

MINUTES OF TILBURY JUXTA CLARE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE CHURCH, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE ON TUES, 29TH MAY 2025 AT 7.P.M

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry
Present: Mrs. S. Harris (Councillor)
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Together with 9 (nine) members of the public

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. C. Gray, Mrs. I. Parker and Mr. P. Schwier

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th April 2024 were read by the Clerk, confirmed and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

a) Highway issues

The following highway issues were raised:

- i. Mrs. S. Harris reported that a temporary repair had been carried out on the sink hole, but other road repairs were awaited.
- ii. Vegetation was still overhanging the road to Great Yeldham, although it had been reported to ECC Highways.
- iii. The Chairman reported that the application for a weight and width restriction for large lorries through Tilbury Juxta Clare had been refused by ECC Highways.
- iv. Mrs. Harris expressed concern that the road through Tilbury Juxta Clare was in poor condition and has been for a long time which she had first raised with Mr. P. Schwier on Zoom on 9th April 2024.
- v. The pathway in front of Wiseman's Cottages has not yet been reinstated.
- vi. Zoom meetings regarding highway issues with Mr. Schwier will continue.
- vii. In addition, Mr. D. Patient is reporting highway issues online.
- viii. It was agreed to continue lobbying Mr. Schwier regarding outstanding highway issues and if that fails to lobby Mr. T. Cunningham, the ECC cabinet member responsible for highways.
- ix. The Chairman gave advise upon reporting highway issues online using ECC Highways Online Reporting tool.
- x. Councillors and residents expressed their frustration about the failure of ECC Highways to progress highway issues reported to them online and through Mr. Schwier.

b) Solar Farm application

The Solar Farm planning application had been approved by BDC subject to conditions, including highway conditions, which are awaited from BDC. Concern was expressed that the proposed route for construction traffic was through Tilbury Juxta Clare.

There were no other matters arising.

4) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

A written report from Mrs. I. Parker was read by the Clerk and a copy accompanies these minutes as appendix one. The report will also appear on the PC website. The Chairman added that Mrs. Parker is always willing to help residents with District Council issues.

5) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

A written report from Mr. P. Schwier was read by the Clerk and a copy accompanies these minutes as appendix two. The report will also appear on the PC website.

6) HIGHWAY ISSUES

(Please see minute 3 above)

7) PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Chairman welcomed the return of Mrs. S. Harris to the Parish Council and the following items were reported:

- a. The former telephone kiosk at Tilbury Hill had been re-painted.
- b. An Amenity Vehicle had been booked for 9th August 2025 from 9am to 12 noon and a flier for residents will be included in the Parish Magazine.
- c. Mr. & Mrs. T. Dean were thanked for delivering the Parish Magazine.
- d. A casual vacancy exists for a councillor for Tilbury Juxta Clare and the PC will consider co-option at its next meeting on 15th July 2025.

Mrs. Harris reported that the noticeboard at Tilbury Hill requires renovation. Mr. M. Harris and/or Mr. K. Shears will investigate and assess what is required.

Residents reported that a tree on the Village Green has low branches, which are causing pedestrians to walk out into the road. (Post meeting note: The Clerk has inspected the tree and Mr. Colvan agreed to remove and clear away the low branches free of charge)

8) LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION

A report was given about proposed Local Government Re-Organisation, which will affect County and District Councils and should largely leave Parish Councils alone.

9) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Loose cattle and overhanging vegetation

Residents reported that fencing around Spencers was not being adequately maintained, causing cattle to escape onto the road and into other properties. The owner and Police had been informed. ECC Highways had been notified of trees and vegetation overhanging the highway towards Great Yeldham.

b. Recycling bins

New arrangements for recycling bins were reported.

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)

APPENDIX 1 - BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Report for Parish Councils from Cllr Iona Parker – March 2025

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Essex.

The Government has announced that it wishes to extend devolution to all areas of England. Essex has taken the view that it should be at the forefront of this programme and has applied to be in the priority group. This request has been accepted.

Devolution will see powers, functions and funding passed from Whitehall to local areas and leaders. This will enable decisions which would otherwise be taken by ministers and civil servants in London to be taken at a more local level, tailoring the decisions to local needs, enabling more co-ordinated action and giving local areas more say over decisions which affect them.

The proposed model for Essex will see a directly elected mayor and the creation of a combined/strategic authority consisting of representatives from Essex County Council, Thurrock and Southend. Elections for the mayor would take place in May 2026.

The areas to be devolved include:

- Transport and local infrastructure, including buses, highways and train services
- Skills and employment support
- Housing and strategic planning
- Economic development and regeneration, including business support

The Government is consulting on these proposed changes and is seeking your views. Search Greater Essex Devolution Consultation on the Gov.uk website.

In addition to this (and separate from it) the Government is proposing to reorganise local government in 2 tier areas (ie where there are county and district/borough/city councils) and replace them with one unitary council. For Essex this will mean between 2 and 5 unitary councils. Essex has been asked to submit its initial proposals by 21st March with final proposals by 26th September. Leaders have formed cross party working groups to look at issues such as geography, size, number and value for money. Financial viability will be an important issue as will the need to maintain quality services. There also needs to be an understanding with the Government of how existing council debts will be handled.

Given the level of upheaval this will involve, the Government has agreed to postpone elections for Essex County Council due to take place this May for one year (although this may be extended).

Budget

BDC agreed its budget for the forthcoming year at its meeting on 24th February. Main highlights of relevance to my ward:

- Council tax to remain low. The BDC element of Council Tax will increase by 2.97% or £5.94 a year for a band D property. This means our Council Tax is still have one of the lowest in Essex and we are able to set a balanced budget.

- Transformation programme to be adjusted to reflect Local Government Reorganisation. This Programme is looking at how we can work more efficiently and make best use of our funds.
- £1.5m to invest in community assets across the District.
- Further funding for our cost of living fund to help low income households.
- £500k for temporary housing to meet the growing pressures for temporary housing for those who are homeless.
- No increase to garden waste collection charges.
- £50k for new litter and dog bins. (Thank you to the parish councils in my ward who have been pushing for new bins.)
- Street cleaning grants to parish councils to continue.
- Councillor Community Grants Scheme to continue.
- Twice yearly verge cutting to resume.

To remind you, 58% of our income comes from Council tax, 40% comes from business rates and 2% comes from Government grants. BDC collects Council tax on behalf of ECC, the police and fire authorities and town and parish councils. Of every £1 collected in Council tax, 9p is retained by the District Council.

Local Plan

The consultation on the Issues and Options for the new Local Plan has just closed. The next stage is the evaluation of the sites that have been put forward for development (housing and employment). Meetings will take place in May and June.

If any sites have been put forward in your parish, I would urge you to consider now how you wish to respond to these sites so you are ready to participate in these meetings if necessary.

Waste Review

The consultation on this has also just closed. Over 7,500 responses have been received. I hope to be able to update you on this at the meeting.

Sible Hedingham medical centre

Good news on this. The land for this was acquired by BDC as part of a s.106 agreement for the Bloor Homes development in Sible Hedingham. The land has now been transferred from BDC to One Medical who will be building the centre for the GP practices in Hedingham. Work on drainage is due to start shortly. One Medical will then go out to tender for the construction with work starting, all going well, in the autumn. The building already has planning permission.

Braintree Diagnostic Centre

Work has now started on this at the Braintree Community Hospital. We are extremely fortunate to have this facility which is only one of three being developed in the county. This will provide access to X-rays, MRI and CT scans and blood tests and save patients having to travel further afield.

APPENDIX 2 – ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Essex County Council - Heddingham Division

Cllr Peter Schwier – 2024/25 Annual Report

Achievements of Essex County Council in the Financial Year 2024-25

Essex County Council (ECC) has made significant strides across various portfolios during the financial year 2024-25, reflecting its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for its residents. Below is an overview of key achievements:

1. Economic Growth and Infrastructure

- **Investment in Local Economy:** ECC invested £1.95 million to stimulate local economic growth. This funding led to the creation of numerous jobs, supported business expansion, and attracted external investments, facilitating improvements in essential infrastructure. Since 2021, ECC's investments have resulted in over 1,200 new jobs across various industries and have provided training for more than 20,000 residents, enhancing their employability and earning potential.
- **Sustainable Transport Initiatives:** The council prioritized active travel, leading to a substantial increase in sustainable transportation. Notable accomplishments include:
 - Providing cycling training to over 6,000 pupils across 256 schools as part of the Bikeability programme.
 - Facilitating three million e-scooter rides in Basildon, Braintree, Chelmsford, and Colchester since December 2020, replacing approximately 593,508 car trips and reducing CO₂ emissions by 109 tons.
 - Installing 70 electric vehicle charging points across the county.
 - Enhancing cycling infrastructure in Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester, and Harlow, including the development of cycle paths, improved signage, signalized crossings, and wider pavements.These initiatives underscore ECC's dedication to promoting greener transportation options and reducing environmental impact.

2. Environmental Sustainability

- **Climate Action Plan:** ECC launched a pioneering app to engage residents in climate action. The Carbon Cutting Essex app enables users to track their carbon footprint and discover changes to reduce it. Features include interactive activities such as quizzes, blogs, and videos, with monthly themes focusing on different aspects of climate action, including waste, energy, transport, and food. Users are rewarded with points for positive environmental actions, which can be used to enter prize draws or donated to local causes.

3. Social Care and Community Services

- **Career Development for Social Workers:** ECC has prioritized the professional growth of its social workers through the Essex Social Care Academy, established in 2012. The academy offers continuous training in areas such as adult mental

health, internet safety, and understanding trauma for separated migrant children. This commitment to career progression spans from apprentices to senior staff, fostering a culture of equality, inclusion, and diversity. Such initiatives have led to high staff morale and recognition by Ofsted for outstanding performance in children's services.

- **Digital Transformation in Services:** To enhance service delivery, ECC partnered with IEG4 to implement a digital solution for processing Blue Badge applications. This modern case management system streamlines the application process, reducing administrative burdens and improving user experience. In 2023, the council received 43,000 applications—a 57% increase since 2019—highlighting the necessity for this digital transformation to meet rising demand.

4. Education and Skills Development

- **Data Academy Launch:** ECC initiated a Data Academy to bolster data literacy and analytical skills among its staff. Partnering with Multiverse, the council enrolled 40 employees in programs such as 'Data Insights for Business Decisions' and 'Data Fellowship.' This initiative aims to enhance evidence-based decision-making and modernize processes, ultimately improving services for residents.

ECC Budget 2025-26

The council plans to allocate over £2 billion across four primary sectors: the economy, environment, health, and initiatives to ensure Essex remains a great place for children and families. An additional £88 million is earmarked for portfolio budgets, with £8 million specifically directed towards road and footway maintenance.

Recognizing the importance of infrastructure, the council has committed an extra £12.3 million for highways improvements. This funding will support various projects, including:

- £8.5 million to continue the Members' Highways Initiative
- £1.6 million increase in the road safety budget
- £1.3 million for enhancements to cycle paths
- £500,000 for repairing damaged road signs
- £400,000 additional funding to improve drains and mitigate flooding risks

Despite these investments, the council faces economic challenges, including high inflation and increased service provision costs. To maintain financial sustainability, the council has identified the need for £43 million in savings for the 2025/26 fiscal year.

Through strategic investments and prudent financial management, Essex County Council aims to address current economic pressures while ensuring the continued delivery of essential services to its residents.

Summary

The responsibility of representing the diverse interests and needs of all the villages both large and small have been both demanding and rewarding across all 33 parishes of the Division. With dual responsibilities on both ECC and BDC I

have, I hope, effectively and continuously, addressed local issues, ensuring that the voices of Hedingham Division residents are heard and acted upon.

Cllr Peter Schwier AIEMA

Climate Czar

**Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction & Recycling
Chair, East of England Regional Climate Change Forum**



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