

MINUTES

GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 27th November 2019

Present Cllr.M.Elms.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 – 7.

1. **Apologies and reasons for absence**–
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** –The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2nd October 2019, were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr.Harris, seconded Cllr.Johnson.
3. **Declarations of Interest** - None
4. **County and District Matters** – Cty.Cllr.D.Finch advised that the general election will impact on the timing of the central government grant to Local Authorities. Figures will not be released until January. ECC remains one of the top performing district councils. Cllr.Finch confirmed his support of the parish council in its request to ECC for help with traffic calming measure throughout the village. He further confirmed that he would assist with addressing outstanding issues with the recent drainage work in Lucking Street. Dist.Cllr.P.Schwier, extended apologies as unable to attend due to meetings at BDC – Written update provided **Local Plan** – section 1 examination confirmed. Planning Inspector hearing commences Jan 14 at Colchester Football stadium for 2 weeks. **Braintree Town Centre Regeneration** - 29M regeneration confirmed to include Hotel/NHS Health Facilities/Car Park/ Cafe/ Affordable housing/Bus Park. **Broadband** - Gigaclear & County Broadband continue to work on providing full fibre broadband to rural areas.
5. **Officers Reports & Information Exchange** – *No business decisions may be made.*
Cllr.Elms – Highways – Clearance work on the vegetation by the pond on the corner of Monks Lodge Road has been completed and visibility improved for all road users. Thanks extended to all who helped. **Litter Pick** – Ad-hoc clearance on-going, with thanks extended to Jo Green for additional assistance.
Cllr.Maile – Environmental Group – Enquiries made of other similar groups regarding ideas and fundraising opportunities. Now a member of Plant Life which will help with a focus on environmentally friendly verge cutting. Exploring a possible joint initiative with Little Maplestead.
Cllr.Haylock – Planning – Refer Agenda item 10.
Cllr.Harris – As per report. See Officer Reports.
Cllr.Johnson – Neighbourhood Watch – No local incidents to report, caution extended regarding Christmas/Winter Thefts.
Cllr.Newton – Village Playing Field – The hedge at the back of the field/border with Chiffneys menage, will be cut back once weather improves. Cllr.Newton to notify Chiffneys when works planned. Tree surgeon contacted regarding removal of dead branches in oak tree at edge of village playing field car park. Type 1 aggregate received and ready to spread on car park to help ease flooded areas. **Highways** – Manhole cover outside Maple Cottage has been damaged, also the drain just above that point is blocked ECC to be chased to repair. The recently reported tree in Toldishall Road has been inspected by the landowner and has been confirmed as alive and safe. Cllr.Newton to suggest that an expert is employed to give a professional opinion and provide a written report for notification.
Cllr.Last – Village Playing Field Play Equipment – Proposed repair work scheduled for week commencing 2nd December. Has also requested Playdale to put forward proposals for renewal/refurbishment plan for the entire area.

6. Public question time MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE INVITED TO ASK QUESTIONS.

Question: Are the council able to help with repair of the pothole in Monks Lodge Road on the corner by Gestingthorpe Rd. It has been reported to ECC Highways but no progress? *Cllr.Elms advised he would chase ECC for response.*

Comment: Representation was made from St Giles School Governing body, advising that a new governor role had been created to ensure closer working between school and community. School parking the main focus and a number of communications and initiatives have been implemented to try and re-educate parents, but acknowledge difficulties continue. The school are committed to work with the council and local police to help address problems.

Question: Following the recent traffic diversion via Toldish Hall Road, the section of road between Barretts Hall & Shoulderstick Hall is now very muddy. Can a working party be created to help clear the worst of the mud away? *Cllr.Elms invited parishioner to seek support for working party.*

7. Progress Updates – Clerk to report on actions from the 2nd October 2019 meeting.

8. Business Items

8.1 Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS) – Sufficient volunteers have now been Recruited. Cllr.Haylock proposed that the council supports the original VETS scheme at a set up cost of £45.00 and £100 per annum thereafter (first year should be free of charge). Cllr.Harris counter proposed the council opt for the X2 VETS scheme which would mean sharing a single contact number with Little Maplestead, but retaining volunteers specific to each community, whilst sharing the cost and thus saving £10 per annum per community. Seconded Cllr.Johnson. A vote on each proposition saw an equality of votes, the Chairman exercised his right to a casting vote and voted for the X2 VETS scheme. Clerk to liaise with Little Maplestead Parish Council to progress.

8.2 Review & Adoption of Personnel Policies 1. Disciplinary 2. Grievance Procedures. Cllr.Elms proposed policies adopted without amendment with next review to take place in May 2020, alongside other annual policy reviews. Seconded Cllr.Harris. Vote in favour – Unanimous.

8.3 Proposal for Replacement Website Platform
Cllr.Harris advised that since undertaking extensive reviews of alternative website Platforms, all of which attract fees, it has emerged that there remains a free alternative to essexinfo.net run by the same organisation – Cambridge Operating Systems – called Voice. The platform is similar in appearance and the amount of work involved to transfer across from essexinfo.net would be reduced. Cllr.Harris proposed that the council seeks to transfer to the Voice platform. Seconded Cllr.Last. Vote in favour - Unanimous

8.4 Review of OSAP Action Plan for 2020
Cllr.Elms proposed that the inclusion of extension to village playing field car park is now removed, as this has been done. The remaining projects listed should remain. Seconded Cllr.Harris. Vote in favour – Unanimous.

8.5 Review of Need & Requirements for a Village ATM
Cllr.Harris provided background to the recently launched government backed scheme to ensure access to ATM's in rural areas and proposed that the council consider the introduction of an ATM as a village amenity. Seconded Cllr.Maile. Vote in favour – 2. Motion not carried.

9. Financial Report

9.1 Current bank balances:-

Current account:	£46.27	Reserve account:	£6328.19
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9.2 Noting of sums received:-

NWB Interest Paid September to October 2019	£2.27
BACS – Braintree District Council – Councillor Grant Scheme	£245.78

9.3 Ratification of payments made:-	
OB Mortimer Contracts Limited – Autumn Footpath Cut	£174.00
OB Mortimer Contracts Limited – Autumn Verge Cut	£624.00
Petty Cash – Padlock to Secure Telegraph Pole “barrier” at Village Playing Field	£24.98

Transfers

TF From Reserve Account to Current Account	£800.00
TF From Reserve Account to Current Account	£50.00

Payment(s) to be made requiring approval:-

DD - Data Protection Registration Fee – Annual Fee	£40.00
LCN Domain name license renewal for 5 years subscription	£39.95
OB – Trustees of Great Maplestead Village Hall, 6 x hall hire @ £13.00	£78.00

Cllr.Harris proposed payments made, noting the change to the LCN license renewal from 2-5 years to benefit from reduced subscription. Seconded Cllr.Johnson. Vote in favour – Unanimous.

9.4 Other Financial

None

10. Planning

10.1 Application Decisions

19/00198/TPO The Rectory, Church Street. Works to be carried out on a tree covered by a TPO. Granted 27/9/19

10.2 Applications Received

19/01829/FUL Land north of Purls Hill Farm, Purls Hill. Erection of agricultural building. Cllr.Elms proposed the council object to the proposal in line with its response to similar application 15/00347/FUL, concerns re potential for future development at the site. Outside village development boundary and visual intrusion on local landscape. Seconded Cllr.Haylock. Vote in favour- Unanimous.

11. Correspondence – For notification

Parishioner Correspondence Regarding Removal of Telegraph Pole “Barrier” on Village Playing Field, Use of Village Hall Bins for Disposal of Dog Poo Bags & School Parking in Church Street – Telegraph pole has now been secured via padlock, with thanks to parishioner for organising. Cllr.Newton advised village hall bins relocated to hopefully avoid similar occurrence of misuse. School parking on going work with school and local police.

12. Content for E-newsletter

Roadside clearance at Monks Lodge Rd/Gestingthorpe Rd. Lucking St drainage. Footpath Update; Replacement defibrillator.

13. Items for the Next Agenda

Please note that no decisions can lawfully be made under this item, LGA 1972 section 12 10(2)(b) states that business must be specified, therefore the Council cannot lawfully raise matters for decision.

14. Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting 22nd January 2020 at 7.30pm

MEETING CLOSED 9.29pm

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

Dated 22nd January 2020