



Great Maplestead Parish Council

Mrs Ann Crisp (Parish Clerk)
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON 17th January 2024, 7.30PM AT GREAT MAPLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs.S.Harris, I.Johnson, J.Newton, B.Vincent, D.Weight

Chair: Cllr.S.Harris

Clerk: Mrs A Crisp

Also Present: Members of public 2

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr.Last, Cllr.Pike

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 22nd November 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr.Weight

Seconded: Cllr.Harris

Agreed unanimously

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr.J.Newton – Agenda item 9.6.1 23/02942/FUL 6 Toldish Hall Road. NPI – Owner of neighbouring land. Will not speak or vote on item.

4. COUNTY & DISTRICT MATTERS

ECC Update

The recent storm – Henk – saw an extra 800 calls to Highways within 24hours. ECC deployed 12 additional tree surgeon groups to deal with fallen trees.

Statistics from 2022/23 winter Highways services – 50 gritters (2 of which were electric) were deployed on 70 occasions with 21 tons of grit distributed across 40% of Essex highways. It should be noted that crews working on gritters are also those who attend to pothole repairs so there will be a seasonal dip in road repairs due to the redeployment of resources.

2024/25 Budget - due to be agreed 12th February. A 4.9% increase is proposed (2% adult & social care, 21/2% inflation increases).

District Councillor Locality Grant - fully spent for 2023/24.

Bus Service Review – Dart3 on demand service to replace the F315 for Great Maplestead from Summer 2024 for 2 years. Additional services to be introduced by Arrow Taxis (details to come). Thanks extended to residents and councils who responded to the survey.

BDC Update

Wethersfield Asylum Centre – Currently 530 refugees on site, capacity set at 1700. It is expected that the centre will reach capacity in “due time”.

Refuse Collections – WEF 1st April 2024 grey waste will only be emptied from black bins provided. Additional bags of waste will not be collected.

Garden Waste – 27k properties (approx. 42%) across the district have signed up to the new garden waste subscription service for 2024/25. Collections commence on 4th March 2024.

Housing Supply – 5-year housing supply target has been met with December figures showing a 5.8 year housing supply in the district. 200 new affordable homes have been introduced.

Budget – To be approved, still showing a £2m shortfall

5. OFFICER REPORTS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Cllr.Vincent – Nothing to report

Cllr.Weight – Mindfulness Garden – Plans in draft form with initial budget est at £5k. May require some volunteering help and creative use of free resources. BDC scheduled to visit 22nd January (tbc).

Cllr.Harris – As per pre-circulated report

Parish News – Thanks received from the new Steering Committee for the £150 donation towards production. Advised that new advertising contracts already secured will cover production costs for 2024.



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Cllr. Johnson – Neighbourhood Watch – break-ins to vehicles and property on the increase in local area

Cllr. Newton – Village Playing Field – the new field drainage is proving effective, with no flooding evidenced during recent heavy rainfall

6. CORRESPONDENCE

For notification

- 6.1. Notification of application by National Grid for an Order Granting Development Consent for Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement
- 6.2. Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) consultation on parking standards for new developments. Consultation closes 4th December 2023
- 6.3. BDC consultation Potential Improvements to Open Spaces Plan – annual review
- 6.4. Parishioner communication regarding noise from bonfire party celebrations – Response sent providing appropriate signposting to relevant authority
- 6.5. Comment received via website regarding overgrowth on FP23 – Response sent advising the council will investigate

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Comment – Mrs P Doe Chair of Governors Chorus Federation of Schools, apologies extended for recent parking problems at village playing field during staff inset days. All staff now aware and will be reminded to make use of schools own car park in future. Regular education of parent parking ongoing, but has witnessed improved use of all car parks on recent school visits. Parents have successfully been discouraged from parking in Monks Lodge Rd to allow safe pedestrian travel to/from school car park – which is now used as the drop off area for older pupils, encouraging them to walk to/from school. Reference Agenda 9.4 – Village playing field car park re-surfacing – the Federation would welcome opportunity to help with funding, as a heavy user of the car park now that the school has grown in pupil numbers. Mindfulness Garden – the school would welcome involvement.

Comment – Reference Agenda 10.5 Rangers Hall. Advise that the purpose of the application is not to increase the number of residents or place any additional burden on local resources.

8. PROGRESS UPDATES

The Clerk advised all actions from November meeting had been addressed.

- Open Spaces Plan – updates to the plan had been made via the new electronic survey, and confirmation received.
- Footpaths – Letter has been sent to Tony Hume regarding smaller ad-hoc path clearance.
- Christmas Tree Event – Evening proved popular, with £175 spent in total (including purchase of the tree), within £200 budget.
- Church Street flooding from land at Kofali Farm – Essex Highways (David Prudence) notified. Issue to be referred to new Highways Officer – Chris Gant.
- Hulls Mill Ford – Barrier repairs due to be completed by Highways, following issues during recent floods. Ongoing related difficulties with navigation of lane by over-sized vehicles. Case to be raised with Local Highways Panel – new signage required.

9. BUSINESS ITEMS

9.1. To review and approve Budget for 2024/25 financial year

The Clerk pre-circulated a full report on performance against 2023/24 budget and proposed budget for forthcoming year. Proposed increases in expenditure reflect anticipated inflationary rises and where possible reductions have been made, whilst still allowing the council to function effectively. Budget set at £15120 (£650 increase on 2023/24).

Proposed: Cllr.Harris

Seconded: Cllr.Johnson

Agreed unanimously



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9.2. To approve and set Precept for 2024/25 financial year

A precept of £12500 was agreed towards the council's budget for 2024/25. The Council Tax Base (as advised by BDC) is £177.11. For a Band D property this equates to an annual increase of £9.19 (15%). The majority of the shortfall will be met by expected grants and £262 from council reserves.

Proposed: Cllr.Harris

Seconded: Cllr.Johnson

Agreed unanimously

9.3. To consider and agree Non-Disclosure Agreement with Believ – to allow further investigation into provision of EV charging points at the village playing field car park

NDA required to allow discussion of commercial aspects of proposition, details of which would be discussed at a future closed meeting. UK Power have confirmed connection is possible and a completed feasibility assessment has confirmed Great Maplestead as a suitable site for charging points.

Proposed: Cllr.Weight

Seconded: Cllr.Vincent

Agreed unanimously

9.4. To agree to investigate solutions and associated costs for resurfacing of village playing field car park

Intention to provide a more robust surface with reduced maintenance requirements. Samples of grid system panels to be acquired.

Proposed: Cllr.Harris

Seconded: Cllr.Vincent

Agreed unanimously

PLANNING

9.5. Decisions

23/02501/FUL Rangers Hall, Hosdens Lane. Change of use of Poll Miles Hall from a residential annexe to an independent dwelling. Application refused December 2023.

9.6. Applications

23/02942/FUL 6 Toldish Hall Road. Erection of 1 x 3 bedroom dwelling.

Council to respond - No objection, but raise concern regarding highway access and safety, additionally run-off water should be addressed appropriately due to lie of land and to avoid possible future flooding, excess surface water risks.

Proposed: Cllr.Harris

Seconded: Cllr.Johnson

Agreed unanimously

11. FINANCE

11.1. **Current Bank Balances**

11.2. **Reconciled Receipts & Payments** Signed by Cllr.Vincent & Cllr.Weight

11.3. **Payments & Receipts For Authorisation** Signed by Cllr.Vincent & Cllr.Weight

11.4. **Bank Transfers Made**

11.5. **Other**

12. CONTENT FOR e-NEWSLETTER

Bus service; EV charging points; Budget; Car park; Light pollution; Waste services.

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

EV Charging Point

Car Park Surface

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Council Meeting 13th March 2024

Meeting closed at 9.17pm

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

Date: 13th March 2024