

West Bergholt Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

from PC Meeting of January 2025

Major Council Reform

Changes to Essex & Colchester Councils?

City Cllr Dennis Willetts reported to West Bergholt Parish Council (WBPC) on Essex County Council's (ECC) recent vote to request the Government scrap this year's elections and look into the possibility of an elected Mayor for the region instead of the existing County & City/District Councils. Any changes shouldn't affect the relationship between parish councils and whoever takes over as the unitary authority and for now Essex & Colchester will continue to work as they do currently, until a final decision has been made.

2025-26 Budget/Precept

Budgets agreed for 2024-25

The Responsible Finance Officer, Cllr Andrew Savage, proposed a draft 2025-26 Three-Year Plan, budget and precept request (PC's proportion of your Council Tax), which was unanimously agreed by the Council. Changes to the employers' National Insurance contributions have resulted in a slight increase in the precept, resulting in a 6p per week (or £3.07 per year) rise in Council Tax (for Band D properties).

Cycling Working Party

Positive meeting for resident cyclists

Cllr Butcher reported to the WBPC meeting that the Cycling Working Party had recently met and held an enthusiastic meeting. A WhatsApp group is being established by those members who wish to meet up and undertake local cycle rides in small groups, contact clerk@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk if you are interested in joining this group and your details will be passed on. The PC will now take a back seat and schedule a meeting for a year's time to see how this progresses and if it results in finding anything that can be done to improve cycling in the village.

VE Day 80th Anniversary

Arrangements have begun for 8th May 2025

A small group of Councillors and the Clerk's Assistant have begun planning for the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The commemorative flag has been ordered, the beacon will be lit near the Orpen Memorial Hall and an evening event is being planned to accompany it, following the nationwide proposals of the Royal Pageant Master. More details to follow.

Read the minutes of the meeting in full at
westbergholt-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/meetings/minutes/