

ABBESS, BEAUCHAMP & BERNERS RODING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2025

at 7.30pm at the Room in the Rodings.

Present

Councillors	B Stratton (Chair)	Parish Clerk	Karen Weare
	P Lawrance		
	C Markey		
	T Osborn		
	A Parmenter		
	E Sherwen		

Cllr J McIvor ECC)
Cllr R Balcombe (EFDC)
PC W Shepherd Community Policing Team (part meeting)

3 members of the public (part meeting)

1/25 Chair's Welcome

Cllr Stratton welcomed those present.

2/25 Apologies for absence

Cllr I Milligan (unwell).

3/25 Approval of Minutes

Cllrs agreed minutes of the meeting October 22 2024 as a correct record. The Chair signed for the records.

4/25 Co-option of Cllr to fill vacancy

Cllr Eleanor Sherwen of Berners Roding was welcomed to her first meeting. She signed her Acceptance of Office and completed Register of Members Interests.

5/25 Declarations of interest in Agenda Items

Cllr Osborn interest planning EPF/1498/24 (now decided).

6/25 Public Representation

Two residents spoke about planning applications at Berwick Hall EPF/0172/24 (approved) and EPF/2385/24 (under consultation). They acknowledge Cllr Balcombe's help but were disappointed with EF Planning for its lack of response to issues raised.

7/25 Police Report

PC Warren Shepherd gave the crime statistics for the year ended 31/12/24 for the Parish.
PC Shepherd hope to be able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

8/25

County Council Report

Cllr McIvor reported on items from Essex County Council

- Devolution. He was in favour of this but frustrated by the lack of answers. He would like to see elections postponed until more is known from the Government. There were no plans to abolish Parish Councils.
- He spoke against the closure of the Polling Station (Room in the Rodings) and was pleased that this had been rejected.
- All his Local Highways Projects had been completed. There had been a lot of progress on potholes. Clerk to send outstanding Reports to him.
- He was pleased to support the Parish VE Day Event by awarding £300 towards costs.
- A resident had approached him about providing allotments. He had advised him to contact the Parish Council.

He hoped to be able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

9/25

District Council Report

Cllr Balcombe reported on items from Epping Forest District Council.

- The new refuse collections were working well with a 99.98% collection rate.
- The blue bins (mixed recycling) would be rolled out from June.
- He had spoken to Cllr Courtenay about the continuing issues with the planning website.
- He liaised with the Clerk regularly to discuss urgent and ongoing issues.

He hoped to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

10/25

Clerk's Report

1. The December 2004 Electoral Register had been received and was available to view by Cllrs for legitimate purposes.
2. The Clerk was given authority to purchase a new laptop.
3. Minutes to be archived to Essex Record Office.

11/25

Village Gateways

"Final" licence application sent November 19 2024. Clerk to check with Cllr McIvor about funding.

12/25

K6 Phone box Berners Roding

English Heritage had rejected the request for Listing on the basis that it did not fulfil their criteria. Clerk had received a positive response from EFDC Conservation Team who were currently reviewing the Local List. The damaged glass will be replaced shortly. Cllr Stratton will arrange for coat of paint.

13/25

Planning

1. New Applications

EPF/2320/24 4 Dacre Cottages, Berners Roding

Acknowledge no comments.

EPF/2385/24 Berwick Hall, Abbess Roding

Representations received from neighbours.

PC objections on website.

EPF/2438/24 Elms Farm, Berners Roding

PC queried incomplete plans.

2. EFDC Decisions

EPF/0172/24 Berwick Hall, Abbess Roding

Approved with conditions subject to S106 agreement.

EPF/1498/24 Abbess Hall, Abbess Roding

Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of 2 dwellings.

3. Technical for Information

EPF/1987/24 adj Brook Cottage, Abbess Roding (now Field View)

Approval of details under EPF/0073/19

EPF/2004/24 LBC Elms Farm, Berners Roding

Withdrawn.

EPF/2144/24 Victory House, Berners Roding

Certificate of Lawful Development. Lawful.

14/25

Finances

1. The Clerk reported the Lloyds bank transactions from 1/10/2024 to 31/12/24. Below.
2. One Cllr signed the bank statement to confirm balance £597.71.
3. Lloyds has changed bank account names and conditions
 - Treasurers Account to Community Account with monthly maintenance fee
 - BB Online Account to Community Instant Access

15/25

Verge Contract 2025 Season

1. Qualis had submitted its tender £22,848. Cllrs were reminded that the ECC payment to the PC for this contract for 2004 was £1,933.49. Cllrs resolved to reject this tender.
2. J Kenney Services had indicated his willingness to tender but had advised the PC of the difficulties with the verges. Clerk to ask for tender.
3. The alternative is to find others to tender or return the contract to ECC.

16/25

Budget and Precept Demand

Cllrs considered the budget requirements for the year ended 31 March 2026. Cllrs resolved to demand a precept of £5,952 (2%) increase. The Chair and Clerk signed the demand.

17/25

Annual Parish Meeting March 5 2025

Arrangements for the meeting were discussed. Clerk to arrange for flyers to include VE Day event see below. Cllr Markey will prepare new distribution lists with Cllr Sherwen taking Berners Roding and Cllr Stratton taking what was Dave Mapes.

18/25

VE Day

Cllrs resolved to hold an evening event on May 8 as an alternative to the Parish Picnic. The plans, subject to confirmation, are for a fish and chip supper, live music and lighting of a beacon. Cllr McIvor offered £300 towards hosting this free event.

19/25

Defibrillator Success

Cllrs were pleased to note that the Berners Roding defibrillator had been used successfully to save the life of a motorist. The residents, who were first on scene, administered CPR and fetched the defib, were not named in the Police article. The Parish Council wished to thank them formally and invite them to the VE Day Event to light the beacon if they wished to do so.

The Village Hall defib (not Parish Council owned) did not appear to be available although it was registered on the Circuit.

20/25 Items for Information

- Cllr Markey, as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, advised the meeting that he had signed up 26 residents. Cllrs agreed to deliver Neighbourhood Watch flyers with the PC flyers in February.
- Cllr Lawrence asked for an update on the potholes in School Lane, Beauchamp Roding. Clerk to follow up with Cllr McIvor.
- Other Highways issues between Coopers and Room in the Rodings and to report,
 1. Woodend sign has disappeared (posts remain)
 2. Yellow sign for bend on double posts between Coopers and Room in the Rodings missing.
 3. Sunken drain between The Gables and Frayes Chase.

110/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (s)

Wednesday March 5 APM

Wednesday 26 March

111/24 MEETING CLOSED 9.30 pm

Approved March 26 2025

Bank reconciliation

1/10/24	Treasurers Account	1,035.91		
	VAT refund	216.34		
	Transfers in*	1,525.37	2,777.62	
	Verge contract	1,178.10		
	HMRC PAYE M6	54.60		
	Clerk salary Oct	237.90		
	Cloud Next	119.98		
	HMRC PAYE M7	54.40		
	Clerk salary Nov	217.90		
	HMRC PAYE M8	54.60		
	Clerk salary & Q3 exp	262.43	2,179.91	
	On hand		597.71	Agrees bank statement
	Savings Account	15,000.00		
	Interest October	12.67		
	Interest November	12.70		
	Interest December	10.67	15,036.04	
	Transfers out*		1,525.37	
	On hand		13,510.67	
	Total on hand		14,108.38	

Unapproved