

# Chairman's Report – January 2025

## Areas of Responsibility

### Footpaths

#### ❖ Report:

- The condition of the footbridge in the Slype Copse on FP26 was causing safety concerns, with loose/rotting decking planks. ECC inspected but could not schedule repairs until after March 2025. A 'replacement footbridge kit' (new bearers, planks, handrail and fixings) was offered, which was delivered on 28<sup>th</sup> November.
- A work party removed the old bridge and assembled the new kit on site on the 13<sup>th</sup> December. The framework of the old bridge, which was found to be sound, will be fitted with new planks and re-used to replace a failing bridge elsewhere.



- A parishioner complaint was received about electric sheep fencing preventing the use of FPs 19 & 20 (St Marys Toldish Hall to Dynes Hall Road) across land that's part of Mill Farm. Martyn Hunnable was contacted and agreed to get the shepherd to re-pag the fencing to free up access around the perimeters of the lower field.

#### ❖ Action Plan:

- Current weather conditions mean that many footpaths are currently muddy/slippy and need to be used with care.

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## Communications

### 1. Website/Facebook

#### ❖ Report:

- The Government recommendation that, to improve security, all levels of Local Government, including Parish Councils, should adopt a '.gov.uk' identification for their websites and e-mail communications is still being considered.
- Since the last meeting the website's **News** page has been updated with information and details about:
  - **Age Well East** – a scheme to support residents in later life (aged 60 plus) living in Braintree District
- Links to the **Maplestead Magna Carta** continue to be posted on both the **Council** and **Maplestead Mates** Facebook pages, for widest local coverage.

#### ❖ Action Plan:

- Further investigation to be carried out as to the implications/practicalities/costs of the '.gov.uk' suggested mandate.
- The Facebook page will continue to share relevant posts with Maplestead Mates in order for its information to reach the widest possible local audience.

## 2. E-newsletter (Maplestead Magna Carta) [Agenda Item 12]

### ❖ Action Plan:

- **Issue 60** is scheduled for publication **w/c 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025** (tbc).
- Editorial content for this issue is suggested to include:
  - Slype Bridge replacement
  - Age Well East
  - Littering/litter picking
  - Church St pothole repairs
  - Mindfulness Garden update
  - Budget information
  - VE80 Celebrations – advance notice
  - Planning News
  - Forthcoming events
- Links to an online version will also be published on the **Council & Maplestead Mates** Facebook pages