# Great Bromley Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2026 AT 7.00PM AT GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL**

**In attendance:** Cllr Fairley (Chairman), Cllr Blowers, Cllr Hardy, Cllr Mander, Cllr Pirie, Cllr Sands and Cllr Smith.
**Also in attendance:** TDC Cllr Scott (items 1 – 8 and item 13 (part)) ECC Cllr Murray (items 12-13 (part) only) and Lizzie Ridout (Parish Clerk)
**Members of the public:**- 14

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were submitted by Cllr Goni and TDC Cllr Wiggins.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**
The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9 September 2026, and the extraordinary meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2026, previously circulated, were approved and signed as correct records.

**Proposed:** Cllr Pirie, **Seconded:** Cllr Hardy, and all agreed.

3. **Governance reminder: Confidentiality**
The Chairman read a statement regarding confidentiality:

"Councillors are reminded that strict confidentiality applies to all sensitive council business, including personnel matters, police or enforcement issues, and certain planning matters such as pre-application enquiries, enforcement cases and commercially sensitive information. Any information shared in confidence must not be disclosed outside the proper Council process or discussed with individuals who are not authorised to receive it. Unauthorised disclosure can harm individuals, compromise investigations, prejudice fair decision-making and expose the Council to legal or reputational risk. All confidential matters should be handled discreetly, respectfully and only through the Council's agreed channels and procedures."

The statement was noted.

4. **Declarations of Interest – reminder and declarations**
The Chairman read a statement regarding declarations of interests:

"Declaring interests in relevant agenda items is essential to maintaining public confidence in the Council's decision-making. Councillors are entrusted to act fairly, openly and in the best interests of the community, and transparency about personal, financial or other connections helps prevent conflicts from influencing public business. Pecuniary interests — such as financial benefit, property interests or business connections — must be declared, and non-pecuniary interests, including close associations, memberships or other loyalties, should also be disclosed where they create a real or perceived conflict. Making a declaration does not imply wrongdoing; it demonstrates integrity, sound judgement and respect for the Code of Conduct. Proper disclosure protects councillors from allegations of bias, protects decisions from challenge and ensures accurate public records. Councillors should review each agenda carefully, seek advice from the Clerk when uncertain, and make declarations at the appropriate point in the meeting. Consistent disclosure strengthens accountability and reassures residents that council business is conducted impartially, responsibly and in the public interest."

The statement was noted.

The Chairman invited members to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or other relevant interests.

Cllr Sands declared a non-pecuniary in planning application 26/01228/VOC.

Cllr Mander declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 17 and 18 insofar as her spouse was a member of the Maintenance Team, and took no part in the discussion or decision.

Cllr Blowers declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 26/01173/FUL insofar as he was a shareholder of the Bromley Cross Pub.

Cllr Sands declared a pecuniary interest in item 18 insofar as she was Chairman of Great Bromley Village Hall.

**5. Public Participation**

Mr Chris Morgan advised that, contrary to rumours circulating within the village, he had not left the Parish Council's Maintenance Team and remained a member of the group. He confirmed that he wished to continue assisting the Parish Council through his involvement with the team. The Chairman confirmed Mr Morgan was a valued member of the team.

A resident raised concerns regarding the impact of recent by-election costs, and the possibility of a further election, on the Parish Council's reserves and future precept levels. The Clerk advised that budget matters would be considered later in the meeting under the relevant agenda item.

Another resident addressed the Council and expressed concern regarding comments being made on social media and elsewhere about councillors and those attending Council meetings as would-be councillors. He stated that some comments were abusive and potentially unlawful and suggested that advice be sought regarding the legality of such remarks. The resident further commented that, regardless of differing views, councillors should not be subjected to personal abuse or harassment.

The Clerk advised that any concerns regarding potentially unlawful comments should be supported by appropriate evidence and referred to the relevant authorities where necessary. It was noted that, whilst some comments were publicly visible on social media, obtaining evidence sufficient to support any action could be difficult.

The resident stated that his concerns related less to individual comments and more to what he perceived to be an increasingly hostile tone towards councillors and prospective councillors. He expressed the view that the situation was close to getting out of hand and stated that he felt the treatment of councillors was wrong.

Cllr Mander thanked the resident for his comments and support for the Parish Council. She commented that councillors had experienced a significant amount of unnecessary criticism and abuse.

Cllr Sands stated that she agreed with the concerns raised and advised that she had personally been subjected to significant abuse, rumours and comments which she believed to be untrue. Cllr Sands referred to an anonymous letter which she advised had been reported to Essex Police and was subject to forensic examination. She stated that the letter contained offensive remarks regarding her son and stated that it had originated from a parish councillor, although she declined to identify the individual concerned.

Cllr Mander expressed concern regarding the statement and said that such a claim placed all councillors under suspicion. Cllr Sands declined to identify the individual concerned but subsequently stated that she was referring to an ex-parish councillor.

Cllr Sands also referred to rumours which she stated had been circulated about her, including suggestions that she supported the future use of the Seven Rivers site as a migrant hotel. Cllr Sands stated that these rumours were untrue. She further stated that she had been subjected to personal criticism, rumours and vitriol and that she would not tolerate such treatment.

Cllr Mander requested Cllr Sands apologise for making the statement regarding the anonymous letter being from a current councillor. Cllr Sands declined to do so, and then stated that the Parish Council had made her life "a living hell" when she had raised concerns regarding the fly infestation issue. She further stated that she believed she had not been welcomed onto the Parish Council and that existing councillors had not wanted her to join the Council. Cllr Sands stated that this was one of the reasons she had sought a contested election rather than co-option. She further stated that she had worked on matters affecting residents, particularly the fly infestation issue, and felt that her efforts had not been matched by others. She felt that she had been the subject of vitriol

and asinine comments.

Cllr Sands then referred to a previous standards complaint involving a former parish councillor and stated that the councillor concerned had resigned rather than proceed through the standards process.

Cllr Fairley commented that he felt the discussion was getting out of hand. Cllr Sands disagreed.

Cllr Sands then stated:

"I was voted onto the Parish Council and I will do my best for the residents of Great Bromley, but I have absolutely no confidence in any of you lot."

Cllr Sands requested that this statement be recorded in the minutes.

A brief exchange then took place between Cllr Sands and Cllr Hardy. During the discussion, Cllr Sands referred to what she and her son had been put through. Cllr Fairley interjected as he felt the matter was becoming personal. Cllr Hardy stated that he had only queried Cllr Sands' response to the Parish Council as a whole.

Cllr Sands further stated, "I don't trust any of you." Cllr Sands requested that this statement also be recorded in the minutes.

Cllr Sands further stated that she hoped none of the current councillors would remain on the Council following the elections in May 2027 and specifically requested that this comment also be recorded in the minutes. Cllr Mander also requested that this comment be recorded in the minutes.

As the discussion became increasingly contentious and was no longer progressing constructively, the Chairman brought Public Participation to a close and proceeded to the next item of business.

**6. Planning Determinations – for information only**

| REFERENCE | PROPOSAL | LOCATION | DECISION |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26/01240/FULHH Mr and Mrs Fisher | Householder Planning Application - Single storey rear extension. | Walnut Tree Carringtons Road, Great Bromley CO7 7XA | Approval is Refused 23.09.2026 |
| 26/01239/LBC Mr and Mrs Fisher | Application for Listed Building Consent - Single storey rear extension. | Walnut Tree Carringtons Road, Great Bromley CO7 7XA | Refusal - Listed Building Consent 23.09.2026 |
| 26/01038/FULHH Mr Daniel Shaikly | Householder Planning Application - Replacement front porch, conversion of existing garage to ancillary living accommodation, and single storey rear extension. | Dovetails, Mary Lane South, Great Bromley CO7 7UD | Approval - Full 04.09.2026 |
| 26/01152/FUL Mr and Mrs Rolt | Planning Application - Erection of a self-build dwelling (in lieu of 25/00928/COUNOT for the change of use of an agricultural building into a dwelling under Schedule 2, part 3, Class Q of the GPDO) | Roline Harwich Road Great Bromley CO7 7UL | Approval - Full 02.10.2026 |

The determinations were noted.

**7. Planning Applications**

# Great Bromley Parish Council

| REFERENCE | PROPOSAL | LOCATION |
|---|---|---|
| 26/01173/FUL<br>Mr Bryn Jones | Planning Application - Change of external wall finish.<br><br>Great Bromley Parish Council had no objections. | Bromley Cross Pub Ardleigh Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TL |
| 26/01228/VOC<br>Mr Oliver Burfoot | Variation of Condition 02 (approved plans) of planning permission 23/00321/FUL to allow the erection of new front boundary wall and gate.<br><br>Great Bromley Parish Council had no objections to the variation. | Grange Hall, Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TS |
| 26/01358/FUL HH<br>Dan Weaver | Householder Planning Application - Two storey rear extension and games room to rear garden<br><br>Great Bromley Parish Council had no objections. | 1 St Georges Close Great Bromley CO7 7HZ |

26/01385/OUT Mr and Mrs Sargent - Brookside, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7UX
Outline Planning Application (all matters reserved) - Erection of 1 self build dwelling.

Great Bromley Parish Council objected for the following reasons:

Highway and Pedestrian Safety - Concerns remain regarding the proposed pedestrian access onto Badley Hall Road. The applicant has not demonstrated the need for a new access point, and the proposed access appears to provide poorer sightlines than the existing arrangement, creating potential safety risks for pedestrians. The lack of footway provision in the area further exacerbates these concerns.

Heritage Impact - The site is located near a Grade I listed building. The Parish Council considers that any replacement dwelling should remain modest in scale and not exceed the character and appearance of the existing bungalow, in order to protect the setting of this important heritage asset.

Flood Risk and Drainage - The Council is concerned that development may affect the flow of water within Bromley Brook and increase local flood risk. Evidence should be provided to demonstrate that the proposal will not adversely impact the watercourse, and any necessary watercourse consents should be secured.

Construction Impacts - Should permission be granted, conditions should be imposed restricting construction working hours to protect neighbouring residents.

26/00768/FUL Messrs Raymond - NEEB Holdings Ltd Land North of Harwich Road Great Bromley CO7 8SZ
Application for Full Planning - Development of a roadside services facility comprising a service station with fuel forecourt and canopy, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, drive-through restaurant, flexible Class E commercial units, HGV parking and associated access, parking, landscaping, drainage and infrastructure.

Great Bromley Parish Council wished to reiterate that its objection to this application remains unchanged.

The Parish Council noted the recent response from the Highway Authority and was particularly concerned that the development had triggered Strategic Road Network concerns, indicating that the potential impact on the wider highway network remained unresolved.

Given the scale of the proposed development, including a fuel forecourt, EV charging infrastructure, drive-through restaurant, commercial units and HGV parking, the Parish Council continued to have significant concerns regarding the traffic and highway implications of the proposal and considered that those concerns had not been adequately addressed.

In light of the Highway Authority's comments and the outstanding Strategic Road Network issues, Great Bromley Parish Council maintained its objection to the application.

**8. Changes to National Planning Application Delegation Arrangements**

The Council considered correspondence from John Pateman-Gee, Head of Planning and Building Control, Tendring District Council, regarding forthcoming changes to national planning application delegation arrangements due to come into effect on 31 October 2026.

Cllr Scott outlined the proposed changes and expressed concern that district councillors would no longer have the ability to refer ("call in") planning applications for determination by the Planning Committee in the way currently permitted. Members discussed the important role that the existing arrangements play in enabling elected members to represent local concerns and ensuring that applications of significant public interest can be considered in a transparent public forum.

Concern was also expressed that the changes could reduce local democratic oversight of the planning process and place greater reliance on officer decisions. Members discussed the potential implications for parish councils, including the increasing importance of submitting detailed planning comments supported by relevant planning policy references.

Members agreed that the proposed arrangements could be detrimental to localism and community representation and considered that local communities should continue to have meaningful opportunities for elected members to seek Planning Committee consideration of contentious applications.

It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a response setting out the Council's concerns regarding the proposed changes, for circulation to councillors for approval. It was further agreed that a copy be sent to Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, requesting that the concerns be raised with Government.

Cllr Scott left after this item and after delivering his report as part of item 13.

**9. Local Plan consultation**

Members considered the draft consultation response relating to the proposed development allocations affecting Great Bromley.

During discussion, it was suggested that the response should make more explicit reference to the tests of soundness set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and more clearly link the Council's concerns regarding cumulative impacts, sustainability, highway impacts, accessibility, infrastructure provision and rural character to those tests.

It was agreed that the consultation response be amended accordingly and submitted on behalf of the Council.

**10. Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

The Council considered an invitation from the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) to participate in the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) initiative and associated support programme.

It was agreed that Cllr Pirie would explore the opportunities available through the LNRS initiative and associated support programme and report back to the Council in due course.

**11. Infrastructure Projects**

- National Grid - Pylons and Proposed Substation
- Five Estuaries Windfarm - Underground Cables and Proposed Substation
- North Falls Windfarm - Underground Cables and Proposed Substation
- Tarchon

Members received an update on the Five Estuaries and North Falls projects and noted the information being provided to residents by Little Bromley Parish Council through the *Messenger*.

Members reaffirmed their support for Little Bromley Parish Council and expressed concern regarding the significant impact of the proposed developments, including increased construction traffic, road widening works and the potential closure or restriction of surrounding roads. It was noted that these impacts could place additional pressure on the local road network and affect Great Bromley through increased traffic and diverted routes.

It was agreed that regular updates would continue to be received at Council meetings and that councillors would continue to attend Little Bromley Parish Council meetings to receive updates and demonstrate support.

**12. Tree survey**

The Council considered the annual tree survey quotation of £485 plus VAT for trees located on Parish Council land within the village.

**Proposed**: Cllr Mander, **Seconded**: Cllr Pirie and resolved that the quotation of £485 plus VAT for the annual tree survey be approved.

**13. Reports**

a) County Councillor's Report –

**Cllr Murray** reported on progress against Essex County Council's 100-day plan and advised that an update brochure outlining achievements to date had been published.

He noted that highway matters, particularly potholes, continued to form a significant part of his casework and encouraged residents to report defects directly through the Essex Highways reporting system. An update was also provided on ongoing drainage and gutter clearance works across the county.

Cllr Murray agreed to investigate concerns regarding incomplete drainage works in Ardleigh Road.

Concerns were raised regarding the proposed increase in post-16 SEND transport charges and the potential impact on local families. Cllr Murray requested that details be forwarded to him and agreed to raise the matter with the appropriate Essex County Council member and seek a response.

The report was noted, and Cllr Murray was thanked for his attendance. Cllr Murray left the meeting at this point.

b) District Councillors' Reports – circulated

**Cllr Scott** reported activities during September, including attendance at Full Council, Planning Committee meetings, member briefings and other district council engagements.

It was noted that the Government had paused the Local Government Reorganisation programme affecting Essex and a number of other areas. Updates were also provided regarding arts, heritage and cultural initiatives within the district.

Locally, residents had raised concerns regarding potholes in Harwich Road, faded give-way road markings at the Courthouse crossroads, and the condition of Bromley Road between Elmstead Market and Great Bromley. The Councillors advised that these matters had been raised with the relevant authorities.

Concerns regarding littering and fly-tipping along the A120 between the Ardleigh Crown Interchange and Great Bromley had also been raised with National Highways, following complaints from residents.

The report was noted, and Cllr Scott was thanked for his attendance and update.

c) Parish Councillors' Reports

**Councillor Smith** reported that additional assistance was required with The Messenger magazine deliveries and suggested that an advertisement be placed to recruit additional volunteer distributors, particularly within the Bromley Cross area. Councillor Smith also advised that there had been no recent Speedwatch activity and reported an incident of fly-tipping in Hilliards Road, which had been reported.

**Councillor Pirie** reported that rubbish had been dumped in a ditch on Back Lane East. The matter had been reported to the relevant authority. Councillor Pirie also noted the presence of

discarded nitrous oxide canisters in a hedge.

**Councillor Mander** raised concerns regarding misuse of the dog waste bin at The Cross, noting that it appeared to contain more cat litter than dog waste. It was further noted that the Veolia collection operative had expressed concern regarding the contents of the bin. Councillor Sands advised that dedicated dog waste bins were being removed and replaced as part of revised waste collection arrangements.

**Councillor Sands** requested an update regarding the Parish Plan. The Clerk advised that the Council had resolved within the previous six months not to progress a Parish Plan or Neighbourhood Plan and that no budget provision currently existed for a Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Sands agreed to provide feedback regarding the Village Hall and to report back on matters relating to the provision of a defibrillator.

d) Clerk's Report and Correspondence received

The Clerk reported positive interest from two residents in the Essex Shed project. A meeting would be arranged with interested residents, the project lead and a Parish Council representative.

**14. Action Sheet review and update**

The Clerk reviewed progress against the Action Sheet.

- It was reported that a site meeting had been held on 22 September 2026 regarding the ongoing fly infestation issues. Tendring District Council (TDC) had advised that future liaison regarding reports and investigations would be undertaken primarily through the established fly group. Investigations into the source of the infestation remained ongoing. Cllr Sands further advised that two sites had been identified as sources of the infestation. Further details could not be discussed in public session due to the confidential nature of the matter. Enforcement action, including possible prosecution, was being considered by TDC.
- The Council's response to the Tendring District Local Plan Submission Consultation had been prepared and considered under the relevant agenda item.
- The National Grid upgrade project continued to be monitored, and an update had been provided by Cllr Mander.
- Work on the Parish Emergency Plan remained ongoing.
- Cllr Sands advised that she would make enquiries regarding defibrillator training opportunities.
- Cllr Sands reported that representatives of the SOS Bus charity had expressed an interest in attending a future Parish Council meeting.
- Quotations for works arising from play area inspection reports had been obtained and would be considered as part of budget discussions.
- The Budget Working Group had met, with a further budget update to be considered later in the meeting.
- Essex Highways had been contacted regarding defects on Harwich Road and other matters raised by a resident. A response had subsequently been received from the relevant Essex County Council Cabinet Member and circulated to councillors.
- No further update had been received from the football club regarding use of the Hare Green recreation ground.

The updates were noted.

**15. Accounts**

The Accounts Monitoring Officer confirmed that the accounts were in order.

Councillor Sands queried whether the Council had adopted a written procedure governing the provision of statutory financial records to councillors. Clarification was sought as the nature of the procedure being referred to was not immediately understood. Councillor Sands indicated that she did not wish to discuss the matter further during the meeting in order to avoid conflict. The Clerk

agreed that a detailed discussion would be more appropriately conducted outside of the meeting.

Councillor Sands advised that she would raise the matter with Tendring District Council and stated that the accounts spreadsheet previously circulated by the Clerk was incorrect. The Clerk advised that the spreadsheet was correct and reiterated that a detailed discussion would be better undertaken outside of the meeting.

Councillor Sands requested that it be recorded in the minutes that, in her view, the accounts spreadsheet circulated by the Clerk was incorrect. The Clerk maintained that the spreadsheet was correct and again offered to discuss the matter following the meeting. Councillor Sands declined the offer.

---

The Clerk advised that budget preparation for the remainder of the current financial year and for 2027/28 had commenced. The Council had incurred the cost of two unexpected by-elections, with the first invoice totalling £4,142.64. Whilst the second invoice had not yet been received, it was anticipated to be of a similar value. As a result, expenditure for the remainder of the current financial year would need to be carefully managed.

The Clerk advised that an initial option under consideration was to request that Tendring District Council defer payment of the second by-election invoice, with the cost instead being funded through the 2027/28 precept. It was also considered prudent to include provision within future budgets for a further by-election, together with an increase in the Council's general reserves.

The Clerk further advised that, in recent years, increasing costs had largely been absorbed through the use of reserves rather than significant increases to the precept. However, with continuing cost increases and the unexpected expense of two by-elections, the Council's financial position had become more challenging. It was therefore anticipated that the precept would need to increase in order to meet the Council's statutory obligations, operational costs and reserve requirements.

It was noted that budget discussions remained ongoing and no recommendations were presented for Council consideration at this stage.

**16. Highways update**

There were no additional updates.

**17. Maintenance and Open Spaces**

Members discussed the condition of the football goalposts at Hare Green and potential costs associated with testing or replacement. It was agreed to remove the existing goalposts on safety grounds and for the bases to be removed and made safe. The Clerk was asked to explore funding opportunities for replacement equipment and for an explanatory article to be included in the Messenger.

**18. To approve the following payments**:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Staff costs | £ | 333.67 |
| HMRC PAYE | £ | 227.20 |
| Employer's NI | £ | 106.88 |
| Pension remittance | £ | 562.12 |
| Employer LGPS contribution | £ | 268.82 |
| TDC – Election expenses 3 September 2026 | £ | 4,142.64 |
| Great Bromley Village Hall – 23 Sep | £ | 24.00 |
| Great Bromley Village Hall – 14 Oct | £ | 26.00 |
| Tuckwells – 234171 – oil | £ | 29.60 |
| Clacton Business Services – payroll | £ | 100.80 |
| Bland Landscapes – grass cut and hedge | £ | 783.60 |
| Wicksteed Leisure Ltd – play area inspections | £ | 360.00 |

| Village Maintenance team costs: | Expenses | Total |
|---|---|---|
| Lewis Mander | - | £ 315.78 |
| Chris Morgan | - | £ 175.00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Grand total** | **£ 7,456.11** |

**Proposed**: Cllr Blowers **Seconded:** Cllr Hardy and resolved.

**19. Climate Change and Carbon Footprint**
Members considered the effect of any decisions on our Carbon Footprint and Climate Change in general. Item

**20. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 11 November 2026**
Members were reminded that items of business for inclusion on the agenda should be submitted to the Clerk by Monday 2 November 2026.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting closed 9.18pm.

Cllr Mander submitted her apologies for the November meeting.