

Present: Cllrs Cook, Henderson, Munson, Scott, Young

In the Chair: Cllr Smith

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also present District Councillors Bamford and Thompson
3 members of the public

1. Chairman welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Co-option

Resolved: to co-opt Maggie Henderson as a Parish Councillor for Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by Maggie Henderson and the Proper Officer.

3. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Barwick.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cook declared an interest as follows:

- Non-pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 15, planning application, HOUSE/MAL/18/0021, as the applicant is her neighbour.

The Chairman declared interests as follows:

- Non-pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 15, planning applications, HOUSE/MAL/18/0002, as he knows the applicant and planning application FUL/MAL/18/00033, as the applicant is his neighbour.

5. District Councillors

Councillor Bamford reported:

- There is a monthly surgery in the Queens Head on the first Saturday of every month. A surgery would be held this Saturday between 12pm – 1pm.
- Highways – All the feedback from residents had been put forward to Essex County Council Highways for them to action/deal with.
It is important everything relating to Highways is reported via the Essex County Council online reporting tool.
- The TruCam should be starting soon.

Action: Clerk to contact Adrian Rayner to discuss speeding patrols in Tollesbury Road.

6. Public Forum

The applicant for the planning application FUL/MAL/18/00033, advised that the previous planning application had been refused at Maldon District Council. The revised application has been reduced and the roof has been lowered and it is hoped the proposal is now acceptable.

It was agreed to move to item **15** next on the agenda.

15. Planning

Applications:

- FUL/MAL/18/00033 PP-06639433
Proposed extension to existing building and change of use to ancillary annexe
Walden House, Tudwick Hall Road, Tolleshunt D'Arcy
Resolved: to recommend approval of this application.
Resolved: to request District Councillors call-in the application.

- AGR/MAL/18/00097 PP-06638093
Prior notification for the erection of a poly tunnel
Lauriston Farm, Lauriston Farm Chase, Goldhanger
Resolved: to have no objection to the application on the understanding that the poly tunnel will be adequately screened.

- HOUSE/MAL/18/00021
Single storey extension to the rear
Wheatsheaf Cottage, 9 Kelvedon Road, Tolleshunt D'Arcy
Resolved: to recommend approval of this application.

Appeals:

- None received.

The following decision made by Maldon District Council were noted:

- HOUSE/MAL/17/01330 – 21 Chapel Road – Approved
- HOUSE/MAL/17/01244 – Annexe, Lennel House, Tudwick Hall Road – Refused

There were no appeal decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate.

7. Minutes of the Meetings held on 3rd January 2018

Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 3rd January 2018 be approved as a true account of the proceedings of the meeting subject to the following grammatical changes:

Item 14 to read:

As Cllr Barwick was not present at the meeting, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

Item 18 to read:

A letter of thanks from the PTFA for the £100 donation was received and noted.

Item 19 to read:

Paragraph to be amended:

Rookery (pavement cleaning/tree cutting) – The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Essex County Council regarding the trees. They have advised that an inspector visited the location on 27 August 2017, during this inspection the inspector did not note any safety issues with the trees on the site. Their Tree Team will only undertake works if there is a health and safety requirement and although they understand that trees can be viewed as a nuisance because of leaf fall, bird droppings, seed drop, shading, branch overhang and honeydew deposition (secretions from aphids feeding on foliage). Long term solutions for such perceived problems are difficult, if not impossible to remedy, short of removing a tree. With many tree species, problems can be exacerbated or worsened by pruning works e.g. shading from subsequent denser regrowth can be worse than shading prior to pruning. If the Parish Council feels that the issue has deteriorated further since the last inspection, they are able to report this to ECC, for an ad-hoc inspection to be carried out or it can be reported via the online reporting tool.

The Chairman signed the minutes.



8. Finance

a) Monthly Financial Report

The Financial Report was received and noted.

The forecast working balance as at 01/02/18 was £26,575.40.

The Clerk reported that Barclays Bank had not yet moved the money from the Business Premium Account to the Unity Trust Account. The Clerk was concerned as the balance available in the Unity Trust Account was £3,097.70.

Action: Cllr Munson to contact Barclays Bank to find out why the money had not been moved to the Unity Account as requested by the Parish Council.

Action: If the funds had not moved from the Barclays Bank to the Unity Account within 7 days, Clerk to notify Chairman.

The Chairman signed the reports.

b) Payments and Sign Cheques

The items for payment totalling £1,127.78 were presented for approval.

Resolved: to approve payments. Unanimously agreed.

9. Village Consultation

The Clerk reported that the RCCE had advised that there had been a good response to the Village Consultation.

The Clerk was posting weekly reminders via the Parish Council Facebook page reminding residents to complete and return the surveys.

10. Footpaths

Cllr Cook advised that she had not been able to contact the resident who had raised concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Rights of Way.

Resolved: to respond to Essex County Council to advise that the Parish Council object to the proposed changes to the footpaths as this would be a significant loss of amenity. Unanimously agreed.

11. Speed Limits

a) Email from Tolleshunt Major Parish Council

The email regarding speeding through the villages was received and noted. Tolleshunt Major has suggested working together to address the issue.

It was suggested that a representative from each Parish form a group to discuss options and ideas to address this issue. Cllr Scott agreed to be the representative for Tolleshunt D'Arcy.

b) Speeding Issues in the Parish

Due to drivers entering the village from 60mph zones, drivers tend to ignore the speed limit signs and continue to drive at a faster speed when they reach the village.

Resolved: to ask the Community Protection Officers to carry out speed patrols in the village – starting with Tollesbury Road. Unanimously agreed.

12. Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly would be held on Monday 23rd April 2018.

Ideas for the Annual Assembly

Presentations:

- Community Protection Officers – the Clerk advised she had already approached Adrian Rayner.
- New Police and Fire Commissioner – Roger Hirst
- Sue Sheppard – RCCE – Village Hall Project
- Defibrillator Fund Raising
- Defibrillator Training

Councillors to notify Clerk if there are any other ideas.



13. Wi-Fi

As Cllr Barwick was no present at the meeting, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

14. Police

Police Reports

The Police reports were received. It was noted there were a number of thefts from motor vehicles in Tolleshunt D'Arcy.

16. Administration

Car Park – The Clerk reported that the Caretaker had brought to her attention that the car park around the Village Hall was in need of a tidy-up.

Action: Clerk to obtain a quotation from Lenny Aldridge.

Post Office – The Caretaker had advised that the Post Office Operator had left the heating on in the room they use and had also left the computers plugged in.

Action: Clerk to contact the Post Office to request that all appliances are switched off when the room is not being used.

It was also reported that on occasions, the Post Office does not open on the days it should.

Action: Clerk to ask the Post Office to contact Cllr Henderson should they be unable to open the facility for any reason. Cllr Henderson would then be able to put a sign on the Village Hall to notify residents.

Items outstanding from the previous meeting

Social Media and Email Policy – The Clerk confirmed Cllr Barwick, who was not present at the last meeting, had signed to confirm that she had read and understood the Social Media and Email Policy.

Dead Trees – Recreation Ground – The Clerk reported she had been contacted by Bonz who advised that they were planning to deal with the dead trees that week.

Maintenance Works – The Clerk advised she had arranged to meet with SMB Maintenance the following week to discuss the various items of work which were required.

Defibrillator – Cllr Young reported that the Clerk and herself had met to discuss ideas to raise funds for a new defibrillator. It is proposed to hold a quiz night on Saturday 23rd June 2018. The cost will be £10 per head, with a ploughman's supper. The WI had also agreed to help out on the evening. There would be a raffle. There would be no cost to the Parish Council for the event and all proceeds from the event would go towards the purchase of the new equipment.

17. Representative Reports

a) Burial Ground

i) Proposed Burial Ground Fees

The Chairman advised the Burial Ground Fees had not been reviewed since 2012. The Clerk had submitted a proposal which was 60% of Maldon District Councils fees and 75% of Tollesbury's fees.

Members felt that the proposed fees were a significant increase.

Resolved: to accept the Clerk's recommendations except the residents fees to only be increased by 20%, and then 20% per annum until the agreed level of 60% of Maldon District Councils fees and 75% of Tollesburys fees. All other fees to be raised as recommended. The increased fees would be effective from 1st April 2018.

Resolved: to remove the offer of scattering ashes until the Parish Council provides suitable facilities.

Cllr Munson stated that the gates require cleaning and treating.

Action: Clerk to obtain a quotation.

It was reported there is an issue with moles in the Cemetery.

Action: Clerk to seek advice from Maldon District Council.

b) Recreation Ground

i) Monthly Inspection Report

The Monthly Inspection Report dated 17th January 2018 was received.

The following items were noted:

- Fencing – The Chairman advised the homeowner of the damaged fence backing onto the Recreation Ground had written to confirm that they intend to finish the fencing weather permitting and around family commitments and asked for the sapling recently planted to be moved away from the fence in line with the others. It was agreed this was a reasonable request.

Resolved: to comply subject to Conservation Officer's agreement.

Action: Clerk to notify homeowner that the trees in the Recreation Ground are protected as they are in the conservation area.

- Play equipment – The Chairman reported an emailed confirmation had been received from Matt Wilson, Maldon District Council, confirming they had carried out the repairs to the equipment which they damaged when cutting the grass.

- The litter bin had also been replaced since the inspection.

Cllr Young advised the WI would like to plant the D'Arcy Spice tree which had previously been agreed by the Parish Council and asked if there was any procedure that needed to be adhered to as the Recreation Ground is in the conservation area.

Action: Clerk to contact Conservation Officer at Maldon District Council.

c) Highways Matters

Cllr Cook reported Essex County Council had been out assessing the roads the previous week.

d) Website/Facebook Updates

The Clerk advised she continues to update the website and Facebook page regularly.

18. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items

Cllr Young asked about the proposed coffee mornings – It was agreed no further action.

It was reported that the planters around the Maypole required attention.

Action: Cllr Cook to look into.

Items for the next agenda:

- System to record meetings.

19. Date of the next Meeting

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on:

Tuesday 27th February 2018 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30pm

The schedule of meetings for 2018 was agreed.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.36pm.

Signed.....

Date: 27 Feb 2018