



Little Bromley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY 2026 AT 7:30PM AT THE HAYWAIN PUBLIC HOUSE, LITTLE BROMLEY

In attendance: Cllr Smith (Chair), Cllr Barrett, Cllr Hodgkiss, Cllr Monger and Cllr Stock

Also in attendance: Lizzie Ridout (Interim Parish Clerk and RFO)

Members of the public: 11

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and introduced the Council's Interim Parish Clerk & RFO, Lizzie Ridout. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Guglielmi.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Thursday 8 January 2026, having been previously circulated, were proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Stock, and agreed by all present. The Chair signed them as a correct record.

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

Members of the public were welcome to speak. Questions relating to agenda items were responded to during the relevant discussion. No further items were raised.

5. Reports

- a) County Councillor – circulated and published on the Parish Council website
- b) District Councillor - circulated
- c) Parish Councillors

Cllr Monger reported that he had attended the public consultation for the proposed Sainsbury's development at Mistley Park. Concerns had been raised regarding potential traffic impacts on Clacton Road. It was noted that the developer hoped to employ local people where possible, that proposed opening hours were likely to be 7am–10pm, and that construction was anticipated to begin in 2027.

Cllr Hodgkiss confirmed that the defibrillator had been checked and that the battery remained at the lower end of its status range.

- d) The Footpath Warden reported that conditions were currently wet and muddy. It was noted that the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) induction meeting would take place on 25 February. The footbridge near New Hall required attention, with the intermediate posts having rotted. The uncapped well at the Mulberry also required replacement posts, and it was confirmed that these could be replaced. The intermediate post behind Braham Hall would be replaced. A stock of new posts were due to be delivered.
- e) Police – to be added to the Parish Council website.
- f) Clerk

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received as a Right of Reply. The Council noted the document, which would be retained as an addendum to the minutes but would not form part of the formal record.

Further correspondence had been received from three residents raising concerns about the volume and speed of traffic using Shop Road, coinciding with the closure of the A12. It was noted that signage was considered inadequate. Members discussed the potential establishment of a Community Speedwatch group, and contact details for the Great Bromley group were provided. It was agreed that Cllr Smith would write to National Highways regarding the concerns over inadequate signage. Members also noted that the VAS signage was currently not working, an issue which remained with ECC Cllr Guglielmi.

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6. Standing Orders

Councillors considered the revised Standing Orders, having been previously circulated, based on the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) model. Cllr Stock proposed their adoption, seconded by Cllr Smith. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Standing Orders, subject to minor amendments being delegated to the Clerk.

7. Financial Regulations

The revised Financial Regulations for Little Bromley Parish Council, having been previously circulated, were considered. Cllr Stock proposed their adoption, subject to minor amendments being delegated to the Clerk, seconded by Cllr Smith. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Financial Regulations.

8. Bank mandate

Cllr Barrett reported that the bank mandate had been updated. The previous Clerk had been removed, and Cllr Hodgkiss had been added as a signatory. It was noted that Cllr Hodgkiss was awaiting the issue of her login details.

9. Information Commissioner's Office Registration

Members considered the Council's current position regarding ICO registration. It was resolved to confirm the Council's registration status and to complete any necessary steps to ensure ongoing compliance. The motion was moved by Cllr Hodgkiss and seconded by Cllr Smith, with one opposed and four in favour.

10. Defibrillator

Members discussed the requirement for the ongoing maintenance of the village defibrillator located at the Haywain, including the need for replacement pads every two years at a cost of approximately £72 + VAT and a new battery every five years at a cost of around £250 + VAT. Members noted that the Parish Council had agreed at its meeting on 25 September 2025 to take on responsibility for the maintenance of the defibrillator, and that a replacement battery would be required imminently.

11. Neighbourhood Plan update

Cllr Stock provided an update on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan. A survey had been delivered to all residents, covering approximately 100 households. 37 online responses and seven hard-copy responses had been received. Members heard that the next stage would involve drafting the Plan, undertaking further consultation, and hosting a community event at the Haywain. It was noted that a referendum would be required should residents wish to adopt the Plan, after which it would become part of local planning policy. Members noted the update.

12. Memorial Garden – St Mary's Church

An update was received on the Memorial Garden proposal, which remained in progress within the Diocese's Faculty System. The next meeting was expected to take place in early February. It was agreed that Cllr Barrett would request a site visit to gain a clearer understanding of the plot size and the available options for flowers and inscriptions. Members noted the update.

13. Local Plan update

Members received an update on proposed development affecting Little Bromley and discussed potential implications for the parish. Cllr Fairley reported that the Preferred Options draft was being presented to Tendring District Council's Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee that evening, with consideration by Full Council scheduled for the following Tuesday. An update from TDC's Director of Planning was expected in due course.

If approved at TDC's Full Council, the draft Local Plan would proceed to public consultation during February and March for a six-week period. A further consultation on the publication version was expected in the autumn, with submission to the Secretary of State anticipated in December. Examination and adoption were expected in early 2027.

It was noted that the mandatory housing number of 1,063 would come into effect on Monday, and that this could result in a period during which speculative planning applications might be

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submitted. Members heard that TDALC would be focusing on the Local Plan at its next meeting. Members noted the update.

14. Infrastructure Projects

- National Grid - Pylons and Proposed Substation
- Five Estuaries Windfarm - Underground Cables and Proposed Substation
- North Falls Windfarm - Underground Cables and Proposed Substation
- Tarchon

Members received updates on the various infrastructure projects affecting the parish. Cllr Hodgkiss reported that the Secretary of State had granted development consent for the Five Estuaries project on 17 December. North Falls had applied for a Development Consent Order (DCO), with a three-month extension to the examination period having been granted to 28 April 2026.

National Grid had also applied for a DCO, and the application was currently with the Planning Inspectorate with initial examination hearings scheduled for the week commencing 9 February. Anyone wishing to join the hearings, either via Microsoft Teams or in person, would need to register no later than the 27 January. Cllr Fairley added that an Open Floor Hearing would take place on 10 February in Ipswich, followed by a further session on 11 February at Orsett Hall. Anyone wishing to speak would need to request an allocated time, noting that not all requests could be accommodated due to time constraints. Written representations would also be taken into account.

The Parish Council continue to liaise with Ardleigh's Planning and Infrastructure Working Group (PIWG) relating to the National Grid DCO and are working through next steps.

A Targeted Consultation by National Grid for Little Bromley was underway relating to a proposed change to the alignment of the access route to the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation. A public information event would take place on 29 January from 12pm to 5pm at Great Bromley Village Hall, with a webinar scheduled for 4 February at 6pm. Feedback on the targeted consultation could be submitted until 23 February.

A resident raised concerns that early documentation suggested a new road near Braham Hall would be used for construction access for National Grid infrastructure, and that haul road was likely to be used for construction traffic, although this was not clearly set out in the published information.

There was no update on the Tarchon project.

Cllr Hodgkiss would circulate all relevant dates to Members.

Members noted the update.

15. Accounts

The Accounts Monitoring Officer confirmed that the accounts were in order. It was noted that the Clerk would transfer the paper records into a spreadsheet to be shared with Members prior to each meeting. Members noted the report.

16. Approval of payments

VCS Websites Ltd – website hosting, website build and transfer of information	£215.00
ICO registration fee (direct debit)	£47.00
Microsoft 365 Business package	£138.24

It was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Stock, and unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments.

17. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 19 March 2026 at 7:30pm.

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Members were reminded that items for inclusion on the agenda should be submitted to the Clerk by Tuesday 10 March 2026.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.
