

ABBESS, BEAUCHAMP & BERNERS RODING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Karen Weare

Phone: 01279 876274

email parish.clerk@abbr-pc.gov.uk

Walnut Tree Cottage
Dunmow Road
Leaden Roding
Dunmow
CM6 1QA

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at the Room in the Rodings, Beauchamp Roding
on Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 7.30 pm

MINUTES

Parish Councillors present

Bruce Stratton (Chair), Chris Markey, Andrew Parmenter, Tamsin Osborn, Eleanor Sherwen
District Cllr Ray Balcombe, invited speakers

Around 25 residents

1. Chair's Welcome

Cllr Stratton welcomed those present.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on March 6th 2024

The meeting resolved to accept the minutes as a correct record.

3. Open Forum

- The Village "Gateway" signs were ready but needed the ECC Licences which had taken longer than expected.
- Mr Brill announced the official "womble" litter pick would be on March 29th/30th. Collected bags must be left at Abbess Hall Farm before Monday 31st. Residents can litter pick anytime but will have to make their own arrangements for disposal of the rubbish.
- There will be no RideLondon Event in 2025.
- The Parish Clerk had followed up on last year's question about sewage discharges from the Abbess Facility. All discharges are recorded and would not necessarily be sewage. The Environment Agency tests the water and has no concerns.
- Excess speed on the B184 would be discussed by Parish Council representatives with senior police and Cllrs at a meeting in March.

4. Parish Council Chair's Report

Cllr Bruce Stratton.

Pleased to welcome new Parish Cllr Eleanor Sherwen.

The Parish Council Campaign to reject closing the Room in the Rodings as the Polling Station had been successful.

5. Epping Forest District Council Report

Cllr Ray Balcombe (Rural East)

1. Refuse Collections

- The new system was working well with a 99.98% collection rate which meant that only 25 bins per week in the District were not collected.
There had been assaults on refuse collectors (not in our Parish).
- Blue mixed recycling bins would be introduced from the end of June. The bags would be discontinued.

2. Devolution

Essex would be in the first batch. There was still a lot to be decided but responsibilities would be devolved from Essex County Council. There would be no vote for Cllrs until 2028. Parish Councils are unaffected.

6. Parish Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented the figures to 28th February 2025. A resident asked what the membership expense represented. This is £12 to Friends of Historic Essex as the Essex Record Office stores historic Parish Council minutes, with the balance to Essex Association of Local Councils who provide support, legal advice, updates on relevant topics and training.

7. Church Report

Cllr Andrew Parmenter spoke about the churches in Abbess Roding and Beauchamp Roding. Vehicular access to Beauchamp Roding Church was possible on bank holidays, at weekends and at other times by arrangement. In response to a question, the Church could not repair the potholes on the track as it did not have the funds or own the land.

8. Village Hall Report

Mr Robert Osborn thanked Martin Ritchie and his team for his continued support for local events held in the Room in the Rodings.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Chris Markey was the Co-ordinator for this Parish. The Group was set up in October 2024 and had 34 members. Members could benefit from window stickers, Faraday pouches for keyless vehicles, and home insurance discounts. There is a Facebook and WhatsApp Group.

10. VE day Event

There will be an evening event on May 8th with entertainment, food and lighting of the beacon. Residents would be asked to bring their own drinks. Invitations will be delivered in April.

11. Meeting closed 8.25

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Minutes to be approved at the 2026 APM