

MINUTES

GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th September 2022 Present Cllr.M.Elms (Chairman). Cllr.S.Last. Cllr.P.Haylock.Cllr.I.Johnson.Cllr.J.Newton. Cllr.S.Harris Mrs.A.Crisp – Clerk. Members of the Public 2.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence – Cllr.P.Maile

SPECIAL ITEM - Cllr.Elms & Braintree Council Chairman Cllr.Andrew.Hensman presented a certificate of long service to Cllr.J.Newton, in acknowledgement of 35 years continuous service to the parish of Great Maplestead.

2. Minutes of previous meeting – The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 29th June 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr.S.Harris, seconded by Cllr.S.Last.Vote in favour-Unanimous.

3. Declarations of Interest – None

4. County and District Matters –

District – Dist.Cllr.P.Schwier – **Horizon120** – Development progressing well. **Affordable Housing** – BDC have built 12 new homes in Victoria Square, Braintree, which will be managed by Eastlight Homes.**E-Scooter Trial** – Moved from Springfield Estate, as unsuccessful at that location. Now trialling in Braintree High St.

County – Cty.Cllr.P.Schwier – **Highways** – Exploring new type of tarmac for roads which is more robust in extreme temperatures and will allow for movement, hopefully will result in better results longer term. **Covid & Flu Vaccinations** – There will be adequate supply for the over 50's and those at risk in the forthcoming autumn/winter vaccination program. **Energy** – ECC solar estate has generated over £66k which has been reinvested into education. Work on a switch to LED street lighting is still ongoing. ECC looking at 100% renewable energy going forward.**Essex Woodlands** – ECC providing coppicing courses as a youth initiative

Q.Cllr.Elms referred to recent parishioner correspondence regarding school bus fees and enquired if there was any update? Cllr.Schwier advised that the matter had been referred to the appropriate office and a response would be sent direct to the resident as and when received. *Cllr.Schwier left the meeting at this time*

5. Officers Reports & Information Exchange –

Cllr.Elms – Highways – Toldishall Road flooding -The response from ECC regarding work required had been inappropriate, as they wished to call on landowners bordering the problem roadside to reinstate ditches. Cllr.Elms highlighted that the main cause of the current problem is drain ironwork which sits proud of the road, which flowing water bypasses. ECC have agreed to rectify the problem drain and repair the damaged road surface. **BDC Street Scene** – Compliments and thanks extended for the speed and ease with which problems are addressed. In past weeks the council has reported 1 incidence of serious fly tipping, overflowing bottle banks, over-flowing poo bins and a rotting animal carcass on the roadside and all were resolved within 24 hours. **Environmental & Neighbourly Consideration** – A polite reminder to parishioners to show respect to neighbours and the wider community when having bonfires; & when installing/using external lighting at a property. Having a bonfire is not regulated but there is general guidance to show some courtesy and either have a fire early morning or late evening. Of extra consideration, should also be the potential risks and impact on the local area and environment (as has been seen this Summer). Security & external lighting is a matter which is regulated, with the invasive nature of some lighting considered a nuisance, where it interferes with neighbouring properties - known as "light trespass".

Cllr.Last – Refer Agenda items 8.1

Cllr.Harris – See Officer Reports.

Cllr.Newton- Refer Agenda Item 8.1

Cllr.Haylock – Refer item 10

Cllr.Johnson – Neighbourhood Watch – Reported that heating oil and catalytic converter thefts were on the increase. Recent reports of stolen pushbikes, though not in Great Maplestead. A warning to keep sheds locked.

6. Public question time

Comment – Thanks extended to Cllr.Elms for the speed of his response to a report of fly tipping.

7. Progress Updates – The Clerk’s report was pre-circulated.

8. Business Items

8.1 Village Playing Field – Cllr.Last advised that a full application had now been submitted to the National Lottery and it will be at least 4-5 weeks before a response will be received. Cllr.Newton advised that the Hugh Pearl invoice for the playing field drainage had now been received and it was £650 higher than the original quote. He will challenge back to see if there is any negotiation on the increase but the council confirmed they would pay at the higher amount if unsuccessful as the work was completed satisfactorily and well within timescales.

8.2 External Auditor – To consider statutory opt out option from centralised auditor process for 5-year period 2022/23 – 2026/27. Cllr.Harris proposed that the council remain in the centralised auditor process, seconded Cllr.Johnson. Vote in favour- Unanimous.

8.3 Village Notice-Board, Church Street – Cllr.Elms advised the council should purchase a new noticeboard to replace the decaying board on the verge outside St Giles Church. 3 quotes had been obtained:-

Acorn Workshops – untreated green oak - £1366 + VAT; Signs of the Times – natural wood £1621.66 + VAT; Greenbarnes – Hard-wearing, reconstituted from man-made materials - £1542.09 + VAT.

Installation would be done by village volunteers.

Cllr.Elms proposed the council accept the Greenbarnes quote as the product is similar in style to the existing board but would be longer lasting and low maintenance. Seconded by Cllr.Last. The Clerk confirmed the existing budget could accommodate such a purchase, with £1000 currently unspent for Repairs & Maintenance & the remaining £542 to be drawn from underspent budget elsewhere (Cap-Ex £200 & Playing Field £400). Vote in favour- Unanimous.

8.4 Cost of Living Crisis – Community Liaison Group – Cllr.Elms proposed a Working Party is created to provide a source of help and guidance to parishioners. A team of volunteers has already been brought together, led by Jacquie Mee, with council participation from Cllr.Elms and the Clerk. The Working Party will be reportable to the parish council, via Cllr.Elms. A first exploratory meeting is to take place in coming weeks. Cllr.Elms proposed the council supports the work of the group and allocates council reserves of up to £250 for any expenditure incurred in respect of advisory literature/admin costs. An approach will be made to Dist.Cllr.P Schwier for use of the District Councillor Grant Scheme, as an alternative to use of council reserves. Seconded Cllr.Last. Vote in favour – Unanimous.

9. Financial Report

9.1 Current bank balances:-

Current account: £160.76 Fundraising account: £24317.37 Reserve account: £9235.76

9.2 Noting of sums received:-

NWB Interest Paid – June-Aug 2022	£8.33
Fundraising – Private Donation	£500.00
Donation – J Gooding Pilates	£30.00
Donation – J Gooding Pilates	£20.00
Donation – Private Donation	£1045.00
Donation – Café Church – St Giles PCC	£85.00
BACS – Essex County Council – Grass Verges – Spring	£899.64

	BACS – Colne Engaine Parish Council – Payment for Clerk Admin (May)	£51.95
	Donation – Wickham St Paul WI – boules match	£20.00
	Fundraising – Inter-Village Boules Match	£55.00
9.3	Ratification of payments made:-	
	DD N-Power Street Lighting - June	£13.10
	DD N-Power Street Lighting - July	£11.63
	DD N-Power Street Lighting – August	£11.82
	CQ 000750 Sudbury Office Supplies – Ink cartridges x 2 ordinary	£32.83
	SO Mrs A Crisp – Quarterly Salary June 2022	£1624.80
	OB Rialtas Business Solutions – Set up & annual subscription fees	£507.30
	OB Mrs A Crisp – Payment from Colne Engaine PC for admin & expenses	£51.95
	OB Mrs A Crisp – Reimbursement for purchase of ink cartridges 1x ord, 1 x large	£54.24
	DD A & J Lighting Solutions – Annual street lighting inspection & maintenance	£78.00
	OB – PKF Littlejohn – Annual Audit	£240.00
9.4	Payments to be made:	
	LCN Domain name – renewal 5-year term	£54.99
9.5	Bank Transfers made:	
	From Reserve Account to Current Account	£2000.00
	From Reserve Account to Current Account	£500.00
	From Reserve Account to Current Account	£100.00
9.6	Other:	
	To temporarily suspend Financial Regulations para 6.20 to allow payment of £54.24 reimbursement to Mrs A Crisp for purchase of printer ink cartridges from Sudbury Office Supplies.	

10. **Planning**

10.1 **New Applications**

- 10.1.1 *22/01984/HH – 2 Toldish Hall Cottages, Toldish Hall Road – Erection of first floor side extension.* Council response – no objection, no comment.
- 10.1.2 *22/02069/HH – 7 Stone Cottages, Church Street – Erection of 2 storey rear extension, demolition of existing single storey extension & its replacement with a single storey rear extension to serve as annex. Replacement front porch (amendment to Application 21/03606/HH).* Council response – no objection, no comment.

11. **Correspondence – For notification**

Defibrillator Update – Update required due to technical issue with battery life indicators on I-pad 1 units. GM machine not affected but return and update required. Original machine returned within 4 working days.

Correspondence raising concern regarding speeding lorries on agricultural land, parallel to Gestingthorpe Road and in Monks Lodge Road. Enquiries made of landowner & response sent with advice to contact landowner directly with any continued concerns.

Complaint regarding industrial lorries waiting on Monks Lodge Road & disruption caused by drainage work on Village Playing Field, without prior notification. Response sent apologising for any disruption and explaining that work had been rescheduled by contractor at short notice, and the council had advised the community via the quickest communication channels; albeit the planned work had previously been communicated at council meetings, and within council newsletters and all communications regarding the village playing field development project.

Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) – Letter of completion from external auditor PKF Littlejohn. Confirmation that information provided is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

National Grid Bramford to Twinstead Tee Reinforcement – Launch of Targeted Consultation – Consultation opens 8th September and closes 23.59 on 8th October 2022. Full details can be found at www.nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead.

12. Content for E-newsletter

Update on village playing field; Cost of Living Crisis Working Party; National Grid Consultation; Boules Inter-Village Challenge Match; & Cllr.Newtons 35 years as a councillor

13. Items for the Next Agenda

Village Playing Field Working Party
Cost of Living Crisis Working Party
Trench Filling at Village Playing Field

14. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 9th November at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

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

Date: 9th November 2022