**GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 29th August 2018**

**Present** Cllr.D.Turner (Chairman). Cllr.J.Newton. Cllr.S.Harris. Cllr.M.Elms. Cllr.I.Johnson.Cllr.P.Haylock.Cllr.P.Maile Mrs.A.Crisp – Clerk. Members of the Public – 50.

**MINUTES**

1. **Apologies and reasons for absence**–None.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting –**The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11th July 2018, were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr.Elms, seconded Cllr.Newton. The minutes of the Parish Council Extra-Ordinary Meeting of 9th August 2018, were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr.Maile seconded by Cllr.Haylock.
3. **Declarations of Interest**  - Agenda Item 8.2 Cllr.Harris declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as the correspondent is known to him socially. Cllr.Harris continued to participate and vote on all items within the meeting. Cllr.Haylock declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as the correspondent is known to him socially. Cllr.Haylock continued to participate and vote on all items within the meeting.
4. **County and District Matters** *–* None

1. **Officers Reports & Information Exchange –** *No business decisions may be made.*

**Cllr.Elms** – **Highways** – The school Wig-Wag safety lights in Monks Lodge Road have been repaired by Essex Highways, who have advised the lights will be reactivated at the beginning of the Autumn school term. New tar planings for the bridleway running past Rangers Hall will be provided by Essex Highways, following the input of Cllr.Finch. Thanx extended to Cllr.Finch. **Village Playing Field Car Park** – Thanks extended to Martin Watson for providing advice and a quote for replacement surface material at the car park. MOT Type 1 @ £27per tonne – 5 tonnes required. A joint application will be made for District Cllr.Community Funding to cover the cost of material, alongside new litter picking equipment.

**Cllr**.**Maile** – **Environmental** – A number of volunteers have been recruited to help with conservation projects. Currently scoping ideas for projects.

**Cllr**.**Harris** – **Appendix 1 Report refers.** Essex County Council have been chased regarding the promised handrail and repair to the risers on the steps at the bottom of Church Field – the appropriate department are not working again until after the end of August. A parishioner has recently fallen on the steps, without injury but ECC are aware of the urgency to act on request.

**Cllr**.**Turner** – **ROSPA** – Overhanging branches at the village playing field have been trimmed back. Quote awaited for replacement bushes for the swings. Conifer requires pruning to ensure safe. Bench table in the children’s play area will be removed and destroyed unless anybody requires.

**Cllr**.**Johnson** - Reports of house burglaries in nearby towns – Halstead, Braintree & Witham. There have been 8 lead thefts in Halstead in 1 week.

**Cllr**.**Newton –** No report.

**Cllr**.**Haylock** – Long Fen, Church Street. Concerns have been raised with BDC regarding further land work at the proposed development site prior to planning approval. Nothing further Parish Council can do.

1. **Public question time** Members of the public were invited to ask questions.

*The Chairman acknowledged that certain agenda items may be emotive and reminded all present of the need for appropriate conduct and for all questions and comments to be directed via the Chair.*

*Cllr.Elms took the Chair for Agenda item 6, at the request of the Chairman.*

Q. How many complaints have there been regarding the bottle banks over the years?

The Council advised that complaints had increased in recent years, prior to this there had been reports of the occasional bag of bottles left at the bins or a bottle left that had smashed.

Q. The Council has received a petition to remove the bottle banks, but has it had any correspondence requesting that the banks remain?

The Council referred to the correspondence listed under Agenda item 11.

Q. What is the reason for installing a security barrier at the playing field?

The Council advised that the barrier had been requested due to reports of anti-social behaviour. The Council went on to explain that any incidents of anti-social behaviour should be reported to the police who will act accordingly. Reference was made to recent news in the Halstead Gazette, which advised that Braintree District Council are working with the local police on anti-social behaviour and people are now advised to contact BDC to report any anti-social behaviour. Cllr.Johnson had spoken to a contact at the local police and patrol cars have now been passing through the village in recent weeks.

Q. Where is the anti-social behaviour occurring in the village playing field car park or on the village playing field?

The Council advised they had received reports of incidents on both areas. Aside from the most recent reports the last recorded incident by the Parish Council was in 2014, which had been within an Officers Report and not raised as a business item. Advice previously given by the Council for those witnessing anti-social behaviour was to report incidents to the police but this advice had not been followed.

Q. How many people were asked to sign the petition?

The Council advised they did not know.

Q.How has the monitoring of use of the bottle banks, referred to in the Maplestead Magna Carta article been carried out?

Council advised this would be covered within Agenda item 8.1. Parishioners volunteered that the data had been captured via listening to activity and not via CCTV.

Comment. The bottle banks are a useful facility, it would be very unfortunate if the facility was changed.

Q. Has the Council got authority to gate or fence off the village playing field and car park?

The Council advised that they had authority to install a barrier and also request that BDC remove the bottle bank facility but will only do so if both aspects are independently assessed and proven to be a problem. This would be addressed in consultation with the whole village.

Comment: Amazed at the rules and regulations for using the village playing field. Believe the field is under-utilised. Barrier will create parking issues for the school, which have only recently been alleviated following the extension to the village playing field car park.

Comments: A barrier at the car park will create safety issues regarding parking.

Q. What will happen to recycling if facility is withdrawn? What reassurance can the Council offer, can another site be considered?

The Council advised the situation would be reviewed if appropriate.

1. **Progress Updates** – *Clerk provided an update on action points from 11th July Meeting.*

**8. Business Items**

8.1 **Parishioner Correspondence regarding Maplestead Magna Carta Issue 21 –** Council to consider a parishioner request to retract/withdraw alledged “non-factual analysis & conclusions” within MMC article “Bottle Banks – Welcome Facility or Noisy Nuisance”. Cllr.Harris provided a detailed explanation of how the article was reported & demonstrated how the article was balanced and challenged the further accusation that the Council displayed “ a conscious or unconscious bias…around this subject” as unwarranted.Cllr.Harris proposed that the council neither retract the article nor withdraw any part of it as he believed the article did not display bias and the request was unjustified. Seconded by Cllr.Newton. Vote in favour - Unanimous.

8.2 **Parishioner Correspondence regarding Village Playing Field & Car Park** – Council to consider request and petition signed by 6 households demanding the Council -

1. Install a security barrier to the entrance of the car park
2. Erect a more visible warning notice about behaviour
3. Remove the bottle banks

Cllr.Harris reminded Members that the Parish Council cannot undertake an activity that legislation dictates another body to act on.

Cllr.Turner proposed that the advice previously given to report anti-social behaviour to the police & request BDC to help with monitoring of noise at bottle banks remained apposite. The Parish Council will only consider the requests made once independent monitoring has taken place via BDC and incidents of anti-social behaviour are reported to the police. Cllr.Elms further proposed that the Council would not engage in any further correspondence with the complainants, on these issues, until it has received independently monitored evidence from BDC and the Police. Seconded Cllr.Harris. Vote in favour – Unanimous.

8.3 **Street Lighting Maintenance – 5 Year Renewal** – Terms in line with previous arrangements, will see an annual increase of £6.00. Cllr.Johnson proposed continuation of contract with A & J Lighting for further 5 year term. Seconded by Cllr.Maile. Vote in favour – Unanimous.

**9. Financial Report**

9.1 **Current bank balances:-**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Current account: |  | £33.89 | Reserve account: | £5894.96 |

9.2 **Noting of sums received:-**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NWB Interest Paid July 2018 | 26p |

9.3 **Ratification of payments made:-**

DD E-on Quarterly electric (Apr – Jun) Street Lighting £22.68 OB Local Council Public Advisory Service –

Training 10/8 Village Greens & Common Land £40.00

**Transfers**

TF From Reserve Account to Current Account £100.00

**Payment(s) to be made requiring approval:-**

DD A & J Lighting Solutions – Annual Maintenance £78.00

Cllr.Harris proposed payments were authorised, seconded by Cllr.Elms.

**10. Planning**

10.1 **Application Decisions**

*None*

10.2 **Applications Received**

*None*

**11. Correspondence – *For notification***

**Parishioner Correspondence, Bottle Banks & Village Playing Field** – E-mails and letters received from 19 parishioners supporting retention of village bottle recycling banks & 4 requesting that no gate is placed on entrance to village playing field.

**Parishioner Correspondence Concerns Re CCTV** – Concerns raised regarding use of CCTV cameras on private properties which may capture data from village playing field.

**12. Content for E-newsletter**

Law & Order – Neighbourhood Watch/Anti-Social Behaviour/Essex Police/Rural Crime Awareness;

Footpaths Update;

Road Sweeping Dates in October;

Volunteers for Environmental Projects;

**13. Items for the Next Agenda**

Nets for goalposts on Village Plying Field

Environmental Projects

**14. Date of next meeting**:  **17 October 2018 at 7.30pm**

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10pm.

**Signed…………TRUE COPY…………………… Dated…17 October 2018…….**