

The Hennys, Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th September 2025

Present:

Parish Cllrs: Cllr D Holland (Chairman), Cllr A Scattergood (Vice Chairman), Cllr Mo Baker, Cllr M Cracknell, Cllr L Boydell, Cllr A Smart, Cllr S Pinelli

District Cllr: Cllr D Holland

County Cllr: none

Clerk: Shelley Boydell

Members of Public: 1

MINUTES

17.2025/2026 Apologies for absence

None

18.2025/2026 Declarations of interest on agenda items

Cllr D Holland is both a Parish and a District Councillor, also Cllr D Holland has a pecuniary interest in item 7 c.

19.2025/2026 Approval of Minutes

All members of the Parish Council present at the last meeting were in agreement with the minutes from the last Parish Council meeting.

20.2025/2026 Public Speaking

No comments

21.2025/2026 District/County Councillors Report

County Councillor Peter Schwier noted in his email giving his apologies that the updates he provides via email should be noted.

District Councillor David Holland – Essex Local Nature Recovery has been adopted, which will delivery biodiversity net gain. Local impact <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan-2033/4> shows local woodland is increasing.

Local Government Reorganisation – Essex is one of the first counties moving from all current levels of councils (District, City, Borough and County.) to three, four or five Unitary Councils to deliver all local government services. A Mayor for Greater Essex will be elected in May 2026. Authorities with high levels of debt will not be able to share that debt across Greater Essex.

In May 2027 there will be elections for a “shadow unitary authority”, which will start work alongside the current councils, until April 1st 2028, when the current councils will cease to exist and the new Unitary Authority will take over.

20.10pm Cllr Pinelli gave apologies and left.

22.2025/2026 Clerks Report

Noted and agreed that Clerk and Cllr Scattergood will shortly begin to look at insurance options prior to renewal in 2026.

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23.2025/2026 Planning – Including Current Planning Applications for objection or approval

- a) *National Grid Update – The land opposite Watery Lane, owned by The Lazel Trust, is going to potentially be used as the location for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), this will look like 20 acres of rows of shipping containers, and would potentially be the largest BESS in the UK. This will mean the field being sealed (to allow water to run off) to a lagoon at the low end of the site, before rows of what would look like large shipping containers and ancillary equipment are installed.*

Residents have questioned whether there is a more suitable area for this BESS rather than the highest place in the area right by a high traffic road with a sparse hedge. An alternative location option posited by a resident would be the hand behind the field currently under consideration.

BESS also brings a risk of fire, and this kind of fire is self sustaining and cannot easily be put out. Other smaller BESS sites have already had fires in this Country, one in a much smaller BESS facility took 60 hours to extinguish and resulted in a considerable amount of toxic water runoff, potentially causing local pollution of the water in any lagoon that forms part of the development currently being considered.

- b) *Earlham Little Hickbush Road Great Henny Essex CO10 7GG
Discharge of conditions 3 (materials), 4 (Doors/Windows), 5 (Landscaping), 6 (External Lighting), 7 (Gates/Fence/Walls), 9 (Ecology), 10 (Bats) and 11 (Biodiversity enhancement layout) of application 25/00329/FUL Ref. No: 25/01904/DAC
There was much discussion objecting to this application. Cllr Holland to investigate further, share findings and allow the PC to either agree a comment via email or call a planning meeting.*
- c) *Rookery House Church Road Twinstead Essex CO10 7NA
Notice of intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 6/89 T75-Lift the tree skirt overhanging the garden of Rookery House to reduce detrimental shading and balance the canopy of a large, healthy, and mature oak that leans toward Rookery House. Work would require the lowest boughs (2 large plus other minor ones at the same lowest level) to be removed. A secondary objective is to reduce the overall transpiration level of the tree, which is currently detrimental to other nearby trees and indigenous planting, along with fruit trees.
Ref. No: 25/01938/TPO
The Parish Council will not comment on this application due to the applicant being a member of the Parish Council.*

24.2025/2026 Highways Issues

See item below

25.2025/2026 Village Items

- a) *To discuss issues with road signs – Cllr Smart – Query regarding broken finger post sign and in need of maintenance, Cllr Baker will photograph and report.*

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26.2025/2026 Parish Council Finance

- a) All payments noted. PC reviewed EALC membership value, this council will form the budget at the end of the year in a way that may not carry on with this membership.

The following payments have been met prior to meeting:

The Hennys Middleton & Twinstead Parish Council			From:	01/04/2025		
			To:	31/03/2026		Bank Balance
Date	Company	Detail	Ref	Income	Expenditure	£5,608.70
08/04/25	Tesco Mobile	Phone Contract	DD		£10.48	£5,598.22
08/04/25	M J Baker Accountancy	Payroll Monthly Fee	DD		£10.80	£5,587.42
22/04/25	Lloyds Bank	Service Charges	DD		£4.25	£5,583.17
24/04/25	Braintree District Council	precept first payment		£6,098.00		£11,681.17
01/05/2025	EALC	Affiliation Fees			£178.12	£11,503.05
01/05/25	S Boydell	Salary April 2025			£701.39	£10,801.66
08/05/25	Tesco Mobile	Phone Contract	DD		£11.10	£10,790.56
08/05/25	Lloyds Bank	Service Charges	DD		£4.25	£10,786.31
23/05/25	NEST	pension contributions	DD		£75.91	£10,710.40
27/05/25	S Boydell	Salary May 2025			£701.39	£10,009.01
27/05/25	S Boydell	Clerk Expenses March & April 2025			£43.32	£9,965.69
02/06/25	Braintree District Council	Street Cleaning		£636.13		£10,601.82
03/06/25	M J Baker Accountancy	Payroll Monthly Fee	DD		£10.80	£10,591.02
09/06/25	Tesco Mobile	Phone Contract	DD		£11.10	£10,579.92
12/06/25	M J Baker Accountancy	Payroll Monthly Fee	DD		£10.80	£10,569.12
17/06/25	Lloyds Bank	Service Charges	DD		£4.25	£10,564.87
19/06/25	NEST	pension contributions	DD		£75.91	£10,488.96
24/06/25	Business Services at CAS Ltd	Annual Insurance			£407.70	£10,081.26
24/06/25	M J Baker Accountancy	Audit fee 2025			£125.00	£9,956.26
24/06/25	S Boydell	Salary June 2025			£701.39	£9,254.87
08/07/25	Tesco Mobile	Phone Contract	DD		£11.10	£9,243.77
10/07/25	M J Baker Accountancy	Payroll Monthly Fee	DD		£10.80	£9,232.97
17/07/25	NEST	pension contributions	DD		£151.82	£9,081.15
21/07/25	Lloyds Bank	Service Charges	DD		£4.25	£9,076.90
24/07/25	HMRC	PAYE	DD		£198.84	£8,878.06
25/07/25	NEST	pension contributions	DD		£75.91	£8,802.15
28/07/25	S Boydell	Salary July 2025			£701.19	£8,100.96
28/07/25	S Boydell	Clerk Expenses May & June 2025			£25.85	£8,075.11
08/08/25	Tesco Mobile	Phone Contract	DD		£11.10	£8,064.01
13/08/25	M J Baker Accountancy	Payroll Monthly Fee	DD		£10.80	£8,053.21
19/08/25	Lloyds Bank	Service Charges	DD		£4.25	£8,048.96
01/09/25	S Boydell	Salary August 2025			£701.39	£7,347.57
08/09/25	Tesco Mobile	Phone Contract	DD		£11.10	£7,336.47
08/09/25	ICO	Data Protection Fee			£47.00	£7,289.47
10/09/25	M J Baker Accountancy	Payroll Monthly Fee	DD		£10.80	£7,278.67

- a) PC accepted updated Standing Orders
b) Cllr Holland to organise Clerk Appraisal / Review
c) Confirmed Annual Grants for Village Hall, Litter Picking & Churchyard Maintenance will remain the same.

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- d) *PC Accepted updated Financial Regulations*
- e) *Clerk and Cllr Smark to update Risk Assessments prior to next meeting*
- f) *Clerk to create a new Emergency Plan based on the current model version.*

27.2025/2026 Community Funding from National Grid

The PC discussed significant compensatory Community Funding from National Grid in respect of impacts on communities within 5km of the Bramford to Twinstead Project, specifically the substation – ideas will be shared at the next meeting.

28.2025/2026 Items for next agenda

*Communications and emails
B13 Henry / Middleton Byway
Update on Community Funding from National Grid*

29.2025/2026 Meeting Dates

13th November 2025 Parish Council Meeting

15th January 2026 Parish Council Meeting TBC