

Present: Cllrs Barwick, Brown, Dorman, Henderson, Munson, Scott

In the Chair: Cllr Smith

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also Present: 7 Members of the Public

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence; all Members were present.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Scott disclosed interests as follows:

- Personal interest regarding agenda item 11, planning application HOUSE/MAL/21/00501, as he has a personal relationship with the applicant's brother-in-law.

4. County Councillor and District Councillors

There were no County or District Councillors present.

5. Public Forum

A resident asked if there had been any update on the amenity land in Festival Gardens. Do we know if an appeal has been lodged with the District Council?

The Chairman advised that we do not believe they have appealed, and the Parish Council has received no notification of an appeal for this site.

The same resident asked whether the Outreach Post Office Facility would return in June when all lockdown restrictions had eased.

The Chairman advised that he hoped that the facility would re-open, but this is a matter for the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).

The resident left the meeting.

A resident explained that she was the applicant for the planning application at Spital Farm. The resident explained that the whole house needs renovation, and they do have issues with water coming through the floor. It is the intention to leave the majority of the house as it is.

A resident reiterated the issues raised in his email regarding the use of the Recreation Ground by footballers. The resident advised that he does not have a problem with the idea of football at the Recreation Ground.

The Chairman advised that the football teams had addressed most of the concerns raised and some issues were historical. Therefore, the Chairman answered as follows:

- 1) The Sunday team is Halstead; however, only two players come from Halstead, with the majority living in Tolleshunt D'Arcy and adjacent parishes.

- 2) The football teams are charged a fee for the use of the pitches; it is not free. The £20 pitch fee was agreed upon by all Councillors. When settling the fee for Tolleshunt D'Arcy, the Parish Council considered the fees being charged by neighbouring parishes. The Parish Council felt that £20 was suitable as the teams using Tolleshunt D'Arcy would be responsible for marking out the pitch, clearing the litter, and keeping the Pavilion clean and tidy.
- 3) The Chairman advised that the damage to the car park was first raised at the Parish Council meeting on 20th June 2020, which was before the football teams started playing at the Recreation Ground.
- 4) Our local litter pickers advise that there is no litter left after the football games as the teams clean up the area.
- 5) Parking – the football teams have an agreement with Tolleshunt D'Arcy School to use their car parking facility on match days.

Cllr Barwick advised that as a regular user of the Recreation Ground, she asked people for their views on football at the Recreation Ground. The feedback received was very positive, with all people asked being happy that the area is being used.

Cllr Dorman advised that when the Parish Council sought funding for the Pavilion, the main reason for the grant was to encourage sport on the Recreation Ground.

A resident spoke regarding the planning application for the Village Hall. His concern was that users throw their cigarette butts over his fence when the hall is in use, which is a safety hazard as he has some trees and an oil tank on the boundary.

6. Minutes

Minutes 6th May 2021

Resolved: The Minutes of the Virtual Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 6th May 2021 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed.

The Chairman signed the Minutes.

7. Finance

7.1 Monthly Financial Report

The Financial Reports were presented to the Council.

Councillors received the following monthly Financial Reports as of 30th April 2021:

Bank Reconciliation – a Closing balance of £60,124.74

Expenditure to date – Budget £25,014 – Actual £1,804

Income to date (including Precept (£21,515) £25,015 – Actual £21,635

Earmarked Funds – Closing Balance - £10,145.07

The Clerk reported the following:

- £21,515 receive from Maldon District Council for the Precept 2021/22.
- £1,249.01 received from HMRC for the VAT recovered between January and March 2021.

The Chairman signed the Reports.

7.2 Payments

Items for payment totalling £1,578.61 were presented for approval.

Resolved: to approve payments. Unanimously agreed.

8. Football

8.1 Letters from Residents

The letters from residents regarding the football at the Recreation Ground were received and noted.

8.2 Football – Recreation Ground

A majority of the issues raised in the correspondence had been addressed during the Public Forum.

The Parish Council acknowledged that there were some issues when the teams first started playing, particularly with the parking in Tollesbury Road and D'Arcy Way. The Parish Council brought this to the attention of the football teams, and they addressed it.

During a recent Saturday game, seven checks were made by Councillors. No issues were reported.

Concerning the complaints regarding urinating in the field, due to COVID, the keys for the Pavilion were not given to the teams, but once this issue had been raised, the teams were given a set of keys for the Pavilion to access the toilets. More recently, the participants have been asked to stand on the Pavilion side of the pitch to encourage players/spectators to use the toilets in the Pavilion. Not everyone going into the field is urinating; some are collecting the football.

On one Saturday, two games were played on the same day. The Parish Council advised the team that this was not acceptable, and this hasn't happened since.

When the Parish Council receive complaints from residents, any issues are raised directly with the football teams.

Resolved: To ask Halstead if they would consider changing their name to Tolleshunt D'Arcy.

Resolved: To allow the football to continue at the Recreation Ground and the Parish Council to monitor more closely after reiterating The Parish Council's expectations from the Football Teams.

Resolved: the fee of £20 per match would remain unless the teams proposed an increase.

Should residents have any complaints regarding the football, they should contact the Parish Clerk, not individual Councillors.

9. Internal Audit

9.1 Report and Recommendations from the Internal Auditor

Not yet received, so deferred to the next meeting.

9.2 Effectiveness of Internal Audit

To be deferred to the next meeting.

10. Unity Corporate MultiPay Card

The Clerk reported that during discussions with the Internal Auditor, the Auditor suggested that the Parish Council consider setting up a debit/credit card to allow her to make purchases for items required by the Council. Currently, the Clerk has to purchase items and then the money is transferred back to the Clerk.

Resolved: to proceed with a Unity Corporate MultiPay Card. There is an initial £50 set-up fee for the card then a monthly charge of £3.00. Unanimously agreed.

11. Planning Planning Applications and Decisions

– Planning Applications:

Application No: HOUSE/MAL/21/00501 PP-09809004

Proposal: Two-storey side and single storey rear extensions, internal alterations, replacement windows to the front and eastern side elevation and an additional first floor window to rear elevation

Location: Spital Farm Station Road Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: to recommend approval of this planning application. Unanimously agreed.

Application No: FUL/MAL/21/00478 PP-09730147

Proposal: Demolition of the existing village hall and the construction of a new community hub building.

Location: Village Hall 25 Tollesbury Road Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: to recommend approval of this planning application but to note the concerns raised by a resident as their oil tank is located mid-way along the west elevation. Agreed by the majority with Cllr Munson abstaining because the item was not specifically included on the agenda. The Chairman explained the wording of the agenda and the reason for “including” to be used.

– Planning Appeals Decisions: None received

– Planning Decisions:

FUL/MAL/21/00086 – Rear of 35 Church Street - Refused

– Planning Appeal Decisions: None received

12. Training

Resolved: for training as follows:

Cllr Scott – Planning Training -12th July 2021

Chairman – Play Equipment Inspectors Training

13. Police/Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

13.1 Police Report

There were no Police Reports received.

13.2 Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

The CPO Report for April 2021 was received and noted.

During the CPOs Patrols in April, there were a total of 9 drivers captured with the TruCam for speeding.

14. Administration

Zoom subscription – The Clerk advised that the zoom subscription was due to end in June.

Resolved: to cancel the subscription as remote meetings were no longer required.

15. Representative Reports

15.1 Burial Ground

15.1.1 Update from Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown reported:

- The gates need repainting
Action: Cllr Brown to purchase the wood treatment and submit the receipt to the Clerk for payment.
- On one of the new graves, a small bench has been put at the foot of the grave.
Action: Clerk to contact the family.

15.2 Recreation Ground

15.2.1 Update from Cllr Dorman

Cllr Dorman reported:

- The new table tennis facility had been installed.
- The Pavilion needs a paint

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had received an email from a resident regarding the condition of the gym equipment. The equipment requires cleaning and painting.

Action: The Chairman agreed to jet wash the equipment.

15.2.2 Proposal from Bee-Fit CM9

The Council considered the proposal from Bee-Fit CM9 for exclusive use of the general purpose room in the Pavilion for a fitness training business.

If agreed, BeeFit would also decorate the Pavilion internally and externally, provide additional security, lighting and secure flooring.

The proposal would be for a 3-year agreement at £500 per month.

Resolved: to agree to the proposal in principle. Unanimously agreed.

Action: Chairman to formalise a proposal for consideration at the meeting in June.

15.2.3 Concerns raised regarding the Recreation Ground

Some users of the Recreation Ground had expressed concern that a resident has erected CCTV at the end of their garden, which appears to be looking over the Recreation Ground including the children's play area. Residents are concerned about what images are being recorded.

The Parish Clerk is seeking advice from Maldon District Council.

15.3 Highway/Footpaths

15.3.1 Update from Cllr Henderson

Cllr Henderson reported:

- One of the dog fouling signs in the Harvesters has been taken down.
Action: Clerk to request that MDC put up another sign.

16. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items

Cllr Dorman reported:

- There is a freshwater leak outside no 17 Church Street. The resident has raised the leak with Essex Water, but Essex Water has taken no action.

Action: Clerk to contact Essex Water.

The Chairman reported:

- He had received an email from the VHMC, and they are hopeful that the Post Office Facility will open on 21st June 2021.
When the VHMC took over from the Parish Council, there were discussions about the Parish Council subsidising the rent paid for the Post Office. The facility is an important asset to the community.
Action: Parish Council Chairman to speak to the VHMC and put together a proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

Cllr Barwick reported:

- The gate on the new fencing at the play area needs attention. The soft-close isn't working correctly. The lock is also too close to the post.
Action: Clerk to raise with Gamart Engineering.

17. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on:
Tuesday 29th June 2021 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.16 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....