



# Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

## New Parish Council formed – but election uncontested...

### ...so a vacancy exists

The recent **Parish Council** election saw just six candidates standing for the seven Councillor positions available, which resulted in the election being uncontested.

This also means that a **Councillor Vacancy** exists for the remaining position, which the **Council** is looking to fill before its next meeting:



## Councillor Vacancy

### Great Maplestead Parish Council...

...needs another Parish Councillor

We are looking to appoint someone with good local knowledge of the Parish, an interest in the local environment and who is keen to serve our community and help to make Great Maplestead an even better place to live.

**What do Councillors do?**

- **Local Involvement**  
Work as a team on behalf of **all** residents to consider, evaluate and undertake actions that will benefit the whole Parish.
- **Monitoring**  
Ensure together that grants are sought, awarded and best value services obtained for major projects.
- **Decision Making**  
Decide how funding is best spent to improve residents' facilities and, in the common interest, respond to **all** planning applications affecting the Parish.
- **Governance**  
Commit to the **Council's Code of Conduct** to undertake the role in an unbiased and lawful manner.

**What could you do?**

***DON'T BE SHY!** If you have the time, and can make the commitment, then this is a great opportunity to get involved in the Parish's future and become a part of its history.*

<p><b>To be a candidate you must:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ be a British, Commonwealth or Irish citizen; and</li> <li>✓ be aged 18 years or over.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Also, you must fulfil at least one of these criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ have been on the electoral register for the Parish; or</li> <li>✓ during the whole of the 12 months before your appointment, owned or occupied land or property in the Parish; or</li> <li>✓ during that same 12-month period, have had your main place of work in the Parish; or</li> <li>✓ during that same 12-month period, have lived in the Parish or within 3 miles of it</li> </ul>
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*If you are interested, please submit a short written application to the Parish Clerk, Ann Crisp – e-mail: [anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk](mailto:anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk) or deliver it to: New House, St Giles Close, Great Maplestead CO9 2RW*

**Closing date for applications is 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Three previous **Council** members, Chairman **Martin Elms**, long-time Councillor **Peter Haylock** and **Patsy Maile** stood down at the election.

During the first full meeting of the new **Council**, its AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> May, Councillor **Joe Newton** made a presentation of an engraved carafe to the retiring **Peter Haylock** to commemorate his near 35-year contribution to the **Council**, uniquely in all its three main roles: Clerk, Councillor and also Chairman.

At the AGM **Steve Harris** was elected Chairman and **Simon Last** was elected Vice-Chairman.

### Meet the new Councillors...

In addition to those Councillors remaining from the previous 4-year term – **Steve Harris**, **Simon Last**, **Ian Johnson** and **Joe Newton** – two additional members, well-known in the parish, are now part of the new team.

**Barry Vincent** is a retired senior police officer and was head of security for a major supermarket logistics operation. He moved to the village in early 2021 with his wife Beverley, the Vicar for the four local parishes. He is the Treasurer for St Giles' Church and was a parish councillor at Wethersfield for eight years.



He strongly believes in the **Parish Council** working closely with the District and County Council to help improve the quality of life for local residents and ensuring that public finance, raised through council tax, is spent responsibly to this end.

**Dave Pike** moved to Great Maplestead 15 years ago from Great Yeldham. He lives with his wife Janet on a working farm at the periphery of the parish and they have grown-up children working locally and further afield.



Another retired policeman, Dave now – in his own words – 'plays at' being a farmer. He is looking forward to working on the **Parish Council** to help and support the local community.

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### Council Meeting Dates 2023/24

The **Parish Council** agreed during its meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> May to hold a further five full meetings during the next 12 months.

These meeting dates, which also appear on the **Parish Council** website, are:

✚ **2023:** 26<sup>th</sup> July; 27<sup>th</sup> September; 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

✚ **2024:** 19<sup>th</sup> January; 16<sup>th</sup> March.

In addition, the **Annual Parish Assembly** will be held in April 2024, on a date to be advised nearer the time.

## Celebrating the Coronation...

A host of celebratory village events was arranged for the three-day Coronation holiday weekend by an enthusiastic organising team, led by our indefatigable Parish Clerk.

On Saturday evening, following a fizz-and-canapes reception, the centrepiece of the weekend was a **Royal Variety Performance** extravaganza in the beautifully decorated Village Hall.



The show, expertly M-C'd by **Simon Last**, featured an amazing variety of village thespian talent. Acts included a choir, expertly directed by **Jo Watson**, sketches, comedy routines, a Mastermind spoof, solo singing performances and a Caribet *homage*, all with sound, visuals and lighting overseen by **James Elms** and **Martin Watson**. A sing-along finale, with audience participation, rounded off what was a wonderful show. Dancing and drinking then continued until late...



To help cure the hangovers from the night before, teas, coffees and cakes were on offer in **St Giles' Church** on Sunday afternoon, during which the **'Cake Fit For A King'** and **'Best Decorated House/Garden'** competitions were judged and the winners presented with their prizes.

A weekend of celebrations concluded on Monday with a big crowd assembling to enjoy an **afternoon of family fun** on the Playing Field.

It was also the occasion for the **official opening of the children's new play area** – the first part of the **Parish Council's** £110,000 Playing Field Development Project to be completed.



After a **National Lottery Community Fund** cheque for **£75,000** was presented to the outgoing **Council** Chairman Martin Elms by the Development Project Working Party,

**Lewis Green** performed the ceremonial ribbon cutting and declared the play area open.

Children then flooded in to christen the new adventure play equipment and enjoy themselves for the rest of the afternoon.



## Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

An application has been submitted to **BDC** by **Finchingfield** and **Wethersfield** Councils to designate their parishes jointly as a single **Neighbourhood Plan Area**.

The move is motivated by threat of two 'super' prisons being built on the disused Wethersfield airfield and the consequent impact this will have, during the build phase, on local roads and the local ecology.

A combined **Neighbourhood Plan** is seen as the best way to enshrine some of the key principles identified in the objections to the prisons plan, ensuring that the airfield and its natural surrounds are protected from development and preserved for future generations.

Before any decision on the application is taken, **BDC** need to consult on the area the plan would cover. Further details are set out on its website:

- [Finchingfield and Wethersfield Neighbourhood Plan Application details](#)
- [Public Notice](#)

The **consultation period** commenced on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May** and closes at **4:00pm** on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**.

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## Latest Planning News

The following application was considered by the **Council** at its meeting on **17<sup>th</sup> March**:

### Application Received:

- ✚ **23/00978/FUL** Hopwells Farm, Hedingham Road – Creation of 3 ponds to provide new habitats for Great Crested newts.

The **Council's** unqualified response can be found at: <https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>. Type or copy the **planning reference** into the **'Search'** box and open the files.

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## Forthcoming Events

The following is one of the forthcoming village events (\*at the Village Hall) that you may wish to note for your diary:

- ✚ **Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> June\* Bingo Evening** - in aid of **Cystic Fibrosis**. Doors open **7.00pm**, Eyes down **7.30pm**. Tickets **£10/ person** from Myra Jeggo (01787 474 285). Each ticket exchanged for a book of **10 games** on the door. Exciting prizes, refreshments too. **Adults only please**.

**Information about this, and many other village activities, can also be found on the 'Events' page of the Parish Council website.**

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## Contacting the Council

**Any comments, requests or correspondence should initially be made to the Parish Clerk:**

**Ann Crisp, New House, St Giles Close  
Great Maplestead, CO9 2RW**

**Tel:** 01787 460 216 (4-6pm Mon-Thurs)

**E-mail:** [anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk](mailto:anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk)

**Website:** <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk>