**GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 11th July 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 – 13.

**MINUTES**

1. **Apologies and reasons for absence**–None.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting –**The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 23rd May 2018, were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr.Elms, seconded Cllr.Harris.
3. **Declarations of Interest**  - None
4. **County and District Matters** *–* Dist. Cllr. J.O’Reilly-Cicconi represented a claim from residents at Monks Ley Close & Monks Lodge Road regarding disturbance from the village playing field. He advised the council that funds could be acquired via Community 360 at BDC for gates at the playing field. The Chairman advised that the council’s decision was not based on a financial perspective alone and that advice had been given with regards to the appropriate action to take in connection with complaints of noise and anti-social behaviour.

*Cllr.O’Reilly-Cicconi left the meeting at this time.*

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

**Cllr.Harris** – **Written report – Appendix 1. ECC Highways Repairs to Church St** – Suggested that if parking in Church St becomes difficult during the period work is undertaken then the car park at the village playing field should be used.

**Cllr.Elms – Highways** – Pot hole repairs now made by ECC, to road outside Long Fen, Church Street. The previously damaged road sign on Purls Hill has now been replaced. **Task Force** – Litter pick undertaken in June, all rubbish cleared.Thanks to Mary Elms for refreshments. The Task Force have also helped re-spread the sweepings on the village car park prior to any further order of additional surface materials. **Fly Tipping** – 2 sacks of clothes dumped in Toldis Hall Road have now been removed by BDC.

**Cllr**.**Johnson** - Reports of handbag/wallet thefts continue, in addition to lead from church roofs and residential porches. Residents reminded to be cautious when leaving windows open in hot weather.

**Cllr**.**Haylock** – To be covered under Agenda item 10 Planning

**Cllr**.**Newton** – Quotes for further sweepings for village playing field car park to be obtained.

**Cllr**.**Maile** – A number of potential environmental projects have been suggested by Natural England and the Essex/Suffolk Wildlife & Woodland Trusts. St Giles school and church, in addition to a couple of local farmers, have indicated an interest in being involved in associated projects.

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

Comment: In line with council advice, BDC Environmental Dept. will be contacted regarding the noise from the bottle banks. Statistics have been acquired by residents over a 1 month period indicating 2678 bottles deposited, with 220 visits per month. The Council commended that residents were following advice previously given.

Q. Would the Council undertake a village questionnaire regarding the bottle banks? How many letters of support for the bottle banks had the council received? The Chairman advised that a survey would not be undertaken at this time and confirmed that to date 12 letters/e-mails of support to keep bottle banks had been received.

Comment: The Parish Council has not responded to previous claims of anti-social behaviour on the village playing field. The Chairman advised that the introduction of a Terms of Reference for the Village Playing Field were introduced following previous reports of misuse of the field.

Comment: Thanks extended to the Clerk for responding to a Freedom of Information request within legally stipulated timescales.

Q. Why is the Council spending money on resurfacing of village playing field car park, reinvestment does not appear worthwhile? The Chairman advised that the Council had an obligation to ensure the surface was sound, in particular the Council’s insurance company had been called upon in the past 2/3 years following a personal injury due to the previous poor state of repair at the car park. A claim had been settled with damages awarded of over £4000.00.

Comment: Concerned at negativity regarding bottle banks which are a useful village amenity.

Comment: Concern regarding accusations of anti-social behaviour when parishioners have been using the village playing field in a respectful manner.

1. **Progress Updates** – *Clerk provided an update on action points from 23rd May Meeting. Response regarding S106 application still awaited from BDC – Clerk to chase.*

**8. Business Items**

8.1 **ECC Winter Salt Bag Supplies** – Annual offer for supply of road salt within village. Cllr.Newton advised that the village still had over 1 tonne of road salt from last year’s delivery. No further action required.

8.2 **Proposal for More Benches/Picnic Tables on the Village Playing Field** – Cllr.Harris proposed the council considered fundraising to enable purchase of new equipment. Quotes to be obtained and item carried forward to next meeting for consideration

8.3 **Proposal for Additional Litter Picking Equipment** – Cllr.Elms advised that the Task Force required 3 x litter bags & bag holders, 3 x pickers, and 3 x gloves & reflective jackets. Quotes to be obtained and an application made under the District Councillors Community Grant scheme together with funds for additional sweepings on the village playing field car park (Agenda Item 8.4).

8.4 **Proposal for Resurfacing of Village Playing Field Car Park** – Quotes to be obtained & a joint application for funds from District Councillors Community Grant scheme (Agenda item 8.3 refers).

8.5 **ROSPA Playsafety Annual Village Playing Field Assessment Report –** Cllr.Turner advised that overall risk assessment had not changed but there were a number of items that require attention:-

* Over-hanging branches to be cut back
* Liner for waste bin beside bottle banks is missing. Cllr.Turner to replace.
* Double gate to children’s play area requires “pinning”.
* The existing picnic table will be removed and destroyed.
* Bushes on swing chains to be replaced.
* Tiles under swings need raking out, sweeping and a soft sand filler spread across. Task Force to action.
* Far goal post is leaning and will need straightening. Cllr.Newton to attend.
* Safety signs to be placed on all goal posts advising of appropriate use. Cllr.Turner to obtain from Playsafety.

**9. Financial Report**

9.1 **Current bank balances:-**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Current account: |  | £137.57 | Reserve account: | £5994.70 |

9.2 **Noting of sums received:-**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NWB Interest Paid Mar-Jun 2018  BACS Essex County Council – Verges Spring Cut  BACS Braintree District Council – Annual Street Cleansing | 59p  £899.64  £784.44 |

9.3 **Ratification of payments made:-**

On-Line Banking – Mortimer Contracts Ltd – Verges Spring Cut £618.00

On-Line Banking – Mortimer Contracts Ltd – Footpath Spring Mow £170.40

On-Line Banking – Mr D Turner – Repayment for Money Paid to Repair Chains £50.00

on children’s climbing frame

SO – Mrs A Crisp – Clerk’s Salary (Apr-Jun) £1214.33

**Transfers**

TF From Reserve Account to Current Account £400.00

TF From Reserve Account to Current Account £900.00

TF From Reserve Account to Current Account £1200.00

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

On-Line Banking – ROSPA Play Safety Annual Playground Assessment £88.20

On-Line Banking – RCCE Annual Membership Fee £52.80

Cllr.Turner proposed that both payments are approved and made via On-Line Banking, seconded Cllr.Harris.

**10. Planning**

10.1 **Application Decisions**

*18/000629/FUL & 18/00630/LBC Hulls Mill Barn, Hulls Mills Lane.Proposed replacement of existing modern garage/outbuilding to provide 2 storey , 2 bed annexe.* Granted 25 6 18

*17/02226/FUL Monks Haven, Gestingthorpe Road. Erection of single storey rear extension.* Granted 8 2 18

10.2 **Applications Received**

*None*

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

11.1 **Parishioner Complaint Regarding the Parish Council’s Response to Concerns Raised Regarding Anti-Social Behaviour on the Village Playing Field and Disturbance from the Bottle Banks including a Request under Freedom of Information Act & Environmental Information Regulations –** Advice taken from EALC & letter of response sent.

11.2 **Parishioner Correspondence Regarding Village Bottle Banks &/Or the Village Playing Field** – A number of letters and e-mails received, the majority objecting to any proposed withdrawal of bottle banks from the village.

11.3 **Braintree District Council Local Plan -** Update.

11.4 **Request from The Maplestead Social Committee for Use of the Village Playing Field for Summer Boules –** Request for permission to use field on Sunday 10th June from 3pm for annual tournament. Additional request to use boule pitches on Friday evenings at 6.30pm throughout the Summer beginning on 15th June. Permission approved, as request within conditions of Terms of Use for the facility.

11.5 **RCCE Village of the Year Competition 2018** – Parish qualified to first round of judging only. Letter received complimenting the village on all its activities and volunteer work.

11.6 **Letter from Mid-Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust** – Invitation for on-line membership applications from members of the public.

**12. Content for E-newsletter** NHS invite to residents regarding new Governing body; Repairs to Village Notice Boards; Village of the Year Competition; Bottle Banks; Planning; Forthcoming Events.

**13. Items for the Next Agenda Picnic Tables**

Meeting Closed 5.55pm

**Signed ……………TRUE COPY………..….** **Dated 29th August 2018**