

# Pentlow Parish Council

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## **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>. January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

Present: Cllrs T. Bartlett, D. Wright, I. Bower, M. Stuchfield and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk).  
There were also 2 members of the public present.

**001/2026 Apologies for Absence** were received from BDC Cllr I. Parker

**002/2026 Co-Option**

### **Councillors are requested to receive written applications for the office of Parish Councillor and co-opt a candidate to fill the vacancy**

Rachel Smith having completed a short application form and confirmed their eligibility for the position of Councillor within the statutory rules (Local Government Act 1972 section 79).

Rachel Smith then signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office, E Consent form and was handed the Register of Interest form. Cllr R. Smith then took her seat as a Parish Councillor

**003/2026 Declaration of Interest**

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda Cllr M. Stuchfield, Cllr R. Smith and Cllr I. Bower declared an interest in the village hall item 010/2026

**004/2026 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Pentlow Parish Council**

To receive and agree the minutes of the last PPC meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup>. October 2025 **All Agreed**

**005/2026 Essex County Councillors report – ECC Cllr P. Schwier** No report given

**006/2026 District Councillors report – BDC Cllr I. Parker**

Cllr I. Parker supplied a report, prior to the meeting. It read  
I hope this gives you a flavour of some of the activities of Braintree District Council over the last few months. Not all is directly relevant to my ward but I hope you find it interesting.

1. The Government consultation on local government reorganisation in Essex has now closed and we are expected an announcement to be made in min February.
2. BDC is in the process of setting the budget for 2026/27 and the 4 year medium term strategy. The budget proposals will come to full council on 16<sup>th</sup> February. I will report on the main changes at the next meeting.
3. The draft local plan with proposed allocations for housing and employment and updated planning policies will go to the meeting of the full council on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. There will then be a public consultation on the proposals (known as regulation 18 consultation).
4. The Government is proposing to bring forward changes to the planning system which will require local planning authorities to inform the Government if they intend to refuse planning permission for developments of 150 or more homes. BDC has written to the Secretary of State expressing concerns at this change which will place pressure on LPAs to grant permission for sites which have not been allocated.
5. BDC has renewed its contract with Suffolk County Council for handling dry recylates. The contract is for 13 years with a 6 year break clause and takes into account the upcoming changes to recycling.
6. The street scene department received 195 requests for help in September (the latest figures I have received). Of these, 106 related to fly tipping and 28 for abandoned vehicles.
7. BDC is continuing its efforts to support business through the North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) and held a number of events at the end of 2025 including a jobs and skills fair aimed at mid life employment, a session on start ups and budgeting and a session on overcoming hurdles. These are very well received.
8. The numbers requiring temporary housing, including families with children, is gradually increasing. In the 12 months ending October 2025, 52 households were in temporary housing including 85 children. We suspect this may be due to lack of private rental accommodation.

**007/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response**

**25/02364/HH** - The Barn Larks In The Wood Pentlow Essex CO10 7JU

Replacement of garage doors.

Due to planning deadline, the Parish Council submitted the following planning response on 5<sup>th</sup>. December 2025 - *Pentlow Parish Council has no objection to this planning application*

**008/2026 Finance**

a) To receive the Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup>. December 2025

Councillors noted the Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup>. December 2025

b) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget 2025/2026

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget 2025/2026

c) Councillors to agree the November '25 – January '26 finances and to agree a transfer of any funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements **All Agreed**

**009/2026 Councillors to finalise the 2026-2027 budget**

Cllr M. Stuchfield proposed a 2026-2027 expenditure of £8198. Resulting in a Precept demand from BDC of £7268. Using BDC Tax Base figure of 112.99 resulted in a Band D property cost of £64.32p. A Zero increase. Cllr I. Bower seconded. **All Agreed**

**010/2026 Village Hall Lease - Cllr T. Bartlett**

The final lease copy has not been seen but it has been signed. An excellent lease for 99 years. Rent will be reviewed every 5 years with a major review after 25 years.

A vote of thanks from the Parish Council to Cllrs T. Bartlett and M. Stuchfield in obtaining the new lease.

**011/2026 Extending the village 30mph speed limit – update**

There is no easy way to extend the speed limit in the village. Speed survey would be required at a cost to the Council of £320 at each spot in the village

**012/2026 Solar Farm update**

Virtually all the soil has been removed and a numerous amount of bird boxes installed. The s106 money of £10,000 has been received by PPC.

**013/2026 Public Participation Session**

The Chairman will invite questions and observations from members of the public present.

The roof at the village hall requires repairing. 3 quotes have been sought. All Tenders to be forwarded onto the PPC Clerk. The village hall insurance to be included with the Parish Council insurance.

24<sup>th</sup>. March 2026 Village Hall AGM.

Solar Farm hedge is being managed well.

BDC Refuse vehicle Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>. March 2026

**014/2026 Items for Next Agenda**

Reports from Village Hall committee: Village sign:

**015/2026 Date of Next Full Council meeting – 8<sup>th</sup>. April 2026 at 7.30pm in the village hall which is the Annual Parish meeting followed by the Full Council meeting**

**016/2026 2026 meeting dates: 13<sup>th</sup>. May 2026 PPC AGM: 9<sup>th</sup>. September 2026: 11<sup>th</sup>. November 2026**

**017/2026 Closure of the Meeting**

**To Close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business**

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.40pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*T Bartlett*

T. Bartlett - Chair

8<sup>th</sup>. April 2026