

BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Broomfield Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 15th July at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom

20/63.	<p>Members attending and introductions</p> <p>Chairman Cllr Barnes</p> <p>Present Cllrs Blake, Daden, Faulds, Hubble, Howell, McKie, McGuinness, Mercer, Perry, Steed, Thomson.</p> <p>Also present The Clerk, City Cllr Steel County Councillor Aldridge, eight members of the public</p> <p>Before the meeting opened, the chairman advised members that the owner of the Pavilion has written to inform the council of her intention to take legal action and enforce the access rights given in the deeds to the land. The matter has been reported to the Council's insurers.</p> <p>The Chairman also advised the Council that the Surveyor appointed to conduct negotiations with the owner has withdrawn his services following a letter from a City Councillor Daden.</p>
20/64.	<p>To receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors.</p> <p>Cllr McKie runs a parent support group that may have a non-pecuniary benefit from the establishment of a new facility as proposed in 20/72.</p>
20/65.	<p>To approve the minutes of Broomfield Parish Council's Meeting 17th June 2020.</p> <p>Cllr Mercer noted that proposed amendments had not been incorporated into the minutes. Cllr Daden proposed other amendments which will be forwarded in writing at the request of the Clerk. Approval of the minutes will be deferred to the next meeting.</p>
20/66.	<p>Public Question Time.</p> <p>A resident thanked Essex Highways for fixing the SID at the north end of the village. The matter of a second camera was raised and the Councillors remembered that they had agreed to purchase one, but the task had to be referred to the Local Highways Panel. To follow-up, the Clerk would resend the information to Cllrs Aldridge, Steel and Daden</p> <p>It was pleasing to see better attendance at the meeting but noted that he had difficulty finding minutes and would like the Council to find a better way of communicating with the residents.</p> <p>A resident was concerned about housing development in the area and wants to know about what the Parish Council is doing about it. Cllr Blake reassured the meeting that the Council has worked to reduce the housing development. The Council is committed to working on the Neighbourhood Plan as a way to allow the residents to shape the future of the parish.</p>

20/67.	<p>Receive report from County Councillor for items not on the agenda.</p> <p>The Essex Welfare Service has been useful to communicate with the vulnerable during the CoVID lockdown. It will continue its work, and is changing to the Essex Wellbeing Service.</p> <p>As part of the changes to road layouts, a new pedal and ride scheme has been introduced in Chelmsford. Electric scooters are now permitted on public footways.</p> <p>Following relaxation of lockdown, the Registrar’s offices and Essex Records Office have reopened. Smaller libraries open this week, Broomfield reopening with its usual hours, and there is a new app available to access the catalogue.</p> <p>County Council have made £1.1m available as bursaries for nurses and social care to avoid a future staffing shortfall.</p> <p>The Council were advised that illegal raves have been happening in Essex but catering for people from a long way away. The Police are attending zoom meetings to explain what they are doing. The Clerk will arrange to invite them to a later meeting.</p>
20/68.	<p>Receive report from City Councillors for items not on the agenda.</p> <p>City Councillor Steel reported that the Bloor Homes exhibition is being considered by City Council Policy Committee tomorrow prior to decision from Full Council. It was expected that the plan for 450 homes would be approved. There has been a lockdown loss of £9 -10m income from car park and leisure revenue. The City Council is looking at using internal borrowing to cover lack of income.</p> <p>Cllr Daden. No update.</p> <p>A question was raised about the road through the new estate. It was confirmed that it will not be a second access to the hospital. The spine road will be for anyone, but access to the hospital would be restricted. City Cllr Daden confirmed that money would be ringfenced for the creation of a new Hospital access route for deliveries and staff, but there is concern that this will be abused. The main access for visitors will remain as current.</p>
20/69.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The Council noted comments about the Country Stile booklet. The Clerk reported that two hundred copies of the book have been taken since March.</p> <p>A freedom of information enquiry was noted, the reply will be given within 20 working days.</p> <p>The Council noted a letter from Chelmer Valley High School expressing interest in a commemorative art project.</p>
20/70.	<p>Consultations</p> <p>None this month</p>
20/71.	<p>To consider improvements to the Village Hall CCTV system.</p> <p>An initial suggestion that the current CCTV system be linked to Chelmsford City Council’s surveillance system was more expensive than expected. As the cost of the project is now in excess of £4,000 with £500 p.a. running costs thought should be given to whether the money would be better invested in CCTV for a more vulnerable area.</p>

	<p>Motion To establish a Working group to explore the advantages of installing additional CCTV in the village. The matter was deferred to a later meeting</p>
20/72.	<p>To consider an application for a youth club.</p> <p>To note a request to establish facilities and investigate funding opportunities to establish a youth facility in the Parish.</p> <p>Donna Hance and Shirley Hume are keen to establish a Youth Club for the Parish, but have not found a suitable venue. Other sites have been considered, but were not attractive as they could not be customised to meet the needs and expectations of the youth. The prospect of a dedicated building is very attractive.</p> <p>They noticed the Parish Council were looking for partners and projects suitable for Infrastructure investment and wish to work together to provide a venue. The proposal is for a building that the youth club could use, but would also be a multipurpose facility to teach new skills, and provide a venue that can be hired for events that would not be suitable for the Village Hall itself.</p> <p>Cllrs Hubble and Faulds support the idea provided there is somewhere to locate it. Cllr Mercer noted that there have been youth clubs in the past, but if something new can be established it would be supported. Cllr McKie suggested that the building is designed to be disability friendly.</p> <p>County Councillor Aldridge would refer the proposal to youth services who are interested in the project. They are supportive and would like to see it happen, they have no money but would be keen to get involved in any other way. There is a possibility of lottery funding for equipment and running costs but there would be no external capital funding available.</p> <p>An initial estimate shows that the project could be done within existing funding and built on land already owned by the David Smith Charity. The project could be used as a pilot for future extension of the hall.</p> <p>The Clerk will establish a working group who will make a more detailed proposal for later consideration.</p>
20/73.	<p>To consider a grant application from Essex Dementia Care Trust.</p> <p>The Trust have made a grant request for support toward the £12,500 cost of running the weekly event in Broomfield for a year. The Council were reminded that the scheme is there to support the carers as well as the dementia sufferers. It was agreed that the full request was too big for the Council to consider, but some smaller items have been suggested and an amended proposal was made. Cllr Hubble noted that the Trust would have received £750 from the proceeds of the Funday, so that would be an appropriate amount.</p> <p>A proposal to amend the motion from an award of £12,500 to an award of £750 was proposed by Cllr Hubble and seconded by Cllr Steed and carried unanimously.</p> <p>Resolved the council approves a grant £750 of Proposed Cllr Hubble seconded Cllr Steed and carried unanimously.</p>

20/74.	<p>To consider a grant application from the Copland Trust.</p> <p>The trust have made a grant request for £2,000 towards replacement windows for properties in the parish.</p> <p>Ian Dudley, the Vice Chairman of Legacy East Almshouses Partnership told the Councillors that the properties are an asset of the Parish which were taken-over two years ago. The Partnership found that the properties were adequate but in need of modernisation. There are currently six residents in the buildings; some elderly, some local workers.</p> <p>Councillors expressed their concern that the award would only be for the benefit of six people and that it should be funded by the city council who have responsibility for managing the housing stock. The Parish Council were advised that the City Council were not willing to support the Almshouses and have referred the Trust to the Parish Council as a potential source of funding.</p> <p>The Trust were asked if the matter could be deferred until new government support was available, but it was understood that the scheme may not be open to the trust and would not be open in time to make an application this year.</p> <p>The Council remembered that the almshouses on Church Green were lost due to poor maintenance and also noted that these properties are available for residents of the parish only.</p> <p>An amended proposal was considered, but the Clerk reminded the Council that the initial motion had already been proposed and should be voted on.</p> <p>Resolved. The council approves a grant of Proposed Cllr Faulds seconded Cllr McKie and carried with 6 in favour 3 against and one abstention.</p>
20/75.	<p>To receive update on the following projects</p> <p>Play park upgrade. Second contractor briefed on requirements waiting for proposals</p> <p>Village hall extension. Architect briefed and awaiting proposals</p> <p>Church Green road improvements Chelmsford City Council have confirmed that the existing plans are adequate</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan Preparing to restart the process following lockdown.</p>
20/76.	<p>To consider the draft prospectus for proposed café and developments at Broomfield Place. Moved above 20/75</p> <p>Following minutes 18/76 and 19/256, the Council had agreed to establish a working group who were tasked with production of a draft prospectus for consideration and discussion with County Council. The Working Group had not met to approve the prospectus before it was presented to Full Council for consideration.</p>

Cllr Daden made a presentation to illustrate the benefits of a tranquil place in the Parish that can complement the vibrancy of other facilities that are available. The facility proposes a library which is needed to support children in their studies, workers who wish to remote work, and to provide a space for quiet study. The new library will be more accessible than the current site.

The presentation proposes that the post-CoVID world will face many health-related problems and will need more room to improve medical facilities and provide additional support for mental health issues. Although there are proposals for a community-led neighbourhood centre at Blasford Hill, there is still discussion about locating health facilities there. The Council were informed that there is a Doctor available and interested in developing a facility in Broomfield Place.

Considering the leisure facilities, the report advises that there is sufficient demand in the parish to support two cafes, and the one at Broomfield Place will be there to support ex-services personnel.

The prospectus needs the support of the county council. It must self-funding and could access Infrastructure Levy monies including the £4M that will be received from the Blasford Hill development. The Working Group ask the Council to give them a mandate to negotiate with developers, secure the land, expand the library and work with health care facilities.

The Council noted the prospectus and thanked Cllr Daden and the working group for their work so far. Cllr Blake thought that the prospectus struck a good balance between vision and detail and also congratulated the authors. The working group will need to review the document later but next and urgent step is for this work to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Any proposals for the Neighbourhood Plan have to come from the landowner, so it is essential that Essex County Council are persuaded to change their submission. There is limited time available to meet the Neighbourhood Plan timetables and County must be persuaded to withdraw its original plan for sixty houses and resubmit a plan with these proposals. He recommends that prospectus is sent to County Council with all despatch. To meet the timetable, the document should go as-is to establish the principle. The Parish Council could commission additional work at a later date if needed.

The proposals will become part of the Neighbourhood Plan and this will give residents and stakeholders the opportunity to engage with the proposals. Where the prospectus offers services that are already provided in the parish like the café, other local businesses would be an obvious starting point.

Cllr Aldridge reported that he had made a site visit with the property portfolio holder who wishes to maximise the value of the site. His proposed first step would be to arrange a meeting between County Council and the Working Group to compare views. He reminded the Parish Council that while the landowner is the key, the City Council as the planning authority should be involved.

Before considering the first resolution, there was discussion about amending it, but with no consensus about what changes were needed, the Council agreed to put the original resolution to the vote.

Motion - To adopt the recommendations in the Broomfield Place Prospectus.

	<p>Proposed Cllr Daden seconded Cllr McKie. With two in favour, five against and two abstentions, the motion failed.</p> <p>With the failure of the first motion, an amendment was proposed that the report is first discussed with Essex County Council as the landowner, to ensure their interest and their commitment to include the proposals in their response to the call for sites.</p> <p>Original Motion- A budget of £3,000 will be allocated to enable a professional business plan, architects, to include artist impressions for later presentation to ECC and possible official land valuation.</p> <p>Amended Motion- The Council notes the prospectus and commends it to Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council in for implementation. Proposed by Cllr Blake seconded Cllr Mercer and carried unanimously.</p> <p>Cllr Steel noted that the proposal is not in the local plan, the City Council would only note the prospectus for future reference.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.55. The remainder of items will be considered at a later meeting.</p>
20/77.	To note minutes from the following Committees:
77.1.	Finance Committee. No meeting.
77.2.	Broomfield Village Hall Committee. June Meeting To note the appointment of contractors to resurface the car park.
77.3.	Village Amenities Committee. No meeting. Accessible allotments update with Mark Lane meeting Allotment Association meeting. Felsted Field Bus shelter and improvements to boundary, Trees on allotment boundary
77.4.	Property & Planning Committee. To approve decisions made under delegated powers at inquorate meeting if required
20/78.	Planning enforcement To note reports from Planning Enforcement Team
20/79.	To receive reports from Representatives to outside bodies/charities.
20/80.	Items for next agenda Next meeting August 19th