

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of Broxted electors and residents held on  
Thursday 14 May 2026 at 7.35pm at Broxted Village Hall**

*Present were:*

Cllr Isham (chair), Electors Cllr Cousins, Cllr Hume, Cllr Kesterton, and Cllr Van Haaren.

Uttlesford District Councillors Bagnall and Sutton. Essex County Councillor Davis.

Clerk and elector: Kate Rixson

**2026-1 Apologies for Absence**

**2026-2 Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held 8 May 2025**

The minutes of the last Annual Assembly were confirmed to be an accurate record of proceedings and duly signed by the Chair.

**2026-3 Council Chairman's Report**

The chairman provided a report on the year's events and decisions. His report is annexed.

**2026-4 Open Forum**

Cllr Davis introduced himself as the newly-elected county councillor for the Thaxted Division and explained he was now a resident of Thaxted and had lived on the border of Broxted parish some years ago.

He advised that the county council would be creating a page for constituents on its website, and suggested that the parish council might wish to provide information to local residents indicating which council was responsible for providing particular services. He said he was keen to respond to concerns about local services provided by the county council and encouraged the parish council to raise issues with him.

Cllr Davis confirmed reports, which had appeared elsewhere, that the county council opposed the creation of five unitary councils to cover Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. It took the view that the plans decided and announced by the government in March 2026 (LGR) should be abandoned because reorganisation would lead to an over-concentration of power and a bias towards urban areas. The county council was intending to take steps to prevent it.

Cllr Davis confirmed that parish councils would not be abolished on reorganisation under the LGR announced by the government. The county council took no position as yet on whether there should be a mayor for Greater Essex.

**2026-5 Conclusion**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.50 pm.

Broxted PC  
Chair's Report May 2026

I am happy to be able to say that this year's report is not substantially different to last year's, in that there are no major issues within our parish that are of concern.

It is, however, disappointing that some items on our agendas over the last year are carry-overs from earlier years. Despite our best efforts, we have not been able to resolve all our concerns.

Our finances are again in a healthy state. We are well provided for all our regular outgoings and still have reserves sufficient for our reasonably expected requirements. Broxted PC is financially sound.

Our longstanding issues with Uttlesford District Council remain, namely matters of Enforcement and lack of communications from the Council.

Enforcement regarding unauthorised developments and or businesses has been lacking in rigour in our opinion. Investigations, not serving notices where we think they are needed and actions to stop developments have not been seen to be carried out.

We have seen some significant successes, especially regarding airport parking.

The hall has benefited from managed repairs and regular maintenance, ensuring that it remains in good order. Rental bookings continue to be an important function of the hall.

Broadband service has been agreed and Gigaclear will install fibre optic connection shortly.

The Parish Council again thanks both Phylis and Roger Clerk for all their valued assistance with the hall.

The Council is continuing to review the condition of our assets and schedule any repairs that are deemed to be required.

We are pleased that a new dog waste bin has been installed at Church End and thank all those who assisted with this project.

The relocation of the beacon is still to be resolved, but talks are continuing and reinstallation is planned.

We have been well informed about the proposed local government reorganisation. However, there are new questions now that the Reform administration at Essex County Council have written to the Prime Minister's office saying they do not wish the reorganisation to take place. We will follow the developments and await the outcome of their discussions.

Our District and County Councillors have attended our PC meetings regularly and been attentive to our requests for assistance. Thanks to them for their efforts. It is noted that following the local elections last week, things have changed. Tonight is our first meeting with the newly formed administration in place.

The Local Plan has been adopted by Council, and we keenly await positive planning changes that should result from the long-awaited plan.

Special thanks to Tony Adams for his work on the bus shelter, as well as David Van Haaren who has also contributed to the upkeep. Roddie Kesterton has extended the life of our notice board, thank you. Adam Hume has done the same for our benches. Kate Rixson has done very unglamorous, but wonderful work cleaning the very unsavoury bin at Church End. Big thanks for that!

The Chair of this Council has, thankfully, few additional duties or responsibilities to those of other Councillors. However, as Chair, my roll is made exceptionally easier because all our Councillors are dedicated and work collaboratively. We also have our excellent Clerk to thank for aiding in the smooth running of our Parish Council. Thank you all.

Indeed, thanks to many of our community who offer their time to help make Broxted the place we enjoy.