



SILVER END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 8th July 2026
in the Parish Council Office, Silver End Village Hall.

Present: Cllr M Sullivan (Chair, MS,) Cllr Taylor (CT,) Cllr Bugg (AB,) Cllr Martin (BM,) Cllr Hughes (PH, arrived during 0726/FC2482) Cllr Ashford (IA, left early during 0726/FC2486,) Cllr A Sullivan (AS,) Cllr Hutchings (CH,) Mrs Temple (Clerk,) Cllr Thorogood (PT, ECC arrived during 0726/FC2483) and 1 Member of the Public.

0726/FC2479 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Hughes for his late arrival (PH,) Cllr Thorogood, in advance of his late arrival (PT, ECC,) Cllr Wright (BW, BDC) and Cllr Abbott (JA, BDC.)

Absent without apologies: None.

0726/FC2480 **Declarations of Interest** by Members in respect of any items on the agenda, none were offered.

0726/FC2481 **Members of the public** are given an opportunity to speak at this point.

MotP – thanks for everyone's hard work for the 100th celebrations all comments have been very positive – 4 years in the making.

Gladman's application – 500 houses – 3 apps for building in Tollesbury – after refusing the applications it is thought that the authority were threatened with special measures. It's a big worry for future local applications. Regarding the Gladmans application – agricultural land has been downgraded making it easier for the applications to go through.

Outline app – early years and child care provision, promised but not materialised. Facilities much needed in the area.

IA explained that ECC has plans to make use of the facility and build a nursery. MotP added that as part of the application the NHS have not requested any S106 monies. Extra houses could affect emergency response times.

BM – ground survey units seen taking samples to survey – IA believes it is soil surveys for the greenhouses.

The Chair thanked the MoTP for his comments and his attendance.

0726/FC2482 **Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Council Meeting** were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

Clerk's Report (incl. Matters Arising from the previous minutes:)

- BDC hall meeting on 3/7 was cancelled and rearranged for this Friday. The Clerk has offered her apologies.
- Still awaiting response re defib from the insurance company. **Agenda item** for next month to purchase new if necessary.
- Awaiting a response from the **Chainsaw Artist** about a quote for the stump in the Memorial Gardens.
- In discussions with Bosch about a **replacement battery** for the electrical equipment.
- Stuart Clarke will carry out the **PAT testing** on 17th July. **Cllr Bugg** will open the office for him.
- **Clerk** to ask Helen Thomson to return spare hall keys.
- New bank mandate has been agreed and recorded.
- Audit for 25/26 has been completed and returned to the external auditor with all relevant notices placed on the website.
- An invitation was sent to PC James Draper to attend this meeting. However he has now moved to the Halstead team. His replacement is PC Kev Mayle who is keen to attend in the future but is already committed tonight. The **Clerk** has invited him to a future meeting.
- Work on the **York stone path** has been delayed until next Monday, 13th July.
- The removed **Give Way sign** in Silver Street has been reported to ECC again, explaining the recent accident. Notification this evening that work is being scheduled but no specific details yet.
- The temporary toilets have been collected from the Memorial Gardens today.

Cllr Hughes arrived at this point.

0726/FC2483 Report from District/County Councillors

In his absence **Cllr Abbott (JA, BDC)** sent the following report (abbreviated below):

- Weekly updates on the new bin system from BDC officers. Recycling is up compared to the previous system, but there has been an increase in complaints, especially missed bins, including Silver End and have passed these on to BDC.
- The new water supply at the allotments has been installed - we think everyone now has supply again.

- Planning Forum meeting looked at the initial plans for the old factory site, due to go out to pre-application public consultation. Asked questions on many aspects including highways safety and parking and the possibility of a new GP surgery. The developers said they had tried talking to the NHS (as we requested via BDC officers) but they were not interested in a facility on the site.
- The condition of the pond in the Memorial Gardens continues to result in complaints from residents. We appreciate all that the parish council is doing in working with BDC and we have once again asked BDC to update us.
- Developer flags issue on Boars Tye Road remains unresolved despite BDC agreeing months ago that Bellway are in breach. The 2007 regulations, which remain in force, say for that size of development, 2 flag poles are allowed as permitted development and for a defined time period. AB – some taken down yesterday but more than 2 remain.
- Local Plan - nothing new to report - we still await BDC setting out the outcomes from the Regulation 18 consultation held in the spring.

Cllr Thorogood (PT, ECC) arrived at this point, giving a report that he sent to the Clerk (abbreviated below):

Highways The new Reform UK administration has made significant changes to the way highways issues are managed. The previous Highways Buddy system has been abolished, along with the Members' Highways Nomination Scheme that allowed councillors to prioritise local highways issues such as potholes and overgrown vegetation. The future of the Local Highways Panel is now also under review. While the system was slow and underfunded, it remained the principal route for delivering new local road safety improvements. At present it is unclear whether existing schemes currently progressing through design and survey work will continue even though significant costs have already been made to get them to the implementation stage.

Rivenhall Integrated Waste Management Facility The Environment Agency has published its latest update on the IWMF. The Agency continues to receive reports from local residents, although complaint numbers have reduced in recent months. It says investigations, supported by monitoring data, indicate emissions have remained within the limits of the environmental permit. The Environment Agency acknowledges that an emergency shutdown following a power failure in March may have caused temporary off-site odours, and says this was from waste deposited in the waste feed hopper and not from incineration. It also confirms that visible steam plumes are primarily a planning matter for Essex County Council rather than them. The Agency has continued inspections and odour surveys and has completed its investigation into particulate and ammonia emission breaches that occurred during August 2025. It concluded there was no significant impact on ground-level air quality, confirmed that improvements have been made by the operator and issued a formal warning letter. Residents are encouraged to report odour concerns to the Environment Agency so incidents can be formally investigated on the 24-hour hotline: 0800 80 70 60. Alternatively online at using the GOV.UK Report an Environmental Problem page.

Minerals Local Plan Essex County Council has yet to announce its preferred mineral extraction sites as part of the emerging Minerals Local Plan. Recent discussions during the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury pylon inquiry highlighted the interaction between proposed electricity infrastructure and potential future quarry sites in this part of Essex. The preferred sites are expected to be announced later this summer.

Local Government Reorganisation Essex County Council has been granted permission to proceed with its Judicial Review challenging the Government's decision to replace the existing 15 councils across Greater Essex with five new unitary authorities. ECC argues that its preferred three-unitary model offered a stronger long-term financial solution. The High Court's decision to grant permission allows the case to proceed to a full hearing. Although permission has been granted, this is not currently expected to delay the Government's Local Government Reorganisation timetable. However, if the County Council is unsuccessful, the legal challenge is likely to cost taxpayers a substantial sum once legal and court costs are taken into account.

Essex Climate Action Commission The Reform UK administration has withdrawn Essex County Council's support for the Essex Climate Action Commission and ended its involvement in the Council's previous Net Zero programme. Secretariat support for the independent Commission will end later this month. The administration says the decision will contribute towards savings of around £3 million over four years. As one of Essex's Climate Commissioners, I am disappointed by this decision. The Commission is now considering how it can continue its work independently of the County Council, maintaining collaboration between local authorities, businesses, universities and environmental organisations on climate resilience, nature recovery and sustainable economic growth. As part of Reform's 100 Days program, Essex County Council is also axing Net Zero policies that it claims will save £3million. My concern is the Reform administration at Essex seems to view everything connected with Net Zero as a cost, rather than recognising the savings and economic opportunities it can deliver. In Essex net zero policies tackle fuel poverty, help residents cut their energy bills, improve air quality and help build resilience to flooding and extreme weather. If those activities are cut simply because they're associated with net zero, Essex risks losing expertise, investment and practical support that benefits residents every day. The people who will feel the impact most are often those on the lowest incomes, who rely on schemes that make homes warmer, healthier and cheaper to run. It sends the wrong message to businesses and investors. The transition to a low-carbon economy is one of the biggest economic opportunities of the coming decades.

If Essex is seen as turning its back on that, we risk missing out on investment, innovation and high-quality jobs while other areas move ahead. Scrapping “net zero” isn’t a free option or a saving. It delivers benefits for Essex residents. Too much of this debate is treating net zero as an ideological cost, when in reality many of these programmes reduce costs, improve lives and strengthen our economy. Why is Reform doing this? Between 2019-24 92% of Reform’s donations came from donors with links to fossil fuel industry. Overall 67% of Reform’s funding has come from the donors with interests in fossil fuels.

Braintree District Council

Waste Collection Service As reported above by Cllr Abbott. The Council says there is little evidence of widespread side waste and intends to monitor these positive trends before considering requests for additional recycling capacity. Work continues to improve the service, including reviewing missed collections, introducing larger food waste vehicles during July and carrying out further analysis of recycling performance. A further performance update will be presented to councillors during July, and we will continue raising residents’ concerns with officers and the Cabinet Member for Waste.

Draft Local Plan The Local Plan Sub-Committee met on 15 June to receive an update on responses to the Regulation 18 consultation. No decisions were made on future housing allocations. Officers confirmed that the plan period will now run from 2028 to 2043, requiring a range of supporting evidence to be updated, including transport, infrastructure, viability and sustainability assessments. These are expected to return to committee in September. Grants £1k available to Silver End – **Agenda item** for next month.

The Chair thanked Cllr Thorogood for his report and opened the floor to questions:

AB – is the crossing person to be replaced? PT will investigate.

0726/FC2484 Planning Applications – agreed via email communication since the last meeting. Only objections or formal comments noted:

None.

Any large applications that may require further discussion

None.

Any application received after the agenda was set

Application No: 26/01501/FUL

Silver End County Primary School

Alterations to fenestration to include replacement of 7 external doors, including enlargement of 3 doors for fire safety

Objection: In contravention of current Conservation Guidelines as white aluminium doors on front are visible from the street. Photos from the front are very misleading suggesting greenery is in the way – this is not the case.

Appeals/Enforcement/Other Planning Matters/Traffic Regulation Orders

Planning Forum regarding the Crittall site – attended by Cllr Ashford, apologies from Cllr Hughes.

IA reported that SEPC support overall. Plan relates to all except finishing company as that will remain. Main building is not structurally sound. Keep brick frontage for commercial space. North lights section coming down but keep end frames so outline remains. Middle bay - build terrace of houses to mimic roof shape. At back end build brick façade similar to one at front – create factory quarter. Open streets and tree lining. Architect is very keen to work with the history of the village. They are open to our suggestions and ideas. Really want to be as sympathetic to the original as possible. IA – said SEPC would like to be included along the way as much as possible. Didn’t like the idea of them putting a pond to the front and no obvious attempt to deal with the parked cars on Western Road. Highways claim there is no need to realign. Application in 2 parts – one full and one outline. Discussed windows – urged slim glazing line. Everything he heard was positive except for the realignment. Suggested the need for a surgery - they and BDC have reached out to NHS who have not responded at all. Everyone there was very keen to ensure that the architecture is a priority. He is cautiously hopeful.

PH – what will commemorate the original site? IA – info board, possibly a Heritage Museum/Parish Council office.

IA has put himself forward as the SEPC rep, they have the Clerk’s details too.

IA – meeting with SEPC in next 6 months and then a public consultation.

AS – how do we ensure that any trees planted are not left to die. IA- they aim to add a condition to app that they will replace if any die.

PT – large amount of concrete that will need a lot of lorries to take it away. PT will look at impact on the road system.

0726/FC2485 Correspondence – not already included in the Clerk’s report

BDC – Agewell Fair 16/7, Braintree /institute, 10-1pm. Notice on board.

RCCE – AGM tonight at 6.30pm.

Indaver – have made updates to their info pages so that everything is up to date. Details sent to all Members.

Highways – Traffic lights due on Cressing/Braintree Rd 21st-31st July. Followed by Braintree Rd closure 1st-9th August. In addition 7.5t weight limit on Long Green.

BDC – Flyer regarding holiday activities has been placed on the noticeboard, website and FaceBook.

Agewell East – calling for volunteers to assist the elderly with digital skills.

BDC – Volunteer Awards evening on 21st October. Closing date for nominations is 4th September at 5pm. Notice on noticeboard, website and FaceBook.

BDC – looking for volunteers for feedback on social supermarkets. Flyer for the noticeboard, website and FaceBook.

0726/FC2486 Reports from Silver End Councillors – Meetings/activities

S106 meeting – attended by Sarah Burder and Neil Jones, BDC, Cllr Abbott (BDC) and Cllrs M Sullivan, Ashford, Bugg and the Clerk. Responsibility for S106 now lies fully with Planning and as a result Sarah Burder has resigned and Neil Jones has no further involvement. Sarah Ashton took over responsibility last week, when Sarah Burder left. Funds were paid to SEPC (£11,200) for the cost of the Torii Arch last week and the tennis court project is progressing with the hope that it will have been completed by next summer. There is still money available for re-instating the waterfall and also for making some upgrades to the play area in the Memorial Gardens. **Clerk** to write to Sarah asking her to continue with meetings to get mutual benefit for S106.

PH and AB – working in park as usual. MS – has got a petrol mower for use in the park, stored in the garage.

AS – PPG – she has become Chair – first meeting today – 6 people in total. Carpets are to be replaced as not sanitary. Re-introducing children's toys etc. If they had more rooms they could become more of a health centre than just a GP surgery. She will put the new manager in touch with JA. Meetings to be once a quarter.

BM – Bus meeting. More buses than drivers. Stephensons state they have met targets regarding cancellations and delays. When BM explained that he uses the service very regularly and the service is consistently late or cancelled Ryan Scott from Stephensons claimed that all buses arrived and have been on time. He told BM to have better time keeping. This was totally unacceptable. **Clerk** to write to ECC, Stephensons and Mark Webster (as suggested by PT) stating that BM attended on behalf of the village, in his own time, to offer much needed feedback which was taken as untrue. BM is a Passenger Transport Rep on the basis that he uses the bus very regularly. This makes him an ideal candidate to give feedback and should have been welcomed rather than belittled. In addition Mr Scott's assistant was there to take notes, but choose to doodle on her notepad instead. In addition they reported that there is nothing they can do about the missing timetable outside the Co-op and also that bus shelters are PC's responsibility - untrue.

Centenary Celebrations – a debrief following events on 20th & 21st June – including the

AS – whole weekend was very well received – people felt part of a community and would like to see it repeated. IA suggested a Picnic in the Park moving forwards. A huge success. She has sent the Essex Chronicle details and a write up that should be in next Thursdays edition.

BM – there as a big write up in the Congregational Church magazine.

CT – big thanks to Dan Sutton for all of the publicity and the video. He went above and beyond.

All happy with the video – put on FB page along with the official photos which CT will put out slowly.

Friday night Jive was very popular – although very hot.

£5200 total of money raised.

CH suggested a Picnic in the Park one year and a family fun day the next.

Cllr Ashford left the meeting at this point.

Ongoing maintenance of the roundabout to the front of the village hall

PH declared an interest due to friendship with Mr Barker and took no part in discussions or the vote.

MS spoke to Jonathan Barker who has quoted for an initial 2 days to tidy up at £250 per day. Following that every 2 weeks or once a month, weather and season dependant. AB proposes a trial for a year with CT acting as second. All voted in agreement. **Clerk** to diarise for a year. Agreed that this year the cost would be taken from the Open Spaces budget.

Queries regarding placement of the Torii Arch plaque

Following discussions with the Chair the Clerk is concerned that a plaque for the Torii Arch will not be secure on the stone currently in place for this purpose. The top edge is not sufficiently flat. An approach has been made to Rhino Rock to see if they can grind a piece of granite flat. MS – not only rough but also has a crack. AB – is there another stone that's appropriate? Needs to be something that can't be moved. Match with one in the park already. **Agenda item** for next month.

Reports to be made to ECC/BDC/Eastlight/Memorial Gardens contractor

Schedule of works from John Bailey for May – 'Orchard was cut again I tried to keep some of the less invasive wild flowers for a bit of colour and for the wildlife. Trees have been doing very well and there is some fruit growing nicely. Roses and borders have been weeded and grass cut on the rose bed paths and behind the residential home. Weeds removed from the heather mound. Triangles weeded. Edged and generally tidied up. All areas litter picked (did notice a fair bit of litter in the rose garden hopefully this was just a one off as not there on the first visit.

June - Weeding of the beds. Cutting the grass in the rose garden and behind the retirement home. Weeding of the rose garden and trim of the yew hedge. Triangles trimmed and weeded. Orchard - strimmed a nice lot of wild flowers up there and a good patch of horse radish growing which should be ready for Christmas dinner. Litter pick as normal but pretty clean this month which is great. Clearing of all the paths within the area.'

0726/FC2487 **Finance**

Payments made/to be made to be agreed and signed. Bank balances to be agreed and noted

The Clerk presented the statements and balances which were agreed and signed by the Chair of the meeting, and the Clerk as the RFO, as per appendix **0726i**, as sent to Members with the agenda. All payments to be made, detailed in this appendix, were agreed and the bank balances were agreed and noted.

Additional payments agreed and to be added to 0726i:

HMRC (Q1)	max 3500.00	Hi-vis vests (100th)	19.98
Downs	5128.80	Ellis	max 1400.00
Hire a Hall (xmas event)	145.00	J Barker (roundabout maintenance)	500.00
CH (Halloween poster etc)	max 20.00	Halloween banners x 4	max 100.00

Agreement to be made regarding use of monies from the Centenary Celebrations (held in the

EMR account)

Agreed that this should be an **agenda item for September** as all payments should have been made by then.

Consideration to be given to **VAT due** for reclaim from payments made for the 100th.

0726/FC2488 **Christmas Events and Christmas Lights**

CH stated as this will be the last event in the centenary year that she would like it to be a good one. For Santas grotto she uses her own decorations and asked can she buy some for future events – all agreed. The Clerk confirmed that the total budget for the event, lights etc is £4.5k.

MS has taken the Co-op lights to electrical companies to see what can be done to refurbish them. Need 4 wiring looms and one piece of wire.

Agenda item for August for both items, including costs.

Clerk to contact Co-op for permission to place the lights on their roof.

AS - want to grow the event for this year but will keep it in the hall and at the rear.

Clerk to book hall.

CH and MS will organise a separate meeting for the Christmas Event.

0726/FC2489 **Halloween Event 2026 – consideration to be given to plans and associated costs**

Cllr Hughes has sent through details for all Members with suggestions for slogans and banner design.

Agreed the following:

- To be called Ghost and Ghouls come out to play.
- Meeting point will be by the pond.
- **Clerk** to order 4 banners. No date, just October then add a sticker later. Ensure SEPC are on there as hosts. Orange background and pictures.
- This year it will be held on Saturday 31st October.
- CH – will investigate poster and a picture opportunity board.
- Sweets to be bought as prizes.

0726/FC2490 **Agenda items for the next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th September.

No additional agenda items to those already mentioned within the minutes.

There being no further matters to discuss the Chair called the meeting to a close at 21.54 pm.