the Parish Council would wish to submit formal responses and encourage residents to do likewise.

Members also noted that National Grid was hosting Community Benefits webinars for Parish Councils in Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk during the week, and that Little Bromley Parish Council would attend one of the sessions.

Tarchon Interconnector

Members received an update on the Tarchon Interconnector project between the UK and Germany, which included a proposed converter station in Little Bromley. Tarchon had recently held several non-statutory consultation events across Tendring, including sessions at the Venture Centre and in Ardleigh. Parish Councillors had met with Tarchon representatives prior to both events.

Members noted that Tarchon had identified a preferred site for the converter station between Chequers Road, New Hall and Clacton Road, requiring approximately 25 acres. This location would likely result in the cable corridor (six trenches) running behind Chequers Road on the Lawford side, past Hollylodge Farm, and into the EACN.

Tarchon had indicated that the earliest possible start date for construction would be 2030, meaning that if all infrastructure projects proceeded, the combined construction period would span many years.

Members noted that the deadline for submitting feedback following the non-statutory consultation was 11.59pm on Thursday 13 August.

Five Estuaries

Members noted that the Five Estuaries project had already received DCO approval and was working jointly with North Falls (also approved) on matters including the design guide for their sites at the EACN.

Five Estuaries had begun contacting local groups—such as running clubs, walking associations, PACE, and horticultural societies—to gather information on local use of footpaths and routes, with a particular focus on connectivity.

Members were informed that Five Estuaries had met the previous evening with a representative of the Bromley 10K, alongside representatives from PACE Manningtree and the Long Distance Walkers Association. A further meeting was scheduled for that evening with representatives from Ardleigh Horticultural Society, PACE Ardleigh and Brantham Running Club.

15. National Grid Enabling Works applications

Members noted that National Grid was expected to submit planning applications for early “enabling works” associated with the Norwich to Tilbury (N2T) project. These works could include

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temporary traffic management and vegetation removal ahead of any Development Consent Order for the main scheme.

Members further noted that concerns had been raised regarding the environmental impact of such works and the timing of their commencement prior to consent being granted for the main project. The concerns included whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be required for the enabling-works applications, either individually or cumulatively, and whether the Local Planning Authority should consider the use of Grampian-style conditions to prevent any enabling works from commencing until the main project had received consent and was free from legal challenge.

16. Salt Bag Partnership Scheme 2026/27

Members noted the launch of Essex County Council's Salt Bag Partnership Scheme for Winter 2026/27. It was agreed that participation would not be required.

17. Accounts

Members received confirmation from the Accounts Monitoring Officer that the accounts were in order. Members also noted the receipt of PKF Littlejohn's automated confirmation that the Council's Certificate of Exemption for 2025/26 had been received and logged, and that no external auditor review would be undertaken for the year.

18. Approval of payments

Members considered the schedule of payments as set out below:

VCS Websites – website and email hosting	£132.50
Replacement VAS battery (Cllr Monger)	98.40
TDALC affiliation fee 2026-27	£20.00
<i>Flower Festival donation (previously approved in principle, included for formal ratification)</i>	<i>£25.00</i>

Proposed by: Cllr Stock, **seconded by:** Cllr Smith, agreed by all and **RESOLVED** to approve all payments listed.

19. Confirmation of Permanent Appointment – Parish Clerk & RFO

Members noted that the Interim Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Elizabeth Ridout, had agreed to continue in post on a permanent basis. Members confirmed the variation of the existing contract to reflect permanent appointment with effect from **16 July 2026**, with all other terms and conditions remaining unchanged.

Proposed by: Cllr Stock, **seconded by:** Cllr Smith, agreed by all and **RESOLVED** to approve the permanent appointment of the Parish Clerk.

20. Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 24 September 2026 at 7:30pm at The Haywain, Little Bromley. Members were reminded that items of business for inclusion on the agenda should be submitted to the Clerk by Tuesday 15 September 2026.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions. The meeting closed at 9:18pm.