



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 19th November 2025 7.30PM AT GREAT MAPLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL

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

Chair: Cllr S Harris

Clerk: Ms D Ellison

Also Present:

1. APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

1. Cllr J Newton ill health

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th September 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate account of the proceedings of that meeting.

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. COUNTY & DISTRICT MATTERS

A summary of email communication received by the Clerk from Cllr P Schwier was shared with Council

5. OFFICER REPORTS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE

No business decisions may be made.

5.1 Monthly Playground Inspection- Inspection was undertaken by Cllr S Harris, with no actions identified. Next inspection to be undertaken by Cllr R Brudenell.

5.2 Street Scene Submission – Cllr Brudenell confirmed that although BDC had requested a submission, the report was not due. Clerk has emailed BDC and awaiting confirmation as to the correct date for submission. The programme is under completion and the pond clearance needs to be included.

5.3 Officers Reports

Community Litter picking: Cllr Brudenell reported that 22 people attended the event on 1st November 2025, with some 10 pink sacks of various levels of rubbish were collected. It was agreed that the Clerk was to submit an application for a grant for litter picking equipment.

Playing field: Cllr Weight reported that the willow arbour at the playing field had been tidied up, and that she had received a large donation of daffodils by a resident who did not wish to be named. It was reported that the immature trees at the playing field needed supporting.

Policing Issues: Cllr Johnson reported that a shed in the village had been broken into, with items stolen.



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Church: Cllr B Vincent confirmed the warm room is staying open. The application for the tree surgery has been partially approved. Christmas Coffee Morning will be held on 29th November 2025.

Chairs report: Cllr Harris reported that footpaths were clear, and presented his comprehensive report.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

It was noted that all Councillors had received the emails from Mr Pears and Mr Chambers

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

8. PROGRESS UPDATES

Clerk reported that all .gov email addresses had now been allocated, and in use. Clerk requested approval to submit grant application for recreational space. Items proposed were; Goal Posts and Seating. Cllrs Harris and Johnson to send to Clerk details of items to be included in the application.

Proposed: Cllr Harris **Seconded:** Cllr Last **Vote in favour:** Unanimous

9. BUSINESS ITEMS

9.1 Draft budget was reviewed and discussed in full. It was agreed that the budget had to cover any inflation increases, and therefore the precept increase should be 10%.

Proposed: Cllr Harris **Seconded:** Cllr Johnson **Vote in favour:** Unanimous
Accepting that the Government Budget was imminent, it was suggested that the likely increase to spend would be 4%, but prudent to await the outcome.

Proposed: Cllr Last **Seconded:** Cllr Brudenell **Vote in favour:** Unanimous

9.2 Donation of £100 towards Christmas Tree Lighting event

Proposed: Cllr Harris **Seconded:** Cllr Last **Vote in favour:** Unanimous

9.3 Memorial to Peter Haylock. The location and style of memorial was discussed and agreed that Council to be included in the decision of the style.

Proposed: Cllr Weight **Seconded:** Cllr Brudenell **Vote in favour:** Unanimous

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.

Proposed: Cllr Harris **Seconded:** Cllr Weight **Vote in favour:** Unanimous

10.3 Local Plan Update No update to report

11. FINANCE

11.1 Current Bank Balances

It was agreed that Clerk to hold one-month costs in the Current Account and transfer the balance to the Business Reserve account.

11.2 Reconciled Receipts & Payments

Clerk advised that full reconciliation had taken place. All accepted as correct and signed by Cllr Harris and Cllr Last



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FINANCE continued.

11.3 Payments & Receipts for Authorisation

Maplestead Youth Club has approached GMPC to request the council accept the balance of funds from the Youth Club (which is not active) as a donation. Terms of the donation to be agreed with the Clerk.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson **Seconded:** Cllr Vincent **Vote in favour:** Unanimous
Reimbursement for minor works undertaken was requested by Cllr I Johnson.
Proposed: Cllr Harris. **Seconded:** Cllr Last **Vote in Favour:** Unanimous by those present

11.4 Bank Transfers Made

None

12. CONTENT FOR e-NEWSLETTER

Content was shared by Chair and confirmed that the Magna Carta will be released as usual by end of the month.

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

It was agreed that subject to the outcome of the Government Budget, the January meeting maybe held earlier in order to agree the Council Budget and Precept for 2026-2027.

14. Meeting to the public declared closed, Council proceeded to "In Committee" session.

Content in relation to public response statement was discussed and agreed.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Council Meeting: 14th January 2026 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 20.45.

Recorded as a true reflection at Full Council meeting on 14th January 2026