

MINUTES

GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 Present Cllr.M.Elms (Chairman). Cllr.S.Last.Cllr.P.Haylock.Cllr.I.Johnson.Cllr.J.Newton. Cllr.Maile. Cllr.S.Harris Mrs.A.Crisp – Clerk. Members of the Public – 0.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence - None.

2. Minutes of previous meeting – The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 17th November 2021 were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr.Johnson, seconded by Cllr.Haylock. Vote in favour-Unanimous.

3. Declarations of Interest Cllr.Newton – Agenda item 10.2 21/03469/HH & 21/03470/LBC Chelmshoe House Farm - Non-Pecuniary Interest owns neighbouring land.

4. County and District Matters –

District – BDC annual corporate customer survey shows satisfaction rates are higher than the national average with 80% satisfied with the way BDC is run. **Local Plan** – the inspectors proposed changes can still be commented on via the consultation process. **BDC recycling** teams have been complimented for the good management of waste during and since the Christmas break. The trend for **fly tipping** in the district is down but still too many incidents (2020 = 912 reported incidents, 2021 = 856). New **bus interchange** in Braintree is now open. **E-scooter** trials are still running, but only operational on one trading estate in Braintree. **Grants** for businesses adversely impacted by Covid are still available, details may be found on the BDC website. **Budget** still to be signed off but includes proposal for a 2.65% increase in Council Tax, which equates to an additional 10p per week per Band D household. BDC has improved efficiencies in recent years but increases are necessary due to cost/inflation pressures. The council has a £1.6m budget deficit.

County – Collaboration with Essex Area Ramblers to ensure obstructed Crossfield **PROWs** are cleared. **Funds** - £1m Arts & Cultural Fund open to support creative sector over next 5 years. Climate Challenge Fund launched (see agenda item 11). **Budget** – will see increase in Council Tax 2% +1½ % deferred from 2020/21 together with an additional 1% increase for social care. 60% of budget will be spent on social & healthcare.

5. Officers Reports & Information Exchange –

Cllr.Elms – Highways – The collapsed kerbstone in Lucking St has been reported to ECC Highways, who advise that the newly installed kerb is now out of its 12 month “warranty” period, which means any repairs will have to be scheduled within regular Highways work. Cty.Cllr.Schwier has helped escalate concerns regarding the drain gully opposite Ivy Cottage in Church Street, ECC advise it will be addressed within 8 weeks. Following a road safety review, new road signs have been installed in the centre of the village, together with new and refreshed road markings. SLOW signs in Lucking St appear to have been missed, if these have not been attended to within a month ECC will be contacted. An update on the proposed Quiet Lane is still awaited together with the review of speeding in Dynes Hall Road. ECC were chased before Christmas but no response received to date. **Task Force** – Litter picking has continued with focus on individual zones.

Cllr.Maile – New whips have been planted around the perimeter of the village playing field car park, as the whips were donated as part of an initiative to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee the Clerk will explore whether the hedge may be named the Queen Elizabeth hedge. Free bulbs also planted in the earth bund. Signs to be erected advising of flowers in bund to deter people walking on them.

Cllr.Haylock- To report on agenda item 10 Planning

Cllr.Newton- Obtaining up to date quotes for the proposed drainage on the village playing field. One received to date. Waiting on 2 others.

Cllr.Johnson – Advisory warnings regarding usual winter thefts from sheds and of heating oil. Has been an increase in thefts from cars.

Cllr.Harris - As per pre-circulated report. The full report may be viewed under Officer Reports on the parish council website.

6. Public question time

None

7. Progress Updates – Confirmed all planning consultations and update to the Open Spaces Action Plan had been submitted on time. Applications for funding from the Dist.Cllrs.Grant and the balance of S106 monies will be allocated to the new drainage at the village playing field, for which quotes are awaited.

8. Business Items

8.1 Village Playing Field – Application for Lottery funding submitted, have been advised the application has now been assigned to the South East region lottery team. Aware there are many applications for similar projects. CIF grant was unsuccessful, possibly as CIF funding had already been received in previous year for the boules court. Working Party to meet again on 19th January. Other funders and crowd funding being explored. Alternative equipment providers also contacted. Community fundraising continues with the next event the Greyhound Race Night although this is temporarily postponed due to concerns regarding Covid safety. *Cllr.P.Schwier arrived at this time and delivered his reports for both County & District. After taking questions Cllr.Schwier left the meeting.*

8.2 Annual Budget – Budget cost increases in line with inflation and anticipated new expenditure has been kept to a minimum but does include a replacement council printer/scanner as the existing machine is now over 10 years old and beginning to fail.

8.3 Parish Precept – Approval for 2022/23 financial year based on budget proposals. Band D tax rate for 2022/23 £172.87

Cllr.Haylock proposed that the budget, as presented, be approved and Precept set at £9000, which will result in reliance on reserves of £902 should all budget lines be realised. Seconded Cllr.Maile. Vote in favour 5; Vote against 1; Abstention 1.

9. Financial Report

9.1 Current bank balances:-

Current account: £45.37 Fundraising account: £16299.03 Reserve account:£8833.54

9.2 Noting of sums received:-

NWB Interest Paid – Nov-Dec 2021	.45p
Essex County Council – Verge cutting grant 2 nd instalment	£899.64
Donation – Great Maplestead Beer Festival towards playing field	£100.00

9.3 Ratification of payments made:-

DD E-ON Street Lighting Oct-Nov	£21.80
SO Mrs A Crisp – Clerks Salary Quarterly Oct-Dec	£1624.80

9.4 Bank Transfers made:

From Reserve Account to Current Account	£1600.00
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10. Planning

10.1 Application Decisions

None

10.2 Applications -

21/03469/HH & 21/03470/LBC – Chelmsloe House Farm, Monks Lodge Road – Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation. Conversion back to ancillary accommodation of existing outbuilding and repair of fenestration. Demolition and rebuild of brick garden wall. Cllr.Elms proposed the council respond “no comments, no objections”, seconded Cllr.Last. Vote in favour - Unanimous

21/03606/HH – 7 Stone Cottages, Church Street – Erection of two storey rear extension, demolition of existing single storey extension and its replacement with a single storey rear extension to serve as annex. Replacement front porch. Cllr.Elms proposed the council respond “no comments, no objections”, seconded Cllr.Harris. Vote in favour – Unanimous
Notification of re- consultation on previous application 21/03045/FUL Lynwood, Toldish Hall Road due to a change in plans. The council agreed that as the re-consultation only had a 14 day timeline they would review the changes in plans at this time.

Cllr.Newton proposed that the council’s stance remains to object to the overall development, as previously documented. The proposed changes do little to alter the council’s previous decision. Seconded Cllr.Harris. Vote in favour – Unanimous.

11. Correspondence – *For notification*

Essex County Council Climate Challenge Fund – Offers £20k for projects tackling climate change. Full details may be found at <https://www.essex.gov.uk/leisure-culture-local-heritage/culture-and-communities>

Parishioner correspondence regarding a number of Highways issues at Hulls Mill, some of which fall within the responsibility of Sible Hedingham PC, in addition to ECC Highways & possibly Dept.of Environment. The Clerk is investigating.

12. Content for E-newsletter

Update on village playing field; budget; road safety; planning; platinum jubilee

13. Items for the Next Agenda

Parishioner request for additional poo bin facility in Church St, at water meadows.
Platinum Jubilee

14. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 16th March 2022 at 7.30pm
MEETING CLOSED at 9.06pm

Signed.....TRUE COPY.....

Dated 16th March 2022