

Present: Cllrs Barwick, Brown, Henderson, Munson, Scott

In the Chair: Cllr Smith

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also present: District Councillor Thompson
1 Member of the Public

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Dorman.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest disclosed.

4. County Councillor and District Councillors

Cllr Thompson reported:

- Maldon District Council (MDC) are actively reading the Planning Whitepaper and Local Government reorganisation.

5. Public Forum

The resident was present to hear the Parish Councils reaction on the Maldon District Council (MDC) decision to refuse the planning application on the amenity land in Festival Gardens. The Case Officer's report was mainly turned down due to the area being clearly shown as green space in the MDC Local Development Plan. The resident would be interested to hear the reaction of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council welcomed the decision that the application has been refused but would suspect that the application will go to appeal.

Cllr Scott suggested that the Parish Council sought confirmation from MDC as to what the land is and what can be done to the land.

Action: Clerk to write to MDC to seek confirmation.

Cllr Thompson stated that she believed the next step would be for Enforcement to take the necessary action.

Cllr Munson suggested that the Parish Council should make contact with Moat so that should any land become available in the future, the Parish Council has first refusal.

Action: Cllr Munson to put together a proposal to present to the Council.

The resident expressed concern, as a Trustee of the Village Hall, that should there be Village Hall fundraising events there may be a parking problem as footballers were using the Village Hall car park. The Chairman reported that the footballers have an agreement with the School to use their parking facilities. The resident was asked to

notify the Parish Clerk when there are any Village Hall fundraising events being held so that the footballers could be told not to use the Village Hall car park.

6. Minutes

Minutes 25th August 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting held on 25th August 2020 be approved as a true record of the Meeting. Unanimously agreed.

The Chairman to sign the Minutes as soon as possible.

7. Finance

7.1 Monthly Financial Report

The Financial Reports were presented to the Council.

Councillors received the following monthly Financial Reports as at 31st August 2020:

Bank Reconciliation – a Closing balance of £42,474.48

Expenditure to date – Budget £25,340 – Actual £5,664

Income to date (including Precept (£21,515) £24,315 – Actual £22,840

Earmarked Funds – Closing Balance - £11,252.55

The Chairman to sign the Reports as soon as possible.

7.2 Payments

Items for payment totalling £1,219.04 were presented for approval.

The Chairman reported that emergency works were required for the Pavilion which had flooded costing £590.44.

Resolved: to approve payments. Unanimously agreed.

8. Planning

Planning Applications and Decisions

- **Planning Applications:** None received
- **Appeals:** None received
- **Planning Decisions:**
FUL/MAL/20/00680 – 13 Church Street - **Refused**
- **Planning Appeals Decisions:** None received

9. Planning Consultation

Resolved: to respond to the Planning Consultation as follows:

As a Parish Council we do not have the information/knowledge to make the detailed responses requested. However, whilst we believe the overwhelming planning applications are dealt with well and in a timely manner, we would welcome any improvements to the process.

We are concerned that the proposal may go too far and leave insufficient safeguards for the environment and rural quality of life. Using such a subjective term as "Beautiful" as a major criteria seems unwise to say the least.

Unfortunately, some people are driven only by financial concerns and these proposals will remove the public's protection from undesirable and unintended consequences.

Resolved: Clerk to respond to the consultation as above. Unanimously agreed.

10. Training

There were no requests for training.

11. COVID-19 – Update

The Chairman advised the Volunteers are on standby should they are needed.

12. Parish Council Insurance

Resolved: to accept the recommendation from Came & Company and accept the quotation from Pen Underwriting Limited for £1,31276 + £50 administration fee on a 3 year Long Term Agreement. Unanimously agreed.

Cllr Munson suggested that the Parish Council notify the Insurers that there is now football being played at the Recreation Ground.

Action: Clerk to notify Insurers.

13. Recreation Ground

13.1 Fencing

All quotations had not been received. To be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

13.2 Rubber Matting

One quotation was received for the removal of the rubber matting.

Action: Clerk to obtain additional quotations.

13.3 Car Park

13.3.1 **Resolved:** to accept the quotation from Bonz to face and tidy up the hedge for £185.00.

13.3.2 One quotation was received to carry out repairs to the pothole in the Car Park.

Action: Clerk to obtain additional quotations.

13.4 Football

Complaints had been received from 3 residents regarding the bad language which was used by the footballers during the football matches.

Action: Clerk to write to the Football Teams to ask them to moderate their language.

14. Parking – Chapel Road

It was reported that following complaints from residents regarding vehicles parking dangerously in Chapel Road, notices were placed on the cars to bring to the owner's attention the consequences of their actions. The parking issues were also reported to Essex Police who carried out a patrol and parking issues have improved. Councillors are encouraged to report any serious parking issues to the Police.

The option of yellow lines on the corner of Chapel Road were considered but Councillors felt they would not be popular, so the Parish Council agreed not to progress with yellow lines at this stage.

The parking outside D'Arcy House is also an issue. A vehicle is parking on the bend which is making it dangerous for both pedestrians and vehicles.

Action: Clerk to amend Parish Council parking notice to advise that the Parish Council may report dangerously parked vehicles to the Police and distribute to Councillors.

Action: Parish Council parking notice to be placed on car.

Action: Clerk to obtain information from MDC Planning Department on the planning application which was given approval for the studio to be converted into an independent dwelling and to find out if there was any parking allocated within the plans.

15. Bradwell B

To defer to the next meeting of the Parish Council after the Chairman has attended the Bradwell Panel Meeting.

The Clerk had circulate the recording of the Parish Clerk Forum when representatives from MDC gave an update on the work they are doing in relation to Bradwell Power Station.

16. Donation

Resolved: to make a donation of £100.00 to the sewing group who are making face masks for parish. Unanimously agreed.

17. Police/Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

The Police Reports (confidential) was received and noted.

The CPO Reports for July and August were received and noted.

During the CPOs Patrols in July, a total of 6 drivers were captured with the TruCam for speeding with an additional 18 captured during the August patrols.

18. Administration

No new information to report.

19. Representative Reports

19.1 Burial Ground

19.1.1 Update from Cllrs Brown and Henderson

The hedge on the right-hand side of the Burial Ground requires cutting back.

Action: Clerk to chase up with MDC.

19.2 Recreation Ground

19.2.1 Update from Cllr Brown and Munson

The Chairman reported that there had been a leak in the Pavilion which had caused major flooding. Some users of the Recreation Ground had blocked the manholes which have now all been cleared.

The school field had flooded and this was due to the ditch on the Recreation Ground being full.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotations to clear the ditch.

19.2.2 Monthly Inspection Report

The monthly Inspection Report dated 21st August 2020 was received and noted.

19.3 Highway/Footpaths

19.3.1 Update from Cllr Henderson

Cllr Henderson reported there were still issues with litter on the footpath behind Festival Gardens.

Action: Clerk to obtain a quotation from MDC for the installation of a litter bin.

19.4 Website / Facebook Updates

19.4.1 Website/Facebook

The Clerk continues to update the website/Facebook.

20. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items

Cllr Scott reported:

- The Parish Council gave approval for the works to the Maypole and suggested that due to the weather, it may be more suitable to have the works carried out in the Spring.
- **Action:** Clerk to ask the Contractor to delay the works until the Spring.

21. Date of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on:

Tuesday 27th October 2020 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.10 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....