

Present: Cllrs Denney, Ewing, Henderson, Middleton (7.39pm), Munson

In the Chair: Cllr Smith – Chairman

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also Present: Steve Howard – Parish Working Group (PWG)
2 Members of the public

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Evans was not present at the meeting.

There were apologies for absence from District Cllr Thompson.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

4. County Councillor and District Councillors

There were no County or District Councillors at the meeting.

5. Public Forum

A resident spoke regarding the planning appeal on the Land adjacent to 13 Church Street. The resident advised that the application has been amended and the applicant wishes to fell the oak tree which has a TPO and replace the oak tree with a fruit tree and a small orchard on the amenity land. The resident stated that they had submitted an objection to the appeal.

6. Parish Working Group

Cllr Middleton arrived at the meeting.

Steve reported the following:

- It has been reported that there is still an advertising board on the Maypole. The Chairman advised this had been reported to Maldon District Council (MDC).
- The drains on Chapel Road are blocked which is causing a flooding issue when it rains. The Clerk advised that she had reported this to Essex County Council.
Action: Cllr Denney to provide the Parish Clerk with photographs of the drain when it is not flooded.
- Is there any update on the Local Highways Panel (LHP)? The Clerk advised that Cllr Durham would be attending the meeting of Tollesbury Parish Council to provide an update on the LHP. The Clerk would update the Council.
- It has been mentioned that bird droppings are on the Memorial Garden. Can the trees be cut back? The Chairman advised that the issue with the rookery has been raised on several occasions over the years and unfortunately, the Parish Council cannot take any further action.

7. Minutes

Minutes 27th February 2024

Resolved: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th February 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed by those who attended.

The Chairman signed the Minutes.

8. Finance

8.1 Monthly Financial Report

Councillors received the Monthly Financial Reports as of 29th February 2024.

Bank Reconciliation – a Closing balance of £30,840.80

Expenditure to date – Budget £31,971 – Actual £31,143

Income to date (including Precept (£22,721) £31,971 – Actual £9,794

Earmarked Funds – Closing Balance -£9,394.83 – Net Transfers £2,198

The Chairman signed the Reports.

8.2 Payments

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to approve the payments totalling £1,902.77.

9. Planning

9.1 Planning Applications

To consider Planning Applications received from Maldon District Council including the following:

Application No: 24/00179/TCA PP-12838766

Proposal: G1 - Row of 8 Leylandii trees - Fell the 1st (most easterly) tree.

Reduce the remaining trees by 5m including thinning the last (most westerly) tree by up to 50%.

Location: The Old Bakery 11 North Street Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.

Application No: 24/00101/FUL PP-12785813

Proposal: Erection of a 2 bedroom chalet bungalow and formation of new vehicular access

Location: Land Adjacent To Rosedean Tudwick Road Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: Agreed by a majority to recommend refusal of this application due to the following:

- The proposal is outside the development boundary

9.2 Planning Decisions

To note decisions made by Maldon District Council

FUL/MAL/24/00046 - Village Hall 25 Tollesbury Road - Approved

9.3 Appeals

To receive notification of Planning Appeals from Maldon District Council

Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/23/3333449

Application Ref: 23/00052/FUL PP-11867339

Proposal: Proposed demolition of existing garage and the erection of a new three bedroom house with ancillary parking

Site Address: Land Adjacent To 13 Church Street Tolleshunt D'arcy

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to submit the following additional comments to the Planning Inspector:

- Strongly object to the felling of the Oak tree which has a strong amenity value and an existing TPO.
- If trees are planted on the amenity land, it will prevent the use of the area for future generations.
- The applicant has no respect for planning regulations and there is a current enforcement investigation on the site with MDC.

A resident left the meeting.

9.4 Planning Appeal Decisions

To note decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate – None received

9.5 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)

To note TPOs made by Maldon District Council – None received.

10. Training

There were no requests for training.

11. Car Park – Recreation Ground

11.1 Existing Car Park

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting she had hand-delivered the letter. The landowner had responded to confirm receipt and advise that they would seek legal advice.

Cllr Ewing reported that the Contractor had visited the site and had spoken to the landowner. The Contractor has agreed to install some drainage, once the area dries out, which will take away any surface water.

11.2 Path

Cllr Denney reported that he had obtained guide prices for the path from the car park to the pavilion. To lay a concrete path would cost in the region of £9,000.

Councillors discussed the options and suggested having a path from the play area to the Pavilion rather than from the car park to the pavilion.

Action: Confirmation to be obtained that the path would be at ground level to prevent a trip hazard and to allow grass cutter to cross.

Action: Quotations to be obtained for a shorter path.

Action: Clerk to ask Blackwater Gymnastics Club if they would contribute to the path.

12. **Blackwater Gymnastics**

Councillors discussed the fair usage limit for the utilities for the Pavilion.

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to increase the fair usage limit on the utilities by 20% which is in line with increased rent. The limits would be as follows:

Electricity £60 per month

Water £24 per month

13. **Police/Community Engagement Team (CETs)**

13.1 **Police Report**

The Police Reports were received and noted.

13.2 **Community Engagement Team (CETs)**

13.2.1 **CET Report**

The CET Report for February 2024 was received and noted.

It was noted that during the CETs Patrols in February, there were 46 speeding offences - 1 on Kelvedon Road and 45 on Tollesbury Road.

13.2.2 **CET TruCam Patrols**

The cost for the TruCam patrols in 2024/25 will increase to £42.47 plus VAT per hour (£40.53 in 2023/24).

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to continue with the TruCam Patrols in 2024/25 for 2 hours per month.

14. **Administration**

Memorial Garden – The Clerk advised that between the time of the last meeting and her contacting the organisers of the memorial garden, the area had been tidied up. The planters had been repainted and planted, old tyres had been removed and the path had been swept.

Relocation of dog bin – The Clerk advised that she had spoken with Essex County Council who advised that the relocation of the bin would be considered by MDC. If permission was required from Highways, this would be obtained by MDC. The Parish Council would need to cover any cost to relocate the bin.

Action: Clerk to contact the resident at no. 1 Chapel Road to seek their views on the relocation of the bin which would be opposite their property.

15. **Representative Reports**

15.1 **Burial Ground**

15.1.1 **Update on the Burial Ground**

Cllr Henderson advised there were no issues to report.

15.2 **Recreation Ground/Pavilion**

15.2.1 **Update on the Recreation Ground/Pavilion**

Cllr Middleton advised that there were no new issues to report.

The Clerk reported that she has posted on the Parish Council social media to gauge the interest in the proposal for the installation of new play equipment at the Recreation Ground. 33 people liked the post and 7 have shared the post.

The Clerk advised that a request had been received from the Village Fete organisers for them to hold the Fete at the Recreation Ground on 1st June 2024.

Councillors were happy for the Recreation Ground to be used for the Fete on 1st June 204.

Action: Clerk to notify the gymnastics club of the event as the Fete attendees will require access to the toilet and kitchen.

15.3 Public Rights of Way

15.3.1 Update on Public Rights of Way

Cllr Henderson reported:

- There had been an increase in littering on the footpath from The Harvesters across the field.
- Some dog owners were not disposing of their dog waste bags in the bins but were leaving them on the floor.

Action: Clerk to put a notice on the Parish Council Facebook page reminding residents to dispose of their dog waste bags into the bins.

15.4 Road Safety/Highways

15.4.1 Lead Councillor for Road Safety/Highways

Cllr Denney reported:

- He planned to carry out a survey of the road signage and report any defects, signs needing cleaning etc to Essex County Council.
- There is a water leak on Oakley Hill which has been there for a long time and any repairs do not last.

Action: Cllr Denney to report to Essex & Suffolk Water.

16. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items

There were no matters raised.

17. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on:
Tuesday 30th April 2024 – 7.30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm

Signed.....

Date:.....