

PEBMARSH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Of the meeting held 10th September 2025

Present: Cllr M Sharp, Cllr B Nott, Cllr L Darroux
Clerk – Mrs Shelley Boydell
District Councillors – Cllr G Spray
County Councillor – Cllr P Schwier
Members of Public – 0

MINUTES

1.(10/09/2025) **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr J Rumsey, Cllr G Courtauld

2.(10/09/2025) **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr B Nott re Haul Road (non-pecuniary)

3.(10/09/2025) **Minutes of previous Parish Council Meetings**
Minutes for last meeting agreed.

4.(10/09/2025) **District / County Councillors Reports**
Gabrielle Spray – see report attached

Peter Schwier – Local Government Reorganisation (Reform) – when the recommendations go in to Government from District Councils regarding preference on the new Unitary Authority, the Government will decide if the options meet the criteria set out in the white paper.

Essex County Council is asking for responses to the Essex Transport Strategy. To view the strategy and give your feedback please visit <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/better-connected-essex/>

Hedges growing onto roads are not being cut, ECC asks communities to please cut hedges for the safety of road users.

Many potholes are being repaired but still more to go. In January 2024 there were 5000 reports, in January 2025 there were 4000 reports and in January 2025 only 1600 reports.

Beaulieu Park – 4500 homes with good infrastructure – delivered ahead of time and under budget.

ECC is pushing digital economy, the Travel Essex app is getting updated with all transport information so that users can find all information in just one place.

Statutory Nature Recovery Strategy was discussed.

Question – can the Parish Council help residents at all re: lack of phone signal. Cllr Spray will enquire but is not hopeful that this falls under the Council's remit but is the up to the telephone providers. Cllr Schwier suggested the PC writes to Ofcom to say Pebmarsh is interested infinding a suitable place for a mast to boost phone signal, as currently emergency services would not be able to be contacted if not connected to Wifi. Also Cllr Schwier suggested writing to the relevant minister for connectivity. Clerk to draft letter for agreement via email.

5.(10/09/2025) **Clerk's Report** – noted – Clerk to continue chasing NS&I and Natwest regarding unused accounts to be transferred to current account (Unity). Clerk to organise a procedure to follow if Clerk is every unable to work. Cllr Sharp reported a substantial pile of fly tipping to Braintree District Council and it was cleared the same day.

6.(10/09/2025) **Public Forum** – no public present

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7.(10/09/2025)

Co-option of New Parish Councillor

Clerk to organise advertising for a new councillor to fill the current vacancy. There is considerable concern that currently if less than 3 of the 4 current councillors are unable to make a meeting, due to the constraints of legislation, the council would not be able to function. Cllr Spray will speak to BDC Communication Team to see if they would be able to also advertise for our vacancy.

8.(10/09/2025)

Parish Upkeep & Village Matters

- a) *Playground – Cllr Darroux has been working hard on grant applications for funding towards the playground. Currently he is waiting to hear back from companies with quotes, then the applications can be submitted.*

The Parish Council would like to thank The Nott Family Trust, who have agreed to donate £2,000 towards the refurbishment of the playground. Jonathan Nott as also kindly offered to tidy the playground and remove the unsafe fencing. Then the Parish Council will install a new gate and have it fitted as soon as possible. Cllr Darroux to liaise with Jonathan Nott re contractor and funding for this work.

Cllr Darroux has had interest from residents who would like to help with the working party, he is also visiting local playgrounds which are similar in size to help to get ideas regarding the project.

A basketball hoop was offered to the Parish Council for use in the skate park area, unfortunately the hoop does not meet health and safety requirements – however, the PC will consider installing a basketball area in the future, after the playground is complete.

Cllr Sharp is in the process of organising a meeting with Strutt and Parker (agent for Glebe Land) regarding the future lease and possible purchase of the land, which also requesting permission to the refurbishment of the playground.

- b) *Application for 20mph – no update on this – P C Draper responded to the Parish Council's concerned regarding the safety of road users, this has been shared with Parish Councillors, who will discuss via email the next best step forwards, potentially a vehicle activated sign.*
- c) *Clerk to investigate the cost of a vehicle activated sign and possible funding available.*
- d) *Discussions between National Grid and landowners regarding the haul road that were promised are not happening, concerns are growing regarding what is planned.*
- e) *Clerk to get possible dates from Cllr Rumsey for the first aid training to take place.*
- f) *Potholes discussed in County Councillor's report.*
- g) *Clerk to find out information from Colchester City Council regarding how they planned and carried out their Soap Box Rally to help with finding out what is required for such an event.*
- h) *The bus stop opposite The Kings Head public house needs repairs to it's roof (sides are ok), The Parish Council have agreed on a budget of approximately £500, quotes will be obtained and agreed by email, ideally this work will be carried out by a local resident, as the Parish Council would like to support local business where it can. Cllr Sharp will organise a working party to get this work completed ASAP. District Councillor Gabrielle Spray kindly offered a £250 grant towards this work, for which the Parish Council would like to thank her very much. Clerk to complete grant form and return to Gabrielle.*

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9.(10/09/2025)

Planning

- a) *Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: H1 Thuja hedge, commonly known as Western Red Cedar -Reduce height uniformly to approximately 3-3.5 m, trim & tidy*
Mill House Mill Lane Pebmarsh Essex CO9 2NW
Ref. No: 25/01787/TPOCON
COMMENT: The Parish Council has no objection to this application.
- b) *Single storey side/rear extension & alterations to fenestrations.*
Mill House Mill Lane Pebmarsh Essex CO9 2NW
Ref. No: 25/01990/HH
COMMENT: The Parish Council has no objection to this application.
- c) *Application for variation of Condition 4 (single family occupancy) of planning permission 04/02288/FUL granted 01.03.05 for: Proposed extension and alterations. Variation would allow for the occupancy of more than a single family, whilst being retained within the same ownership as Stanley Hall.*
Stanley Hall Stanley Hall Road Pebmarsh Essex CO9 2LY
Ref. No: 25/01739/VAR
COMMENT: The Parish Council has no objection to this application.

10.(10/09/2025)

Finance

- a) *Finance report noted*
b) *Parish Council agreed to use Quickfile, Clerk to investigate this further.*
c) *Privacy Policy reviewed and agreed.*

11.(10/09/2025)

Items for Next Agenda:

Bus stop refurbishments, Billy Cart Race, Phone Mast, Interactive Speed Sign, Glebe Land, Annual Parish Meeting.

12.(10/09/2025)

Dates of Next Meetings

3rd December 2025 – Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed 9:20pm

Signed by Chairman Cllr Michael Sharp

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REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCILS SEPTEMBER 2025

Local Plan: The meetings to look at the Large Sites, those over 500 dwellings, start at the end of this month on 24th September with two to follow on 6th and 13th October; there are 44 sites in total. The Colne Valley Golf Club has been submitted for housing development; as soon as I know which meeting agenda this site is appearing on, I will let the Parish Councils know.

Subsequent meetings on 20th October and 6th November will be looking at Local Plan Policies and technical documents. I will then bring the first draft copy of the Local Plan to a special meeting of Full Council on Monday 24th November for approval before the Plan goes out to public consultation in December. This is still early stages with another public consultation due in early 2026 before the final draft Plan goes to the Planning Inspectorate.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR): There will be a meeting of Full Council on Monday 15th September for Braintree District Councillors to decide which Unitary model they prefer for Essex. The other fourteen Essex authorities have held, or will be holding, similar meetings over the next two weeks before the chosen model is submitted to the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by 26th September. There are four options currently under discussion but, ultimately, it will be a Government decision to decide which one is adopted and goes forward for elections in May 2027.

Bramford-Twinstead Energy Scheme: I attended an online briefing given by National Grid (NG) to update District Councillors on the progress of this scheme which is to upgrade the electricity supply. Along with other Councillors on the briefing, I questioned whether NG felt they had consulted sufficiently with landowners (farmers especially) on how the construction of the haul road will affect their land. I remain unconvinced that this issue has been properly managed by NG despite their assurances that they have fully consulted with residents.

Anti-Social Behaviour: Braintree District Council has launched a new set of dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) web pages to support residents and partners e.g. Parish & Town Councils, in understanding, reporting and managing ASB concerns. The website link is:

www.braintree.gov.uk/community/antisocial-behaviour

The pages are designed to provide a victim-centred approach to tackling ASB, set out clear definitions of ASB and how to report issues. The attached leaflet can be forwarded or printed for reference.

With best regards
Cllr Gabrielle Spray