

BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Broomfield Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 17th February via Zoom**

21/28.	<p>Members attending Chairman Cllr Barnes Councillors Blake, Bleet, Daden, Faulds, Hubble, Hance, Howell, McKie, Mercer, Need, Steed, Thomson.</p> <p>Also present The Clerk, County Councillor Aldridge, City Cllr Steel, and twenty six members of the public.</p> <p>Resolved. Apologies for absence were received from City Cllr Knight. Proposed Cllr Steed and carried unanimously.</p>
21/29.	<p>To receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors. Cllr Mercer – member of the PCC 21/38. Cllr Daden Chairman of The Broomfield Community Association 21/39 and Governor of Chelmer Valley School 21/40.</p>
21/30.	<p>To approve the minutes of Broomfield Parish Council’s Meeting 20th January 2021. Resolved: The minutes of Full Council Meeting are accepted as a true record. Proposed Cllr Barnes seconded Cllr Steed and carried unanimously.</p>
21/31.	<p>To approve the minutes of Broomfield Parish Council’s Meeting 3rd February 2020. The minutes were not ready and will be considered at the March meeting.</p>
21/32.	<p>Public Question Time. There were twenty six members of the public who were attending to ask questions about the uses of David Smith Field, to enquire about the costings for the new building, management and organisation of the proposed Youth Centre. One person was opposed to the scheme in general, but most were neutral. There was general agreement that the provision of youth facilities was a good thing, but there were strong reservations about taking green space to provide it, and doubts about the viability of the scheme itself. Most thought that the scheme should be trialled before committing capital and land.</p> <p>In response, the Chairman thanked the residents for their interest in the project and confirmed that more research would be needed. All the comments and alternative proposals would be considered before going ahead.</p>
21/33.	<p>Receive report from County Councillor for items not on the agenda. County Council are providing £15 vouchers for recipients of free school meals during half-term holiday.</p> <p>Five thousand laptops have been issued to school pupils in need of support.</p>

	<p>More remedial work is being done on the Army & Navy roundabout. The new junction will take three years to implement.</p> <p>Orange e-scooters are on trial in Chelmsford. They are the only ones that are street-legal and there are many restrictions on their use.</p> <p>There will be a small increase in the Essex County Council precept which is specifically allocated to social care.</p> <p>Consultation on the Chelmsford North East bypass is under way.</p> <p>Pegasus crossing to channels has been installed.</p> <p>The £10,000 discretionary budget allocated to County Councillors has now been fully allocated to twelve projects within the division.</p> <p>The Council were reminded of the census on 23rd March.</p>
21/34.	<p>Receive report from City Councillors for items not on the agenda.</p> <p>Chelmsford City Council are reviewing the parking charges levied at Hylands House.</p> <p>The City Council are working with County Council on the e-scooter project and have allocated free 30 minute rides to NHS staff.</p> <p>Bloor Homes have applied to increase the number of new homes north of the Hospital from 450 to 550. The City Council has received eight submissions against the proposal and one in favour. The Hospital Authorities have expressed concern about the purpose of the access road from hospital. The plans are awaiting the planning officer's attention.</p> <p>Officers of the City Council consider that hedge separating the Angel Public House and Angel field has a domestic garden somewhere in its length and is therefore not protected by the Hedgerows Regulations.</p>
21/35.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Two enquires about play area refurbishment were noted.</p> <p>Comments about the proposed Youth Centre will be included in the general correspondence received from other sources.</p> <p>The EALC microgrant application form was noted.</p>
21/36.	<p>Consultations</p> <p>CC/CHL/08/21/PRE pre-application advice request has been referred to the Planning Committee.</p>
21/37.	<p>To note financial reports for January 2021.</p> <p>The bank statement and reconciliation for January 2021 was noted.</p> <p>The cashbook, income and expenditure for January 2021 was noted.</p> <p>Resolved. The Council approves the financial records for January 2021 noting the reconciliation figure of £211,802.69. Proposed Cllr Barnes seconded Cllr McKie and carried unanimously.</p>

21/38.	<p>To consider a grant application from the Parish Church.</p> <p>Cllr Mercer left the room.</p> <p>Resolved. The Council approves the grant application for £1,750 to provide a water catchment system at the north end of the churchyard. Proposed Cllr Steed seconded Cllr McKie and carried unanimously.</p> <p>Cllr Mercer returned.</p>
21/39.	<p>To consider a grant application from Broomfield Community Association.</p> <p>On behalf of the Broomfield Community Association, Cllr Daden thanked Essex County Council for their proposals to develop Broomfield Place. She reminded Councillors of the benefits that could come from the Community Association's plans for further development on the site by working with young architects and researchers from Anglia Ruskin University. The Community Association understand that there is an agreement to relocate Broomfield Library to this site and wish to undertake further research and consultation on how this can be incorporated into a community hub. However, the Association asked the Council to defer their application to the March meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Daden left the room.</p> <p>Cllr Aldridge reminded the Council that there were no plans to relocate the library to Broomfield Place. In September 2020, it was confirmed that the County Council will not support a new library for Broomfield but did consider relocation to the Village Hall following a proposal from the Charity's management committee. That proposal was rejected by the Parish Council. The library is tier 4 so is very likely to close in its current form and the Council was advised to consider making the best of what can be done rather than looking at what they would like to do.</p> <p>Cllr Aldridge also warned the Parish Council to consider the conflict of interest that would arise if it funded a Community Association that wanted to promote different plans to those being developed in the Neighbourhood Plan. There was concern that introducing new ideas will confuse everyone, particularly if they were being taken directly to Officers of the City and County Council who might think they were Parish Council proposals.</p> <p>In the discussion it was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan will guide the development of the community and Essex County Council have submitted their proposals; they have dropped the intention to build houses and now want to build community facilities on what is currently a disused car park. The rest of the site will be used for public open space. It was clear from the discussion in public question time that residents are concerned about the loss of green space and that message needs to be reflected in this decision.</p> <p>Motion. The Council approves a grant application from Broomfield Community Association for £1,200 to fund consultation on the development of a community hub on Broomfield Place. With no proposer, the motion failed.</p> <p>Cllr Daden returned.</p>

21/40.	<p>To consider a grant application from the CVH Parent-Teacher Association. Cllr Daden left the room.</p> <p>While there was widespread support for the youth facilities, this project was seen as primarily for the use of the school, and would not be freely available to residents. The proposal was supported in principle, but the Council would need more information about the provision for public access before releasing the funding.</p> <p>Resolved. The Council will establish an earmarked reserve of £2,000 to part-fund the project, but release of funding would be dependent on a clear understanding of how users other than the pupils would benefit. Proposed Cllr Barnes seconded Cllr Mercer and carried unanimously.</p> <p>Cllr Daden returned.</p>
21/41.	<p>To consider a grant application from the Village Hall. Note. As the council is the sole trustee of the Village Hall Charity, it is necessary for the Clerk, as proper officer to issue a dispensation as approved in minute 20/36, allowing the individual councillors to discharge their responsibilities.</p> <p>Resolved. The Council approves a grant application for £1,578 from the Village Hall Charity for the repair and replacement of car park lighting at north end of site including replacement armoured cable, 2 additional wall lights, 2 new LED lamp heads and shortening of 2 lamp columns. Proposed Cllr Faulds seconded Cllr Mercer and carried unanimously.</p>
21/42.	<p>Update on Youth Centre. The Council thanked the residents for their comments, suggestions and discussions which will be considered by the working group. The Council thanked Cllr Hance for her work on the project and thanked Rosie Younghusband for collating the questions and concerns expressed by residents. With more thinking to do, there was no further update.</p> <p>In a general discussion, it was suggested that rather than pursuing the current plan, the Council could partner with other authorities and consider other ideas that would meet the requirements. The Council could consider talking to Bloor Homes or County Council to see if an alternative property could be identified. Perhaps existing facilities could be repurposed or alternative venues could be used to trial the concept. With such an expensive project, the Council should carry out more consultation with the residents before spending.</p>
21/43.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan The working group has received a grant of £1000 for a new website to promote the plan.</p>
21/44.	To note minutes from the following Committees:
44.1.	Finance Committee. Meeting 10 th February. Noted.
44.2.	Broomfield Village Hall Committee. 8 th February. Noted.
44.3.	Village Amenities Committee 13 th January meeting. Noted.

44.4.	<p>Property & Planning Committee.</p> <p>The decisions made under delegated powers were noted.</p> <p>The Committee has responded to Bloor Homes application for one hundred more homes on the site. Professional advice was taken when responding.</p>
21/45.	<p>Planning enforcement</p> <p>No report this month.</p>
21/46.	<p>To receive reports from Representatives to outside bodies/charities.</p> <p>No report this month.</p>
21/47.	<p>Items for next agenda</p> <p>To consider improvements to Church Green.</p> <p>Add a meeting on communication with the public.</p> <p>Next meeting March 17th 2021.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.11</p>