



Members of the Public: 0

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr J Maddison. It was **agreed** that these apologies be accepted. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Spencer. Apologies were also noted from Cllr Milli Finch.

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda.

No declarations of interest received.

Following discussion, it was **agreed** that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17 March 2026 were approved. Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded Cllr Giles.

The Chairman will invite questions and observations from members of the public present. A maximum time of 15 minutes will be allowed.

No members of the public present.

i To approve the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2026 and 2025/26 budget account (circulated prior to meeting).

After discussion the bank reconciliation and budget account for March 2026 was **approved**. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

After discussion it was **agreed** that all April payments be made. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Giles.

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Direct Debits and Standing Orders for the year be approved. Proposed Cllr Spencer, seconded Cllr Mitchell. It was also **agreed** that a Direct

Debit for payments to Culligan should be set up for payment of the water refill station maintenance. Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded Cllr Mitchell.

082/2026 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Finch and Cllr Thorogood submitted a report before the meeting which was circulated and noted.

General Update – Local Government Reorganisation – This has been confirmed that Essex will move to a unitary Council System. Essex CC and District Councils will be replaced by 5 new Unitary council by April 2028. Shadow elections will take place in May 2027. Feering will be within the new North East Essex Authority which will deliver all local services currently split between County and District and will be made up of Braintree, Tendring district councils and Colchester City Council; Devolution and Mayor – Essex is moving toward a Greater Essex Combined Authority. Expected to be established in 2026 to oversee strategic functions such as transport, housing, skills, infrastructure. Elected Mayor anticipated in 2028.

Braintree District Council (“BDC”) Update – Regulation 18 Local Plan Consultation – This ended on Friday 17 April. The draft Local Plan proposes substantial housing allocations that could affect Kelvedon, including Kings Dene, Monks Farm and The Paddock development of 5640 homes; Monks Farm – Parker Strategic have submitted more than 50 new documents and revisions to the planning portal including proposals for access to the south. They have also submitted an education report stating that Honywood and Thurstable can accommodate the additional places; Crown Estates: National Highways have a holding objection in place and ECC’s Growth & Development Officers have requested a Minerals Resource assessment; New Bins – The new bins are being delivered but collection does not start until June 2026. Complaints been received about the larger bins and residents can request a review of their property.

County Council (“ECC”) Update – Elections will take place on 7 May 2026. Elected members will serve during the transition period leading up to the abolition of the current ECC structure in April 2028; Rivenhall Airfield IWMF – The greenhouse applications will be considered by the Development & Regulation committee on Friday 24 April. There are two further applications relating to the IWMF to be considered.

083/2026 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted following discussion. Discussion was held around the correspondence received from residents. It was agreed that the Parish Council have a policy not to support pressure groups and would let the resident know. It was also discussed that Cllr Thorogood would look into the issue with the land on London Road near the A12 and we should also write to planning enforcement regarding this. Discussion was held around the RCCE Village of the Year and Rural Community Awards and it was agreed that we would not enter. The Car Park Light was agreed that the cost be accepted and approved proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Evans. Discussion was also held around the Communications Officer’s hours. It was agreed that in principle we would pay the Communications officer for extra hours in May and June and this would be brought back to the next meeting.

084/2026 Housing Needs Survey

Laura Atkinson of the RCCE has provided an update on the 2 housing associations. After discussion it was **agreed** that we would speak to Crown Estate regarding the community led housing and rural exception site and whether they would be willing to allocate some of the land for the Parish Council to undertake this project. It was also **agreed** that if

Crown Estates agree to the proposal then we would like the two companies to present to the Parish Council for the council to decide which company they would prefer. It was also discussed that we would ask for confirmation as to how many local residents are on the housing register. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Evans.

085/2026 Planning Matters

- i All decisions have been made by Delegated Authority by the clerk in conjunction with discussions with the Planning Working Group and these will be ratified at the next face to face meeting. Meetings were held on 25 February and 9 March 2026.

The following applications were discussed at the 1 April: BDC Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation; ESS/31/25/BTE – Bradwell Quarry, Church Road; and ESS/28/25/BTE – Land forming part of Rivenhall Airfield, Bradwell Quarry, Coggeshall Road.

- ii **To receive update on Kings Dene / BDC Local Plan**

Nothing to update. This had been discussed as part of Cllr Thorogood's report.

086/2026 Highways & Transport

- i *A12 VTAG*

Nothing to report.

- ii *Councillors to discuss any issues to report regarding Transport / Refuse to BDC and/or ECC*

Nothing to update. Bins have been discussed under Cllr Thorogood's report

- iii *Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village*

Discussion was held around the SID being installed.

087/2026 Feering Crown Master Planning

To update on planning application number 26/00119/OUT received from Braintree District Council for outline planning permission of 835 homes in Feering.

Discussion was held around the email received from Essex County Council regarding the road safety audit for parcel A under Cllr Thorogood's report. The ECC Cabinet member for Highways has stated that a Road Safety Audits are required including the proposed access from Parcel A from Coggeshall Road. Priti Patel is also looking into this on behalf of the Parish Council.

088/2026 Essex Devolution

Nothing further to update from Cllr Thorogood's report.

089/2026 Committee and Representatives Report

To receive a report, consider and agree any actions arising from the report on the following:

- i *PRoW & Cycleway Working Group*

No report received.

- ii *IWMF Rivenhall Airfield Site Liaison Committee – Cllr Carlaw*

No report received.

iii *Playing Field Working Group – Cllr J Spencer*

Report circulated before meeting and noted. Recommendations were discussed as follows:

- tree cages to be kept. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Spencer.
- use of drop box traps to control the rabbit population, which was **agreed**. Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Giles.
- It was discussed that Feering Falcons should continue to use the small field for football training.
- Approve pathway weed treatment subject to policy and contractor capability Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Spencer

iv *Employment Committee – Cllr P Carlaw*

Report circulated before meeting and noted.

i) *Terms of Reference for Employment Committee*

After discussion and subject to the minor amendment the Terms of Reference for the Employment Committee were approved. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Spencer.

ii) *To agree membership of the Employment Committee*

After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Maddison be added to the Employment Committee. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Mitchell

iii) *To review and agree recommendations from Employment Committee*

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Clerk and Assistant Clerk should each receive a one spinal column point increase in salary from their current remuneration. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Spencer.

v *BALC – Cllr Carlaw*

No report received. It was agreed that Cllr Evans should attend the meeting on 22 April in place of Cllr Carlaw.

vi *Feering Community Centre Report*

Report circulated before meeting and noted.

i) *To discuss and agree to fix the car park light.*

The cost for the light in the car park was discussed under the Clerk's Report.

090/2026 Training

After discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr Spencer and the Clerk should attend the CouncilWise Essential HR training additional sessions. Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded Cllr Giles. It was further **agreed** that the Clerk and Communications Officer should attend the Assertion 10 AGAR Webinar. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Spencer

091/2026 Action Plan / 5 Year Plan

After discussion it was **agreed** that we leave the plan as it is and update on a yearly basis and this should be on the website. There were some discussion held around some of the outcomes to be amended.

092/2026 Essex & Suffolk Water

To consider and agree potential Bluespaces funding for a feasibility project of their Weir and associated nearby structures and areas.

It was discussed that funding will be sought following further discussions with Essex & Suffolk Water and Essex Wildlife Trust

093/2026 Essex & Suffolk "River Watch" Scheme

To consider and agree whether the Parish Council would like to ask for volunteers to be part of this scheme which monitors water quality and riverside vegetation and wildlife.

After discussion, it was **agreed** information would be held on the Parish Council stall at the May Fayre. The Parish Council would also speak to the Kelvedon & District Angling Association.

094/2026 Packhorse Bridge Weir

This was updated as part of item 092/2026.

095/2026 Grant Applications

Update on grant applications

Confirmation has been received that the grant submitted to Enover for the hall doors and windows and curtains for the Community Centre has been approved. The Clerk has accepted the grant and it was **agreed** that the agreement from Enover be signed when received. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Spencer.

i To update on funding for Rabbit Fencing

The Clerk has contacted the S106 officer at BDC to see whether they would allow the use of S106 money and is waiting for a response.

096/2026 Handyman / Grass Cutting Contract

This was discussed under the Clerk's report. It was agreed that this item be removed going forward and the contract be dealt with by the Clerk's report.

097/2026 Allotments S106 Contribution

Nothing to update.

098/2026 Tree Works

i To update on Tree Works

Nothing to update. The Clerk has contacted Network Rail about the tree hanging from Taylors onto the Railway land to allow us to remove the overhanging branch and waiting for a response. Clerk to chase the tree survey

099/2026 Village Green

After discussion it was confirmed that the work to the Village Green had been accepted and Danbury Fencing had been appointed. We are waiting confirmation of the date when the work will be undertaken and it was discussed that we would notify the residents of the work to be undertaken.

100/2026 Items for the Next Agenda

i July Meeting

ii Street Lighting

iii Communications Officer extra hours

101/2026 Close of Meeting

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.32 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

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Pam Carlaw

19 May 2026