

Present: Cllrs Barwick, Brown, Munson, Scott

In the Chair: Cllr Smith

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also Present: District Councillor Thompson

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Dorman and Henderson.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Brown declared an interest as follows:

- Personal and prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 8, Planning Application FUL/MAL/21/00086 PP-09459773, as the application is on land that he owns.

Cllr Munson declared an interest as follows:

- Personal as he wishes to raise a highways issues outside his property in Grouts Farm under agenda item 18.3.1, Highways.

The Chairman declared an interest on behalf of all members as follows:

- Personal interest in respect of agenda item 8, Planning Application FUL/MAL/21/00086 PP-09459773, as they all know the applicant as he is a Parish Councillor.

4. County Councillor and District Councillors

There was no new information reported by Cllr Thompson.

5. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

6. Minutes

Minutes 23rd February 2021

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd February 2021 be approved as a true record of the Meeting subject to a minor amendment.

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 28th February 2021:

Bank Reconciliation – a Closing balance of £39,791.14
Expenditure to date – Budget £25,540 – Actual £20,282
Income to date (including Precept (£21,515) £24,315 – Actual £35,493
Earmarked Funds – Closing Balance - £8,949.58

The Chairman to sign the Reports as soon as possible.

7.2 Book-Shelving in the Telephone Kiosk

Resolved: to ratify the expenditure for re-installation of the shelving for the book swap in the telephone kiosk costing £120.00. Unanimously agreed.

7.3 Payments

Items for payment totalling £2,082.92 were presented for approval.

Resolved: to approve payments. Unanimously agreed.

8. Planning

Planning Applications and Decisions

– Planning Applications:

Application No: TCA/MAL/21/00142 PP-09515091

Proposal: T1 Walnut - Fell

Location: Badgers Salters Meadow Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: to recommend refusal of this application. The Parish Council would urge the applicant to have the tree professionally pollard. Unanimously agreed.

In accordance with the declaration disclosed, Cllr Brown left the meeting and was placed in the Zoom meeting room.

Application No: FUL/MAL/21/00086 PP-09459773

Proposal: Demolition of existing workshop and construction of new 2 bed single storey dwelling with new private access, associated parking and private amenity. The proposed dwelling will be to the footprint, height and design style of the workshop approved under application 20/00548/FUL.

Location: Rear Of 35 Church Street Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: The Planning Application was not supported nor objected to as the Majority abstained. Cllrs Barwick and Munson voted in favour of proposal and the Chairman and Cllr Scott abstained. The Chairman had the casting vote and abstained.

Cllr Brown returned to the meeting.

– Planning Appeals Decisions: None received

– Planning Decisions: None received

– Planning Appeal Decisions: None received

9. Training

There were no requests for training.

10. COVID-19 – Update

Volunteers continue to be on standby should residents require any assistance.

11. Pathway

The Chairman reported that the path which runs alongside the Village Hall to the Recreation Ground is in need of repair.

Action: Cllr Brown to have a look at the area.

Action: Clerk to obtain a quotation for repairs.

12. Table Tennis

Councillors considered the quotations as follows:

Caloo

Diablo plus 35m2 SUDS Surfacing including delivery and installation - £4,796 + VAT

Diablo slim plus 35m2 SUDS Surfacing including delivery and installation - £4,496.00 + VAT

Universal Services Ltd

Cornilleou Table Tennis - £1,466.25 + VAT

Sub-Contractor - Concrete base - £1,080

Total - Including delivery and installation - £2,546.25 + VAT where applicable

Cornilleou

Cornilleou Table Tennis (does not include installation and surfacing) - £1,750 + VAT

Resolved: to accept the quotation from Universal Services Ltd and their Sub-Contractor for £2,546.25 + VAT (where applicable) to supply and install a table tennis unit and concrete base. Unanimously agreed.

13. Annual Parish Assembly

Resolved: to hold the Annual Parish Assembly on Friday 30th April 2021 via Zoom.

14. D'Arcy Way

The email from a resident expressing concern regarding the fence which had been installed on the corner of D'Arcy Way was received and noted.

Action: Clerk to respond to resident to advise:

- The Parish Council does not have any powers in this matter.
- The "sight splays" is a matter for Essex County Council Highways Department and the Parish Council will pass the concerns on to them.
- Any necessary planning approval is a matter for Maldon District Council and whilst it is not normally necessary to obtain permission unless a fence is higher than 1 metre, we will pass on the concerns to MDC Planning Department.
- The legality of the fence is a matter for the relevant land owner although it is very common for developments like D'Arcy Way to have covenants prohibiting the erection of fences.

15. Litter Bins

Councillors considered the request from a resident for additional litter bins the parish.

Action: Clerk to respond to resident to advise that the Council considered the suggestion but feel it is inappropriate to place rubbish bins in the countryside. The Parish Council have been changing Council owned bins to the black and gold type which has a top and will investigate the situation with the bin outside Ruby's that was mentioned.

16. Police/Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

16.1 Police Report

The Police Reports (confidential) were received.

16.2 Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

The CPO Report for February 2021 was received and noted.

During the CPOs Patrols in February, there were a total of 7 drivers captured with the TruCam for speeding.

17. Administration

Virtual Meetings – The Clerk reported that the Government had announced that remote meeting powers were not being extended after 7th May 2021. This is currently being challenged and it is expected that a decision will be determined by the end of April.

Adobe – The Clerk requested that the Parish Council consider subscribing to Adobe Pro to enable her to edit and organise pages in PDF files. The cost is £15.17 inc. of VAT per month.

Councillor Thompson agreed to send the Clerk some links for some free services which were available.

Action: Clerk to try free services suggested by Cllr Thompson.

It was agreed if the services were not suitable, the Council would reconsider the request at the meeting in April.

18. Representative Reports

18.1 Burial Ground

18.1.1 Update from Cllrs Brown, Henderson and Scott

Cllr Scott reported that the grass in the Burial Ground required cutting.

Action: Clerk to raise with Maldon District Council.

18.2 Recreation Ground

18.2.1 Update from Cllr Brown, Dorman and Munson

It was reported that there had been an issue with teenagers littering at the Recreation Ground. The youths had been spoken to but continue to litter.

Action: Clerk to publish a notice on Facebook.

If there is no improvement, it may be necessary to arrange for the Community Protection officers to carry out a patrol. Should the CPOs catch anyone littering, the person will be issued with a fine.

It was reported that some children had broken some of the paving slabs outside the Pavilion and thrown the broken slabs into the ditch.

Action: Clerk to arrange for K Lovell to carry out the repairs.

It was reported that the rubber mat at the bottom of the slide has broken.

Action: Clerk to order a replacement.

18.3 Highway/Footpaths

18.3.1 Update from Cllr Henderson

Cllr Henderson was absent from the meeting.

Cllr Munson reported that opposite Grouts Farm was a drain which had collapsed.

Action: Clerk to report to Essex County Council Highways.

19. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items

Cllr Munson reported that there were weeds growing around the Maypole cage.

Action: Clerk to ask Bonz when they will be carrying out the maintenance works to the Maypole.

20. Date of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on:

Tuesday 27th April 2021 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.26 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....