

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

In the Chair: Cllr Smith – Chairman

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also Present: 11 Members of the Public

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Co-option

There were five applications received for the Parish Councillor vacancy.

Resolved: Following a majority vote, Cllr Ian Ewing was Co-opted as a Parish Councillor for Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council.

The Declaration of Office was signed by Cllr Ewing and the Proper Officer.

Cllr Ewing to complete the Register of Interests within 28 Days.

Cllr Ewing then joined the meeting.

3. Apologies for Absence

All Councillors were present.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Munson disclosed interests as follows:

- Cllr Munson wished to raise an issue under agenda item 20.3.1 relating to a footpath adjacent to land that he owned in Kelvedon Road.

5. County Councillor and District Councillors

There were no County or District Councillors present.

6. Public Forum

Several residents were in attendance to express their concerns regarding speeding on Kelvedon Road. There had been two recent accidents on Kelvedon Road and with little or no footpath in some sections of the road, they were concerned for the safety of pedestrians and other road users.

Cllr Munson advised that the Parish Council was considering installing Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) in Kelvedon Road.

The residents felt that SIDs would not be suitable and stated it required enforcement.

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council has limited powers and has looked at various options, i.e., zebra crossings and a 20mph zone through the village. Any measures put in place would need to be carried out by Essex County Council Highways. The Parish Council do currently pay for the services of TruCam speed patrols to try to help address the issue. The Chairman suggested that those residents

present write to County Councillor Durham, who is also on the Local Highways Panel to request that he takes the matter forward with Essex County Council Highways.

Action: Clerk to invite Cllr Durham to Annual Assembly.

Action: Clerk to invite a representative of Essex County Council Highways to the Annual Assembly.

All residents left the meeting.

7. Minutes

Minutes 22nd February 2022

Resolved: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd February 2022 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed.

The Chairman signed the Minutes.

8. Finance

8.1 Monthly Financial Report

The Financial Reports were presented to the Council.

Councillors received the monthly Financial Reports as of 28th February 2022.

Bank Reconciliation – a Closing balance of £31,192.63

Expenditure to date – Budget £25,014 – Actual £34,898

Income to date (including Precept (£21,515) £25,015 – Actual £26,363

Earmarked Funds – Closing Balance - £2,352.43 – Net Transfers -£6,367.15

The Chairman signed the Reports.

8.2 Payments

Items for payment totalling £2,221.27 were presented for approval.

Resolved: To approve payments. Unanimously agreed.

9. Planning

Planning Applications and Decisions

– Planning Applications:

Application No: HOUSE/MAL/22/00383 PP-11087899

Proposal: Proposed outbuilding comprising garage, store and hobby room.

Location: Greengates Tudwick Road Tiptree

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to recommend refusal of this application due to the following:

- Overdevelopment of the site
- The proposal is to be built on farm/arable land.

Application No: WTPO/MAL/22/00148

Proposal: Ash tree - Fell

Location: The Studio Darcy House 1 South Street Tolleshunt D'arcy

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to recommend refusal of this application:

- The tree is a feature of the village.
- There is no evidence that the tree is causing any damage.
- We would request that the road nameplate which the applicant tied to their tree is removed.

– Planning Appeals: None received

FUL/MAL/21/01278 - Heath Farm Barn Grove Farm Road – Refused

- **Planning Decisions:** None received
- **Planning Appeal Decisions:** None received
- **Tree Preservation Order:** None received

10. Training

There were no requests for training.

11. Policy

Resolved: to adopt the Equal Opportunities Policy V1.0. Unanimously agreed.

12. Action Plan 2022/23

Resolved: to adopt the Action Plan 2022/23. Unanimously agreed.

13. Village Hall – Post Office

The funding request required further information, and it was agreed to defer the item to the next Parish Council meeting.

14. Parking

The letter from the resident was received and noted.

Action: Clerk to suggest to the resident that he contacts his neighbour, who appears to have resolved the issue.

15. Parish Improvements Working Group

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to set up a Parish Improvements Working Group. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman agreed to facilitate the Group. The applicants who were unsuccessful with their application to fill the Parish Councillor vacancy would be invited to join the Parish Improvements Working Group.

16. Road Safety

The information on the process for the installation of Speed Indicators Devices (SIDSs) was received and noted. Cllr Munson pointed out that due to the changed speed limit in Tollesbury Road it would not be possible to comply with highways requirements. The Conservation Officer at Maldon District Council had indicated that a device in Church Street would not be acceptable.

Resolved: to apply to the Local Highways Panel to request that consideration is given to measures being put in place to address the speeding issues in Kelvedon Road within the 30mph zone. Unanimously agreed.

Considering the residents' comments regarding Kelvedon Road, Councillors agreed to put on hold the purchase of SIDs until the necessary surveys had been carried out by Essex County Council when considering the application to the Local Highways Panel.

17. Bench Near Noticeboard

17.1 Replacement Bench

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to ratify the decision to proceed with the proposed bench (same as the recycled plastic bench in the Burial Ground) suggested by the Proprietors of Station Way, and the wording of the plaque is as follows:

“THIS BENCH HAS BEEN KINDLY DONATED BY THE BUSINESSES AT STATION WAY IND.EST.”

17.2 Installation of Bench

Resolved: to accept the quotation from Bonz to remove and dispose of the existing bench and install a new bench at the cost of £200. Unanimously agreed.

18. Police/Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

18.1 Police Report

The Police Reports were received and noted.

18.2 Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

18.2.1 Patrol Reports

The CPO Report for February 2022 was received and noted.

During the CPOs Patrols in February, there were 3 speeding offences.

Considering the comments made by residents during the public forum regarding speeding issues in Kelvedon Road, Councillors agreed to request that the patrol time in April, May and June is increased to 4 hours per month, and all patrols during this time are carried out in Kelvedon Road. To be reviewed after the three months.

The following was also agreed:

- Ask the primary school if they would include something in their weekly newsletter regarding speeding.
- Ask the school if they would be willing to hold a poster competition raising awareness of speeding.

18.2.2 CPO Service Requirements 2022/23

Resolved: to continue with the service of the CPOs for 2 hours per month, costing £35.94 per hour plus VAT. Unanimously agreed.

19. Administration

Recreation Ground – The annual inspection of the play equipment is due and can be via the Inspector commissioned by Maldon District Council and would cost £62.00 plus VAT. Unanimously agreed to proceed with

Bee-Fit CM9 – A request had been received from Bee-Fit to hold a BBQ event in June/July at the Recreation Ground.

Councillors agreed in principle but would request that the event not clash with the Village Hall event, and further information was required regarding times, etc.

20. Representative Reports

20.1 Burial Ground

20.1.1 Update from Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown reported that the grass needs cutting.

Action: Clerk to raise with Maldon District Council.

Cllr Henderson reported a red vehicle parking outside the Burial Ground gates, leaving no room for visitor parking.

Action: Clerk to provide Cllr Henderson with notices to put on the cars to request that they do not park outside the Burial Ground.

20.2 Recreation Ground

20.2.1 Update on the Recreation Ground

The Clerk confirmed that the residents in the neighbouring property had cut down the dangerous tree, which was reported at the last meeting.

Cllr Brown reported that he had fitted the end caps on the guttering on the Pavilion.

20.2.2 Overgrown Vegetation

Resolved: to accept the quotation from Bonz for £270 to fail the ground vegetation around the perimeter of the Recreation Ground. Unanimously agreed.

20.2.3 Pavilion

The email from Bee-Fit regarding various works needed at the Pavilion was received.

Resolved: to accept the quotation from ASG Plastering for £150 to carry out the repairs to the floor. Unanimously agreed.

Resolved: to accept the quotation from AWT Heating and Plumbing Solutions for £145 to supply and install a new basin tap for the disabled bathroom and fit new isolation valves. Unanimously agreed.

20.3 Highway/Footpaths

20.3.1 Update from Cllr Henderson

Cllr Henderson reported:

- Following the last meeting, she had reported the hump opposite the Village Hall. Essex County Council carried out an inspection and advised it does not meet the criteria for repair.
- The footpath from Festival Gardens to the field had been resurfaced, but the weeds had not been treated.

Cllr Munson reported:

- Dogs were fouling on the footpath which ran adjacent to his property in Kelvedon Road and suggested that the Parish Council purchase a dog bin.
Councillors considered the suggestion and felt that if some dog owners were not picking up after their dogs, a dog bin would not resolve it.

Cllr Barwick reported:

- The footpath outside the school needed clearing as it was covered in twigs.
Action: Clerk to report to Maldon District Council.

Cllr Scott reported:

- There had been a significant improvement with the parking near the corner of Chapel Road. Councillors expressed thanks to the residents for helping address this issue.

21. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items

Cllr Munson requested that the Henry Smith Trust be included on the Annual Assembly agenda.

Cllr Brown reported that he had painted the bus shelter.

Action: Clerk to purchase some anti-graffiti paint.

22. Date of the Next Meeting

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

Tuesday 26th April 2022 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.26 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....