

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

In the Chair: Cllr Smith – Chairman

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also Present: District Councillor Thompson
Steve Howard and Vanessa Reeves – Parish Working Group
3 Members of the public

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Henderson.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

4. County Councillor and District Councillors

There was no new information from the District Councillor.

5. Public Forum

The applicant for the application reference FUL/MAL/23/00010 PP-11549390 advised that the new application had addressed the concerns raised by Maldon District Council (MDC) in the previous application which had been refused.

The applicant advised that when considering the previous application MDC had not taken into account that Class Q had already been granted on the barns

A resident expressed concern regarding the new application on the Land Adjacent to 13 Church Street and felt that the previous objections raised by the Parish Council for this site should remain.

It was agreed to move to Item 9.1 on the agenda.

9. Planning

9.1 Planning Applications

To consider Planning Applications received from Maldon District Council

Application No: FUL/MAL/23/00010 PP-11549390

Proposal: Proposed demolition of agricultural barns and construction of 2No dwellings

Location: Land At Spital Farm Station Road Tolleshunt D'arcy

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.

Application No: FUL/MAL/22/01225 PP-11738768

Proposal: Conversion of agricultural building for holiday let use and single storey side extension.

Location: Land At The Wycke Pages Lane Tolleshunt D'arcy

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.

Application No: FUL/MAL/23/00052 PP-11867339

Proposal: Proposed demolition of existing garage and the erection of a new three bedroom house with ancillary parking

Location: Land Adjacent To 13 Church Street Tolleshunt D'arcy

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

- The development is very cramped and the minimum amenity space has only been achieved by removing all the amenity space from the existing bungalow on the site.
- Bulk, size and scale
- It is not in keeping with the area
- Concern about vehicle access – the road access does not meet the Essex County Council standards. No consideration has been given to the comments from Essex County Council on the previous application, FUL/MAL/22/01002, as the access on this application is 4.8m
- impact on the setting of the Church opposite which is in a conservation area.
- The proposal includes the removal of an Oak tree which has a strong amenity value and an existing TPO.
- The Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Preliminary Method Statement, dated 18th December 2022, item 1 – Summary – states that it is for an area of land at Festival Gardens and it is for two dwellings. This is incorrect.

3 members of the public left the meeting.

6. Parish Working Group

Steve and Vanessa reported that residents had raised the following concerns:

- Parking around the Maypole

Action: Clerk to post a “Polite Notice” on Facebook reminding residents that the Maypole is a monument and request that they do not park around the Maypole.

- Overhanging branches on the footpath near the school.

The Clerk advised that she had reported this to Essex County Council.

- On the land opposite Salters Meadow, this is a broken metal post with is dangerous as is jagged.

Action: Steve to confirm the location and send a picture to the Parish Clerk for action.

- Dangerous parking and driving by parents outside the school near Rubys Restaurant.

Cllr Barwick reported that the school are regularly raising this issue in their weekly newsletter.

Cllr Thompson advised this is a police matter and should be reported to them.

Action: Cllr Barwick to raise this with the school and advise that this issue will be reported to Essex Police.

The Clerk reported that Steve had submitted several questions for her to forward to the insurance company concerning Speed Device Indications. Gallagher Insurance has responded as follows:

“Volunteers, councillors and employees undertaking activities organised by the Parish Council, such as the proposed VAS moving/installing/uninstalling, are covered automatically by the policy we arrange under the Employers’ and Public Liability sections.

To reduce the likelihood of injury or damage arising we recommend that a risk assessment is completed in writing and kept on your records. As part of the risk

assessment, you may wish to think about things such as moving the VAS during quiet times when there is less traffic and during the day whilst light rather than at night. Once purchased please do let us know if you wish to cover it on an all risks basis against theft/damage, we would just need to know the re-instatement cost.”

The Clerk reported that Cllr Durham had sent an email stating the following:
“We are still waiting for the outcome of the Local Highways Panel (LHP) review which is due next month. I do know more or less what is proposed, but until this is formally announced, I am not at liberty to disclose the outcome.
I am hopeful that this will be resolved as soon as possible and that the LHP, or whatever method is in place will consider this project.
On the question as to whether the PC can fund it themselves, the simple answer is yes. This would also considerably speed up the time for implementation as it would bypass system. However, the location, style and manufacturer would have to comply with ECC Highways rules.”

7. Minutes

Minutes 3rd January 2023

Resolved: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd January 2023 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

Councillors received the monthly Financial Reports as of 31st December 2022.
Bank Reconciliation – a Closing balance of £36,340.80
Expenditure to date – Budget £30,079 – Actual £24,062
Income to date (including Precept (£21,514) £29,764 – Actual £29,225
Earmarked Funds – Closing Balance - £7,196.83 – Net Transfers £4,844.40

The Chairman signed the Reports.

8.2 Payments

Resolved: To approve the payments totalling £1,837.22. Unanimously agreed.

9. Planning

9.2 Planning Decisions:

To note decisions made by Maldon District Council – None received

9.3 Appeals

To note decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate – None received

9.4 Planning Appeal Decisions

To note decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate – None received

9.5 Applications Withdrawn

Application No: FUL/MAL/22/01002

Proposal: Detached three bedroom house with adjoining car parking in garden of adjacent residence

Location: Land Adjacent To 13 Church Street, Tolleshunt D'Arcy

9.6 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)

To note TPOs made by Maldon District Council – None received.

10. Training

There were no requests for training.

11. New Playground Equipment

At the previous meeting, it was reported that the application to the Community Initiatives Fund for new play equipment and safety surfacing had been unsuccessful.

The following ideas were suggested:

- Delay the project and set aside funds in the 2024/25 Budget
- Look for alternative funding options
- To do part of the work i.e. safety surfacing around the roundabout
- Consider using funds set aside for other projects/reserves to continue with the play equipment project
- Consider applying for funding for the village gates and use the funds set aside in the 2023/24 budget for speed reduction towards the play equipment project
- Wait until the outcome of the LHP scheme as village gates could be funded under this scheme

Action: Clerk to obtain quotations for safety surfacing around the roundabout only.

Action: Councillors to give thought to the suggestions made with a decision to be agreed upon at the next Parish Council meeting.

12. Local Council Award

To letter from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) congratulating the Parish Council on achieving the Local Council Award – Quality Standard was received and noted.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Davey, Chairman of the EALC, would be attending the meeting on 28th February 2023 to present the certificate to the Parish Council.

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 December 2022 was received and noted.

During the CPOs Patrols in December, all patrols were carried out on Kelvedon Road and during the 2 hours, there were 6 speeding offences.

Action: As the three months for TruCam patrols had now come to an end, it was agreed to request that the patrols move to Tollesbury Road preferably during the times of school drop off/pick up.

14. Administration

Setting 20mph as the default speed limit in towns and villages in Essex – The Clerk reported that Cabinet Member Scott from Essex County Council had responded to the letter from the Parish Council requesting that Essex County Council to adopt 20mph as the default speed limit for urban and village roads in the county.

Cllr Scott responded as follows:

“Our officers are currently working through the Place and Movement Strategy and the Speed Management Strategy will need to complement this. As such we are not yet

able to say whether we can or cannot support this approach, but your request is noted and it will be considered as part of our review.”

Cllr Scott reported that members from PWG and himself would be attending a zoom meeting for an update on the 20' Plenty Campaign.

The new 20's Plenty Campaign banners had been put up in the village.

Telephone Kiosk/Book Swap – Thank you to Cllr Barwick who tidied the books inside the telephone kiosk and disposed of the damaged books.

Highways – The Clerk advised that the two large potholes that she had reported on Tollesbury Road had now been repaired. She had also reported a sunken drain on Tollesbury Road which had also been repaired.

15. Representative Reports

15.1 Burial Ground

15.1.1 Update from Cllr Henderson

Cllr Henderson had emailed and reported:

- The weeds on the path in the Burial Ground had not yet been sprayed.

Action: Clerk to chase up MDC.

The Clerk reported that she had received a request for a grave to have a set kerbstone around it. Some graves do have edging but they are not permanent. The Rules and Regulations state that there are to be no edgings on graves.

Councillors considered what the Clerk had reported and did not wish to change the Rules and Regulations and therefore no fixed kerbstone is permitted.

15.2 Recreation Ground/Pavilion

15.2.1 Update from Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown reported:

- The fence post was still loose.

Action: Clerk to speak to Bonz

15.2.2 Quotation – Car Park

A quotation was received from Bonz but needed clarification:

Action: Clerk to clarify with Bonz and contact Councillors via email as Councillors did not wish to delay the work as there is already a delay in obtaining the road plannings as there is a shortage.

Resolved: to proceed with the works provided all Councillors are happy with the email and any decision would be ratified at the Parish Council meeting on 28th February 2023.

15.2.3 Pavilion – Potential Expansion

Councillors, in principle, had no objection to the suggestion of potentially expanding the Pavilion but would not be able to comment further until a proposal was put before them.

15.3 Public Rights of Way

15.3.1 Update from Cllr Henderson

Cllr Henderson had emailed and advised there were no issues to report.

15.4 Road Safety/Highways

15.4.1 Update from Cllr Munson

Cllr Munson reported:

- He had reported a drain in Kelvedon Road to Essex County Council which had now been repaired.
- He expressed thanks to the Parish Clerk for dealing with the various potholes in Tollesbury Road.

16. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items

When asked about his concerns with the Parish Clerk’s pay and the Parish Council’s expenditure levels Cllr. Munson categorically denied having made any such comments and said he fully supported the Parish Clerk’s pay level and the Parish Council precept/budget and expenditure. He said that reports that he had made various remarks to the contrary were completely false and in particular the conversation as reported by the Tiptree Parish Clerk was untrue and that he would pay him a visit.

Cllr Barwick asked the Parish Clerk whether a football team had contacted her regarding use of the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk confirmed you had provided the team with the information requested and she had not heard back from them.

Next Agenda: New play equipment and surfacing project

17. Date of the Next Meeting

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

Tuesday 28th February 2023 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....