

Little Bardfield Parish Council
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the Meeting on 25th November at 7pm
at Little Bardfield Cricket Club Pavilion

Present: Cllr Andrew Davies (Chairman), Cllr Colin Simpson (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Juliet O'Brien, Sophie Blair-Wolker (Clerk), Cllr Mike Tayler (UDC). Also present- 1 Parishioner in part.

- 1. Chairman's Welcome-** Cllr Andrew Davies opened the meeting.
- 3. Apologies for absence-** Cllr Martin Foley (ECC) sent his apologies.
- 4. Declarations of Interest in any matters on the agenda-** None.
- 5. Minutes –** The minutes of the 24th September 2025 were approved.
- 6. Public forum-** A member of the public raised that the Parish Council should have more transparency of council decisions available on the website. This was noted.

AP- Clerk to update the website on a more regular basis, including all documentation required under current legislation.

7. County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

Minutes of Cllr Mike Tayler's Report – Uttlesford District Council

Cllr Mike Tayler provided an update on the latest developments regarding the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) consultation. He informed members that the majority of Uttlesford District Council (UDC) members support the five-unitary council model. He also noted that evidence produced by proponents of alternative models, such as three or four unitary authorities, does not demonstrate any valid financial or cost-saving advantages. He highlighted the importance of close collaboration with NHS services, including potential joint arrangements with West Essex (covering Harlow and Epping) and health services in Chelmsford and Braintree, to better serve local communities in this process. Cllr Tayler stated that UDC is committed to keeping members and the public informed of any outcomes. Residents are encouraged to review all four proposals, which are also available on the council's website, and to participate by submitting their views. The consultation is open until 11th January and is accessible via the gov.uk website.

Regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), Cllr Tayler confirmed that it will be applied to eligible new buildings, starting with single dwellings, based on the charges discussed previously. He clarified that parishes with Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) will receive 25% of CIL receipts on a six-

monthly basis, while parishes without NPs will receive 15%. The revenue from CIL is intended to support local infrastructure projects.

Cllr Tayler also highlighted the ongoing Essex County Council (ECC) Budget Consultation for 2026/27, which invites residents and businesses to share their priorities. The consultation aims to identify key issues affecting Essex, including roads, potholes, and other local services, to help shape future spending. The survey is available online and closes on 15th December. Cllr Tayler emphasised the need for investment in roads and pothole repairs, which are of particular concern to local parish councils such as Little Bardfield.

8. Planning

8.1 Applications with Uttlesford District Council

Planning Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision
UTT/25/1787/FUL	Erection of two detached dwellings, together with access, parking provision and associated works.	Land North West Of Rosedale Cottage Hawkspur Green Little Sampford Road Little Bardfield Essex	Approved
UTT/25/2209/HHF	Proposed erection of rear and side extensions.	4 Bakers Cottages Little Bardfield Road Little Bardfield Essex CM7 4TS	Withdrawn

9. Finance

9.1 Payments for Authorisation

Details	Amount (£)
Application fee for the ICO	52

Summary of Accounts- Account balance as of 25th November- **£3989.56**

9.2 To agree Budget for 2026-27- It was agreed that the Council would raise the budget for the financial year 2026/27 by 10% at £4125. **P: Cllr Andrew Davies S: Cllr Juliet O’Brien**

9.3 To agree Precept for 2026-27- It was agreed that the precept for 2026/27 be set at £4125. **P: Cllr Andrew Davies S: Cllr Colin Simpson**

10. Highways Issues

14.1- To discuss maintenance of grounds at The Styles regarding overgrown hedges and aging tree;

The Clerk had contacted Essex County Council (ECC) on the 17th October 2025, which had been passed to the Compliance and Complaints Team. Having liaised with the relevant Highways team, ECC advised the following-

‘Following an inspection of the site and the tree in question, although the tree is dead and will require removal, the road Styles is not part of Essex Highways. In the event that the tree falls, it will not impact Little Bardfield Road which is the nearest section of Highways we are responsible for, which has been confirmed by Highway Records. We would recommend that you contact Uttlesford District Council to see if this is an area under their ownership.’

AP- Clerk to escalate with Uttlesford District Council and will update the resident and Council accordingly.

11. Update on application for Community Trust Fund registration with Charities Commission;
Agenda item deferred to a separate meeting of the Trustees of the Community Trust Fund at a later date.

12. To agree and publish the Council's Data Protection Policy; The policy was agreed. **P: Cllr Andrew Davies, S: Cllr Juliet O'Brien**

13. Date and agenda items for next meeting- Wednesday 11th February 2025, 7pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.23pm.