

MINUTES

GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th May 2021 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr. M. Elms (Chairman), Cllr. S. Harris, Cllr. P. Haylock, Cllr. I. Johnson, Cllr. J. Newton, Cllr. P. Maile, Cllr. S. Last, Mrs. A. Crisp – Clerk, Members of the Public – 5.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence - None

2. Declarations of Interest – **Cllr. Newton** – Disclosable Pecuniary Interest regarding Agenda Item 4.5 Mobile Phone Mast & Substation on land near to Little Lodge Farm, as landowner. Non-pecuniary Interest regarding Agenda Item 5.2 Kofali Farm, as owner of land neighbouring site. Cllr. Newton declared he would participate in meeting and vote on item 5.2. **Cllr. Last** – Non-Pecuniary Interest regarding Agenda Item 5.2 Kofali Farm – as near neighbour. Cllr. Last declared he would participate in meeting and vote on item 5.2.

3. Public question time

Question – Concern raised regarding large commercial vehicles accessing/exiting the development site at Treeways, with particular concern for safety of children travelling to/from school. Cllr. Elms commented that whilst Treeways development was not an agenda item he would respond. He advised that he had spoken with the developer regarding visiting vehicles and requested that where possible school drop off/pick up times were avoided. The developer had advised this was largely out of their control but they would speak to suppliers. Question – Could the parish council provide the agreed traffic plan for the development. Cllr. Elms and Cllr. Haylock both advised they were unfamiliar with a traffic plan and that the parish council certainly had never seen such an item. The enquirer was reminded that the parish council is not a decision maker in planning, and councillors are not qualified planning officers, but rather the council is a consultee. A request would be made to BDC planning. Question – Could the council confirm whether a named party was still involved with the development as they were concerned the development would be converted to a care home. Cllr. Elms advised this was not council business and the development, as approved by BDC planning, is residential only. The enquirer was referred to a court ruling, to be found on the internet, which had ruled that properties at Treeways/Highview could be for residential use only.

4. Business Items

4.1 Internal Audit – The Clerk advised that the internal auditor had not raised any items of concern during his recent visit, and the AGAR Internal Audit form had been signed off accordingly. The full report is still awaited from the Internal Auditor.

4.2 Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2020/21 – Cllr. Harris proposed the council approve the Annual Governance statement confirming there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the accounting statements. Seconded Cllr. Haylock. Vote in favour - Unanimous

4.3 Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2020/21 – Cllr. Johnson proposed the council certify that for the year ended 31 March 2021 the accounting statements in the Annual Governance & Accountability Return had been prepared on a receipt and payments basis, following guidance in Governance & Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and presented fairly the financial position of Great Maplestead Parish Council. Seconded Cllr. Newton. Vote in favour – Unanimous.

4.4 Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2020/21 – Cllr. Last proposed the council certify that the council's gross annual income and gross annual expenditure did not exceed £25,000, for the accounting period, and the council met all other qualifying criteria, the council completed a Certificate of Exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. All documents will be displayed on the council's website in accordance with the regulations. Seconded Cllr. Harris. Vote in favour – Unanimous.

4.5 Pre-application Consultation for Mobile Phone Mast & Substation on land near to Little Lodge Farm, Church Road, Little Maplestead – *Cllr. Newton did not participate*

or vote

The Chairman invited comment from the public to help inform discussions. Concerns raised regarding proximity of proposed site to a Grade 2 listed building, potential impact on local environment and visual impact on immediate and surrounding natural area. The council heard that a number of potential alternative sites have been suggested by the parish of Little Maplestead including a plot of redundant land beside the A131, which is owned by Little Maplestead Parish Council. Cllr.Elms proposed the council objected to the proposed site on land near to Little Lodge Farm and supported the alternative suggestions raised at the recent LMPC meeting. Seconded Cllr.Harris. Vote in favour-Unanimous.

5. Planning

5.1 To Note

21/01276/DAC September Cottage. Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 3 of approved application 19/00938/LBC

5.2 Applications

21/01009/FUL Kofali Farm, Purls Hill. Application for the erection of 2 polytunnels for agricultural use. Retention of CCTV & temporary consent for storage container. Cllr.Elms proposed the council support the application as some of the structures referred to are already in place and also noting the ongoing agricultural commitment at this site, but subject to the following conditions:

Only 2 polytunnels in total to be on site for a maximum of 3 years, with an expectation that planning is reapplied for should the tunnels still have a proven use at that time.

CCTV should be aimed at the landowners property only and not cover local highway or property/land not owned by the applicant.

No future development to be approved at this site.

Seconded Cllr.Harris. Vote in favour – Unanimous.

6. Date of next meeting:

14th July 2021 at 7.30pm

MEETING CLOSED 8.18pm

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

Dated 14th July 2021