

The Hennys, Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15th January 2026

Present:

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

District Cllr: Cllr D Holland

County Cllr: Cllr P Schwier

Clerk: Shelley Boydell

Members of Public: 1

MINUTES

45.2025/2026 Apologies for absence

None.

46.2025/2026 Declarations of interest on agenda items

Cllr D Holland is both a Parish and a District Councillor.

47.2025/2026 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.

48.2025/2026 Public Speaking

No public speaking.

49.2025/2026 District/County Councillors Report

County Councillor Peter Schwier – Potholes will increase due to heavy traffic, electric vehicles being heavier than regular fuel vehicles and overall underfunding. PR1 and PR2 roads will be prioritised. Recently the news was shared that Essex roads had the fewest potholes in the country. Peter urged residents to report potholes by completing the report on the website <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us>. Cllr Cracknell highlighted a particularly bad pothole that has not been fixed and is too bad even for a tractor to pass, Cllr to contact Peter with the details and this will be sorted.

Peter suggested to contact planning enforcement regarding damaged verges due to vehicles used in building works.

Essex Highways have been doing an amazing job in the cold weather and salt 40% of roads overnight – it is important to keep Essex moving and public bus routes and school roads are priority.

Essex County Council as 74 libraries, which is the second largest council in the country. Instead of closing, libraries are going under a revamp and increasing services to become multifunctional, including dementia cafes, banks, saving societies. Last year, Essex libraires had 3.3 million visitors, had 3.8 million items borrowed and have 1.88 million items stocked all of the time.

5 years ago Essex was the 5th best county in the country and now it is 3^d.

District Councillor David Holland – Local Government Reorganisation continues, and there is continuing debate over the budget.

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50.2025/2026 Clerks Report

Clerks report noted. Clerk to undertake risk assessment course that has been provided.

51.2025/2026 Planning – **Including Current Planning Applications for objection or approval**

- a) *National Grid Update – there has been a number of applications from National Grid to sign off on conditions, these are available to view.*
- b) *Discussion regarding potential unlawful living accommodation, this council agreed to investigate further with planning enforcement.*

Cllr D Holland remained neutral during and did not take part in the following planning comment, the conversation that led to the decision, or any vote in relation to this application.

c) **Proposed replacement outhousing.**

*Land Adjacent To Village Hall Clay Hill Great Henny Essex
Ref. No: 25/02803/FUL*

The Parish Council strongly object to this planning application. Full comment attached.

52.2025/2026 Highways Issues

Covered in item 5.

53.2025/2026 Sourcing funding for community projects

- a) *Discussed the upcoming funding that will likely become available from National Grid and what this could be used for.*
- b) *Going forward there is very likely to be opportunities for funding from multiple sources, the PC will ensure that information regarding available grants is circulated.*

54.2025/2026 Parish Council Finance

- a) *All payments on finance report noted.*
- b) *Budget considered in details, including the rise in employers' national insurance. The precept demand was agreed at £13,113.20.*
- c) *It was agreed that the Clerk would take over payroll from May 2026 when the current accountant's contract ends, the current accountant will provide the necessary training for this change.*
- d) *The possible change of a phone contract to a virtual land line remains under review.*
- e) *The PC voted to keep the current email addresses and website until having a .gov.uk domain name becomes mandatory.*

55.2025/2026 Items for next agenda

56.2025/2026 Meeting Dates

12th March 2026 Parish Council Meeting

14th May 2026 Annual General Meeting & Parish Council Meeting

9th July 2026 Parish Council meeting

17th September 2026 Parish Council Meeting

12th November 2026 Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed 21:28

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Item 7c Objection

25/02803/FUL – Land Adjacent To Village Hall, Clay Hill, Great Henny

The Parish Council strongly object to this planning application.

The objection is on the grounds that the proposal would cause harm to the character and appearance of the area or result in harm to heritage assets or their setting, including 'less than substantial harm' where this is not clearly outweighed by public benefits, and to protect the living conditions of existing and future occupiers from unacceptable impacts.

The proposed building is adjacent to grade II listed buildings.

Aspects of the proposal in drawings / plans are disingenuous; the caravan is shown to be a quarter of the size of the old wooden garage, but this is not the case, as supported by photographic evidence, both the caravan and building are of similar size.

The application stated that the build is a shed, but in fact it is an old wooden two door garage.

The caravan is not only misrepresented regarding size, but is derelict, ruined, and appears not at all suitable for human use, either as shelter or accommodation.

The previous application for planning on this site by the same applicant, 20/01666/FUL from October 2020, shows the road with a white line down the centre and clearly skewed photographs showing the road to be considerably wider than the 2.7m / 9ft wide that it is.

The application states that this site is used as rubbish dump, inspection and photographic evidence show this to be untrue, weeds and shrubs are overgrown on this small site.

A member of the litter picking group for Henny has reported that no rubbish has ever been seen on this site.

Supporting Policies:

Our objection is also supported by policies RLP2, RLP16, RLP80, RLP90 and RLP100 of the adopted Local Plan (2005), Policies CS5s, Cs7, CS8 and CS9 of the adopted Core Strategy (2011), paragraphs 84, 170 and 180 of the NPPF and Policy CS9 of the adopted Core Strategy (2011).

