



BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Laura Brooks-Payne
clerk@brickendon-liberty.org.uk
www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th November 2025 at 7.30pm at Fanshaws Room, Brickendon Lane, Brickendon Liberty.

PRESENT: Cllr Tony Roberts (Chair), Cllr Hannah O'Donnell, Cllr Alastair Whitaker, Cllr Amanda Whitaker

NOT PRESENT: Cllr Cosford, District Cllr Tim Hoskin

IN ATTENDANCE: 3 members of the Public, Clerk – Laura Brooks-Payne

Laura Brooks-Payne
Parish Clerk

1. **To receive apologies for absence and approve:** Cllr Cosford, District Cllr Tim Hoskin
2. **To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:** None
3. **To approve minutes of Parish Council meeting on Thursday 25th September 2025:**
Updates –
Devolution – it appears that it is undecided on an option as yet. Hertfordshire is likely to be split into 3 or 4 regions. There are 124 Parishes in Hertfordshire.
LCWIP contract – lots of work has clearly gone into the detail of the proposed plan.
Minutes unanimously agreed and approved.
4. **To receive a report from District Cllr Tim Hoskin:**

Cllr Hoskin sent his apologies and the following report which the Clerk read out.

1. The Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) continues. This has been a very thorough process and although there have been severe time and resource constraints it would appear that a detailed analysis has been carried out for each of the options. Ultimately the decision lies with central government, and this was borne out following a recent submission by Surry County Council which had the majority of the District Council voting for a 3 unitary model however, the decision was made centrally to go with a 2 unitary model. The accompanying decision letter was keen to point out that this shouldn't necessarily be seen as a precedent but its the first one to go through so.... Here are a few dates coming up in the local process (also see link below):

- a. An Extraordinary meeting of EHDC is to be held on 13th November where the proposed options that have been discussed and agreed at HCC with members, CEO's and Leaders will be debated by EHDC members and an indicative vote held on the evening. This will be televised on the normal East Herts channel which can be accessed via the Easts Herts website
 - b. 18th November the Executive of East Herts will take the decision on which proposed model to back
 - c. 28th November the submission will be formally made by HCC to Central Government complete with the voting preferences of all district councils.
 - d. The final decision to be published by Central Government in July 2026 (subject to a lot of things that could happen between now and then I would imagine). <https://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=5661&x=1>
2. The new residual waste and recycling system is settling in and many thanks to everyone in the parish that has been willing to support the process and make it work. My apologies to those for which the introduction of the scheme was far from smooth and who had the additional burden of chasing down containers that hadn't been delivered on time or collections that didn't happen when they were scheduled. The initial results are very encouraging in that residual waste ie that stuff that we put in the purple lidded bin has reduced considerably (by something like 43% at the first analysis) reducing from around 4,000 tonnes to 2,400 tonnes per month; paper and cardboard has jumped up by about 100 tonnes per month to 750 tonnes per month. Collectively our combined food waste with North Herts is collecting and converting about 1,000 tonnes of food waste into fertiliser and generating enough electricity to power about 600 homes. So we are all very much part of a success story albeit it has not been easy getting there and still requires a deal of concentration and effort from us all.
 3. To assist with that a new mobile based app has been launched by East Herts and is available to download at your apps store (either Google or Android) just by searching for East Herts. The app then offers a reminder for what bin is to be put out each week, this could prove invaluable over Christmas when the service schedule is altered to ensure that the waste teams get a proper break as well.
 4. Congratulations to the PC on receiving the environmental grant from Veolia, well done for chasing this down through drafting and submitting the application to getting the moneys confirmed. Great job. It would be great to understand a bit more about the scheme and assist if I can in the hands-on elements.
 5. HCC are about to/or have just released the latest version of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy LNRS and part of that strategy is seeking support from local communities to engage with local nature-based schemes. The above grant should put Brickenden Liberty in a great position to be a part of that greater effort.

Standing orders suspended for public participation

5. Comments from members of the public:

Cllr Amanda Whitaker reported that she has been contacted by a resident in reference to a unofficial footpath that runs from Monks Green to the horse field at Well Pond. It is apparently not a Right of Way (ROW), but has been used for many years. The signs were

apparently erected at each end of the path after the recent forest works, undertaken by Gascoigne Cecil (Lord Salisbury). The resident suggested that the footpath could be opened up as an official ROW if users send anecdotal evidence (or any other evidence) to Herts County Council. It was noted that evidence is required that the path has been used, collectively, for a period of 10 years. It was noted that any residents who wish to support the formalisation of this ROW should submit relevant evidence they have to HCC.

Standing orders reinstated from here

6. OPEN SPACES

6.1 To update on the Defibrillator location in Wormley West End:

Cllr Roberts will be attending tomorrow to instal the cabinet.

6.2 To update on the purchase of the Village Green:

Cllr Roberts reported that there is no update, still awaiting to hear from Land Registry.

6.3 To update on ditch clearing:

Cllr Roberts reported that in Cock Lane the culvert has been cleared out. It was discussed and agreed that a working party would be organised to try and unblock the culvert.

6.4 To update on fencing replacement surrounding the Village Green:

Cllr Whitaker advised that the fencing is on order and will be completed in due course.

6.5 To organise and agree a revised litter pick date: Cllr Roberts advised that due to commitment clashes, the last date was cancelled. It was agreed and approved to run the next Litter pick on Sunday 18th January 2026.

7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

7.1 To receive the latest minutes: Linda Ashley read out the latest minutes, see Addendum.

8. LOCAL CRIME

8.1 To receive a report on incidents of local crime:

The Clerk had circulated the latest reports for September and October.

September – 01/09 – Criminal damage at Brickendon, 28/09 – Theft of plant accessories, Broxbourne Woods. See addendum for report.

9. PLANNING

9.1 To receive the latest planning report & discuss applications:

The Clerk had circulated the latest summary prior to the meeting. Cllr Roberts briefly went through the current applications.

9.2 To discuss recent applications, any new planning enforcements & progress on any outstanding: Cllr Roberts noted that the large mobile home on land on Long Leys has been removed and the miscellaneous paraphernalia remaining on the site will now need to be cleared.

10. TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

10.1 To discuss and report on any issues arising:

Cllr Amanda Whitaker reported the following future traffic restrictions;

Brickendon Lane - 20 – 21st November - carriageway works

Brickendon 17th November and 19th December – possible traffic light, part closures for UK power networks, (pending).

10.2 To update on possible traffic calming measures in Wormley West End:

Cllr Roberts reported that he has emailed Cllr Watson but has not heard back from him to date and will try to get in touch again.

10.3 To update on installation of EV Chargers in the Parish:

Cllr Roberts advised that another interested company have been in touch with the PC.

Cllr Roberts is currently liaising with the company re. the finer detail.

11. ENVIRONMENT

11.1 To update on the Environmental Improvement Grant Scheme & "naturalisation" of areas

on the village green: Cllr Roberts made an application to Veolia which has been successful.

The PC will receive £800 in due course. Cllr Roberts will put together a scope of works and will put this to the interested residents.

12. FINANCE

12.1 To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts: The Clerk had circulated the latest accounts prior to the meeting. These were signed by Cllrs and unanimously approved.

12.2 To consider a donation to Citizens Advice Bureau:

The Clerk explained that she had been contacted by the charity again for a possible donation. The Clerk explained that the Charity are struggling financially, and the service is there to help all residents. Cllrs discussed this at length and unanimously agreed that the PC funds that are raised through the local government precept should not be used for Charitable donations. It was suggested that CAB could contact local companies – the Woodman & Olive Pub, The Farmers Boy Pub and Brickendon Golf Club were suggested. The Clerk will get back to her contact at CAB.

12.3 To discuss and approve the budget and precept for 2026-2027: The Clerk and chairman worked together has worked on the budget prior to the meeting. The Clerk and Chairman had been through each line of the budget. This was discussed line by line with Cllrs. There are three budget lines that require further discussion and thought and quotations sought. The Clerk will investigate playground equipment repair companies with a view to asking a representative to visit the playground and advise what is required off the back of the recent playground inspection findings. The Precept will therefore be approved at the January 2026 meeting.

13. To update on making Parishioner Beryl Matthews an Honorary Freeman of the Parish: The Clerk and Chairman have produced a certificate which was signed at the meeting and a frame has been purchased. A presentation date will be arranged in due course.

14. Matters for future consideration: None

15. To approve dates for 2026 meetings:

Thursdays - 29th January, 26th March, 21st May. 23rd July, 24th September, 26th November – dates approved.

16. Confirmation of the date of the next meeting: Thursday 29th January 2026 - approved.

17. To close the meeting: Cllr Roberts closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

ADDENDUM

POLICE MATTERS

The hare coursing season is in full flow, several landowners have reported damage to crops etc. We ask people to be vigilant re suspicious vehicles especially older 4x4 type, if you witness hare coursing in progress please call 999. Christmas is just around the corner so if you are ordering gifts online please make sure that you have a safe place for delivery drivers to leave your parcels if you aren't going to be home. Ask neighbours or use the lockers provided by the delivery companies. There will be an increase in theft of items from doorsteps so don't give offenders the opportunity. Please don't leave property in your car even if its parked on your driveway. Make sure you lock your vehicle when it is unattended.

Officers were out and about on Halloween, all children in our area were very well behaved and everybody had an enjoyable evening.

If you need to report a crime in progress, please call 999, for all others please use 101 or online reporting <https://www.herts.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/> Social media is great for alerting your friends and neighbours to local issues but please let us know so that we can deal with the issues.

The Herts Connected system delivers Hertfordshire police's crime alerts. Registered local residents can receive the latest crime or emergency updates and alerts, as well as information about policing events in your area. Local residents can get involved in helping to make their local area a safer place, tell us what police should be doing in their area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe, and tell us what matters are causing local communities harm.

The more residents that register, the better informed and safer our communities will be. We would be most grateful if you could continue to share the link below in any parish communications, and especially on social media, to encourage as many local residents as possible to sign up.

<https://www.hertsconnected.co.uk/>

Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Additional Crime Prevention Advice can be found via this link:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/> Thank you

East Herts Rural Highlights Video 2024-25

<https://youtu.be/bnf6PE4uuvvc?feature=shared>

Fanshaws Room Committee

Meeting 04th November 2025

Present: Linda Ashley (Chair) Amanda Whittaker, Tony Roberts, Robert Williams, Brenda Lambie, Rachel Drury

Apologies: Alison Blakely, Jean Retaillic, Lawrence Price

Finance: November : Total £18,591.68

Fete Profit -£3,645.04 - £ 10,000 to go to Village Green Fund

Fete Report: The Fete went very well –and will be continuing next year - 2026

There is to be a committee meeting next week to review the 2025 Fete

Childrens Christmas Party: at Hertfordshire Zoo (PWP) on 6th December '25

Amanda is making a new list of children attending from those who have rung her- about 12 at the moment

Becky has said she will buy and wrap the presents for the children (money from Fanshaws Room Committee)

Still looking for a Father Christmas – Rachel will ask Jono if he will do it.

OAP lunch: Farmers Boy 18th December '25

Tony has almost a complete list of those being invited which will be passed on to Hannah O'Donnell

Events leading up to Christmas-Rachel Farmers Boy:

Nativity Play at Brickendon Church, (cast whoever wants to take part) Starting at 3pm.

Walk back from church for lighting of Christmas tree and carols then back to the Pub 14th December. Hannah will be organising the tree which Tony says will be placed near to the village sign and bench this year.

AOB

Rachel from Farmers Boy is resurrecting 'Music in the Car Park'

This used to go down very well

The Committee is thinking to do something midsummer-maybe a Village Picnic on the Green?

Next Meeting TBC