



BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Laura Brooks-Payne
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 29th January 2026 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, Cllr Mark Cosford

NOT PRESENT: n/a

IN ATTENDANCE: 4 members of the Public, District Cllr Tim Hoskin Clerk – Laura Brooks-Payne

1. **To receive apologies for absence and approve:** None
2. **To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:** None
3. **To approve minutes of Parish Council meeting on Thursday 6th November 2025:**
Updates – It was noted that item 6.3, the culvert needing attention is along Brickendon Lane. Clerk will amend. Minutes unanimously approved.
4. **To receive a report from District Cllr Tim Hoskin:**

Cllr Hoskin reported;

The upcoming unitary authority changes are likely to be made in June 2026.

Planning Policy Framework – developments proposed near rural stations are likely to go ahead.

Warm Homes Government Policy – is reasonably generous, those that require this should look into the policy.

District Plan – are looking at how to improve town centres.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – is looking at landowners utilising land with the environment in mind.

Standing orders suspended for public participation

5. **Comments from members of the public:**

A resident asked if there is a culvert under the road near Celtic Harmony. Water run off seems to be collecting on the road rather than in the culvert. Cllrs also discussed specific areas where the foliage is narrowing the road making vehicular access

dangerous, i.e. Pembridge Lane. It was agreed that Cllrs Roberts, Whitaker and Whitaker will undertake a Parish wide survey on 6th Feb and thereafter will register the issues on Herts County Council portal.

A resident mentioned that the new fencing surrounding the village green looks very good apart from a small section that is the responsibility of the Golf Club. The PC have asked the golf club if they would like the PC to get this area of fencing replaced at the same time which they declined. Cllr Roberts will liaise with the secretary at the golf club again. It was also noted that the grassy area near to the noticeboard on Fanshaws Lane will need re-levelling and re-seeding.

Standing orders reinstated from here

6. OPEN SPACES

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

Cllr Roberts advised that the fittings are in, the defib will be fitted in due course.

6.2 To update on the purchase of the Village Green:

Cllr Roberts reported that Land Registry have asked lengthy historical questions relating to the green, which required much research, the questions have been answered.

6.3 To update on ditch clearing:

Cllr Roberts advised that Cock Lane has been cleared. The culvert near Bourne Orchard will need to be looked at again when the weather improves.

6.4 To update on fencing replacement surrounding the Village Green:

Cllr Alastair Whitaker advised that the fencing is part completed. Work is ongoing.

6.5 To update on the Environmental Improvement Scheme & naturalisation of areas of the green:

Cllr Roberts advised that two residents have taken the project on. It has been suggested by Countryside Management that the area is scarified rather than any major earthworks taking place, because the area is designated as a local wildlife site. The ground level also dips in that area. It was therefore discussed and agreed to level the area out. Work will be started when the weather improves.

6.6 To update on the playground inspection:

The inspection had been received by the Clerk. There were a few areas that needed to be looked at. Cllr Roberts advised that Chris Tyler had visited site. Chris is a landscaper and has worked on other local village playground areas. It was noted that just one Victorian bench needs attention, none of the play equipment presents any serious risks.

6.7 To discuss refurbishment of a bench on the village green:

Referring to item 6.6, Cllrs discussed and agreed to have the bench repaired. Clerk will contact Chris to arrange the repair.

6.8 To arrange a litter pick date:

The last litter pick was postponed and a new date of 22nd March was agreed. Meeting will be at 10am in the car park on the village green.

7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

7.1 To receive the latest minutes:

Linda Ashley advised that a FRC meeting is due to take place (date to be arranged). Diane and Chris Abbot had sent thanks for the Christmas hamper and Ann Ray – thanks for the Christmas meal that both FRC and the PC arranged prior to Christmas.

8. LOCAL CRIME

8.1 To receive a report on incidents of local crime:

The Clerk had circulated the latest reports for November and December. No crimes were reported in November. In December there was one crime reported, possession of Cannabis in 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 finally been removed and the land cleared (apart from the concrete hard standing) the new owner having taken possession and had it fenced off, concluding this very long running issue.

10. TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

10.1 To discuss and report on any issues arising:

Cllr Amanda Whitaker reported the following future traffic restrictions;
Pembroke Lane closure 29th March to 9th April daytime. Edge and carriageway resurfacing.

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

Cllr Roberts that he has emailed Cllr Watson again and is awaiting a response. The Clerk 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. A site visit is being arranged for the next month.

11. FINANCE

11.1 To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts:

The Clerk had circulated the latest accounts prior to the meeting. These were unanimously approved and signed by Cllrs.

11.2 To discuss and approve the budget and precept for 2026-2027:

The Clerk and chairman together have worked on the budget prior to the meeting. It was discussed at length to increase the precept in order to improve parking at the tennis courts and make improvements to the QE2 garden during the forthcoming financial year. The precept was set at £32,500 which was unanimously agreed and approved.

12. To update on making Parishioner Beryl Matthews an Honorary Freeman of the Parish: The Chairman reported that that the certificate had been presented to Beryl at the Christmas lunch. This was very well received. Brenda will add a photo to the newsletter.

13. Matters for future consideration: None

14. Confirmation of the date of the next meeting: Thursday 26th March 2026 - approved.

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

ADDENDUM

POLICE MATTERS

Other news and updates:

The Neighbourhood Policing Team have conducted several operations recently over the past month for Rural priorities.

OPERATION QUANDRO continued for 5 night shifts in December. Officers changed their shifts to work later into the night, stopping vehicles and suspects of interest, and following leads from relevant intelligence reports.

OP GALILEO operation patrols of rural area's to combat hare coursing and poaching

OP TURKEY a localised operation over 6 shifts for reassurance patrols at turkey farms as we headed into the festive period.

There has been an increase in vehicle crime in High Wych, which is covered by our colleagues from Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth NPT. However, being so close to some of the villages we

patrol, we would like to remind residents to ensure their vehicles are locked securely, personal items removed from sight and faraday pouches used for keyless entry vehicles.

The Local NPT have been involved in the Christmas festivities too, providing public reassurance at The Buntingford Christmas Lights and Brent Pelham Christmas Fayre.

The East Herts Rural NPT also conducted an Emergency Services Carousel demonstration along with HFRS and First Responders at St Edmunds College for 6th formers.

The demonstration included a scenario of a vehicle accident in which HFRS removed the top of a vehicle followed by a powerful presentation on driver safety.

The constabulary are particularly keen for local people to give us feedback on policing via the Herts Connected surveys. We will be looking to set our policing priorities for the upcoming quarter and would very much appreciate if you could share the link and QR code below on social media:-

<https://bit.ly/hertspolice-psf>

