



# Great Bromley Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025 AT GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

**In attendance:** Cllr Murch, Cllr Fairley, Cllr Mander, Cllr Nicholls and Cllr Smith.

**Also in attendance:** Lewis Mander and Chris Morgan (Village Maintenance Team)

**Members of the Public:**

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were submitted by Cllr Hardy, TDC Cllrs Scott and Wiggins, ECC Guglielmi and the Clerk (Lizzie Ridout).

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th July 2025, previously circulated, were approved. The minutes would be signed by Cllr Murch at the next meeting.

### 3. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, or other interests, and the nature of them, in relation to any item on the agenda. Cllr Mander declared a pecuniary interest in item 17 insofar as she was the spouse of Lewis Mander.

### 4. Co-option of councillors

Following the publication of vacancy notices and confirmation that no election has been requested, to consider applications for co-option to the Parish Council. Two members of the public were in attendance to observe the meeting for information.

### 5. Public Participation

Lewis Mander raised the issue of Hall Road being closed on Monday without prior warning.

### 6. Planning Determinations – for information only

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
<a href="#">25/00683/FULHH</a> Mrs Dionne Wilson-Fairwade	Householder planning application - Placement of domestic oil tank.	Meyrick, Colchester Road, Great Bromley	Approval - Full 21.07.2025 Delegated Decision

The planning determinations were noted.

### 7. Planning Applications

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
<a href="#">25/01130/COU NOT</a>	Prior Approval Application under Part 3, Class Q of the town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for change of use of agricultural building into three dwellings with rear extension.  Great Bromley Parish Council had no comment.	Bush Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley

### 8. Reports

- a) County Councillor's Report - circulated
- b) District Councillors' Reports - circulated
- c) Parish Councillors' Reports

**Cllr Smith** reported that one Speedwatch session had been carried out on 11th July. He raised concerns regarding raised ironworks in the road throughout the village. While some repairs had

# Great Bromley Parish Council

been completed, several issues remain outstanding. Photographs had been sent to Cllr Guglielmi, and it was agreed to follow up with him for further action.

**Cllr Fairley** referred to email correspondence regarding pay increases for the Village Maintenance Team (VMT) (see Item 17). He requested that future agenda listings for VMT payments clearly separate hourly rates from expenses incurred on behalf of GBPC to improve transparency.

**Cllr Mander** attended the Village Hall Committee meeting, where Dave Beech offered to donate a spare, unused defibrillator to the Parish Council. Members agreed to accept the donation, subject to identifying a suitable location. The Village Hall was suggested as the most appropriate site.

Action: Clerk to contact Martin Frostick to confirm whether the defibrillator can be installed at the Village Hall, and to inform Dave Beech of the Council's interest, pending location approval.

**Cllr Nicholls** enquired whether the Guard House at the Pylon could be listed. It was agreed to refer this to Cllr Scott for investigation.

The bus stop post near St George's Close was reported as leaning and potentially hazardous.  
Action: To be referred to Cllr Guglielmi for attention.

A member of the public reported that a footbridge at Boudge Hill is rotten.

Action: Cllr Mander to inspect the area when weather permits to identify the specific bridge.

Concerns were raised regarding an increase in lorry traffic through the village.

Action: To monitor and consider further discussion if the issue persists.

Poorlands Trust was raised by Cllr Nicholls.

Action: To be added to the next meeting agenda.

The Church Meadow path to the church was discussed again. Cllr Mander suggested that funding may be available to install an Easy Access parking bay and improve the path concurrently.

Action: Clerk to contact TDC regarding potential funding and to liaise with Annie Sands, who may have knowledge of relevant grants.

**Cllr Blowers** reported a wasp nest at his property and noted repeated unsuccessful attempts to contact TDC pest control. He suggested contacting Cllr Scott, who has previously dealt with pest control matters in the village.

d) Clerk's Report and Correspondence received - none

## 9. Action Sheet review and update

This item was deferred.

## 10. Accounts

The Accounts Monitoring Officer confirmed the accounts were in order.

## 11. Highways update

No further update.

## 12. Councillor Training Opportunities – Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC)

Cllr Murch asked the other councillors to look at this item and the training courses available and report at next meeting.

## 13. Overgrown Hedge Obstructing Public Footpath

Cllr Nicholls reported that the rectory hedge was protruding over the footpath, impeding wheelchair access. This was disputed by Lewis Mander, who asserted that the Parish Council hedge was more obstructive than the rectory hedge. It was agreed to inspect the hedge and any

# Great Bromley Parish Council

necessary works would be carried out after 1st September, in accordance with guidance on the bird breeding season.

## 14. Fly-Tipping and Littering Near Village Recycling Facility

It was agreed to remove the first panel on the right-hand side of the bottle bank (nearest the entrance) to improve visibility and deter inappropriate use of the area. The Council resolved to purchase prominent signage stating that the bottle bank is for the disposal of glass only. The signage would also include a warning that any items left outside the facility would constitute fly-tipping and may result in prosecution. The issue would be further promoted via the Council's Facebook page to raise public awareness.

## 15. Outstanding Tree Works from 2024 Arboricultural Survey

Cllr Mander reported that she had inspected all trees identified in the 2024 survey. The only outstanding issue was a dead aspen tree located adjacent to the brook at St George's Close. It was agreed to instruct Blands to remove the tree before its condition deteriorates further.

Cllr Mander also highlighted the potential for significant future expenditure due to the progression of ash dieback, a fungal disease affecting the majority of ash trees across the UK. It was proposed that a dedicated budget line for future tree works be established, separate from the general maintenance budget, to ensure appropriate financial planning.

## 16. Proposal to Host a Village Fete in 2026

Members agreed that the proposed initiative would be beneficial for the village. The Cheshire Home was identified as the likely venue, subject to early discussions to confirm suitability and availability. It was agreed that the item would be added to the agenda for the next meeting to progress arrangements.

## 17. Local Government Pay Award 2025-26

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

## 18. Clerk's Salary Review – Consideration for April 2026 Implementation

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

## 19. To approve the following payments:

Clerk's salary	£649.29
HMRC	£162.40
Employer's NI	£65.91
LGPS – ECC Pension	£250.74
Clerk reimbursement – litter bin	£268.94
Great Bromley Village Hall	£26.00
Lewis Mander – Village Maintenance	£480.71
Chris Morgan – Village Maintenance	£785.05
The Messenger – Sponsorship	£135.00
Tuckwells – oil (644590)	£25.74

The payments were approved.

## 20. Climate Change and Carbon Footprint

Members considered the effect of any decisions on our Carbon Footprint and Climate Change in general.

## 21. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7pm

Items of business should be sent to the Clerk before Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.