

**BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL****Minutes of the Meeting of Broomfield Parish Council  
Held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30 p.m via Zoom**

<b>20/81.</b>	<b>Members attending</b>  Chairman Cllr Barnes Councillors Blake, Daden, Faulds, Hubble, Howell, McKie, McGuinness, Mercer, Steed, Thomson.  Also present The Clerk, City Cllrs Knight & Steel, County Councillor Aldridge, four members of the public  <b>Resolved.</b> To accept apologies for absence. Proposed Cllr Barnes seconded Cllr McKie and carried unanimously.
<b>20/82.</b>	<b>To receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors.</b> There were no declarations of interest.
<b>20/83.</b>	<b>To note the resignation of Cllr Perry and the declaration of a casual vacancy.</b> The clerk advised the council that vacancy will be advertised in the normal manner, and if no poll is claimed, the council is free to co-opt. However, if an election is required, the vacancy will remain open until May 2021 at the earliest, or later if the CoVID regulations remain in force.
<b>20/84.</b>	<b>To approve the minutes of Broomfield Parish Council's Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020.</b> <b>Resolved:</b> The minutes of Full Council Meeting are accepted as a true record. Proposed Cllr Barnes seconded Cllr Blake and carried unanimously.
<b>20/85.</b>	<b>To approve the minutes of Broomfield Parish Council's Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020.</b> <b>Resolved:</b> With the amendment given below, the minutes of Full Council Meeting are accepted as a true record. Proposed Cllr Faulds seconded Cllr Mercer and carried with two abstentions.  <i>The sentence "The Council remembered that the almshouses on Chuch Green were lost due to poor maintenance and also noted that these properties are available for residents of the parish only." Was deleted.</i>
<b>20/86.</b>	<b>Public Question Time.</b> A resident thanked Essex County Councillor Aldridge for mending the northern speed indication device.
<b>20/87.</b>	<b>Receive report from County Councillor for items not on the agenda.</b>

	<p>The Parish Councillors were advised that the Local Government reform white paper will include parish councils taking on devolved functions. There will be implications for all tiers of local government with possibility of Districts and the County Council to be merged into three or four unitaries.</p> <p>There will be further implications for Parishes in the Planning white paper. There is concern that the new rules would be unfairly beneficial to developers.</p> <p>County Council Members have been given the opportunity to fill up to 50 potholes in their divisions. Any suggestions for work should be passed to the Clerk.</p> <p>The Chelmsford north-east bypass will be delayed by at least a year.</p> <p>Following concerns about Broads Green being used as a rat run, Highways will install a traffic monitoring device and work out what sort of vehicles are being used.</p>
<b>20/88.</b>	<p><b>Receive report from City Councillors for items not on the agenda.</b></p> <p>With reference to the proposed planning white paper, Chelmsford City Council has a local plan. There will be informal consultation with Parishes about possibility of perishing the whole district, and considering if there should be changes to existing parish boundaries.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the City Council had moved the homeless out of the Travel Lodge but due to problems from Lockdown and other covid- related concerns, the number of homeless is increasing.</p>
<b>20/89.</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>A letter of comment thanking the council for making the Country Stile book available was noted.</p> <p>The freedom of information enquiry will be addressed in item 20/92.</p> <p>Chelmer Valley High School acknowledgement was noted.</p> <p>A request for an additional pedestrian crossing near Butlers Close was noted. County Councillor Aldridge has spoken to the enquirer to explain that a further pedestrian crossings has been looked at in this locality but is not considered appropriate as there are many refuges on this stretch of road which people can use.</p>
<b>20/90.</b>	<p><b>Consultations</b></p> <p>Chelmsford City Council informal governance review; should city council area be parished, and should there be a new parish council formed to manage the housing estates north of Essex Regiment Way.</p>
<b>20/91.</b>	<p><b>To note progress on negotiations with the Pavilion</b></p> <p>The Councillors were advised that a legal challenge against the Parish Council has been received, seeking to assert the rights of access defined in the deeds for Angel Pavilion and subsequently claiming damages for loss of access. The matter has been referred to the Council's Insurance Company who will be managing the case. Following a brief conference call between the appointed solicitor, the clerk and the chairman, the clerk will be sending all</p>

	<p>the background information. For the avoidance of doubt, the council does not dispute the access defined in the deed, and the solicitor will advise how to proceed.</p> <p>Cllr Daden reminded the council that the complainant had shared their legal opinion which also agrees with the right of access as defined in the deed. Cllr Daden considers that the council should use everything within their remit to make the café a success and not challenge the statements in the solicitor's letter.</p>
<b>20/92.</b>	<p><b>To consider an appeal against a Freedom of Information refusal notice.</b></p> <p>The initial refusal notice was issued on behalf of the Council by the Proper Officer. The applicant has the right to appeal the refusal. There were two options available;</p> <p><b>Motion.</b> The Council will convene a panel to review the appeal. This motion was proposed by Cllr Barnes who subsequently withdrew it before the debate opened.</p> <p>Cllr Daden was concerned that her request for access to information was denied and prevented her from discussing the matter with the surveyor.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that it could be difficult to find an independent second opinion on the correctness of the decision, it might be better to uphold it which will allow the enquirer to refer the appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office for adjudication.</p> <p><b>Resolved.</b> The council will uphold the refusal notice and advise the complainant to refer the notice to the Information Commissioner's Office. Proposed Cllr Barnes seconded Cllr Howell. Carried by seven to three with one abstention.</p> <p>Cllr Daden advised the Council that the vote to uphold a Freedom of Information decision was taken without knowing what the information was.</p>
<b>20/93.</b>	<p><b>To consider progress toward the development for a youth club.</b></p> <p><b>Motion.</b> The Council will allocate £5,000 for feasibility, professional and legal advice on the provision of a Youth Facility.</p> <p>Concern was expressed that the Council was being asked to vote money without a detailed proposal for how the money was to be spent. The Chairman reported that the working group has produced a rough outline of their needs, and the money is a draft budget which may be drawn down if needed for professional assistance.</p> <p><b>Amendment.</b> Any spending in excess of £500 will be referred to full council. Proposed Cllr McGuinness seconded Cllr McKie. With three in favour, the amendment failed.</p> <p><b>Amendment.</b> The sum allocated will be reduced to £1,000. With six in favour and one abstention the motion was amended.</p> <p><b>Resolved.</b> The Council will allocate £1,000 for feasibility, professional and legal advice on the provision of a Youth Facility. Proposed Cllr Blake seconded Cllr Barnes and carried with a majority of seven.</p>
<b>20/94.</b>	<p><b>To review progress on playground refurbishment.</b></p> <p>Three quotes have been received and the VA committee will be holding a site meeting to discuss and make recommendation to full council.</p>

20/95.	<p><b>For the convenience of other attendees, this item was bought forward to follow agenda item 20/88</b></p> <p><b>To note the meeting with Essex County Council concerning the prospectus for Broomfield Place and to consider next actions.</b></p> <p>Cllr Daden reported that she had approached Anglia University with a proposal to collaborate on work to make the Broomfield Place programme easier to sell. If this work cannot be included into the syllabus then an award of £500 could be used as an incentive to the students.</p> <p>County Councillor Aldridge noted that this work is predicated on the acquisition of Broomfield Place, but Essex County Council are not considering selling the site to anyone unless there was an offer they could not refuse. Even then, there would be caveats about access routes and options on development in neighbouring plots of land. With no specific proposals in mind Essex County Council have no idea what development would be allowed.</p> <p>Although there is a £117m deficit in Essex County Council's budget, the sale cannot be assumed as the land may be more useful as an asset. Alternatively, it may be that the new planning laws may oblige the City Council to hand it over for housing.</p> <p>Essex County Council's working party is considering the options. Any thoughts about use for the site needs to be known by December. There are other pieces of land that may be more accessible and the working party should consider if the resident's needs would be better met by building on them.</p> <p>The issue for the working group will be to find £5m to purchase the site. To do this, the group should have some idea of how this is to be done and the Council can support this work with a budget so the group can mailshot organisations that will be interested in funding the programme. Although the decision to develop the site is huge and not yet made, the working group recommend that this small investment is worth it to test the viability of funding.</p> <p>In summary, the Council considers the project will require a very large sum of money to be raised. There are questions of detail about how the money will be managed and there are too many unknowns with planning and local gov reorganisation. However, the land may not have to be purchased as most of the proposed uses are County responsibility and the next step is to encourage interest by using pictures to communicate the vision.</p> <p><b>Resolved.</b> To award a budget of £1,200 for the Broomfield Park Working Group. Proposed Cllr Daden seconded Cllr Blake and carried by seven with two abstentions.</p>
20/96.	<b>To note minutes from the following Committees:</b>
96.1.	Finance Committee. No meeting.
96.2.	<p>Broomfield Village Hall Committee. June and July Meeting.</p> <p>The Council thanked all those involved in getting the hall open safely and maintaining it as a covid safe building.</p>

96.3.	Village Amenities Committee. No meeting.
96.4.	Property & Planning Committee. There were no decisions made under delegated powers to consider.
<b>20/97.</b>	<b>Planning enforcement</b> The Planning Enforcement Team report was noted
<b>20/98.</b>	<b>There were no reports from Representatives to outside bodies/charities.</b>
<b>20/99.</b>	<b>Items for next agenda</b> <b>Next meeting September 23<sup>rd</sup></b>  <b>Meeting closed at 9.14</b>