

BELCHAMP ST PAUL & BELCHAMP OTTEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE BELCHAMP ST PAUL ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

HELD ON TUESDAY 8 APRIL 2025 AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE BELCHAMP ST PAUL

Present: Councillor David McKee (chairman), Cllrs Ruth Carter, Holly Chaplin, and David Middleditch. In attendance: John Douglass (Parish Clerk). Two members of the public were present.

1. Chairman's opening remarks, introduction of Councillors and apologies for absence.
The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. Apologies were tabled from Cllrs Alex Bills, Dominic Curran and Robin Lock, and John Pheby (Tree Warden), Peter Hesketh (Emergency Officer and Footpath Warden), Cllr Peter Schwier (Essex County Council), and Cllr Iona Parker (Braintree District Council).
2. Consideration of the Minutes of the APA held on 9 April 2024.
The minutes had been circulated to Councillors. They were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters arising.
No matters arising were tabled.
4. Annual reports: Chairman's Report - Cllr David McKee.
The Chairman read his report. The introduction stated: "The PC continues to undertake its regular and diverse work on behalf of parishioners including – managing the defibrillators in the two villages, reporting potholes and other problems with the roads, providing a Christmas tree on Cole Green BSP, cutting grass verges and overseeing the local Speedwatch group." The report will be circulated to Councillors, and published in full on the Parish Council website. Cllr Carter tabled a vote of thanks from all the Councillors to the Chairman for his sterling work over the past year.

Footpath Warden's Report – Peter Hesketh.

The

The Clerk summarised the report. The report will be circulated to Councillors, and published in full on the Parish Council website. The Chairman tabled a vote of thanks to Peter for his sterling work.

Tree Warden's Report – John Pheby.

The Clerk read John's report which stated that the two horse chestnut trees and flowering cherry tree that were planted on Cole Green a couple of years ago are doing very nicely. John also submitted his resignation as Tree Warden. The Chairman tabled a note of appreciation to John for his work.

Emergency Officer's Report – Peter Hesketh.

The

The Clerk summarised the report. The report will be circulated to Councillors, and published in full on the Parish Council website.

Playing Field Management Committee report – Cllr Holly Chaplin.

Cllr Chaplin summarised the report. The report will be circulated to Councillors, and published in full on the Parish Council website.

5. Essex County Councillor Report – County Cllr Peter Schwier.

The Clerk summarised the ECC report. The report will be circulated to Councillors, and published in full on the Parish Council website.

6. Braintree District Councillor Report – District Cllr Iona Parker. The Clerk summarised the report. The report will be circulated to Councillors, and published in full on the Parish Council website.

7. OPEN FORUM - When electors have the opportunity to raise questions and to comment on local issues.

A member of the public suggested creating a wilding area on Cole Green, or perhaps a wild flower meadow. But this may spoil the very pretty aspect of the Green. Also, there is currently a small section of wilding in front of Savilles, and Essex C C appears to be moving away from re-wilding, e.g. farmers are now verge-cutting twice a year.

The meeting closed at 8:15 pm.

Signed (Chairman)

April 2026