

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

In the Chair: Cllr Smith – Chairman

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also Present: District Councillor Thompson
7 Members of the Public
3 Members of the Parish Improvements Working Group
5 Representatives from the First Responders

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence, all Councillors were present.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

4. County Councillor and District Councillors

There were no comments from Cllr Thompson.

It was agreed to combine Agenda Items 5 - Public Forum and 7 – First Responders

5/7. Public Forum/First Responders

The Chairman reported that concern had been raised at the Annual Assembly regarding the lack of First Responders in Tolleshunt D'Arcy. The Parish Council put a call out for volunteers and was pleased that a number of residents had attended the meeting to find out more and potentially volunteer as First Responders.

Neil from the Mersea First Responders gave an overview of the work and processes of the First Responders in Mersea.

Peter from the Tollesbury First Responders reported that they covered Tolleshunt D'Arcy and surrounding villages but were seriously depleted and need volunteers to join. Peter suggested that Tolleshunt D'Arcy considered joining up with Tollesbury, which with more volunteers would provide better coverage for both villages and surrounding parishes. He also suggested that due to the proximity of the Tollesbury group it would be unlikely that the ambulance service would finance another emergency kit. It was suggested that it would be advantageous to purchase another kit which could be looked after by the volunteers in Tolleshunt D'Arcy. It is believed that a kit would cost about £1,800 and it was felt by those present that this could be raised by seeking donations.

The residents who were in attendance agreed that as Tollesbury First Responders was already established it would be better to join up rather than start a completely separate group. The residents present decided to liaise directly with Tollesbury First Responders to progress.

The Chairman thanked the First Responders and the residents who had come forward for attending the meeting and stated the Parish Council would be happy to provide further assistance if required.

The First Responders and 6 residents left the meeting.

6. Minutes

Minutes 10th May 2022

Resolved: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th May 2022 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 Clerk reported as the accounts had not been finalised by the Internal Auditor, she had not started the new accounting year for the accounting software. There would therefore be a delay in presenting the financial reports.

7.2 Payments

Items for payment totalling £2,938.67 were presented for approval.

Resolved: To approve payments. Unanimously agreed.

It was noted that there had been a significant increase in the electricity charges since the Pavilion had been used by Bee-Fit CM9.

The agreement states:

You (Bee-Fit CM9) will be responsible for the following costs:

- Specialist insurance for you and your clients.
- Any unreasonable water costs above £20 per month
- Any unreasonable electricity costs above £50 per month.

Action: Clerk to write to Bee-Fit CM9 to request that any electricity charges over £50 per month are paid.

8. Internal Audit

8.1 Report and Recommendations from the Internal Auditor

Not yet received, so deferred to the next meeting.

8.2 Effectiveness of Internal Audit

To be deferred to the next meeting.

9. Planning

9.1 Planning Applications

Application No: WTPO/MAL/22/00623 PP-11255051

Proposal: T6 Lime - Reduce crown by 5 meters to remove weight from poor stem unions. TG2 Elm - Fell. TG1 Leylandii - Fell. TG3 Cypress - Fell.

Location: 17 D'Arcy Way Tolleshunt D'Arcy

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

Application No: WTPO/MAL/22/00498 PP-10082538

Proposal: T2 Horse Chestnut located in 41A - southern lowest overhanging branch to be removed, large overhanging branch towards house removed, 8 metres large over hanging branch to be removed and reduce rest of south canopy by approximately 1 metre. T7 Horse Chestnut located in 39 - Removal of the overhang encroaching on 41A and their garden resulting in a 4 metre reduction.

Location: 41A & 39 D'arcy Way Tolleshunt D'arcy

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

Application No: TCA/MAL/22/00632 PP-11259869

Proposal: T1- Sycamore to be thinned out by 25% and a crown uplift up the 6 meters to clear all surrounding buildings. T2 - Sycamore to be felled.

Location: The Old Bakery 11 North Street Tolleshunt D'Arcy

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

A resident left the meeting.

9.2 Planning Decisions:

WTPO/MAL/22/00148 - The Studio Darcy House 1 South Street - Approved

9.3 Appeals

To receive notification of Planning Appeals from Maldon District Council.

9.4 Planning Appeal Decisions

To note decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate.

9.5 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)

To note TPO's made by Maldon District Council

10. Training

The Clerk reported that Maldon District Council had adopted a new Code of Conduct and has organised training sessions for Clerks and Councillors to give members an understanding of how the new Code is different and the benefits it brings. Simon Quelch, Lead Legal Specialist and Monitoring Officer, strongly recommended that we adopt the new code.

Training sessions are being held as follows:

Tuesday 21st June 2022 – 7.00 pm – 9.15 pm

Tuesday 28th June 2022 – 2.30 pm – 4.45 pm

The Chairman and Clerk agreed to attend the training on the 28th June.

11. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Resolved: To ratify expenditure for the plaque celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee costing £205.26 including VAT and delivery. Unanimously agreed.

The Chairman and Cllr Henderson have kindly donated the roses.

The Chairman reported that Lenny Aldridge had been instructed to plant the roses.

12. Football

Resolved: To ratify the decision to allow Tiptree Heath Sunday Team to use the Recreation Ground for Sunday football next season. The pitch fees will be £25 per game with the same terms and conditions as in the past. Unanimously agreed.

13. Police/Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

13.1 Police Report

The Police Reports were received and noted.

**13.2 Community Protection Officers (CPOs)
Patrol Reports**

The CPO Report for April 2022 was received and noted.

During the CPOs Patrols in April, there were 10 speeding offences.

14. Administration

Local Council Award – The Clerk reported that the application had been submitted. It will go to the panel in September 2022 with the results being announced in December 2022.

Community Initiatives Fund – The Clerk reported that Essex County Council (ECC) and The Essex Association of Local Councils had launched this year's Community Initiatives Fund (CIF). ECC has insisted on some changes around certain criteria elements, and in particular a minimum level of matched project funding to be provided by Parish and Town Councils, but they have ensured that where is this not possible there is an ability for exceptional circumstances to be considered, especially for those smaller Parishes with low levels of available Precept. Applications will remain open until 19th August, and the Panel Day will be held on 11th October, with decision letters sent out thereafter.

Councillors agreed that they would like to apply for a grant for a new piece of play equipment at the Recreation Ground.

Action: Cllr Munson to obtain a quotation to repair the roundabout.

Action: Cllr Barwick to speak to the school to consult with the children to find out what new equipment they would like.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotations and apply for funding from the CIF once it has been decided on what new equipment is needed.

15. Representative Reports

15.1 Burial Ground

15.1.1 Update from Cllr Henderson

Cllr Henderson reported that there is a red Corsa parking outside the Burial Ground gates taking up the parking for visitors to the Burial Ground. She had put two notices on the vehicle requesting that they do not park in the area but they have continued.

Action: Cllr Ewing to speak to the resident.

15.2 Recreation Ground/Pavilion

15.2.1 Update from Cllr Brown

- The ruts need to be filled in.

The Chairman reported that he had spoken with the Contractor who is planning to fill the ruts in June

- The grass has been cut but the Contractor does not collect the cuttings which can make the Recreation Ground look messy. The Chairman reported that the Contractor has never collected the grass.
Action: Clerk to request that the grass is cut at least three times in June to ensure that the area is nice for the Horticultural Show in July.

15.3 Public Rights of Way

15.3.1 Update from Cllr Henderson

No new information to report.

15.4 Road Safety/Highways

15.4.1 Update from Cllr Munson

Cllr Munson requested that Speed Indicator Devices and Gate to the village are kept on the agenda for discussion.

It was reported that the vegetation in three properties was overgrown onto the pavement making it difficult to pass.

Action: Clerk to write to the residents to request that their vegetation is cut back.

16. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items

The Parish Improvements Working Group introduced themselves to the Parish Council. The Group explained that they were looking to raise their profile in the parish and were in the process of setting up a Facebook Group and email address.

17. Date of the Next Meeting

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

Tuesday 28th June 2022 – Annual Statutory Meeting – 7.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.52 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....