



Noak Bridge Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes

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

Wednesday the 15th April 2026 @ 7.00pm

Present

Chairman: Cllr Mark Cottrell

Councillors: Cllr Cristopher Bateman, Cllr Paul Daft, Cllr Jacqui Dowton, Cllr Lynn Gilliam, Cllr Peter Hawkins and Cllr Terri Sargent,

In attendance: Cllr Malcolm Buckley (Essex County Council), Lynda Townend (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed all residents and fellow councillors to the meeting.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 23 April 2025.

Members were asked to review the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on the 23 April 2025.

Resolved: That the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting were agreed by Members and signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's Report for 2025/26

Cllr Mark Cottrell read out his Chairman's report detailing the Council's activities and achievements undertaken in 2025/26.

5. Planning Reform

Cllr Sargent advised the planning reforms have been consulted on. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the County Council's Network (CNN) have both responded.

The Government is proposing to streamline the current consultation process for planning applications, which may result in the abolition of planning committees. Members expressed concern that this could limit the opportunity for residents and councillors to have their views fully considered, potentially leading to planning applications being determined without adequate scrutiny.

Resolved: that the Clerk will publish this information on the Council's website.

6. Parish Council Grant Applications

Cllr Cottrell advised that two types of grant are available: grants of up to £500, and grants between £500 and £5,000. Further information is available on the Council's website.

7. Parish Question Time

During Parish Question Time, a member of the public enquired about the Duck Trail project referenced in the Chairman's report. Cllr Daft advised that this is a project currently in the planning stage and is hoped to be finalised in 2026/27.

A member of the public reported that the Spanish Steps in the Nature Reserve had been vandalised. Basildon Borough Council has agreed to undertake the necessary repairs.

It was also reported that graffiti had been daubed on posters within the Nature Reserve; the relevant group will arrange for this to be cleaned in the coming weeks.

A resident enquired whether the footpath near the Nature Reserve could be reinstated.

Resolved: That the Council will investigate if this work could be undertaken by the handyman.

Cllr Gilliam enquired about the proposed planters to be installed on Fore Street Green. A member of the public advised that this project has been placed on hold pending confirmation of sufficient volunteers. A member of the public agreed to look into progressing the planter project.

A member of the public spoke about increasing biodiversity in the area through the planting of additional fruit trees, noting that the main challenge is ensuring adequate watering during the first two years.

Resolved: That the Clerk will contact Window Flowers to enquire about the cost to water planters and newly planted trees.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday the 20th May 2026 at 7:00pm.

No further questions were raised so the Chairman closed the meeting at 19:45