



# Great Maplestead Parish Council

Mrs Ann Crisp (Parish Clerk)  
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## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 7.30PM AT GREAT MAPLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Cllr.S.Harris; Cllr.J.Newton; Cllr.S.Last; Cllr.D.Weight;

**Chair:** Cllr.S.Harris

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crisp

**Also Present:** 2 members of the public

### 1. APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr.R.Brudenell; Cllr.B.Vincent; Cllr.I.Johnson

### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting.

**Proposed:** Cllr.Last

**Seconded:** Cllr.Harris

Agreed unanimously

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr.Last – NPI – Local Plan GRMA2168 Long Fen as a near neighbour.

Cllr.Newton – DPI – Local Plan. Will not participate in any discussions.

### 4. COUNTY & DISTRICT MATTERS

Apologies received from County & District Cllr.P.Schwier

### 5. OFFICER REPORTS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE

**5.1. Monthly Playground Inspection** – Cllr.Vincent pre-circulated the completed inspection report, which was reviewed and accepted. Cllr.Last will undertake the next playground inspection.

#### 5.2. Officer Reports

**Cllr.Newton – Village Playing Field** – Thanks extended to all who helped tidy bund, removing weeds and cutting back overgrowth. Clerk to send a letter to owners of Chifneys requesting removal of dead branches on ash tree which are over-hanging the playing field and are a hazard.

**Cllr.Last** – Nothing to report

**Cllr.Weight – Mindfulness Garden** – Plans have been modified and hope to progress with work and drawdown of grant funds before end November 2024. Work to reduce overgrowth at the rear of field will be done gradually.

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

**Clerk** – Update provided on behalf of Cllr.Brudenell. **Bus Service** – Reminder that Central Connect are committed to a 3 month trial service, during which time fares are free. Parishioners who have been charged a fare by Central Connect since the end of July should send details of dates and amounts to Cllr.Brudenell in order that a refund may be obtained from Central Connect. Feedback from parishioners that booking service is currently inadequate, some have taken an hour to book via phone. Others have not had reservations fulfilled. **ECC Transport Survey** – A response has been sent on behalf of the Council based on previous discussions, but considered survey was at an early stage.

### 6. CORRESPONDENCE

*For notification*

**6.1. Conclusion of Annual Audit – Notice of Conclusion of Audit received from PKF Littlejohn, no comments made.** Public notices displayed in line with procedural requirements.

**6.2. Braintree Council Local Plan Review, Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Consultation -** Public consultation reviewing SCI policy, closes Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Full details at <https://braintree-consult.objective.co.uk/>

Received after agenda issued:

**6.3. Braintree Council Local Plan Review, Sustainability Appraisal Consultation** – Public consultation reviewing Sustainability Appraisal assessment of the revised Local Plan. Full details at <https://braintree-consult.objective.co.uk/>



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## 7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Q. Why are the Wig-Wag Lights in Lucking Street still not repaired? What has been the delay?

A. The Council explained the detail of their enquiries to the original light contractor, Solagen, and its concern regarding the proposed cost – approx. £1k including labour and call out fees. An alternative provider of a replacement battery had unfortunately been unable to fulfil the Council's requirements, a further alternative provider has now been sourced and a battery ordered at the cost of £210. Labour will be carried out by the Council.

Q. Local Plan, Call for Sites - Why has there been no mention of the proposed sites being outside the village development boundary?

A. The Council explained the local authority process and that should the proposed sites be approved by BDC, then the development boundary would be extended/allocated to accommodate any future proposed developments at that site.

Q. Could the council include a link to previous meeting minutes within its correspondence advising of forthcoming meeting agenda?

A. Yes, this will be done in future

## 8. PROGRESS UPDATES

Report pre-circulated.

## 9. BUSINESS ITEMS

### 9.1. Local Plan Update

Council response to Call for Sites consultation. A copy of the letter will be published on the Council website and a summary placed in the next edition of the Parish News.

### 9.2. Alderford Street, road signage request prohibiting access to HGV's & farm traffic.

Following a parishioner request concerning damage to property & vehicles, the Council will consult with both Sible Hedingham & Castle Hedingham Parish Councils, and suggest a request is made to SatNav providers to ensure HGV's and over-sized vehicles are directed appropriately.

### 9.3. Resurfacing of Village Playing Field Car Park – Await meeting dates with school governors to discuss use of the village playing field car park. Anticipate any resurfacing works will now not take place until late October – depending on funds available at that time.

### 9.4. Wig-Wag Lights – As per Agenda item 7, a replacement battery has now been ordered and once received the Council will organise fitting.

## 10. PLANNING

*For information only, correspondence received following publication of agenda*

24/01780/COUPA – Monks Lodge Farm Barns, Gestingthorpe Rd. Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class 3) and for associated development. Change of use to 3 x residential dwellings. Advisory notice only, consultation not required.

## 11. FINANCE

### 11.1. Current Bank Balances

### 11.2. Reconciled Receipts & Payments

### 11.3. Payments & Receipts For Authorisation Signed by Cllr. S. Last & Cllr.D.Weight

### 11.4. Bank Transfers Made

## 12. CONTENT FOR e-NEWSLETTER

Bus Service; Village of the Year BBQ; Local Plan Response; Quiet Lane; Planning; & Forthcoming Events

## 13. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Budget Review; Village Playing Field Pathway Repairs

## 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm

MEETING CLOSED at 8.25pm

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

Dated 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024