

GOOD EASTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON:

Thursday 29th January 2026 at 7pm **At** **Good Easter Village Hall**

In attendance:

Cllr G Seeley (Chair)
Cllr M Johnston
Cllr B Anderson

Cllr L Balin
Cllr P West
Miss L White (Clerk)

Cllr T Glass
Cllr T Leng

1) Declaration of Interests

Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registerable interests in items on the agenda. It was noted that declarations may be made at any point during the meeting, should a relevant interest arise.

Members were also reminded that any such interests not previously notified must be reported to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

Cllr West declared an interest in the Village Hall.

2) Admission of the Public

In accordance with The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Chairman invited Members to vote as to whether any agenda items should be discussed in confidence. No items to be discussed in confidence.

3) Apologies

All Members were present.

4) Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th November 2025 were approved.

5) Report from Chelmsford City Council

Nothing to report.

6) Report from Essex County Council

A report from Cllr Mike Steel had been circulated prior to the meeting and is appended to these minutes.

7) Policies & Procedures

The following policies were adopted:

- a) Website Administration Policy
- b) Reserves Policy (figure agreed under agenda item 9c)

8) Planning

Members noted that Cllr West reviewed the following planning application and, under delegated powers, the Clerk had submitted a response to the Planning Department at Chelmsford City Council raising no objections:

Reference: 25/01671/FUL

Address: Orchard House Wares Road Good Easter Chelmsford

Description of works: Proposed Storage Cart Lodge with Storage room over.

9) Finance

a) The following payments were noted / approved:

25/11/2025	Miss L White	Clerk's Salary	Confidential
30/11/2025	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	£6.00
17/12/2025	Eon Next	Electricity – Sports Field	£30.83
22/12/2025	M&J Construction	Pavilion Works	£4,200.00
29/12/2025	Miss L White	Clerk's Salary	Confidential
31/12/2025	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	£6.00
20/01/2026	Eon Next	Electricity – Sports Field	£33.36
VAT on the above transactions totals £3.06			

b) The following income was noted:

09/01/2026	Chelmsford City Council	Sports Field Grant	£10,000.00
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c) **It was resolved** to set the precept for the financial year at £12,834.00 being a rise of 13.5% for a band D property, equivalent to £8.41 per annum or 70p per month.

It was resolved that reserves should be maintained at approximately three-quarters of the precepted amount.

d) The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

10) Play Equipment – Sports Field

The Council noted an email from a member of the Sports Field Association setting out their proposed approach to repairs and on-going inspections of the play equipment.

11) Good Easter Sports Field Association

a) **Progress of the insurance claim.**

The Clerk reported that further information had been requested by the insurance company in order to progress the claim. The Clerk will liaise with the Sports Field Association accordingly.

b) **Pop-Up Pub Event**

It was reported that, due to a lack of time and volunteers, the Sports Field Association was unable to run this event. However, Members offered to galvanise their resources to ensure the event could proceed.

c) **Pavilion Repairs - Update**

It was agreed that Cllr Seeley would liaise with the builder to negotiate improved rates, with a view to releasing additional funds to enable repairs to the play equipment.

Cllr Seeley will also liaise with Cllr Steel regarding an outstanding Essex County Council grant payment.

Cllr West reported that repair work was progressing well and that members of the Sports Field Association were committed to delivering a high-quality outcome.

12) Village Hall Management Committee

Nothing to report.

13) New Community Building

Cllr Balin had previously circulated a summary of the consultation, the outcome of which

indicated that there is support within the community for the project to proceed.

It was agreed that the next steps would be to establish a charity and arrange a meeting of all interested parties. Cllr Glass agreed to liaise with potential volunteers.

Cllr West reported that he has been progressing matters with the architect, and that a representative from the Ordnance Survey visited on 28 January to assist with the registration of the land with the Land Registry.

14) Events

It was confirmed the annual litter pick would be held on the 8th March.

15) Members Invited to Share Any Other Business – No Resolutions

Discussion took place regarding advertising in the newsletter; it was agreed that all articles should be based on matters of local interest.

Cllr Johnston advised that a letter had been provided to High Easter Parish Council in support of their 'Love Your Bus' grant application. Mr Oliver Rogers, Clerk to High Easter Parish Council, was present and provided an update on progress to date and future plans.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:07.

Clerk to the Council:
Miss L White
clerk@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk

Report from Essex County Council

National Grid Pylons Examination by Govt Planning Inspectorate

The next stage is the Preliminary Hearings in February - These are specifically for comments on how the application will be examined – they are not to collect further comments on the actual application. I have made a submission and also registered to speak at the hearings. I have logged the overall objections, but have also and specifically, in line with the hearings objectives, requested re-examination of the “waltham gap” and further consideration of the impact of having a pylon right next to Chelmsford Road. This will also be supported by the submission of a Local Impact Report from Chelmsford City Council – the draft of which was reviewed at Policy Board of 15th Jan. This is an extensive 114 page report and very much emphasises the damage to the area around the walthams as well as all the other affected parishes along the west of Chelmsford – with suggestions for alternative options.

Examination stage takes up to 6 months then the Examining Authority writes its recommendation report. This must be completed and sent to the relevant Secretary of State within 3 months of the end of Examination stage. The decision stage is when the relevant Secretary of State then reviews the report and makes the final decision. They have 3 months to make a decision. Once the Secretary of State has made a decision, challenges can be made to the High Court and it is for the High Court to decide if there are grounds for a judicial review.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Essex

The following is correct at the time of writing, but appears to be changing frequently!

Greater Essex will still become a Combined County Authority (CCA) in May 2026, but the expected Mayoral election has now been postponed to May 2028. The Government says the delay is to allow LGR to happen before the mayors are elected. However, they still intend to create the Greater Essex CCA in early 2026 and have announced some funding to make that happen. Greater Essex will receive a third of their annual investment funds in both 2026-27 and 2027-28. Without a Mayor, the voting members of GECCA will be three from Essex County Council (ECC) and two each from Southend and Thurrock - until LGR happens. There will be two District-tier leaders as non-voting members.

This announcement does not affect LGR which will continue as planned, with elections to new unitary councils in May 2027 with such Cllrs taking control in April 2028 (when ECC is abolished). The format and number of such unitary councils has still not been finalised or published. Last May, County Council elections were postponed for a year because of the upcoming LGR. The current position seems to be that these elections will now take place in May 2026. It is important that these elections return a stable and experienced administration as the “exiting” council has an important role to play – making sure services are delivered in the closing stages, and facilitating the creation of the new Unitary Councils

Love Your Bus

I have 2 PCs making submissions by the 31 Jan deadline.

It's had a few issues – Roxwell have struggled to get a bus company to respond to them (I was able to get a contact). Good Easter have had some issues with IPTU responses and asked for my help. It looks like a wrong email address was being used for the actual comms. Tatiana has been trying to call and should have sent an invite for the Thursday 29th Jan session. It seems that the deadline has been extended to noon Monday 2nd Feb.

I have given my support to both applications.

Locality Fund

I have managed to allocate all of my £10,000 discretionary Locality and Community fund including £1,500 to Good Easter Sports Field Association contribution towards internal pavilion works for female toilet renovation, kitchen floor replacement and paint throughout.

Highways

I am getting a lot of road and pavement defects fixed through the Members' Highways Initiatives scheme.

It is that time of year when I get flooded with flood complaints.

Having sorted out Tye Green, you have asked me to look at Tituswell Lane.

Cllr Mike Steel

Member for Broomfield & Writtle

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Email: cllr.mike.steel@essex.gov.uk

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VISION ZERO
NO ROAD DEATHS

"I'm a big supporter of road safety. Vision Zero attacks the root causes of death on the road, as opposed to the perceptions."

Cllr Mike Steel
Broomfield and The Walthams ward,
Chelmsford City Council

I'VE SIGNED THE PLEDGE. HAVE YOU?

SAFERESSEX
roads partnership

saferessexroads.org/visionzero/pledge