



Great Maplestead Parish Council

Mrs Ann Crisp (Parish Clerk)
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON 26TH JULY, 7.30PM AT GREAT MAPLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs.S.Harris, I.Johnson, S.Last, J.Newton, D.Pike, B.Vincent, D.Weight

Chair: Cllr.S.Harris

Clerk: Mrs A Crisp

Also Present: Members of public 12

1. APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

District & County Cllr.P.Schwier – attendance at BDC meeting

2. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – CO-OPTION FOR CURRENT VACANCY

In accordance with Council Standing Order 8a, a vote was held by a show of hands. Mrs Dorothy Weight received the majority vote.

Cllr.Newton left the meeting at this time.

Open Public Meeting

3. ANNOUNCE RESULT OF CO-OPTION VOTE

The council thanked all applicants for their interest, and extended an invitation for possible future involvement in community initiatives. Mrs.D.Weight signed a Declaration of Office and joined the council to conduct the business of the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 17th May 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr.Johnson

Seconded: Cllr.Vincent

Agreed unanimously

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

6. COUNTY & DISTRICT MATTERS

A written report from Cllr.Schwier was received and shared with all present

7. OFFICER REPORTS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Cllr.Vincent – Nothing to report

Cllr.Pike – Nothing to report

Cllr.Johnson – Neighbourhood Watch – Cars, heating oil and power tools all continue to be regularly targeted although no recent thefts reported from within the parish

Cllr.Last – Neighbourhood Planning raised as an agenda item for next meeting

Cllr.Harris – Please see Officer Reports

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A number of questions were raised regarding the proposed withdrawal of the village bus service F315 and these will be directed to County Councillor Schwier for attention. The council advised parishioners to respond to the on-line consultation, with the Clerk obtaining hard-copy versions for those unable to access on-line.

Comment: Recent hedge cutting on FP15 has left debris on the ground, which makes the pathway difficult to navigate. The council confirmed they would contact the landowner.

Question. Could the council investigate over-hanging trees/vegetation on the highway in Dynes Hall Rd. The council will contact relevant landowners to request clearance as appropriate.

Comment. Noise from the recent Essex Gun Shoot appeared to continue for long hours over consecutive days, including Sunday. The council confirmed they would investigate what permissions were in place and if these had been exceeded then a letter would be sent to the organisers.



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Comment. Parking of vehicles on the corner of Lucking St/Toldish Hall Rd is causing a roadside hazard, and blocking access to the dog waste bin. The council will contact the local PCSO and ask them to contact vehicle owners.

9. PROGRESS UPDATES

The Clerk pre-circulated a report on actions since last meeting, and also advised that an approach had been received for Great Maplestead to join together with the parish of Gestingthorpe to host a village fete bi-annually, alternating the location. It was agreed that a note would be included in the Parish News to gauge parish interest and inviting volunteers.

10. BUSINESS ITEMS

10.1. D-Day 80 Celebrations June 2024 – The council confirmed they would support the national beacon lighting event hosting similar to the event to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

Proposed: Cllr.Johnson **Seconded:** Cllr.Pike Agreed unanimously

10.2. Annual Street Lighting Maintenance Contract – The council agreed to continue with a further 5 year contract with A & J Lighting solutions at a cost of £65pa maintenance visit charge (+costs) and an £80 call out charge

Proposed: Cllr.Harris **Seconded:** Cllr.Last Agreed unanimously

10.3. Village Playing Field Redevelopment Project – Report/Next Steps

10.3.1. New/Replacement Goal Posts/Basketball Net

10.3.2. Reinstallation of Spring Rockers

10.3.3. Install New Tyre Activity Area

10.3.4. Mindfulness Garden

Cllr.Last advised that the final phase of the playing field project is now complete with the National Lottery providing the final amount of grant funding, following a review of council procedures for the project. The council agreed to consult with the parish with regards to the next phase of refurbishment at the village playing field with items 10.3.1 – 10.3.4 all suggested ideas to review.

Proposed: Cllr.Last **Seconded:** Cllr.Harris Agreed unanimously

10.4. Annual Review of Risk Assessment Register – The council reviewed and adopted an updated version of the register for 2023/24.

Proposed: Cllr.Vincent **Seconded:** Cllr.Johnson Agreed unanimously

10.5. Review of Fixed Asset Register – The council reviewed and adopted an updated version of the register for 2023/24.

Proposed: Cllr.Harris **Seconded:** Cllr.Vincent Agreed unanimously

10.6. Local Council Award Scheme – The council agreed to re-apply for Foundation Status for a further 4-year term, & confirmed that all documentation and information, as per the criteria (1-26) for this award is in place. Registration fee £50.00

Proposed: Cllr.Harris **Seconded:** Cllr.Pike Agreed unanimously

10.7. EV Charging Point – The council agreed to the possible installation of one or two charging points at the village playing field subject to full investigation of costs, funding and work involved.

Proposed: Cllr.Harris **Seconded:** Cllr.Pike Agreed unanimously

10.8. Requests for Charity/Community Donations – The council agreed to review whether budget should be agreed in 2024/25 for small grant scheme for community based projects.

Proposed: Cllr.Harris **Seconded:** Cllr.Last Agreed unanimously

10.9. Footpath Map – The council agreed to explore the possible introduction of a parish footpath map, subject to costs and possible funding opportunities.

Proposed: Cllr.Vincent **Seconded:** Cllr.Harris Agreed unanimously



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10.10. Rural Community Council of Essex Annual Membership – The council agreed to continue with annual membership at a cost of £52.80.

Proposed: Cllr.Harris **Seconded:** Cllr.Pike Agreed unanimously

10.11 Braintree Association of Local Councils – The council reviewed benefits to the parish of annual membership of the association and agreed to decline an invitation to join at this time.

Proposed: Cllr.Harris **Seconded:** Cllr.Johnson Agreed unanimously

11. FINANCE

11.1. Bank Balances

11.2. Approval of Payments & Receipts Reconciled – Signed by Cllr.B.Vincent & Cllr.D.Pike

11.3. Authorisation of Payments to be Made – Signed by Cllr.B.Vincent & Cllr.D.Pike

11.4. Bank Transfers Made

11.5. Other

11.5.1. The council approved transfer of council bank accounts from NatWest Bank to Lloyds Bank Treasurer Account subject to confirmation that free banking still applied.

Proposed: Cllr.Harris **Seconded:** Cllr.Last Agreed unanimously

11.5.2. N-Power Notification of increase to electricity tariff for street lighting WEF 1 September 2023 from 33.80p/kWh to 50.188p/kWh

12. PLANNING

12.1. Applications Received

None

12.2. Application Decisions

23/00978/FUL Hopwells Farm, Hedingham Road. Creation of 3 ponds to provide new habitats for great crested newts. Granted 12 7 2023

13. CORRESPONDENCE - For notification

13.1. National Grid Bramford to Twinstead Tee – Invitation to register as an Interested Party to ensure inclusion in future consultations and receipt of planning information

13.2. Village Playing Field Goalposts – Parishioner enquiry regarding possible addition of goal-nets

13.3. Green Bin Collections – News announcement of new paid for service to be introduced by BDC in March 2024

13.4. ECC Supported Local Bus Services Consultation for 2024-2028 – Consultation open now until 5th October 2023. F315 Halstead – Sudbury service identified for withdrawal as a “low use” service.

13.5. BASICS Essex Charity Volunteer Immediate Care Doctors & Paramedics – Request for donation Received after issue of meeting agenda

13.6. Dog Waste on Village Playing Field – Parishioner concern regarding dog waste left on playing field and potential associated risks.

14. CONTENT FOR e-NEWSLETTER

Bus Service Consultation; Village Playing Field Project; Footpath's; New Councillor; Levelling Up; Dog Waste; Forthcoming Events

15. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Neighbourhood Plan

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Council Meeting 27th September 2023 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed.....

Date: 27th September 2023