

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

**In the Chair:** Cllr Smith – Chairman

**Clerk:** Michelle Curtis

**Also Present:** Mike Eldred – Vice Chairman, Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC)  
Denise Clark, Steve Howard and Vanessa Reeve – Parish Working Group  
1 Member of the Public

**1. Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mike Eldred presented the Certificate for the Local Council Quality Award and congratulated Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council on their achievement. Mike explained that in Great Britain there are 10,480 parish/town councils and the number of councils with the Quality Award in the country is 80. It is hoped that the Parish Council will continue their hard work and look to work toward the Gold Award. To get the award, the Parish Council had demonstrated:

- Good practice in governance
- Community engagement
- Council improvement whilst going above and beyond their legal obligations

Mike left the meeting.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Barwick.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

**4. County Councillor and District Councillors**

There was no County or District Councillors present.

**5. Public Forum**

A member of the public reported that eight volunteers helped clear a section of the area outside the school for the planting of the King's Coronation display.

The member of the public advised that the remaining area in front of the school needed further clearing and that it would be nice to make this area a village focal point. The residents had requested two quotations for consideration by the Council. Unfortunately, only one quotation had been received and once the second quotation had been received it would be forwarded to the Parish Council for consideration.

Thanks were expressed to the resident and her teams of volunteers for the hard work that had been carried out.

The resident reported that there were lots of twigs on the footpath outside the school resulting in her slipping and having to attend A&E.

**Action:** Clerk to obtain quotations to trim the trees back.

**Action:** Cllr Scott to report the issue with the twigs online via the Maldon District Council website.

## 6. Parish Working Group (PWG)

Vanessa reported:

- There were reports regarding the tarmac drains and asked whether there was any update.  
The Clerk reported that she had emailed the pictures/video supplied by a resident to Cllr Durham.
- Blocked drains  
The Clerk advised that blocked drains need to be reported via the Essex County Council online reporting tool.

## 7. Minutes

### Minutes 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 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 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Bank Reconciliation – a Closing balance of £34,451.30

Expenditure to date – Budget £30,079 – Actual £26,923

Income to date (including Precept (£21,514) £29,764 – Actual £31,555

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 £2,075.37. Unanimously agreed.

**Resolved:** To include an additional payment of £120.00 to The Wooden Fence Post for the trailer hire to clear the waste collected from an area outside the school. The payment would be included in the April payment schedule.  
Unanimously agreed.

## 9. Planning

### 9.1 Planning Applications

To consider Planning Applications received from Maldon District Council – None received

### 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 -

Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/23/3316312

Application Ref: 22/00685/FUL PP-11284602

Site Address: Spital Farm Station Road Tolleshunt D'Arcy

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

### 9.4 Planning Appeal Decisions

To note decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate – None received

## 9.5 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)

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

Cllr Scott reported that he had received an email from a resident asking if there was any update on the fencing on the amenity land on Festival Gardens. At the previous meeting of the Parish Council, Cllr Thompson agreed to take this matter up with Maldon District Council.

**Action:** Clerk to ask Cllr Thompson if there was any update

## 10. Training

There were no requests for training.

## 11. Full Fibre Connectivity

The email from Gigaclear advising of their plans to rollout full-fibre connectivity in Tolleshunt D'Arcy was received and noted.

## 12. Police/Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

### 12.1 Police Report

The Police Reports were received and noted.

### 12.2 Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

The CPO Report for February 2023 was received and noted.

It was noted that during the CPOs Patrols in February patrol, there were 14 speeding offences.

## 13. Administration

Chapel Road – The Clerk reported that she had received notification that Chapel Road may be closed to enable work to be carried out by Openreach for 4 days from 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Openreach undertakes duct laying works.

## 14. Representative Reports

### 14.1 Burial Ground

#### 14.1.1 Update from Cllr Henderson

Cllr Henderson there was no new information to report.

### 14.2 Recreation Ground/Pavilion

#### 14.2.1 Update from Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown reported:

- There were no new issues except for the damage caused to the Recreation Ground whilst a service vehicle was attending Bee-Fit. The owner of Bee-Fit has accepted full liability and carried out repairs to the area as best he can in current conditions.

#### 14.2.2 Pavilion

**Resolved:** The Parish Council remains of the opinion that no material breach has occurred and that the Parish Council has acted properly and appropriately. Members agreed, however, that to prevent further stress and anxiety to the tenant and avoid further waste of time, a retrospective application will be made on the understanding that it is a formality and will be agreed upon. Agreed by the majority.

**Action:** Clerk to prepare the necessary planning application form.

**14.3 Public Rights of Way**

**14.3.1 Update from Cllr Henderson**

Cllr Henderson advised there were no new issues to report.

**14.4 Road Safety/Highways**

**14.4.1 Update from Cllr Munson**

Cllr Munson reported:

- Several drains had sunken and he was compiling a list. The Clerk suggested that Cllr Munson take photographs and report online via the Essex County Council online reporting tool.

Cllr Henderson reported that was a very large pothole on Beckingham Road near Joyce's Cottage.

**Action:** Cllr Munson to report to Essex County Council.

Steve asked if there was any update on the meeting of the Local Highways Panel. The Clerk reported that she had emailed Cllr Durham for an update but had not yet had a response.

**15. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items**

The Chairman advised at the beginning of the meeting, a resident suggested finishing off the work started by the volunteers and clearing the remaining area outside the school in time for the King's Coronation.

**Action:** Clerk to circulate quotations once received to Councillors. Councillors will make a decision via email and the decision to be ratified at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr Brown reported that following the accident last year near Rubys, the nameplate had been replaced but the contents of the barrel planter was still there.

**Action:** Clerk to ask the Contractor who carries out the clearance work to include the removal of the barrel.

The Chairman reported that Bee-Fit had emailed as he would like to lay a strip of astroturf alongside the Pavilion.

**Action:** Chairman to circulate the information to Councillors. Councillors will make a decision via email and the decision to be ratified at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**16. Date of the Next Meeting**

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

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....