



# Great Maplestead Parish Council

Mrs Ann Crisp (Parish Clerk)  
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## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 7.30PM AT GREAT MAPLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL

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

**Chair:** Cllr.S.Harris

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crisp

**Also Present:** Members of public 4

### 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr.D.Pike

### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting.

**Proposed:** Cllr.Harris

**Seconded:** Cllr.Johnson

Agreed unanimously

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

### 4. COUNTY & DISTRICT MATTERS

No report or apologies received.

### 5. OFFICER REPORTS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE

**Cllr.Vincent** – Nothing to report

**Cllr.Last** – Has submitted an application for £2000 to the Community Gardens & Open Spaces Fund, to help with the proposed mindfulness garden. If successful money will be utilised to cover additional seating and a water harvesting system.

**Cllr.Weight** – Nothing to report

**Cllr.Johnson** – Neighbourhood Watch – no recent incidents reported within the parish

**Cllr.Newton** – Questioned whether there was a continued need for the earth bund at the village playing field. It was agreed the bund was a necessary additional security measure, but that it looked unsightly.

Cllr.Newton will investigate sowing grass seed on the bund to help improve appearance.

**Cllr.Harris** – Please see Officer Reports

### 6. CORRESPONDENCE

### 7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**Comment** – Concern raised that the introduction of new football goalposts would attract unwanted visitors to the village and encourage anti-social behaviour. Also questioned need for facility as it was felt nobody within the village used the old goal posts. Cllr.Last acknowledged comments made, but stated support for sporting facilities and confirmed that a number of younger and older village children as well as adults made use of previous facilities and have requested continued provision.

**Question** – Essex Bus Service Consultation – what is the council's position and has it responded to the consultation. Cllr.Harris confirmed the council had sent a written response capturing all the concerns raised at the previous council meeting. A further letter would be sent highlighting additional issues with the proposed Digigo replacement service, making it an impractical solution. Copies of the council's response will be published on website and social media pages, and copied to Cllr.Schwieger and Cllr.Lee Scott at Essex County Council member of cabinet for Sustainable Transport.

### 8. PROGRESS UPDATE

The Clerk pre-circulated a report on actions since last meeting. New official photo of King Charles still awaited (promised free distribution by central government earlier this year). D Day 80 celebrations 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Clerk to structure beacon lighting event to co-ordinate with national activities, including possible fish and chip supper provided by mobile catering van.



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### 9. BUSINESS ITEMS

#### 9.1. Village Playing Field Next Steps

9.1.1. To install a single 16ft x 7ft football goal with net at the playground end of the village playing field. Structure is locked down. Quote from It's a Goal at £600 +VAT and installation fee.

9.1.2. To consider possible installation of an additional picnic table incorporating a chequered game board to allow people to take own chess/draughts pieces along to play

9.1.3. To install low growing plants along the perimeter fence of the children's playground. Any foliage to be maintained by Task Force and/or other village volunteers.

**Items 9.1.1 – 9.1.3** proposed en-bloc

**Proposed:** Cllr.Last                                      **Seconded:** Cllr.Harris                                      Agreed unanimously

9.1.4. To donate £500 from the remaining village playing field project budget, to the mindfulness garden project to help get started.

**Proposed:** Cllr.Last                                      **Seconded:** Cllr.Harris                                      Agreed unanimously

9.1.5. To form a new village Working Party to undertake the mindfulness garden project and be led by Cllr.Weight.

**Proposed:** Cllr.Last                                      **Seconded:** Cllr.Harris                                      Agreed unanimously

9.2. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Based on most recent information, the council agreed the costs and time required to create and introduce a plan currently outweigh the benefits to the parish.

**Proposed:** Cllr.Last                                      **Seconded:** Cllr.Harris                                      Agreed unanimously

#### 9.3. **Response to Parishioner Enquiry Regarding Noise Disturbance from Local Gun Club Events** –

The Clerk advised that there are no regulations in place dictating the operation of such events, other than events cannot be hosted for more than 28 days per annum without prior consent from the local authority. Hours of operation are at the discretion of the organisers with encouragement for a voluntary code of conduct to be in place. Any activity considered to be excessive noise disturbance should be notified to the Environment Department at Braintree District Council. The council agreed to send a letter to the event organisers to request prior notification of events in order that the parish may be informed.

**Proposed:** Cllr.Harris                                      **Seconded:** Cllr.Johnson                                      Agreed unanimously

### 10. PLANNING

#### 10.1. Applications Received

None

#### 10.2. Application Decisions

None

### 11. FINANCE

#### 11.1. Bank Balances

11.2. **Approval of Payments & Receipts Reconciled** – Signed by Cllr.J.Newton & Cllr.I.Johnson

11.3. **Authorisation of Payments to be Made** – Signed by Cllr.J.Newton & Cllr.I.Johnson

#### 11.4. Bank Transfers Made

11.5. **Other** - None

### 12. CONTENT FOR e-NEWSLETTER

Bus Service Consultation; ECC Energy Switch; Council Powers & Responsibilities

### 13. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Christmas Tree

### 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Ordinary Council Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm**

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

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

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023