



Great Bromley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 2025 AT 7.15PM AT GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

In attendance: Cllr Fairley (Vice-Chair in the Chair), Cllr Blowers, Cllr Hardy, Cllr Nicholls and Cllr Smith.

Also in attendance: Lizzie Ridout (Clerk) and Chris Morgan (Village Maintenance Team)

Members of the Public: 3

1. Welcome by the Chairman

In the Chairman's absence, the meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Fairley.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been submitted by Cllr Murch, Cllr Mander, TDC Cllrs Scott and Wiggins, and ECC Cllr Guglielmi.

3. To note the confirmed minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Wednesday 8th May 2024, previously circulated.

The minutes were noted and signed as a correct record.

4. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

In the absence of the Chairman, the report was read by the Clerk.

Hi All

It's been a bit of a roller coaster year, after a slow start. I think that I am now beginning to find my feet!

I would like to thank Lizzie and Andrew in particular for their advice and support and the rest of the Councillors for their efforts on behalf of Great Bromley over the last 12 months.

Being two Council members down, I feel that we must increase our efforts to return to a full complement of Councillors in order to build upon the successes achieved this year.

I should like to thank Owen for his organisation of the litter pick at which over 30 bags of rubbish were collected.

I should like to thank Graham for his tireless contribution to the Speedwatch - continuing to ensure that our village roads are as safe as possible.

I should like to thank Carole for her dedication to maintaining Great Bromley as a truly rural environment for our Parishioners, ensuring a close watch on our footpaths and bridleways, monitoring the trees in the Parish and keeping a close eye on litter and the ever present threat of fly tipping.

I should like to thank Fred for his "dogged" persistence in obtaining a new dog waste bin for Church Meadows and for giving me the benefit of his vast local knowledge of our Parish.

The year has not been without its lows. The sad and sudden passing of our colleague Ros Tovell last October and the passing of Henry Fairley, a former Chairman of this Council.

On a lighter note, we were able to add Chris to the Village maintenance team, and he has already shown his worth with his innovative idea of constructing a mould and casting a replacement post for the War Memorial (with a spare - just in case!)

I am sure that everyone is happy to see children's sport return to the Hare Green Playing Fields after an absence of many years. Hopefully this will encourage the young people of our village to participate in outside recreation.

The year finished on a real high with our 80th VE Day celebration on the 8th of May The raising of the flag and proclamation was well attended and the rendition of "We'll meet again" by the children of St George's Primary School was brilliant and thanks must go to the teachers at the school for their excellent singing.

The evening celebration, held at 7 Rivers Leonard was excellent with support from St George's Church, the Friendship Club, the Village Hall, Little Bromley Parish Council, Frating Parish Council, the Cross Inn, Bromley Brook Winery, POWER, the Women's Institute and the staff of Seven Rivers and The Icenii Choir who were able to meet and speak with local residents about their own particular organisations.

A real community event!

I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank the Plymouth Brethren Rapid Relief Team who provided a barbecue of gourmet burgers and sausages , Doritos, fruit and soft drinks for 200 people, completely free of charge for all the celebration attendees - delicious.

The icing on the cake was that between the raffle and donations we were able to present 7 Rivers Leonard Cheshire Homes with £527.20 and the residents of the home were able to participate in this momentous occasion complete with live Rock Band and a vocalist entertaining them with the songs of World War 2 and to witness the lighting of the ceremonial flare.

Let us hope that this is a blueprint for future community events in Great Bromley.

Thank you all, once again, for your support and contributions over the last 12 months.

*Ian Murch
Chairman*

Cllr Nicholls proposed and all agreed a vote of thanks to Cllr Murch for his hard work in making the VE80 event such a success.

5. Reports from Appointed Officers:

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| • Tree Warden | - Col M Frostick OBE |
| • Footpath Liaison | - Cllr Mander |
| • Community Speed Watch Coordinator | - Cllr Smith |
| • The Messenger Representative | - Cllr Smith |

Great Bromley Tree Warden's Report 2025/26

There has been no formal tree planting scheme in the village this year although the tree warden and others have been involved with both tree and hedge planting on private land around the village and immediate area. The number of home-grown saplings in the tree nursery has steadily increased over the last 2 years and these will be available to support planting schemes during the coming winter as well as offered to parishioners who can make use of them.

A recent survey of trees planted by the tree warden and volunteers in the village since the Millenium showed that the number of ash trees suffering from ash die-back disease seems to have stabilised in the last year or so. However, it is still disappointing that about 65% of all ash trees planted locally in the last 25 years have succumbed to the disease. However, due to the varied mix of trees and hedging planted during that period, there has not been a large detrimental impact on the landscape. Losses of young elm trees have been greatest among plantings in Carringtons Road and Chase Road East.

I am standing down as village tree warden in May 2025 and would like to take this opportunity to thank those volunteers in the village who have contributed their time and effort to support the various tree planting projects during my tenure. I am also grateful to Great Bromley Parish Council for their support for tree and hedge planting programmes and for their assistance with obtaining funding from Tendring District Council towards the purchase of young trees, tree guards and miscellaneous materials.

Martin Frostick

Footpath Report

Annual maintenance of the footpaths are usually dealt with by Essex County Council or the village maintenance team. Problems tend to occur when footpaths become overgrown during spring/early summer and any issues reported are usually dealt with as soon as possible.

The last twelve months have been quiet with regards to footpath issues, apart from a fallen tree on footpath 8 off Harwich Road, which was dealt with by Essex County Council.

Any issues with footpaths in the village can either be reported on Essex County Council 'report an issue' website or to Great Bromley Parish Clerk.

Carole Mander

Gt Bromley Community Speed Watch (CSW) report

CSW has continued throughout the last year at the designated locations within Great Bromley.

- Hare Green (30mph) Harwich rd. in the layby close to the playing field.
- Ardleigh Rd (40mph). Near the Bromley Cross on the border with Ardleigh.
- Brook Street (30mph) – At Junction with Saint George's Close.

We normally run sessions every month at Hare Green and alternate the other session between the two remaining sites. Hare Green site is usually where most offenders are recorded so we have maintained a higher presence at this location. The feedback from residents at the respective locations is largely positive and complimentary at all sites.

Recordings from all sessions are recorded and sent to Essex Police via the CSW central co-ordinator. They will then check out the vehicle identity and owners and send letters accordingly. They also monitor for repeat offenders across all sites.

All results can be seen on the 'Safer Essex Roads Partnership' Web site at the link below. This shows data from all CSW sites in Tendring.

<https://saferessexroads.org/policecommunity/community-speed-watch/>

Hare Green

This remains the location where most drivers exceeding the speed limit are recorded. We have monitored this site both as part of our CSW activities and in conjunction with local Police Community Support Officers. Due to the high level of speeding vehicles on this stretch of road the Traffic Police have frequently been seen with their camera.

Recruitment

We have recruited 2 new members in the last year increasing our active member team making it easier to ensure that the required number of volunteers are available.

'Vision Zero'

The Gt Bromley CSW team supported the Tendring Vision zero event on 7th March 2025. This is an event supported by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (emergency services and councils) This year we monitored Harwich rd in the company of the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator for Essex.

Graham Smith
Gt Bromley CSW Co-ordinator

The Messenger 2024/2025

Due to illness of Richard Perry, the Messenger has been brought in under the control and management of the Parish Council. As the Messenger representative on the Parish Council I have undertaken the role of receiving the monthly copies from the printer, sorting and distributing to the local distributors who ensure that all the residents of Great & Little Bromley receive their monthly copies. This transfer of responsibility was relatively smooth as Richard had documented the work that he had previously been doing. The advertising and invoicing aspects have passed to the editor /Parish Clerk who has invested a lot of time getting everything in order. A few new local distributors have volunteered to fill some vacant deliver rounds. The Messenger still relies on financial support from the Parish Council but efforts are being made to reduce this reliance.

Graham Smith

The reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

There were none.

7. Resolutions of the Parish Assembly

To continue maintaining and improving services by the Council to the Community, and to encourage the community's responsibility to aid the Council in its endeavours.

8. Date of the next Annual Parish Assembly

Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.