

MINUTES

Great Maplestead Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2023

Present. Cllr.M.Elms(Chairman).Cllr.S.Last.Cllr.I.Johnson.Cllr.J.Newton.Cllr.S.Harris.
Cllr.P.Maile. Cllr.P.Haylock Mrs.A.Crisp – Clerk. Members of the Public 0.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence – None

2. Minutes of previous meeting – The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11th January 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr.I.Johnson, seconded by Cllr.S.Harris. Vote in favour-Unanimous.

3. Declarations of Interest – None

4. County and District Matters –

County & District.Cllr.P.Schwier arrived at this time

District – 55 new homes approved for site beside Halstead Hall. Eastlight homes rents up 7%. Horizon 120 business estate now home to CareCo, British Offsite & the Digigo bus service. Braintree swimming pool now switched to LED lighting. Council Tax increase 2.5%. All homes will receive a discount of £25 on this year's bill, BDC giving back surplus funds to all homes equally.

County – Highways – Great Yeldham bridge works now delayed to Summer 2023. £9m in budget for pothole repairs (£4m already allocated and an additional £5m committed from recent government budget). Reminder of landowner responsibilities for vegetation overgrowth & clear ditch lines. Council Tax increase 3.5% (2.5% allocated to adult/social care). Councillors raised concerns regarding recent road flooding due to blocked drain gullies, previous promises by Highways to clear had not appeared to have been met. Cllr.Schwier asked that all details and exact locations are forwarded and he will investigate.

Cllr.Schwier left the meeting at this time

5. Officers Reports & Information Exchange –

Cllr.Elms –Highways – Toldish Hall Rd repairs, repairs start date scheduled for 19th June. Alderford Street flooding – issues have been raised with Highways.

Litter Picking – Volunteers have been asked to undertake a spring clearance ahead of verge growth

Cost of Living Crisis – The Warm Haven at St Giles church continues to be used. Reminders regarding the space, facilities and advice have been circulated to all households.

Cllr.Johnson – Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report for Great Maplestead.

Cllr.Last – See Agenda Item 8.1

Cllr.Harris – See Officer Reports

Cllr.Newton- Nothing to report

Cllr.Haylock – Nothing to report

Cllr.Maile – Nothing to report

6. Public question time

None

7. Progress Updates – The Clerk's report was pre-circulated.

8. Business Items

8.1 Village Playing Field Working Party Update –

8.1.1 To confirm contractor for new perimeter pathway, following on from tender process. Discussions and investigations for most appropriate pathway continued throughout 2022, with Premier Play Solutions (PPS) the preferred supplier of a fully rubberised pathway, which met the original tender brief and came within budget at £32760 net. Cllr.Last proposed acceptance of PPS quote and to proceed with pathway, seconded Cllr.Harris. Vote in favour-Unanimous.

There is a need for some pest control on the field to ensure the field surface is as stable as possible ahead of the pathway being installed in April. A quote from Raptor Pest Control has been approved, in line with Financial Regulations 4.1, at £130.00.

St Giles CofE primary school have offered to purchase pathway signs, at £1000 net, by way of contribution to the playing field refurbishment project.

8.2 Kings Coronation Celebrations 2023 – The Clerk reported on behalf of the volunteers organising village celebrations. A village Coronation show has been arranged for Saturday 6th May, with canapes and welcome refreshments. An afternoon tea & cake competition will be hosted at St Giles church on Sunday 7th May, & Monday 8th May will see the official launch of the children’s new play area and all access pathway on the playing field, followed by games (weather permitting). Every household will also be encouraged to dress their houses, gardens in red, white & blue in the week before celebrations – with a prize for the best decorations. A request of £400 towards arrangements for the weekend to include catering, a glass of free fizz, new decorations and prizes for various competitions was tabled. Cllr.Elms proposed the council commit £400 of their Events budget towards Coronation celebrations, seconded Cllr.Harris. Vote in favour-Unanimous.

8.3 BDC Annual Street Cleansing Agreement 2023 – Cllr.Elms proposed the council accept the new annual agreement, with a grant of £847.56 to be paid to the council. Seconded Cllr.Harris. Vote in favour- Unanimous.

8.4 Civility & Respect Pledge – Cllr.Harris proposed the council signs up to the new NALC/SLCC&OVW pledge to Civility and Respect Pledge, to support commitments in Code of Conduct Policy & Local Council Foundation Award. Seconded Cllr.Last. Vote in favour-Unanimous.

9. Financial Report

9.1 Current bank balances:-

Current account: £55.69 Fundraising account: £18339.85 Reserve account: £9059.04

9.2 Noting of sums received:-

NWB Interest Paid – Jan-Feb 2023	£38.93
BACS Essex County Council Grass Verge Grant – Autumn cut	£899.64
BACS National Lottery Grant – Drawdown 1	£22768.00
BACS National Lottery Grant – Drawdown 2	£11840.00
BACS National Lottery Grant – Drawdown 3	£22632.00
BACS HMRC VAT Refund – Dec-Jan	£5028.10

9.3 Ratification of payments made:-

DD N-Power Street Lighting – January	£6.90
DD N-Power Street Lighting - February	£10.62
OB Mr M Elms – Reimbursement for stationery purchase (CoL)	£49.39
OB Earth Wrights Ltd – Play Area – 1 st instalment	£27321.60
OB Earth Wrights Ltd – Play Area – 2 nd instalment	£14208.00
OB Earth Wrights Ltd – Play Area – 3 rd instalment	£27158.40
OB Rialtas Business Solutions – Year End Accounts Training	£144.00

9.4 Payments to be made:

None

9.5 Bank Transfers made:

Transfer from Business Reserve to Current Account	£2114.76
Transfer from Fundraising Account to Current Account	£25206.84
Transfer from Business Reserve to Fundraising Account	£2438.84
Transfer from Fundraising Account to Current Account	£22768.00
Transfer from Fundraising Account to Current Account	£14208.00
Transfer from Fundraising Account to Current Account	£27158.40
Transfer from Business Reserve to Current Account	£150.00

9.6 Other

Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2023 – Cllr.Harris proposed the council invites Mike Letch of Letchwood Consultants to act as the internal auditor at a cost of £125.00. Seconded Cllr.Haylock. Vote in favour-Unanimous.

Clerk Salary Rise – In accordance with statutory national increase to pay scales In November 2022, a pay scale increase of £1.21ph is due (no increase since April 2020). The rise is backdated to April 2022. Back pay of £435.60 to be paid with immediate effect, and the statutory rise incorporated in scheduled March 2023 payment. Clerk payscale SCP20(Salary scale LC2 18-23).

10.Planning

10.1 Decisions

10.1.1 22/03436/FUL Foxes Crossing, Gestingthorpe Road – Proposed change of use from agricultural land to residential garden. Application permitted 20 2 2023

10.1.2 22/02922/FUL Chifneys, Lucking Street – Conversion of existing barn to form 1.no.3 bedroom residential barn. Application withdrawn 20 2 2023.

11. Correspondence – *For notification*

None

12. Content for E-newsletter

Council achievements part 2; How to become a councillor; Parish Assembly; Planting for protection – security tips; Planning; Events

13. Items for the Next Agenda

Annual Policy Review

14. Date of next meeting:

Annual Parish Assembly – Wednesday 22nd March at 7.30pm

Annual Meeting - Wednesday 17th May at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.41pm

Signed.....TRUE COPY.....

Date: 17th May 2023