



Great Maplestead Parish Council

Ms Dee Ellison (Parish Clerk)
25 Monks Road, Earls Colne, Essex, CO6 2RY



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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 7th January 2026 7.30PM AT GREAT MAPLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr S Harris, Cllr R Brudenell, Cllr I Johnson, Cllr J Newton, Cllr B Vincent
Cllr D Weight,

Chair: Cllr S Harris

Clerk: Ms D Ellison

1. APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

1. **Cllr S Last**- apologies received via email

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th November 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate account of the proceedings of that meeting.

Proposed: Cllr R Brudenell **Seconded:** Cllr S Harris **Vote in Favour:**
Unanimous by those present

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Newton on a planning matter

4. COUNTY & DISTRICT MATTERS

Cllr P Shweir not present. Email communication received by the Clerk from Cllr P Schwier had been shared with Council during the month. Cllr S Harris discussed the public transport situation, and reported results detailed on the website for Dart 3 showed no changes.

5. OFFICER REPORTS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE

No business decisions may be made.

5.1 Monthly Playground Inspection- Inspection was undertaken by Cllr R Brudenell, with actions to address the dropped hinges on the gate required. Next inspection to be undertaken by Cllr J Newton. Clerk to send the template to Cllr Newton

5.2 Street Scene Submission – not required this month.

5.3 Officers Reports:

Public Salt Bin: Cllr Newton advised that the siting of the bin at the junction of Monks Lodge Rd has been hampered by access issues. He is planning to complete the task by the end of January 2026.

Clerk is to ascertain who owns the salt bin in Church Street as it is in a bad state of repair.

Community Litter picking: Cllr Brudenell reported that the Clerk had successfully secured the grant for litter picking resources. He would work with the Clerk to purchase the items in readiness for the next litter pick scheduled for the 7th March.

Playing field: Cllr Weight reported that it was a quiet period horticulturally. No further update on the memorial.

Policing Issues: Cllr Johnson reported that there were no incidents within Great Maplestead Parish.

Church: Cllr B Vincent confirmed the Church was funding the breakfast at the Halstead Men's Shed this month.



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National Grid update: Cllr B Vincent reported the development consent order was submitted, and that he had been advised that work on Twinstead Green substation will increase to ensure the 2029 deadline was met. The impact will be traffic flow disruption.

Chairs report: Cllr Harris reported on a number of items:

- Complaint received regarding an electric fence blocking Footpath 26 resulted in the Chair liaising with the landowner, who agreed to get the shepherd of the animals to move it.
- Final invoices from Tony Hume have been requested to enable timely submission to renew the schedule for Parish Path Partnership Scheme.
- Footpath 8 has had its damaged fingerpost replaced, and a new fingerpost has been installed by Croft Cottage (Footpath 16)
- Original GMPC website is showing an increase in its traffic. It is believed this is due to an increase in Facebook post links being reviewed. The current website will still be active whilst the new website is built. To ensure historical information is stored there will be a link in the new website to the old for reference.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Public correspondence received regarding salt bins has been discussed within Councillors report section

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

With respect to items on the agenda and other matters of mutual interest
No public present.

8. PROGRESS UPDATES

None to report

9. BUSINESS ITEMS

9.1 Budget was reviewed and discussed in full. Budget increase of 10% for precept put the precept value at £15325

Proposed: Cllr Harris **Seconded:** Cllr Johnson **Vote in favour:** Unanimous
Budget increase for costs at 4 put costs at £17133

Proposed: Cllr Johnson **Seconded:** Cllr Brudenell **Vote in favour:**
Unanimous.

Clerk to email to Councillors the precept documents.

10. PLANNING

10.1 Decisions made were acknowledged.

10.2 Applications notified were discussed in full and it was agreed there were no reasons for objection.

11. FINANCE

11.1 Current Bank Balances

11.2 Reconciled Receipts & Payments

Clerk advised that full reconciliation had taken place. Reports and invoices were validated.

11.3 Payments & Receipts for Authorisation

No unusual payments for approval this month

11.4 Bank Transfers Made

£6000.00 into savings accounts to maximise interest.



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12. CONTENT FOR e-NEWSLETTER

Content was shared by Chair. Special notification requested to raise residents' awareness of light pollution. Please review your settings/schedules to minimise light pollution. A review of the new bin schedule is being undertaken. Bus funding- no change for Great Maplestead Parish

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Note: No decisions can lawfully be made under this item, LGA 1972 section 12, 10(2)(b) states that business must be specified, therefore the Council cannot lawfully raise matters for decision.

13.1 AGAR auditor to be appointed.

13.2 Update on EALC grant spend.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Council Meeting: 11th March 2026 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 20.09

Recorded as a true reflection at Full Council meeting on 11th March 2026