

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

In the Chair: Cllr Smith

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also Present: 2 Members of the Public

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Scott.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

4. County Councillor and District Councillors

There were no County or District Councillors present.

5. Public Forum

A resident raised the following:

- An appeal has been lodged for the application at 13 Church Street, and people can object further until 20th August 2021.
- On behalf of the Village Hall Trustees, would the Parish Council consider a one-off grant towards materials required to secure the building following the recent break-in.

Action: Clerk to send the Grant Application Form to the resident for completion.

A resident stated the following:

- Congratulations to the Parish Council for the recent improvement to the Recreation Ground with the new fence.
- It was also good that the Pavilion is now being used and rented out.
- She was disappointed at how the village was looking:
 - The Recreation Ground had lumps of hay left after the recent cuts. The resident expressed thanks to the footballers who had raked the area.
 - There were similar lumps of hay in the Burial Ground
 - The footpath opposite the Village Hall was so overgrown; people have to walk into the road to pass. A resident had kindly cut back some of the vegetation, but further works were still required. It was requested that the Parish Council use some of the funds in reserves to pay for the vegetation to be cut back.
 - The bus shelter needs cleaning and painting.
 - The area outside D'Arcy House was overgrown and looked unsightly.

The Chairman responded as follows:

- Due to the recent weather, the grass has grown a lot quicker than usual this year and had caused a general problem of longer than normal cuttings. Maldon District Council (MDC) had been contacted about picking up the cuttings but could only suggest that subsequent cuts would resolve the problem. They did not offer a cutting collection service, and this should be considered when the annual contract is reviewed.

- The Clerk had reported the overgrown vegetation on Tollesbury Road to MDC for their attention as in previous occasions, but MDC has not yet responded.
- At the annual assembly, a resident proposed to paint the bus shelter if the Parish Council supplied the materials. This has not taken place, and the Parish Council would therefore consider alternative arrangements.
- The land opposite D'Arcy House was private land. The person who used to cut it had seemed to have stopped doing so when the owner planted some new trees. Previous attempts to contact the landowner had been unsuccessful but we will try again.

6. Minutes

Minutes 29th June 2021

Resolved: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th June 2021 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed.

The Chairman signed the Minutes.

7. Finance

7.1 Monthly Financial Report

The Financial Reports were presented to the Council.

Councillors received the following monthly Financial Reports as of 30th June 2021:

Bank Reconciliation – a Closing balance of £42,632.36

Expenditure to date – Budget £25,014 – Actual £16,988

Income to date (including Precept (£21,515) £25,015 – Actual £21,675

Earmarked Funds – Closing Balance - £6,251.10 – Net Transfers -£2,468.48

The Chairman signed the Reports.

7.2 Payments

Items for payment totalling £1,874.46 were presented for approval.

Resolved: to approve payments. Unanimously agreed.

8. Planning

Planning Applications and Decisions

– Planning Applications:

Application No: TCA/MAL/21/00645

Proposal: T1 Field Maple - Reduce by 1.5 metres T2 Field Maple - Fell.

Location: 39 Chapel Road Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: to recommend approval of this application. Unanimously agreed.

Application No: LDP/MAL/21/00751 PP-10040651

Proposal: Claim for lawful development certificate for a proposed formation of loft space within existing roof profile

Location: Oak Field Hall Oxley Hill Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: not to comment on this application. Unanimously agreed.

– Planning Appeals:

Application Ref: 20/00680/FUL PP-08868226

Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/21/3270330

Site Address: 13 Church Street Tolleshunt D'Arcy Essex CM9 8TS

Proposal: Retrospective change of use of land to residential garden and construction of timber fence

Resolved: to send a further letter to the Planning Inspectorate objecting to this application.

Action: Cllr Scott assisted by the Chairman to prepare a draft response that would be circulated to Councillors for comment.

– **Planning Decisions:**

HOUSE/MAL/21/00501 – Spital Farm Station Road – Approved

TCA/MAL/21/00570 - The Studio Darcy House 1 South Street – TPO Served

– **Planning Appeal Decisions:** None received

– **Tree Preservation Order:**

Tree Preservation Order No: 02/21

Title: The Studio Darcy House 1 South Street

9. Training

No training was requested.

10. Road Safety

10.1 Information from Cllr Munson

Cllr Munson reported that he had spoken to some Chairman of parishes who have vehicle activated signs in their parish.

Cllr Munson advised that he had been looking at various options for the signs.

Cllr Munson suggested that signs were erected in Tollesbury Road and Kelvedon Road.

Cllr Munson stated that the main problem was that there was not a speeding problem in the village.

10.2 Information from the Clerk

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council could apply to the Local Highways Panel for vehicle activated signs.

If the application were successful, it would need validation. The most recent surveys indicate that there is not a speeding issue and the application would most likely not be progressed.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council could finance the signs but would still need Highways approval for them to be erected.

Action: Cllr Munson to put together a proposal for the vehicle activated signs, including approximate costings and recommended locations.

11. Police/Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

11.1 Police Report

The Police Reports were received and noted.

11.2 Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

The CPO Report for June 2021 was received and noted.

During the CPOs Patrols in June, there were a total of 4 drivers captured with the TruCam for speeding.

The Clerk reported that one of the volunteer litter pickers had emailed regarding the amount of litter in Chapel Road leading along the Back Road

to Guisnes Court. There are wine bottles and beer cans along this stretch of road.

12. Administration

No new information from the Clerk.

18. Representative Reports

13.1 Burial Ground

13.1.1 Update from Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown confirmed that Maldon District Council had carried out the weed-killing on the path and works to the hedge.

The Clerk reported that she had received a request to install a bench on a purchased burial ground plot. The Council considered the proposal and agreed that any plots should be used for burials and not for benches.

Action: Clerk to notify the family of the Parish Councils decision.

13.2 Recreation Ground

13.2.1 Update from Cllr Dorman

Cllr Dorman reported:

- There are missing caps on the guttering of the Pavilion
- In the area behind the Pavilion, the brambles/weeds are overgrown and need treating.

Action: Clerk to request that MDC treat the brambles/weeds.

13.2.2 Outdoor Gym Area

Resolved: To accept the quotation from Oliver Rhodes for £412.50 to clean the outdoor gym area, repair the tarmac base and cut back overgrown grass from the base edge. Replace tube caps as necessary and repair rust to the underside of the dipping machine. Unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to request that the youth shelter is also jet washed.

13.2.3 Replacement External Doors

Resolved: To accept the quotation from Timber Ninja for £379 for replacement external doors to the Pavilion. Unanimously agreed, subject to confirmation that external doors were fitted.

Action: Clerk to seek confirmation that the doors are external doors.

13.2.4 Goal Posts

Councillors considered the quotation from K Lovell for £260 to rub-down the goals and paint with white Hammerite.

Councillors agreed that the goalposts were very old and suggested that it may be more cost-effective to replace the goals.

Action: Clerk to speak to the football teams and look into the option of replacement goals.

13.2.5 Football - Tiptree Heath Reserves

Resolved: to let the Tiptree Heath Reserves Team play football on a Saturday at the Recreation Ground. Unanimously agreed.

13.2.6 Car Boot Sale and Dog Show

Councillors considered the request to hire the Recreation Ground for a car boot sale and dog show on a Saturday or Sunday in August. Due to the current arrangements with the football teams, it would not be possible to hire

the Recreation Ground for the proposed activity which in itself would not be appropriate for the Recreation Ground. Agreed by a majority.

13.2.7 Hedge back on the path between the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground.

To be deferred to the next meeting.

13.3 Highway/Footpaths

13.3.1 Update from Cllr Henderson

- The footpath from the Harvester to the field had been cut.

Cllr Brown reported there was a pothole in Festival Gardens.

Action: Cllr Henderson to report to Essex County Council.

Following the concerns raised regarding the overgrown vegetation on Tollesbury Road and the lack of response from MDC, Councillors agreed to write to the landowner and request that the foliage is cut back within seven days otherwise the Parish Council will arrange and seek reimbursement from the landowner. The Chairman stressed that this was not a Parish Council responsibility, but due to the safety issues, the work would be carried out but at the landowner's expense.

Action: Clerk to establish identity of landowner and obtain quotations for the vegetation to be cut back.

14. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items

No items were raised.

15. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on:

Tuesday 31st August 2021 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.59 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....