

GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Present Cllr.M.Elms.Cllr.S.Harris.Cllr.P.Haylock.Cllr.S.Last. Cllr.P.Maile.Cllr.J.Newton.
Mrs.A.Crisp – Clerk. Members of the Public – 2.

MINUTES

1. Apologies and reasons for absence– Cllr.I.Johnson
2. Minutes of previous meeting –The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 15th May 2019, were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr.Harris, seconded Cllr.Haylock.
3. Declarations of Interest - Agenda item 8.2 Mobile Phone Reception – Non-Pecuniary Interest due to business ownership of land viewed for possible siting of a mobile phone mast.
4. County and District Matters – Apologies received from Dist.Cllr.P.Schwier.
5. Officers Reports & Information Exchange – *No business decisions may be made.*
Cllr.Last – Social Media – Has been working with Cllr.Harris on the development of a Parish Council Facebook page. See also Agenda item 8.3 Playground Area & Equipment.
Cllr.Haylock – Planning – See Agenda item 10. Has strimmed long grass under new spring rockers and swings in the children’s play area. Noted the build-up of weeds around the edge of the car park which also needs addressing. Suggests a regular working party to ensure village playing field and car park are kept in good order.
Cllr.Harris – As per report. See Appendix 1.
Cllr.Maile – As per report. See Appendix 1.
Cllr. Newton – Tree Warden – Has reported evidence of ash die back to BDC, a tree in the garden of the Old Vicarage is affected and a few other trees around the village are showing signs. **Village Playing Field** – Work to repair the surface of the car park area has been completed, with pot holes filled and a top up of planings in areas prone to puddles.
Cllr.Elms – Highways – A new poo bin has been positioned in Gestingthorpe Road with thanks to BDC for the provision of a free bin and free installation. The Lucking St drainage project is apparently scheduled for the Autumn. **Task Force** – The first litter pick of the year has taken place and volunteers also helped with the repairs and maintenance to the village playing field car park. **Community Agents** – A reminder of the availability of this service to help parishioners who may need help with mobility issues, practical living skills, caring support. The service is FREE and available 5 days per week 9am-5pm. Full details will be placed on the council’s website.
Roles & Responsibilities – See Appendix 2
6. Public question time MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE INVITED TO ASK QUESTIONS.
Comment: Awareness and concern raised about government funding for schools which is having an adverse effect on available resources and teaching levels. Clerk to provide contact details for Dist.Cllr.D.Finch for concerns to be raised with Essex County Council.
7. Progress Updates – *Clerk provided an update on action points from 15th May 2019 Meeting.*
 - Still awaiting confirmation of a meeting with the school to discuss parking and use of village playing field.

- Entry to the Village of the Year 2019 did not proceed beyond 1st judging round, feedback to be sourced for future reference.
- CPR/Defibrillator Training took place on 22nd June and was well received by those in attendance. Thanks to village First Responder Keith Sarti for his time and expertise.

8. Business Items

8.1 Annual Action Plan – Amendments made to actions for 2019/20 to include :-
Explore repairs to pedestrian walkway in Church Street; Investigate Drainage at the top of Purls Hill; Explore introducing a 40mph speed limit in Toldishall Road from development down to Barretts Hall & also in Lucking Street up to the 30mph limit; Review benefits and relevance of Neighbourhood Plan

The full plan will be published on the council's website.

8.2 Project to Improve Mobile Phone Reception – Cllr.Harris proposed the Parish Council participates on the new local parishes Mobile Phone reception working party, to ensure the parish is represented. Seconded Cllr.Haylock. Vote in favour - Unanimous

8.3 Refurbishment of Children's Playground Area & Equipment – Cllr.Last highlighted the need for the council to ensure play equipment and play area is appropriately maintained following receipt of the recent ROSPA report. He proposed re-forming the PEGS working party to explore funding and ideas for the playground area. The working party will report to the Parish Council via Cllr.Last but will be made up of various village volunteers. Seconded Cllr.Harris. Vote in favour – Unanimous.

9. Financial Report

9.1 Current bank balances:-

Current account:	£1350.68	Reserve account:	£6418.11
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The Clerk explained that the current account balance was high as monies have been transferred in readiness for end of month payments.

9.2 Noting of sums received:-

NatWest Bank Interest Paid May 2019	£1.61
BACS – BDC Street Cleaning Agreement	£800.13
BACS – Essex County Council Verge Cutting Spring Payment	£899.64

9.3 Ratification of payments made:-

Cheque – St Anne's – Aggregate and Filings for Car Park Repair	£316.80
On-Line Banking – Mortimer Contracts Ltd Verge Cut	£624.00
On-Line Banking – Playsafety Ltd – Annual ROSPA Inspection	£90.60
On-Line Banking – Mortimer Contracts Ltd Footpath Mow Spring Cut	£174.00

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

None

9.5 Bank Transfers:-

Transfer from Reserve Account to Current Account	£320.00
Transfer from Reserve Account to Current Account	£2200.00

10. Planning

10.1 Application Decisions

None

Cllr. Haylock advised no decisions had been made on any outstanding applications or appeals

10.2 Applications Received

10.2.2 19/00938/LBC September Cottage, Church Street. Repair/replacement of wall plate to sitting room, rebuild plinth to south gable wall & re-render south gable wall in traditional lime render (existing cement render to be removed).

Cllr.Haylock advised that as the property was a listed building the proposed repairs would be approved by the county listed buildings office. Cllr.Elms proposed the council would respond in line with its policy to respond to all planning consultations. The council to respond "No comments & no objections". Seconded Cllr.Haylock. Vote in favour - Unanimous

11. Correspondence – For notification

The Clerk advised that posters had been received from BDC promoting a parishioner consultation on the district council’s proposed corporate strategy "You Decide". Details will be placed on the council’s website and notice boards.

12. Content for E-newsletter

Mobile phone coverage; Car park resurfacing; Litter picking; Footpath update; Facebook launch; New poo bin; Planning updates; CPR/Defibrillator training; Community Agents; Forthcoming events

13. Items for the Next Agenda

VETS – Village Emergency Telephone System

14. Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting 28th August 2019 at 7.30pm

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.45pm

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

Dated 28th August 2019

APPENDIX 1 - OFFICER REPORTS

Cllr.S Harris Communications

1. Website

❖ Report:

- The Council's **Policy Documents** have all been reviewed, amended and updated and re-linked to their appropriate page.
- The missing on-line versions of the **Parish Magazine** have now been received, so the page now includes links to all editions up to the current July/August issue.
- The **Register of Interests** page at **BDC** has not yet been updated.

❖ Action Plan:

- Following this meeting, the responsibilities section on the **Parish Councillor** page will be updated to reflect the decisions made.
- Documents, such as the **Community & Emergency Information** leaflets, which have now been updated and circulated will, if approved, need to be re-linked.

2. Facebook

❖ Report:

- The Council's **Facebook** page has now been set up, with the invaluable help of Cllr & Julie Last: it can be viewed [here](#).
- Currently the Administrator is the Vice-Chairman; due to the requirement for an existing Facebook account the Clerk and Chairman are pending Administrators.

❖ Action Plan:

- Adding Cllrs Johnson & Last to the administrators, when their respective existing Facebook accounts can be properly identified.
- Linking to Maplestead Mates.

3. County Broadband – Fibre-Optic Service Update

❖ Report:

- **County Broadband** have confirmed that initial survey and planning work has been undertaken this spring, and installation is now intended for later in the year.
- A link to the latest updates can be found on the Council's website [here](#).

4. Mobile Phone Reception Provision/Improvement

❖ Report:

- Mobile phone reception in our parish is poor to non-existent.
- During the last 6 months **Pebmarsh** and **Little Maplestead Parish Councils** have been working separately on phone mast projects with the aim of improving (or even achieving!) mobile phone signals in their individual parishes.
- At the **Pebmarsh PC** meeting on 19th June it was agreed that a joint project with **Little Maplestead PC** would be a better way proceed. As someone with a broad knowledge about the subject, Cllr David Ballard is leading this initiative for Pebmarsh; Cllr Bill Piper is representing Little Maplestead.
- It was also suggested at the meeting that the PCs of **Great Maplestead, Lamarsh, Colne Engaine** and **Earls Colne** be approached to join the project, on the basis that a combined proposal for a much larger area of coverage might make a better business case to present to any potential telecoms provider and could also, by spreading the costs and needing fewer masts, be a cheaper option.
- The initial aims of this project will be to determine parishioner needs, approach providers to establish the optimum coverage that can be achieved, decide how many (or few!) phone masts would be needed to get good reception across all areas of the participating parishes, identify the

most appropriate/best sites for the masts, and set in place the required understandings/land-owner agreements.

- A joint working group is being set up to run this project; it is due to meet for the first time in a couple of weeks. It is proposed that, to serve the best interests of its parishioners, **Great Maplestead PC** should be represented on this group.



5. Footpaths

❖ Report:

- The current condition of the path network can be found on the **Footpaths** page of the website: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/footpaths/>.
- A plan to further improve ground conditions at the Slype has been discussed. This will involve re-profiling and raising the path to eliminate the steps and the requirement for stepping stones. More on this at a later date.
- The defective footbridge on **FP 16** in the water meadows was reported to ECC on 1st May. The reference number is **2615509** and the repair status can be viewed at <http://www.essexhighways.org/ask-us.aspx>. The current status is showing as: **'Inspection Outcome: We have investigated, risk assessed and recorded this issue and we are in the process of scheduling works'**.

❖ Action Plan:

- Interim assessment and maintenance will continue to be carried out on an *ad hoc* basis to monitor path conditions/rectify problems.



Miscellaneous

1. Playing Field Sign

❖ Report:

- The Playing Field **Conditions of Use** sign, which was removed by persons unknown from its original location in October last year, has now been re-instated by Cllrs Newton & Harris on a stand-alone mounting close to the entrance, to ensure maximum visibility.



a. Digital Mapping Service

❖ Report:

- The mapping service being offered by **Parish Online** in conjunction with the **NALC** has been subscribed to, as approved at the last meeting.
- To cost of the service is as agreed: **£50 (+VAT) per year**.
- The Council already has an Ordnance Survey licence for the use of such a facility.

❖ Action Plan:

- Start populating the map with selected Parish Information.

Cllr.P.Maile

Maplestead Environmental Group (MEG)

The Maplestead Environmental Group is an independent group, led by parishioners, being formed to enhance the environment in and around the parish of Great Maplestead for the benefit of parishioners and most importantly for the wildlife. It will endeavour to increase the biodiversity of the area whilst staying true to endemic species already in the communities.

This will be done by

1. Obtain permission from landowners to access areas
2. Work closely with wildlife organisations to seek relevant advice
3. Monitor current species in a variety of habitats
4. Set up a sightings site with many links for easy access
5. Plan next step for each different area after monitoring
6. Obtain permission from landowners to proceed with next steps
7. Fundraise
8. Working party to implement agreed initiatives
9. More monitoring etc

This type of project is likely to be very long-term to see many of the benefits for the environment, although there may some short-term benefits for people.

Once up and running this could diversify by

- Being shared with neighbouring parishes to enable better corridor development for wildlife.
- Developed to include more community projects - like herb plots, communal growing areas, fruit plots etc
- Others as the group develops