



MINUTES ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Parish of
Chigwell held at Victory Hall, Hainault Road,
Chigwell on **Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 7.00pm**

1. APA001/24 - RECORDING OF MEETINGS

Members of the Public and Councillors were asked to note that in accordance with Standing Orders 3 (i) and the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, photographing, recording, broadcasting, transmitting or otherwise reporting the proceedings of a meeting may take place.

2. APA002/24 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Ali, Amuludun, Braha, Costa, Jefcoate, Rizvi and Rye attended. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hodds and Morgan. Cllrs Clarke and Aradeon were absent.

3. APA003/24 - MINUTES

The minutes of the 30th May 2024 were deferred

4. APA004/24 - CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair of the Council gave her apologies but was unable to attend. It was **AGREED** her written report would be published on the Council website once available

Cllr Rizvi advised the council was developing its existing Community Engagement policy and working on improving communications in 25/26 by offering more opportunities for resident to engage with the Council and enable Councillors to listen to residents across Chigwell and adjust our services and our actions according to our residents. The Councillor surgeries were a significant step forward in the meeting the council's Community Engagement objectives in 24/25.

Cllr Rye advised Councillors that the monthly Councillor surgeries held the first Saturday of every month were increasing in popularity and the April surgery had the highest turnout to date.

Cllr Costa, the Vice Chair of the Council reported the Council continued to focus on its duty to provide best value for money to residents. The maintenance of the premises continued to be a significant drain on resources. The Council would like to do much more but like many Councils funds were limited and operational costs increasing. The Council was pleased to be able to limit its precept increase to 4% for 2025/26

Cllr Braha, the Chair of Community Services reported that the decision for the UK Prosperity Grant for Victory Hall improvements was still pending a decision from the providers.

Cllr Jefcoate, the Chair of Planning reported that Chigwell Parish had been robust in its defence against inappropriate planning in Chigwell during the year 24/25 and there had been significant Community Engagement with residents throughout the year. There were some notable successes where District planning committee members voted to refuse applications, contrary to officers' advice which were then upheld at appeal, most notably flats in Manor Road and flats and houses on Green Belt land at Grange Farm. There were also some losses sadly including blocks of flats with severely reduced parking in Courtland Drive and Fencepiece Road, both of which the Parish spoke up against. Most recently, the Parish has submitted detailed and robust objections to the proposals for 200 homes on Green Belt at the Guru Gobind school after over 20 residents attended the planning meeting where it was discussed

The Council is actively seeking more information regarding the status of the Green Belt site at Chigwell Primary School and has issued a PAP (pre action protocol) letter to EFDC in regard to challenging the planning decision for 145 units on fields by Froghall Lane. The matter of how the land came to be allegedly removed from Green Belt and included in the Local Plan is also now the subject of an internal investigation at EFDC. Over 60 local residents have expressed concerns in regard to the matter.

5. APA005/24 - QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were in attendance

The meeting closed at 7.11pm