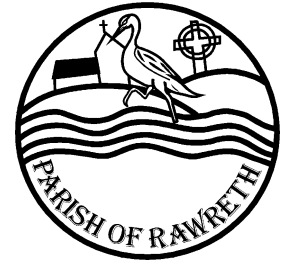


RAWRETH PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RAWRETH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 4th March 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. P Mitchell
Cllr. S Jack
Cllr. S Peters

In Attendance: The Clerk and 1 Member of the Public

229. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies were received from Cllr S Wiltshire.

230. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None.

231. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th February 2026 were approved by the Members without alteration and accordingly the Chairman signed them as a true copy.

232. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY (FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES) None.

233. 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.

234. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION No questions were received.

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

a. Humps on the A1245 have now finally been repaired and the surface is much better.

b. The Holi Festival was held in the Community Garden on the 2nd of March, grateful thanks were received from the organisers.

c. Rayleigh FC have advised that the Chichester Ground is booked every weekend in June for tournaments and will be holding 50th anniversary celebrations in May.

d. Beeches Road closed for 7 days, no notice was given but drivers are still trying to use it.

e. Hedges around the Parish have been cut but it revealed a lot of rubbish. The Clerk advised the Maintenance Team have been out and litter picked.

- f. Water is running in the road in Chelmsford Road, this has been reported several times but not resolved, the road surface is permanently wet.
- g. Rayleigh West has had an odour again. The Clerk advised she has already made contact with the regional manager and has been advised that no new raw cake has been brought onto site.
- h. The hedges down Church Road are looking very tidy, very pleased to see what has been done by the Maintenance Team.
- i. The water leak/drainage issue in Church Road by the Thatch Cottage appears to have been repaired.
- j. Road surface of Chelmsford Road between Carpenters Arms and the A1245 is absolutely awful with very deep potholes.
- k. Water leak on the A1245 southbound just after Rawreth Lane has been repaired.

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

237. FINANCE. To Note

- a. Online payments approved since the last meeting.
- J A Pinkerton Maintenance (Mar) £2100.00 Noted.
- Battlesbridge Free Church (Feb) £30.00 Noted.
- Unity Bank Charge (Feb) £6.00 Noted.
- Container Storage (Mar) £120.00 Noted.
- H L Bloomfield reimbursement of BT Broadband £52.74 Noted.
- H L Bloomfield reimbursement of insurance £6.38 Noted.
- H L Bloomfield reimbursement of equipment £84.62 Noted.
- H L Bloomfield reimbursement of equipment £49.99 Noted.
- National Allotment Society Membership Renewal £84.00 Noted.
- Gepp Solicitors Allotment Land £952.00 Noted.

b. Members to sign the Unity Bank Savings Account Application Form. All Signatories that were present signed the Application Form, Cllr Wiltshire's signature will be added as soon as possible then the Clerk will submit the application to Unity Bank.

238. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE (to note). Noted.

239. ADOPTION OF POLICIES AND REGULATIONS. The Clerk was asked to defer the discussion, review and adoption of the Co-Option Policy, Statement of Internal Control and Special Planning Guidance (SPG) to the April Meeting as not all Members had had the opportunity to read the circulated documents.

240. DEVOLUTION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW. Cllr Belton advised that the week commencing 16th of March, unless Central Government change the goalposts again there should be some news on LGR but what that will be we have no idea. Cllr Belton advised that the Community Asset Transfer will be discussed by RDC at their Strategy Finance and Policy Committee on the 17th of March. The Clerk advised that the next Meeting for Parish and Town Councils with the Leader of RDC regarding LGR will be held on the 20th of April.

241. PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND HOUSING TARGETS. Cllr Belton advised that RDC are continuing to oppose and challenge all the Central Government housing targets being forced upon the District. Cllr Belton advised that the application for the Development of Dollymans Farm was submitted on the 2nd of March, Cllr Peters raised the point that the Parish Council had said they would work closely with Shotgate PC on this application. The Clerk said that when the Parish Council met with Bloor they appeared to have listened to the point that when a planning application of this size is submitted it can be quite difficult and overwhelming to navigate because of the amount of information and literature and therefore it would be good if a supplemental guidance/briefing could be issued for residents detailing where the infrastructure details could be found within the application, ie page x, and likewise for things like flooding, schools, healthcare provisions etc, sadly now the application has been submitted no such signposting or guidance has been forthcoming.

It was agreed by all Members that given the depth of the application and the importance each Member should read the application and then enter into an email dialogue with thoughts, concerns, observations, facts etc so that a detailed response/representation could then be drafted for circulation and agreement. A timeframe of 7 days for Members to respond was set.

Cllr Belton advised that he had attended the RDC Local Plan public seminar for residents and it was quite disappointing as it was just vast amounts of documents laid out for residents to read, Cllr Belton advised he had fed back his thoughts to the Leader of RDC that really there should have been summary boards and guidance to pertinent information and he understands that since a second seminar has now been held that was formatted much better.

The Clerk advised that she holds a hardcopy of the RDC early draft consultation Regulation 18 should anyone want to look at a hardcopy rather than online.

242. EXISTING PARISH DEVELOPMENT UPDATES. The Clerk advised that on the 11th of February the Transfer of the Allotment Land at Wolsey Park finally completed the Council are now the legal owners of the Allotment Land. The Clerk advised that at the time of completion the Section 106 monies should have been paid to the Parish Council in full, however Countryside did not pay the agreed Section 106 sum of £148,472.51 and had instead asked if the Parish Council would defer receiving the payment until April 2026 which the Parish Council refused as under contract the monies become due on the day of completion, namely 11th February 2026. The Clerk advised that the Solicitors representing the Parish Council have been in contact with Countryside but they have offered no immediate payment of the sum due so the file has been passed to a dispute and resolution litigation Solicitor within the same firm with instructions for them to commence proceedings to recover the sum due. The Clerk advised this was a really disappointing outcome and that given Countryside were the ones who proposed the completion date of 11th February it was concerning that they completed knowing they wouldn't fulfil their legal obligation to pay the Section 106 monies. Members echoed the disappointment and concern and acknowledged that the matter is now in the hands of the Parish Councils Solicitors. The Clerk advised she will keep Members fully apprised of any new information.

Cllr Belton advised that the Fairglen Interchange infrastructure works have been postponed.

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

244. COMMUNITY GARDEN, PARISH OWNED LAND AND MAINTENANCE- The Clerk advised that unfortunately the person who has been defecating in the Community Garden has been back, the Maintenance Team have once again cleaned up which they have been thanked for. The Clerk advised that a vast amount of work has been undertaken over the last two weeks, including flailing hedges, strimming hedges and vegetation, litter picking, pollarding Willow Trees, tidying footpaths, the Clerk advised the Maintenance Team have worked incredibly hard. The Clerk advised going forward the schedule of works is to keep the footpaths strimmed, clear land slippage and vegetation from the pavements and plant screening around the Anglian Water pumping station at the Garden and then once the heavy rain has stopped and the ground conditions improve the Team will be back at the Community Garden to resurface the path and install the Memorial bench.

The Clerk advised that with the amount of work that the Parish Council are now carrying out, and will be carrying out going forward, including the Allotment site which is now the third piece of land the Council owns it has become evident that consideration needs to be given to the Parish Council purchasing their own Maintenance Vehicle which is appropriately sign written for the Council and maintenance. The Clerk advised that currently she attends sites in her own vehicle and recently attended a multiagency callout for Animal Welfare and as such a Parish Council owned vehicle would be more appropriate. The Clerk advised that purchasing a vehicle from the Section 106 monies when received would be appropriate. Members agreed that this is something that definitely needs to be considered and the Clerk was asked to add this as an item for the April Meeting.

245. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS. Cllr Belton confirmed that the Closet at View Garden Centre has been booked for the 24th of March by the Parish Council to hold a meet and greet day.

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

247. REINSTATEMENT OF FOOTPATHS/BRIDLE WAYS IN THE PARISH. The Clerk advised that all footpaths have now been cut and cleared and that as we have now entered nesting season any trimming required for safety reasons would be done by hand and only after inspection for active nesting birds. The Clerk advised that ground level strimming would continue over the coming months.

248. PLANNING MATTERS- The Clerk confirmed that the Dollymans's Farm Application had been circulated to Members on the 2nd of March. Members agreed due to amount of information contained within the application it was not something that could be rushed and Members agreed to individually respond with their observations and then a draft reply based on all observations would be circulated by the Clerk for approval.

249. BLUE PLAQUE HERITAGE SCHEME- The Clerk advised that she is still waiting on costings for the Blue Plaque.

250. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA. Including if necessary matters noted in item 233. Blue Plaque, Special Planning Guidance Policy, Maintenance Vehicle, Benches for the Community Garden.

251. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING- Members agreed the date and time of Wednesday 1st April 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.

The Meeting closed at 20.34 pm

Signed Chairman: