



## BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Laura Brooks-Payne  
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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 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:** Cllr O'Donnell, Cllr Alastair Whitaker

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 7 members of the Public, District Cllr Tim Hoskin Clerk – Laura Brooks-Payne

- 1. To receive apologies for absence and approve:** Cllr O'Donnell and Cllr Alastair Whitaker – approved
- 2. To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:** None
- 3. To approve minutes of Parish Council meeting on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026:** Unanimously approved
- 4. To receive a report from District Cllr Tim Hoskin:**

Cllr Roberts thanked Cllr Hoskin for his regular attendance at PC meetings.

Cllr Hoskin reported;

Local Government Reorganisation – consultation now open and runs for 7 weeks which is well worth viewing and having your say. Cllr Roberts asked if there is any weight in the PC sending in comments.

National Parking App – you can use this on your phone for any car park in East Herts. East Herts Budget – is in good shape – including funds to invest.

Meal Planning initiative through East Herts, '5 dinners' has been initiated.

### **Standing orders suspended for public participation**

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

A resident commented on the increase of the precept of nearly 80% over two years. Cllr Roberts explained that there has been an increase in precept for this financial year to improve parking at the tennis court, (to help increase usage), to improve the QE2 garden and required maintenance of village green trees. It was also explained that there are regular costs of running the PC, Clerk salary and insurance for example. An

addition to the precept has also been added for the PC's statutory obligation to meet safety standards for the playground equipment. It was explained that this unfortunately the only way to improve the Parishes assets. It was noted that the potential new EV points would not incur any cost to the PC.

A resident from Wormley West End advised that a stop sign has been erected on an original pole in a non-sensical place obscured by vegetation. Cllr Roberts advised that he could not explain why the sign has been put there because it is not the PC's jurisdiction. It was suggested that residents report such issues on the Fault Reporting system online on Herts County Council website.

A resident asked if the foliage surrounding the memorial benches on the village green could be trimmed and noted that the new fencing is a great improvement to the village green.

A resident explained that the parking along the road during the daytime around Bayford Station is dangerous. The Clerk has reported this to Rural Police who have explained that as there are no parking restrictions they cannot enforce parking restrictions. It was suggested that attendance at the next Bayford Parish Council on 11<sup>th</sup> May, being as the area is the Bayford Parish.

### **Standing orders reinstated from here**

## **6. OPEN SPACES**

- 6.1 To update on the Defibrillator installation in Wormley West End:** Cllr Roberts reported that the location has been found at The Woodman and Olive. The electrician will be looking at the site on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 6.2 To update on the purchase of the Village Green:** Cllr Roberts advised that the purchase is ongoing. Cllr Roberts advised that the requested factual information has been sent to the solicitor. Still in progress.
- 6.3 To update on ditch clearing:** Cllr Roberts advised that Cllrs carried out a site visit after the last meeting. A working party will be organised to clear some of the areas. It was noted that Highways have since created dykes at the sides of a number of the existing problem areas, which may solve the problem in times of unusual and increased rainfall. It was noted that there is a problem on the road in Wormley West End. Cllr Roberts will add to the fault reporting system.
- 6.4 To update on fencing replacement surrounding the Village Green:** Cllr Roberts advised that this is complete and is a great improvement.
- 6.5 To update on the Environmental Improvement Grant Scheme & "naturalisation" of areas on the village green:** Cllr Roberts advised that there are two areas that have been chosen to have wild-flower seeds planted. These seeds were free of charge from

East Herts Council. A small working party will be sought. Cllr Roberts will add a message for help on the village Whats app group.

**6.6 To update on the litter pick on 22 Mar 2026:** Cllr Roberts advised that turn-out was good and the event was a success resulting in many bags of rubbish. White Stubbs Lane was not covered but will be litter picked in due course.

**6.7 To update on refurbishment of the bench on the village green:** Cllr Roberts reported that as part of the annual inspection it was brought to the PC's attention that the bench required attention. A contractor has been sought and the work will take place in due course.

**6.8 To discuss possible remedial work on path to station and addition of benches:** Cllr Roberts explained that a resident had been in touch regarding puddling on the pathway and possible addition of a couple of benches. It was noted that in the last two months we had experienced unusual amounts of rainfall resulting in the puddling: not a permanent problem. The placement of benches was discussed. Cllrs agreed to look at the remedial work required and the placement of a bench, possibly half way up the path.

## **7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE**

**7.1 To receive the latest minutes:** Linda Ashley did not have the full minutes. The village fete is currently being organised. Next Meeting is the AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

## **8. LOCAL CRIME**

**8.1 To receive a report on incidents of local crime:** The Clerk had circulated the reports prior to the meeting. January saw 2 crimes reported; 1<sup>st</sup> January – sharing or threatening to share intimate photos, and on 4<sup>th</sup> January – 2 counts of assault without injury on Mangrove Lane. On 19<sup>th</sup> February there was one crime reported – dangerous dog on Mangrove Lane. See Addendum for other crime related information.

## **9. PLANNING**

**9.1 To receive the latest planning report & discuss applications:** The Clerk had circulated the summary prior to the meeting. Cllr Roberts went through the new applications since the last meeting.

**9.2 To discuss recent applications, any new planning enforcements & progress on any outstanding:** Cllr Roberts went through outstanding enforcements.

## **10. TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS**

**10.1 To discuss and report on any issues arising:** Cllr Amanda Whitaker reported that Brickendon Lane will be closed between 8-10<sup>th</sup> April by Affinity Water for essential works.

**10.2 To update on possible traffic calming measures in Wormley West End:** Cllr Roberts advised that the PC have tried to get in touch with Cllr Watson to no avail. It was discussed and agreed that the information would be sent to Cllr Hoskin who kindly offered to help.

**10.3 To update on installation of EV Chargers in the Parish:** Cllr Roberts reported that over the last two years there have been a handful of companies that may have been able to help with installing EV points to the car park on the village green. These have not been successful because funding is centred on towns where revenue would be higher. Another company are now looking at this for the Parish. It may help attract users to the village hall and will be a facility for residents to use. It was noted that the service will be free to the PC.

## **11. FINANCE**

### **11.1 To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts:**

The Clerk had circulated the latest accounts prior to the meeting. Accounts unanimously approved and signed.

The Clerk explained she will soon be finalising end of year accounts and preparing for both an internal and external audit. The Clerk explained that there is more detail required this year for Audit, in the form of 'Assertion 10' which goes into further detail in terms of accessibility and GDPR. All PC members, including Cllrs, will be involved. The Clerk will be in touch with further information.

**12. Matters for future consideration:** None

**13. Confirmation of the date of the next meeting:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May for the Annual Parish meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council 2026

**14. To close the meeting:** Cllr Roberts closed the meeting at 9.20pm

## **ADDENDUM**

### **Police - Other news and updates:**

The Neighbourhood Policing Team have continued to police the area consistently following the new Local Priorities that were set in January for the area:

**BUNTINGFORD:** Youth related ASB in the Town Centre Friday to Sunday from 15:00pm – 21:00pm

**EH RURALS:** Hare Coursing & Poaching between Buckland and The Pelhams weekday evenings from 18:00pm and weekends

The Team have continued pro-active policing around the ASB issue in the town with further arrests being made more recently and with further sanctions for some of the young offenders. These include arrests, a Community Protection Warning, and Anti-social Behaviour Contracts, as well as engagement with those children on the periphery of these incidents.

The team continue to engage in regular pro-active operations, including:-

- Op Galileo – Focused patrols to deter and detect rural-specific crime.
- Op Quadro – Intel-led patrols and stops of people and vehicles of interest.
- Op Ceroc – Patrols, seizures, recovery, and intel-gathering related to the illegal use of nuisance off road bikes and related vehicles.
- Op Attitude – ASB patrols in Buntingford for high visible presence, intel gathering and crime prevention.

These operations have led to the disruption of fly-tippers, hare coursers, the arrests of drug drivers, drug seizures, the recovery of stolen vehicles, and seizure and disposal of nuisance vehicles.

As well as a significant increase of ASB and crimes in Buntingford, there has been a recent spike in Vehicle Thefts in Tewin which has required additional police resourcing from the team late February 2026.

With the school term in full swing PCSO's have conducted talks in some of the schools in the area with more visits to be planned over the coming months, including parking patrols outside the schools following reports from local residents of inconsiderate parking and verbal abuse. Talks also include other 'out of school' groups.

In addition to this, PCSO's have conducted a situational awareness presentation to the Bishops Stortford Street Pastors and have 2 more talks planned to other groups in the rural community.

There has been regular reassurance visits conducted at Places of Worship across the county which continues throughout the teams regular patrol strategies.

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>



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/>

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>