



Great Maplestead Parish Council

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH 2025, 7.30PM AT GREAT MAPLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Cllr. S. Harris, Cllr. S. Last, Cllr. J. Newton, Cllr. D. Weight, Cllr. R. Brudenell

Chair: Cllr. S. Harris

Clerk: Mrs. A. Harris (deputising for Mrs. A. Crisp).

Also Present: Members of the Public: Four

1. APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Johnson: illness

Cllr Vincent: on holiday

Cllr Harris noted the absence of The Clerk, Mrs A Crisp, due to the death of her mother and extended the Council 's condolences to her. It was agreed that an "In Sympathy" card would be signed by all Councillors and sent to Mrs Crisp.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate account of the proceedings of that meeting.

Proposed: Cllr S Last

Seconded: Cllr R Brudenell

Vote in Favour: Unanimous

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Newton reported a non-pecuniary interest in Planning Applications:10.2.1, 10.2.2 and 10.2.3 (detailed below) due to his land neighbouring the location of each application.

4. COUNTY & DISTRICT MATTERS

Cllr Schwier did not attend this meeting, and no report was received from him.

5. OFFICER REPORTS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE

5.1 Monthly Playground Inspection – Report by Cllr Johnson to be reviewed. This item was deferred until the next meeting due to the absence of Cllr Johnson

5.2 Officer Reports

Cllr Newton: Reported that the newly laid surface of the Playing Field car park may present difficulties for wheelchair access and advised that this would be assessed once the surface has "settled".

Cllr Brudenell: The Quiet Lane signs in Toldishall Road are now in place.

Pothole repairs by Essex Highways are not to be brought forward despite the inspection having taken place over 12 months ago.

The survey on the Digital Demand Response Service to be completed.

Thanks are extended to village volunteer litter pickers for their service.

Cllr Weight: The willow dome in the Playing Field is settling in well and now showing signs of growth. Next the seating inside the dome is to be installed, benches and planters have been supplied and **Cllr Newton** also offered wood for this purpose. Noted that the Autumn Show organisers have offered to sponsor and maintain one of the planters.

Cllr Harris: Please see Officer reports. It was advised that the footpath finger-post sign in Lucking Street had been broken during ditch clearing operations. BDC Streetscene has been asked to arrange its reinstatement. A letter has been sent to BDC Planning stating the Council's safety concerns regarding the Playing Field should Application 24/02402/TPO to crown an unsafe oak tree be refused.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Request received from Halstead Town Football Under 9's team to use the Playing Field for football training sessions (see Agenda item 9.6).

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Concerns were expressed about disruption and noise in respect of the request from Halstead Football Club (HFC) for permission to use the Great Maplestead playing field for the training of their Under 9s. As two organisers of the training sessions were present it was agreed to bring **Agenda item 9.6** forward for discussion at this time.

The matter was discussed at length by the Councillors and the four members of the public present at the meeting (two village residents and two from HFC). It was agreed that the HFC representatives would e-mail the Parish Clerk providing details as to timing, numbers etc and, subject to receipt of this request, the Council would agree to a trial period of four weeks commencing on Saturday 5th April (excluding Easter weekend), the outcome to be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

Proposed by: Cllr Harris

Seconded by: Cllr Last

Vote in Favour: Unanimous

8. PROGRESS UPDATES

There was no Clerk's Report to this meeting.

9. BUSINESS ITEMS

9.1. Parish Council e-mail & web page address – As no further discussions had taken place about the move to a .gov.uk address it was agreed to defer this item to give more time to investigate the requirements and give due consideration to the associated costs

Proposed by: Cllr Harris

Seconded by: Cllr Last

Vote in favour: Unanimous

9.2. Role of Parish Clerk – The Personnel Committee had agreed the job advert, which has been circulated widely, and is now in the process of agreeing a recruitment plan. The closing date for applications is 14th April and Mrs Crisp will leave the role at the end of May.

9.3. VE Day 80 Celebrations – A Council contribution of £250.00 to the proposed village anniversary celebrations on Thursday 8th May 2025 was agreed

Proposed by: Cllr Harris

Seconded by: Cllr Brudenell

Vote in Favour: Unanimous

9.4. Verge Cutting 2025 – The appointment of Mortimer Contracts Ltd for Spring & Autumn cuts 2025. Price per cut £570+VAT was agreed.

Proposed by: Cllr Harris

Seconded by: Cllr Brudenell

Vote in Favour: Unanimous

9.5. Internal Auditor 2025 – The re-appointment of Heelis Lodge as Internal Auditor for 2025 at a price of £220 was agreed.

Proposed by: Cllr Last

Seconded by: Cllr Brudenell

Vote in Favour: Unanimous

10. PLANNING

10.1. Decisions - None

10.2. Applications

10.2.1. **25/00141/ELD** Monks Lodge Farm, Gestingthorpe Rd. Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use – Change of use of land to residential garden.

Advised for information only – no action required

10.2.2. **25/00302/HH** Easedale, Lucking Street. Proposed two-storey rear extension and single storey extension to outbuilding.

Council response: No objections, no comments

Proposed by: Cllr Last

Seconded by: Cllr Weight

Vote in favour: Unanimous

10.2.3. **25/00341/FUL** 1 Langthorne Cottages, Gestingthorpe Road, Great Maplestead. Change of use of land to form an extension to domestic garden

Council response: No objections raised but agreed to request a condition be included to prevent any future Permitted Development Rights associated with the proposed garden extension

Proposed by: Cllr Harris

Seconded by: Cllr Last

Vote in favour: Unanimous

11. FINANCE

11.1. Current Bank Balances

11.2. Reconciled Receipts & Payments

11.3. Payments & Receipts For Authorisation – Signed by Cllr Last & Cllr Weight

11.4. Bank Transfers Made

11.5. Other - £515 owed to the Council by GB Newton Ltd in respect of the purchase of unused car park surfacing material.

12. CONTENT FOR e-NEWSLETTER

Car Park re-surfacing, Clerk Vacancy, future Meeting Dates, Parish Assembly, Quiet Lane, VE80 Celebration programme, Greater Essex Devolution consultation, Planning, Events.

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Assessment of HFC Football training trial

14. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Annual Parish Assembly – Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 7.30pm

Annual Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed.....

Date: 14th May 2025