

The Hennys, Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th March 2026

Present:

Parish Cllrs: *Cllr D Holland (Chairman), Cllr A Scattergood (Vice Chairman), Cllr L Boydell, Cllr Mo Baker, Cllr A Burns*

District Cllr: *Cllr D Holland,*

County Cllr: *none*

Clerk: *Shelley Boydell*

Members of Public: 8

MINUTES

57.2025/2026 Apologies for absence

Cllr A Smart, Cllr S Pinelli, Cllr M Cracknell

58.2025/2026 Declarations of interest on agenda items

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

59.2025/2026 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.

60.2025/2026 Public Speaking

Query regarding potential unlawful planning comments at last meeting; Braintree District Council planning process was explained and it was confirmed that there has been no evidence of any unlawfulness, evidenced by print out of email from Braintree District council to homeowner dated 24th November 2022.

61.2025/2026 District/County Councillors Report

County Councillor Peter Schwier – Please note circulated emails

District Councillor David Holland – Budget has now been voted through. Good news that BDC discovered pension pot oversubscribed. This helped fund 0% increases in BDC Council Tax and Green Bin charges, and no cuts to services. The District Councillor community grants have been raised to £1,500 per Councillor to help with community projects. New red and blue lidded wheelie bins were delivered recently, for paper/card, and plastic/glass. They will enable an increase in recycling and funds to offset waste service costs. Food waste collected in the green food bins is used to fuel a digester, which produces electricity for the grid, gas for homes, and fertiliser for agriculture., resulting in income to BDC to offset service costs and keep Council Tax down. This is a marked improvement over the past when near 30% of landfill waste went to landfill, at great costs to taxpayers and the environment.

62.2025/2026 Clerks Report – Clerk's report noted

63.2025/2026 Planning – Including Current Planning Applications for objection or approval

- a) *National Grid Update – There are currently 2 National Grid (NG) projects; Bramford to Twinstead and Pelham to Rayleigh. There are lots of surveys happening and the district council liaises with NG to help limit damage / repair damage caused, including putting plates down to protect fields. A large section of hedge has been removed for the haul road. £10,000 grants are being offered to community projects. PC give thanks to David Holland and Stour Valley Underground for pursuing NG prior to their planning application, to put the cables underground rather than overground.*
- b) *Pre-application for Zenobe 500 megawatt Battery Energy Storage System proposal for the A131 adjacent to Butlers Wood. Chairman urges anyone who has any suggestions to better this pre-application to attend the meeting with Zenobe at 6pm at Bulmer Village Hall on 25th March 2026. A possible suggestion would be to move the battery farm backwards, causing the farm to be on a slope and putting the batteries on steps (as in Scotland), this would help with the water drainage issues. In the event of a fire the water used to cool the batteries would be contaminated and this needs to be considered.*

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- c) **Demolition of conservatory, proposed single storey side extension, installation of cladding to walls and re-roofing of existing building, with associated operational development and landscaping.**

Tymperley Farm Little Hickbush Road Great Henny Essex CO10 7LX

Ref. No: 26/00314/HH

The Parish Council support this application in keeping with its long-standing policy of supporting right minded development proposals submitted by parishioners.

- d) **Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and the erection of four detached dwellings with associated garages, parking and landscaping, including the retention and conversion of an existing agricultural barn as part of Plot 4.**

Gatehouse Farm Lower Road Middleton Essex Ref. No: 26/00488/FUL

After discussion regarding the reduction of houses as suggested in response to the previous application for this site, the Council support this application, seeing it as beneficial to the maintenance of the landscape character of the area, and the street scene, when compared to that previously consented.

- e) It was noted that planning application 25/02803/FUL was refused by BDC.

64.2025/2026 Highways Issues

- a) Upheaval and damage to roads caused by National Grid was discussed in item above.
- b) Discussed the overflowing ditch and deteriorating road. Possible pipe clogged. Cllr Baker to write to Highways detailing the issue and ask for it to be rectified.
- c) Finger post broken, Cllr Baker to provide Clerk with information to report.

65.2025/2026 Village Items

- a) PC had emails re complaints about light pollution on environmental grounds. PC can only be an advisory body and not able to resolve these types of issues, but it can signpost complaints to the suitable authorities, including but not limited to Essex Highways, Essex Police, Legal Advice, environmental health and the Information Commissioners Office.
- b) The end of the driveway of Simkins in Twinstead was damaged due to erosion with traffic and tractors. The owners of Simpkins have re-laid the end of the driveway with no charge.

66.2025/2026 Sourcing funding for community projects

- a) National Grid will have grants available for community projects within a 5km radius from the substation.
- 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.

67.2025/2026 Parish Council Finance

- a) All payments on finance report noted.
- b) Consideration of EALC or SLCC membership to be discussed at November budget meeting.
- c) The insurance renewal options will be considered at May meeting once quotes are available for renewal on 1st June.

68.2025/2026 Policies

- a) Review emergency plan updates moved to May meeting.

69.2025/2026 Items for next agenda

70.2025/2026 Meeting Dates

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 21:19