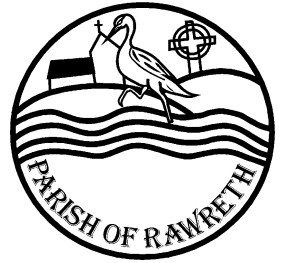


RAWRETH PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RAWRETH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 4th February 2026 AT 7.30pm AT BATTLESBRIDGE FREE CHURCH HAWK HILL BATTLESBRIDGE ESSEX SS11 7RE

Present:

Cllr. S Belton
Cllr. Mrs P Jayachandran
Cllr. A Matthews
Cllr. Mrs S Wiltshire
Cllr. S Jack

In Attendance: The Clerk and 3 Members of the Public

206. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies were received from Cllr P Mitchell, and Cllr S Peters

207. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None.

208. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th January 2026 were approved by the Members without alteration and accordingly the Chairman signed them as a true copy.

209. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY. None.

210. MATTERS TO NOTE ONLY (FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS) THESE MATTERS WILL BE PLACED ON FORTHCOMING AGENDA'S FOR DISCUSSION WHEN RELEVANT UPDATES, INFORMATION AND REPLIES ARE RECEIVED FROM THE REQUIRED SOURCES.

- a. Members to discuss renew and adopt where necessary Council statements, Policies and Regulations. (Clerk to circulate to Members prior to Meetings) including, Strategic Plan and Community Engagement. Noted.
- b. Beeches Road/Watery Lane Road Safety Concerns. (All Members, the Clerk and other LGA and Agencies to report) Noted.
- c. Special Planning Guidance (SPG). (Clerk circulated to Members, Cllr Belton to take the lead on this matter and all Members to report to the Cllr Belton) Noted.
- d. Council Information Leaflet. (Cllr Belton circulated to Members, all Members to report to Cllr Belton) Noted.
- e. Updates regarding flooding in the Parish. (Update regarding Rawreth Brook circulated to Members and posted on FB) Noted.
- f. Essex Police, Parking/Abandoned Vehicles and Road safety issues and concerns in the Parish. Noted.
- g. Community Events and Engagement. Noted.

211. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- The Clerk reported the following questions raised by email prior to the Meeting.

- a. When will the white lines/warning markings in Church Road/ Old London Road be reinstated following resurfacing works in 2025? The Clerk advised she had referred the matter to Essex County Councillor James Newport as the markings were due to be reinstated in January 2026.
- b. When will the road name sign for Church Road be replaced? The Clerk advised she had referred the matter to RDC as a replacement was ordered in 2024.

212. VILLAGE REPORT- - The following matters around the Parish were mentioned, where necessary the Clerk will investigate.

- a. Wolsey Park road sign, junction of London Road has been damaged. The Clerk confirmed she had reported this.
- b. Cllr Wiltshire advised that Mr Wiltshire had cleaned all the glue and dirt from the Council Notice Board at Asda, the Clerk and Members asked for their thanks to be passed to him.
- c. Damaged manhole/drain just past the BP Garage, A129 London Road.
- d. Chelmsford Road, between the Carpenters Arms pub and the A1245 the road is full of potholes.
- e. London Road, A129 can traffic lights be requested for the Junction of Old London Road?

- f. Cars have started to be parked in Old London Road on the sharp bend after the Chichester Hotel, do we know what the cars are doing there as they are seen daily?
- g. Rawreth Lane, Priory Chase junction, potholes in the middle of the road.
- h. A1245 the humps in the carriageway are scheduled for repair on the 16th of February 2026.
- i. Someone is defecating in the Community Garden again.

213. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS WRITTEN No reports were received from either the County Councillor or Ward District Councillors.

214. FINANCE. To Note

a. Online payments approved since the last meeting.

J A Pinkerton Maintenance (Feb) £2100.00 Noted.

Battlesbridge Free Church (Jan) £30.00 Noted.

Unity Bank Charge (Jan) £6.00 Noted.

Container Storage (Feb) £120.00 Noted.

H L Bloomfield Reimbursement stationery £49.99 Noted.

Anglian Water Water Supply at the Community Garden £47.22 Noted.

Gepp Solicitors Legal Fees in respect of the Allotment Land Transfer £1756.80 Noted.

b. Cllr Matthews left the room whilst this item was discussed. Members referred to December's Meeting, Item 167.f and discussed making a donation to FCN (Farming Community Network) in support of Cllr Matthews Grandson James who had raised an incredible amount of £1600.00 for FCN by climbing Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis. FCN (Farming Community Network) is a charity that provides confidential support for mental health in the farming community. Members unanimously agreed they would like to make a donation of £400.00 to FCN to bring the total sum raised by James to £2000.00.

c. Members discussed purchasing branded clothing for Members to wear at non formal events and meetings and agreed that the Clerk would circulate a list of available clothing and costs and if Members wanted to order anything the cost would be covered by them personally.

215. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE None.

216. ADOPTION OF POLICIES AND REGULATIONS. Council to discuss, review and adopt where necessary the following policies and regulations.

a. Members reviewed and unanimously agreed without alteration the drafted Planning Policy.

b. Members reviewed and unanimously agreed without alteration the drafted Complaints Policy.

c. Special Planning Guidance (SPG). Members agreed this would be brought back to the March Meeting.

217. DEVOLUTION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW. Members agreed that at the time of the meeting there were no updates to discuss with regards to the proposed Devolution, Local Government Reorganisation plans. The Clerk advised Members that the meeting of RDC's Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee is taking place this evening where Community Asset Transfers will be discussed.

218. PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND HOUSING TARGETS. The Clerk advised that both herself, Cllr Belton, the Clerk from Shotgate Parish Council and their Vice Chairman had met with Bloor Homes to discuss their proposed development of Dollymans Farm. Cllr Belton said the Meeting was interesting and worthwhile and they listened to key points that we made and appeared to take on board the major concerns. The Clerk advised that the following key points were discussed.

Waste water from the site, it was revealed that there are three options in the plans, the first for the site to join Shotgate works, the second for the site to join Rayleigh West via new pipeline and the third for a waste treatment system to be installed on site with the runoff discharging into the brook. The Clerk said that many reasons were stated to Bloor as to why this third option shouldn't even be featuring in their plans, the fact that the Brook system consists of Rawreth Brook, Chichester Brook, Benfleet Brook and leads into the Crouch, which is tidal. Cllr Belton said that the waste treatment system on site was the least favoured option for Bloor because of costs but that both himself and the Clerk stated that the Brook system has historic flooding, fluvial and tidal, and that tidal lock can also happen, Bloor were also reminded of the substantial work and planning that Countryside had gone through at Wolsey because of Rawreth Brook.

Traffic was discussed and part of the proposals are substantial changes to Carpenters Arms roundabout, including traffic light and changes to footpath and cycle paths leading into Wickford.

Affordable housing, the Council requested that they have input into how the affordable housing is made up, 50% of the total site build will be affordable housing, but it is not specified how much will be sold on the open market, how much will be social housing sold to housing associations and what type of properties these will be. The Council said consideration should be given to including bungalows within the affordable housing on site, not making the vast majority flats and also not grouping all social housing together. There is a small shopping centre planned for the site, it is intended that the flats will be above the shops.

Provision for a school and provision for a medical facilities. On these points it was stressed that these should not be land set aside, it should facilities built ready to hand over to schools and NHS.

The Site falls within Rawreth Parish, but Shotgate will be equally if not more affected by the development and therefore they should be included in all discussions, the planning application and Section 106 Agreements.

Protection of the War Memorials.

When the planning application is submitted to RDC, a guidance should be issued to residents telling them where to find key information, so bullet points and page numbers relating to things like traffic, drainage, health, schools.

219. EXISTING PARISH DEVELOPMENT UPDATES. The Clerk advised that the Transfer of the Allotment Land is imminent, with both the Council and Countryside now ready to complete.

Members noted that the Fairglen Interchange works have now been put on hold to post 2030.

220. TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED OR MATTERS TO RAISE AT FORTHCOMING MEETINGS INCLUDING RHALC. None.

221. COMMUNITY GARDEN, PARISH OWNED LAND AND MAINTENANCE- The Clerk advised there is a lot of work to be undertaken over the next eight weeks, the work will include flailing, hedge cutting, clearing pavements, pollarding the Willow Trees, litter picking, new paths in the Community Garden and installation of the memorial bench. Members agreed the Parish is already looking tidier.

222. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS. Members discussed the Annual Parish Meeting, it was agreed that the Chairman will call an APM for the 13th of May 2026. The APM will be held after the Annual Council Meeting at 8.00pm.

Members agreed that they would like to hold a meet and greet of the Parish Council, Cllr Belton suggested using “the Closet” at View Garden Centre as this is available for a variety of uses. Cllr Belton agreed to enquire what dates are available.

Members then spoke to about the suggestion of hosting First Aid Courses aimed at younger adults as a lot of them have never had any first aid training. Members agreed this is a really good idea and it was agreed the Clerk would look into costs, venues and gauge interest. Visiting Councillors from Hullbridge added this is something that they would be interested in being involved with.

223. TRAINING- The Clerk confirmed a list of training courses had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

224. REINSTATEMENT OF FOOTPATHS/BRIDLE WAYS IN THE PARISH. The Clerk advised that Footpath 8 has been completely cleared from Church Road to the A1245. The Clerk further advised that Footpath 2 has been blocked again and that ECC PROW Enforcement are aware and that Footpath 15 has been blocked and that she would be meeting PROW on site on the 5th of February.

225. PLANNING MATTERS- There were no planning applications received prior to the Meeting which have not been dealt with under Delegated Power.

226. BLUE PLAQUE HERITAGE SCHEME- The Clerk advised that she has now spoken with the Chichester Hotel who have stated they are in agreement to becoming the first recipients of a Heritage Blue Plaque and being part of the Heritage Scheme. The Clerk advised they are keen to meet the Council to discuss the matter further.

227. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA. Including if necessary matters noted in item 210. Blue Plaque, Special Planning Guidance Policy.

228. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING- Members agreed the date and time of Wednesday 4th March 2026 7.30pm, at Battlesbridge Free Church Hawk Hill Battlesbridge SS11 7RE. Members noted that the May Meeting would take place at 7.00pm on the 13th of May 2026 due to Elections.

Members agreed that the Chairman would call an Annual Parish Meeting to be held on the 13th of May 2026 at 20.00pm at Battlesbridge Free Church Hawk Hill Battlesbridge SS11 7RE.

The Meeting closed at 21.22 pm

Signed Chairman: