



## Noak Bridge Parish Council

### Minutes

**Held at Noak Bridge Village Hall, Coppice Lane, Noak Bridge SS15 4JS on**

**Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 @ 7.30pm**

Present

Chairman: Cllr Mark Cottrell

Councillors: Cllr Cris Bateman, Cllr Jacqui Dowton, Cllr Lynn Gilliam, Cllr Peter Hawkins, and Cllr Terri Sargent.

In attendance: Cllr Tony Ball (Essex County Council), Cllr Malcolm Buckley (Essex County Council) and Lynda Townend (Clerk).

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **128/2025 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Daft.

Borough Councillor Alex Meyers confirmed he was unable to attend the meeting

#### **129/2025 Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations were made.

#### **130/2025 Minutes**

Members reviewed the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025, Minutes 115/2025 to 127/2025 inclusive.

Cllr Sargent requested clarity on minute reference 121/2025/03, *Monthly Budget Report*, the actual spend to date versus the total expenditure budget.

The Chairman explained the total expenditure budget for 2025/26 was £136,234.88, which included £95,000 of spend from earmarked reserves.

**Resolved:** That, for clarity and transparency, the monthly budget report shall include:

- (a) total expenditure to date expressed as a percentage of the total expenditure budget;
- (b) total expenditure to date expressed as a percentage of the precept.

Cllr Sargent enquired why the reason for the recorded vote on item 121/2025/04, *Business Banking Arrangements*, was not recorded in the minutes.

The Clerk explained the minutes correctly recorded the decision and the requested recorded vote. There is no requirement for minutes to record individual reasons for voting, as they are not intended to be a verbatim or narrative record of debate

Cllr Sargent advised she would investigate whether the reason given should be recorded in the minutes.

Cllr Sargent requested a recorded vote to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

**Vote:**

**For:** Cllrs Bateman, Cottrell, Dowton, Gilliam and Hawkins

**Against:** Cllr Sargent

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**131/2025     Public Participation Session**

No members of the public were present.

**131/2025     Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock**

The Council discussed the four proposals being consulted on.

**Resolved:** That Noak Bridge Parish Council supports the Local Government Reorganisation proposal led by Essex County Council for the establishment of three Unitary Authorities for Greater Essex.

The Council further supports the proposed boundary change within this model, whereby villages/Wards situated to the north of the A127, including Wickford North, Wickford Park and Castledon and Crouch, would be included within the proposed Mid-Essex Unitary Authority, rather than remaining within the area to be absorbed into the South Essex Unitary Authority.

The Council considers this proposal to better reflect natural community links, service provision, and local identity, and agrees that the Clerk will respond to the Government's Consultation recording the Council's preference.

**132/2025     Correspondence**

No correspondence was received or discussed.

**133/2025     Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled Parish Council meeting will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

With no further business the meeting closed at 20.32.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman