



Great Maplestead Parish Council

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

e-mail: clerkgreatmaplesteadpc@gmail.com



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON 16th July 2025 7.30PM AT GREAT MAPLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL

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

Chair: Cllr S Harris

Clerk: Ms D Ellison

Also Present: Members of the Public: Six

1. APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

1. Cllr J Newton – Business requirements
2. Cllr P Schwier –

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th May 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate account of the proceedings of that meeting.

Proposed: Cllr S Harris

Seconded: Cllr R Brudenell

Vote in Favour:

Unanimous

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. COUNTY & DISTRICT MATTERS

Cllr P Schwier did not attend this meeting, and no report was received from him.

5. OFFICER REPORTS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE

No business decisions may be made.

5.1 Monthly Playground Inspection- Previous month inspection was undertaken by Cllr J Newton who was not present to report an update. It was agreed that August inspection would be undertaken by Cllr Weight.

5.2 Officers Reports

Transport: Cllr Brudenell reported that the “on demand community bus service” has been renewed for a further year, with the Chair having received confirmation that the requirement for 4 people has been removed, albeit the website was reporting incorrectly.

Litter pick: Cllr Brudenell reported that the Community Litter pick had taken place on 14th June 2025, with another scheduled in October, dates to be confirmed. He confirmed that 3 litter picks have to take place within one year.

Salt Bag Partnership: Cllr Brudenell confirmed that has a good stock, and no further supply needed. He committed to replying to BDC by the deadline of 21st July 2025.

Planters: Cllr Weight reported the planters were looking lovely and a rotation service is in place with good water supply.

Local Plan Review: Cllr S Last reported on a virtual meeting where it was reported that 2 plots had been put forward for review, but rejected, (further detailed information can be found on the BDC website) albeit this is the first step, with another public consultation due in October 2025.



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Wigwag Lights: These are out of sync and needs reviewing, possible reprogramming from GMT to BST. Cllr Johnson agreed to check the issues and report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

Church: Cllr Vincent gave an update that the planning application on the trimming of the trees with TPO's has not been released yet.

Oil tanks: Cllr Johnson reported that oil tanks were still being reported as being filled up then oil being stolen. He also reported on a series of thefts on motorcross bikes and shopping bags.

Footpaths: Cllr Harris reported; one major footpath still has an overhanging branch but otherwise the footpaths are clear. Footpath sign No8 needs replacing and awaiting Essex Highways to action. BDC have agreed only a partial cut back on the hollow trunk tree that overhangs the park.

Communication: Cllr Harris reported; Action Plan and Policy Documents are updated and on the website. Note: within the action plan is the requirement to move to .gov domain. Cllr Harris confirmed following a marketing document he had received that he and the Clerk are going to review the costs for this action.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 6.1 Street Light Annual Maintenance Plan - No action required.
- 6.2 Marketing from Haverhill Wranglers of their musical services,
- 6.3 Marks Tey Football Club (received too late to be able to review their interest and deadline requirements)
- 6.4 Freedom of Information requests - ongoing matter

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

With respect to items on the agenda and other matters of mutual interest

Request for the location of the picnic table nearest the playground to be moved so it is closer to the play area and away from the tree so that families can watch with their dogs. Action was agreed, and for it to be moved as soon as possible.

A Summary Representation of the comment/request made by Mr Pears is as follows:-

Mr Pears notified the Council that he had a statement he wished to read out. He shared his pleasure at being able to attend the meeting, and that he felt the content of the meeting discussions at Annual Parish Meeting appeared to be unprofessional and unacceptable, and would have been different had he been able to attend himself. In summary he requested a formal apology from the Parish Council Chairman for repeating what he considered to be unfounded allegations and requested a response as to why the apology from the Football Club had not been issued? With a further request that a response to both questions to be published in the next addition of the village Magna Carta and minuted at next Council meeting.

Question raised by Mr B Chambers

In relation to the statement made by Mr Pears, Mr Chamber question was:
"Given the Nolan principles of "openness" and "transparency" why did the Council withhold this vital evidence?"

8. PROGRESS UPDATES



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Cllrs confirmed the report had been received from the previous Clerk

9. BUSINESS ITEMS

9.1 Risk Assessment Register – acceptance of updated version.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson **Seconded:** Cllr Brudenell

9.2 Approval to Purchase Mobile Phone/Sim card for the Clerk

Awaiting update on Unity Bank opening before organising contract

Proposed: Cllr Harris **Seconded:** Cllr Johnson

10. PLANNING

10.1 25/00831/HH 1 Toldish Hall Cottages: No comment made; to be reaffirmed with BDC

10.2 25/01224/TPO St Giles Church - Clerk to be notified when pruning takes place.

11. FINANCE

11.1 Current Bank Balances

11.2 Reconciled Receipts & Payments

11.3 Payments & Receipts for Authorisation

11.4 Bank Transfers Made

All accepted as correct and signed by Cllr Harris and Cllr Last.

N.B. AGAR deadline has passed and documents to be removed from notice boards

12. CONTENT FOR e-NEWSLETTER

Local Plan Update, Waste recycling decisions, Bus Service updates, Playground RoSPA Inspection result. Planning news. Publication date: 28th July

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Responses to residents' questions raised at this meeting

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Council Meeting: 17th September 2025 at 7.30pm

Meeting declared closed at 8.15pm