

MINUTES

GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th July 2021 Present Cllr.M.Elms (Chairman).Cllr.S.Harris.Cllr.P.Haylock.Cllr.I.Johnson.Cllr.J.Newton. Cllr.S.Last Mrs.A.Crisp – Clerk. Members of the Public – 3.

1. **Apologies and reasons for absence**– Cllr.Maile– illness
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** –The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 5th May 2021 were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr.Harris, seconded Cllr.Johnson. The minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 26th May 2021 were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings at the meeting, subject to typing amendment Of agenda item 4.5 to read ...“land near to Little Lodge Farm, Church Road, Little Maplestead”. Proposed Cllr.Johnson, seconded Cllr.Last.
3. **Declarations of Interest** - None
4. **County and District Matters** – Apologies received from District Cllr.P. Schwier who provided a brief update from both ECC & BDC –
ECC - In addition to regular information circulated Gestingthorpe Rd has undergone some highways repairs in past week, with root removal, resurfacing and pot hole repairs.
BDC – Hedingham Medical Centre – Specialist developer selected and transfer of land approved
Local Plan – Section 2 hearing until 15th July, with 2 planning inspectors.
Cycling Strategy Consultation – ended 4th July
ECC – Active Travel Plan for Braintree – cycleway from train station to town centre
Halstead Fusion Full Size Artificial Football Pitch – Cost £716k, BDC paid 30% via Section 106 & £45k from capital
Covid 19 – BDC distributed £54m to date via various grants to Braintree district businesses
5. **Officers Reports & Information Exchange** –
Cllr.Harris – As per report
Cllr.Last – Village Playing Field Project progressing well, initial fundraising and donations now in the region of £20k. Fun Day 14th August next significant event. See 8.2 & 8.3
Cllr.Newton – Nothing to report but requested again if there is any opportunity for the schools grass cutting contractor to cut later in the day as clumps of wet grass are left on the field. Clerk to speak with school. Ragwort on roadside verges needs to be removed. Cllr.Elms to enlist volunteers to help with removal.
Cllr.Johnson – No incidents reported within the village. Locally there is an increase in mobile phone and catalytic converter thefts.
Cllr.Haylock – BALC – Believes new organisation and structure more positive than previous set up and that the council should be represented at future meetings. Cllr.Haylock will act as representative.See also Agenda Item 10 Planning
Cllr.Elms –Highways – Road Safety Review – new road signage now in ECC budget Q4 2021. A request for a Quiet Lane in lower Toldish Hall Road still under assessment. Speeding concerns in Dynes Hall Rd – no action taken by ECC to date. Church Street – footway repairs commence 28th July. Concerns regarding overgrown grass verges principally those within the parish of Castle Hedingham with the far end of Monks Lodge Road a particular hazard. CHPC advise verges are responsibility of Essex Highways who are exercising less verge cutting. Cllr.Elms advised that volunteers will cut some of the poor visibility and Cllr.Newton offered to use his farm equipment to help clear overgrown vegetation. Road planings for the public bridleway leading past Rangers Hall is being progressed by ECC. Overgrowth around the pond on the corner of Monks Lodge Rd has

been cut back. **Fly Tipping** – recent incident at Barretts Hall may lead to prosecution as source of rubbish appears to have been identified.

6. Public question time

Concerns raised regarding the development at Highview, Treeways. Of note is the ground level of the new houses, which are now appr.6ft higher than originally anticipated. Soil also piled high towards neighbouring fence. Concerns raised with BDC Enforcement to ascertain whether permission had been updated/approved to allow a change from the original plans but BDC advised department experiencing unprecedented demand and cannot indicate if and when enquiry may be looked at. Copy correspondence shared with the council. Cllr.Elms proposed that whilst not an agenda business item, the situation was urgent enough to warrant a quick response by the council and that a letter should be sent to the Leader of BDC requesting that the issue is investigated and expressing disappointment at the poor service levels by Planning Enforcement.

7. Progress Updates – The Clerk advised that the CIF application for grant funding towards the playing field project should be submitted by 15th September 2021.

8. Business Items

- 8.1 Review of Annual Action Plan** – Carried forward from Annual Meeting. Updates and actions agreed for the forthcoming year. Clerk to update master copy.
- 8.2 Approval of quotation for installation of new boules court** – Quotation and supplier to be approved to commence work on the installation of the boules court, as agreed at the May meeting. Cllr.Harris contacted 4 providers for quotes but has only successfully acquired two with one potential contractor withdrawing due to a lack of experience and the other not replying to numerous contacts. 2 quotes received: 1.Stewart Landscapes £3721.50 + VAT Installation: 1 week Timing: by 1st week of August, if go-ahead given shortly 2. Marvan's Landscapes £2958.00 + VAT 50% non-refundable deposit on acceptance Installation: 2-3 days Timing: November – but maybe earlier if staff will agree to work on a weekend. Cllr.Harris proposed the council proceed with Quote 1 Stewart Landscapes, whose work is already known to be of good standard within neighbouring parishes and they are able to commence work at a much earlier date. Seconded Cllr.Johnson. Vote in favour – Unanimous.
- 8.3 Village Playing Field** – The council received and accepted a report from the Working Party on progress, including alternative site visits, fund raising ideas and potential grant applications. The WP advised a preference for natural wood products with innovative designs to enhance and complement the current setting, as these appeared to work well in other similar parishes and came with limited maintenance and lifetime expectancy of 25-30 years. Cllr.Elms proposed the WP commence with going to tender for natural wood products as per the WP brief. Seconded Cllr.Harris. Vote in favour unanimous

9. Financial Report

9.1 Current bank balances:-

Current account: £24.07 Fundraising account: £7228.88 Reserve account: £7832.77

9.2 Noting of sums received:-

NWB Interest Paid January – May-Jun 2021	23p
Donations Received Towards Village Playing Field Project	£535.00
Village Walk Fundraising towards VPF Project	£110.00
Donation towards VPF Project from Pizza Van	£100.00
Essex County Council Verge Cutting Grant – Spring Cut	£899.64
Private Donations towards VPF Project	£600.00
Donation towards VPF Project from St Giles, Gt.Maplestead PCC	£1330.80

9.3 Ratification of payments made:-

OB Play Safety Ltd Annual ROSPA Report	£90.60
OB Mortimer Contracts Ltd – Verge Cutting – Spring Cut	£636.00

OB M J Letch – Letchwood – Annual Internal Audit	£125.00
SO Mrs A Crisp – Quarterly Salary Mar – Jun 2021	£1624.80
OB M D Landscapes – Footpath Mowing – Spring Cut	£126.60
OB RCCE – Annual Membership Fee	£52.80

9.4 **Bank Transfers made:**

From Reserve Account to Current Account	£1000.00
From Reserve Account to Current Account	£1500.00

10. Planning

10.1 Application Decisions

21/01276/DAC September Cottage, Church St. Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 3 of approved application 19/00938/LBC. Permitted 1 7 21
21/01565/DAC September Cottage, Church St. Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 4,5 & 6 of approved application 19/00938/LBC. Permitted 2 7 21

10.2 Applications

- 10.2.1 *21/01996/HH Library Cottage, Monks Lodge Rd. Erection of single storey rear extension with pitched roof. Cllr.Haylock advised no parishioner comments had been received and there did not appear to be anything controversial regarding the proposal. Cllr.Elms proposed a “no comment, no objection” response. Seconded Cllr.Last. Vote in favour Unanimous*
- 10.2.2 *21/02079/TPO The Old Rectory Church St. Lime Tree – group of 4 lime trees overhanging public footpath – crown lift to the same height as previous work (by about 2m), to reduce stress on lower boughs and prevent over-leading & co maintain clearance for mowing/garden maintenance. Also clear of dead wood for safety. Cllr.Elms proposed a “no comment, no objection” response, work was clearly required. Seconded Cllr.Johnson. Vote in favour Unanimous.*

For notification only:

21/01860/NMA Highview, Treeways. Non-material amendment to permission 15/00914/FUL granted 23 12 15 – Amendment to allow alterations to windows external doors and external materials. Application withdrawn

11. Correspondence – For notification

Village Playing Field - E-mail correspondence advising the Tuesday Pilates class will no longer take place on the village playing field, due to the unreliability of the weather. E-mail request from St Giles school seeking authorisation to use the village playing field for **Village Playing Field** - their annual leavers celebration on the afternoon of Wednesday 21st July. Approved.

Essex Highways Winter Salt Bag Partnership – Reminder for parishes/villages to apply for 2021 salt delivery if required.

Village Playing Field Closure – The Clerk had approved a temporary closure of the school playing field on the morning of 15th July to allow St Giles School to hold their sports day in accordance with the government’s guidelines for Covid safety in educational settings.

St Giles School Summer Holiday Working – The school is having new boilers fitted during the school Summer holidays.

12. Content for E-newsletter Fun Day; Village Playing Field Project; Pizza Van; Road Safety/Verges; Planning; Forthcoming Events

13. Items for the Next Agenda

None

14. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 7.30pm
 MEETING CLOSED 9.08pm

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

Dated 8th September 2021