

# MINUTES

## GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Present** Cllr.M.Elms (Chairman).Cllr.S.Harris.Cllr.P.Haylock.Cllr.I.Johnson.Cllr.J.Newton.  
Mrs.A.Crisp – Clerk. Members of the Public – 1.

- 1. Apologies and reasons for absence** - Cllr.Maile–work commitments; Cllr.S.Last – illness. County & District Cllr.P Schwier will arrive late due to previous meeting commitments
- 2. Minutes of previous meeting** – The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021; and the Parish Council Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr.Harris, seconded by Cllr.Newton.
- 3. Declarations of Interest** None
- 4. County and District Matters** –  
**District** – Horizon120 has secured a 3<sup>rd</sup> employer – British Offsite who will commence building work in at the business park in 2022, securing a further 80 jobs for the district; BDC continues to increase the number of electrical charging points with new units recently installed in Witham; Mixed glass recycling has now been introduced at all recycling banks/units; Braintree street market recommences on 25<sup>th</sup> September; Heritage open days take place 10-19<sup>th</sup> September providing free access to venues across Braintree; BDC focusing on the increase in fly-tipping across the district, particularly in open spaces; Funds available within the District Councillor Community Grant Scheme parishes invited to apply.  
**County** – NHS has introduced 3 new mobile units within the district to help alleviate some of the backlogs; Covid booster vaccines will be administered this Autumn; ECC are producing a 100 day report which will be circulated shortly. County council Locality Fund is open for small grant applications from parish councils.
- 5. Officers Reports & Information Exchange** –  
**Cllr.Elms – Highways** - Drainage in Lucking St has now been jetted, as it was clogged. It was highlighted by the visiting engineers that the newly installed drainage required some maintenance as the job had not been completed correctly – ECC responsibility. The drainage ditch needs to be cleared and parish volunteers will tackle this job in the Autumn. Tar planings for the track running past Rangers Hall have now been delivered. **BDC Enforcement**- Continued communication with regards to supporting the concerns raised by Mr & Mrs Castro with regards to breaches of planning conditions.  
**Cllr.Haylock**- To report on agenda item 10 Planning  
**Cllr.Harris** – As per report  
**Cllr.Newton**- Nothing to report  
**Cllr.Johnson** – Thefts of car keys, cars & mobile phones reported in the local area but not within the parish.
- 6. Public question time**  
Q. Have all village drains been treated, as the drain below Buttercups Cottage in Church Street appears to be blocked? Are all available drains clear for use? Cllr.Elms to check  
Comment: Disappointment expressed regarding the council’s response to BDC planning regarding the pre-application for a mobile phone mast and substation on land near to Little Lodge Farm, as response did not reflect that the council was supportive of a mobile phone mast, in principle, to improve coverage in the parish. Could the council confirm they would be supportive in principle? Cllr Elms explained that the response was based on parishioner feedback at the August meeting, at which the item was discussed, and no comments had been received at the meeting in support of the mast. The council did recognise the need for such a facility within the area to help improve coverage within the parish. The comment was duly noted for future reference.

**7. Progress Updates** – The Clerk confirmed that all actions from the July & August meetings were complete and work on the newly installed earth bund at the village playing field was ongoing.

## **8. Business Items**

**8.1 Village Playing Field** – Cllr.Harris confirmed the new boules pitch and picnic benches were now installed and in regular use. The fun day and dog show had been a great success, with visitors from a wide area. Over £1400 had been raised on the day. An application for a CIF grant of £10k will be submitted; S106 money will be applied for to go towards the project alongside applications for the District Councillors Community grant scheme and National Lottery funding; A tender document is currently being written which will be placed on the governments Contract Finder website and distributed to targeted suppliers not using the Contract Finder facility; St Giles school will be invited to participate in play equipment planning and a meeting will take place early in October to discuss this and other ways the school may be involved; Stewart Landscapes have been invited to quote for a disabled access pathway around the field as the working party explores the feasibility of this option; It is intended that the mindfulness garden is offered as a community project for parishioners to develop together, donating plants and materials eg:log benches, with no need to include in fundraising as the area will be a practical effort.

*County & District Councillor P Schwier arrived at this time*

**8.2 Adoption of New Parish Council Reserves Policy** – Cllr.Elms proposed the policy to be adopted in line with Section 32 & 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and with reference to the Joint Panel on Accountability & Governance practitioners Guide (JPAG) March 2020 edition. Seconded Cllr.harris. Vote in favour – Unanimous.

*County & District Councillor P Schwier was invited to report to the meeting and take questions. Cllr.Schwier left the meeting prior to the next agenda item*

## **9. Financial Report**

### **9.1 Current bank balances:-**

Current account: £195.77    Fundraising account: £3088.07    Reserve account: £7632.83

### **9.2 Noting of sums received:-**

NWB Interest Paid – Jul-Aug 2021	21p
Takings from Playing Field Fun Day & Dog Show	£1407.14
Dog Show Pitch Fees – Guide Dogs & Pets4Therapy	£30.00
Donation towards VPF Project from Pizza Van	£35.00
The Jam Shed Donation	£30.00
Private Donations towards VPF Project	£500.00
Cash for Fundraising Day Float	£400.00

### **9.3 Ratification of payments made:-**

OB British Recycled Plastics – Purchase of 2 x picnic benches	£1639.20
DD E-ON Quarterly Street Lighting	£28.30
OB Stewart Landscapes – Installation of boules pitch	£4865.80
OB Indigo Ross – Fun Day Display & Flyers printing	£73.00
Cheque 000747 – Cash for Fundraising Day Float	£400.00
TF Mrs A Crisp – Beer for Fun Day beer tent & game prizes	£378.59

### **9.4 Bank Transfers made:**

From Fundraising Account to Current Account	£1639.20
From Reserve Account to Current Account	£100.00
From Reserve Account to Current Account	£100.00
From Fundraising Account to Current Account	£4865.80

### **9.5 Other**

Renewal of council laptop antivirus and internet security with Kaspersky 2 year enhanced package	£59.98
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## **10. Planning**

### **10.1 Application Decisions**

21/02079/TPO The Old Rectory Church St. Lime Tree – group of 4 lime trees overhanging public footpath – crown lift to the same height as previous work (by about 2m), to reduce stress on lower boughs and prevent over-leading & co maintain clearance for mowing/garden maintenance. Also clear of dead wood for safety. Permitted 31 8 21  
21/001009/FUL Kofali Farm Purls Hill – Application for the erection of two polytunnels for agricultural use. Retention of CCTV and temporary consent for storage container. Refused 12 8 21

**Reported at meeting** 21/02191/VAR New Barn House, Purls Hill. Removal of condition 2 (agricultural occupancy) of planning approval P/BTE/0596/82/FL/H granted 17 8 82 for proposed conversion of existing barn building. Refused 7 9 21

### **10.2 Applications - For information**

21/02513/DAC – Purls Hill Farm House, Purls Hill – discharge of conditions 3 & 4 of approved application 20/02021/HH. No consultation

## **11. Correspondence – For notification**

**Parishioner Correspondence – Rights of way/Permissive Footpaths, Land Owned by Chelmshe Farm** – Concerns raised regarding newly erected signs prohibiting public access on regularly walked farm track. Landowner has since reviewed and will be updating signs allowing access subject to dogs being kept on leads.

## **12. Content for E-newsletter** Fun day; Update on village playing field project; Footpaths; Planning; Forthcoming events.

## **13. Items for the Next Agenda**

Parish Footpath Map  
Application for S106 monies for playing field redevelopment project  
Village Playing Field Working Party Update

## **14. Date of next meeting:**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm**

MEETING CLOSED 8.44pm

Signed.....

**Dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021**