

Present: Cllrs Evans, Ewing, Henderson, Middleton, Munson

In the Chair: Cllr Smith – Chairman

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also Present: District Councillor Thompson (8.06pm)
Steve Howard – Parish Working Group (PWG)

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to 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 were no County Councillor or District Councillors present.

5. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

6. Parish Working Group

Steve asked the following on behalf of the PWG:

- Is there any update on when the work, levelling of the grass verge, on Tollesbury Road will be carried out?

The Clerk advised that she had emailed Cllr Durham for an update on this work which the Local Highways Panel had approved. Cllr Durham replied as follows: "I'm afraid that I have to be the bearer of bad news.

Pretty much all of the LHP funding has been diverted to routine maintenance.

We were only able to fund a handful of the schemes that slipped from last year.

At the moment the whole LHP system is being looked at again. I suspect that this may result in a total reset as many previous applications were of a scale that would exceed the budgets.

If things change in the short term, I will let you know."

- Several residents had expressed concern regarding the fence posts in Festival Gardens. Maldon District Council (MDC) Enforcement has requested that the landowner remove the fence. The fence panels have been removed but the posts remain. Could the Parish Council write to the landowner and ask them to remove the posts or for permission for the village to remove them.

The Clerk advised that she had been copied into an email from a resident of Festival Gardens to MDC Enforcement regarding the fence posts.

Action: Subject to the response of the email from MDC Enforcement to the resident, the Parish Council may consider alternative options to address the matter.

Action: Clerk to include on the next agenda for consideration.

- When will the repairs be carried out to the Recreation Ground Car Park?

The Chairman reported that it has been difficult to get additional quotations. There had also been a suggestion by some residents that the car park be expanded into the Recreation Ground.

Action: Potential car park project to be included on the next agenda for further discussion.

7. Minutes

Minutes 26th September 2023

Resolved: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th September 2023 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed by those who attended.

The Chairman signed the Minutes.

8. Finance

8.1 Monthly Financial Report

Councillors received the Monthly Financial Reports as of 30th September 2023.

Bank Reconciliation – a Closing balance of £43,533.38

Expenditure to date – Budget £31,971 – Actual £14,549

Income to date (including Precept (£22,721) £31,971 – Actual £25,396

Earmarked Funds – Closing Balance - £14,769.83 – Net Transfers £7,573

The Clerk reported:

- £154.96 bank interest received from the Unity Trust Bank Instant Access Account.

The Chairman signed the Reports.

8.2 Payments

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to approve the payments totalling £2,157.18.

Councillors discussed the cost of the parish mobile.

Action: Clerk to find out how long the existing contract is and if out of contract look at alternative tariffs.

8.3 Direct Debit

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to ratify the decision to pay HMRC for PAYE payments by direct debit.

9. Planning

9.1 Planning Applications

To ratify decisions of the following Planning Application:

Application No: HOUSE/MAL/23/00875 PP-12422902

Proposal: Replacement outbuilding to rear of garden to provide car garaging, gym and workspace incidental to use of main dwelling house

Location: 25 Chapel Road Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: Agreed by the majority to recommend approval of this application

To consider Planning Applications received from Maldon District Council including the following:

Application No: WTPO/MAL/23/00926 PP-12484176

Proposal: (TPO 02/90) T1 (A2 on TPO) - Horse Chestnut - Crown reduction

by 2 m, lateral reduction by 2m, crown thin by 30% and removal of dead wood.

Location: Champions Wood Tollesbury Road Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.

Cllr Thompson arrived at the meeting.

Application No: TCA/MAL23/00962 PP-12505082

Proposal: T1 Walnut- Crown lift by 1.5m to give a ground clearance of 4m without removing any large limbs (Just the branches on the outer canopy). Thin by 20%.

Location: Elder House 7 North Street Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: Agreed by the majority to recommend approval of this application.

9.2 Planning Decisions

To note decisions made by Maldon District Council

HOUSE/MAL/23/00704 - 47 Festival Gardens - Approved

9.3 Appeals

To receive notification of Planning Appeals from Maldon District Council – None received

9.4 Planning Appeal Decisions

To note decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate

Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/22/3305866

Planning Application No: FUL/MAL/22/00090

Proposal: Divide the existing plot to create a separate dwelling out of an existing garage/outbuilding

Location: Manor House, 20 Kelvedon Road, Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Decision: Appeal Allowed

9.5 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)

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

10. Training

There were no requests for training.

11. Car Park – Recreation Ground

Following the Parish Council meeting on 26th September 2023, three requests were received to review the decision regarding the approved works to the hedge in the Car Park.

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to reverse the decision resolved on 26th September 2023 agenda item 13.

After consideration, it was agreed that no work would be carried out at this stage and this would be reconsidered in a year.

12. Litter Bin – Harvesters

A complaint had been received via MDC and a post on social media regarding the litter bin at the entrance to the footpath at The Harvesters.

Action: Chairman is to monitor the bin every week and report back at the next meeting. The Parish Council can then decide if any action is required.

13. Grant Application

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to give a grant of £250 to the Village Larder towards running costs of rent and heating.

14. Insurance

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to ratify the decision that the Parish Council Insurance via Gallagher would be for a 3-year-long term agreement.

15. Tollesbury Juniors Football Club (TJFC)

Resolved: to grant permission to TJFC to use the Recreation Ground for training and the occasion match on a Sunday subject to there being no parking issues. If any concerns about parking are brought to the attention of the Parish Council, usage of the Recreation Ground by TJFC will be reconsidered.

16. Police/Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

16.1 Police Report

The Police Reports were received and noted.

16.2 Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

CPO Report

The CPO Report for September 2023 was received and noted.

It was noted that during the CPOs Patrols in September, there were 17 speeding offences - 14 on Church Street and 3 on Kelvedon Road.

The Clerk reported that the new site in Tollesbury Road had been approved and some patrols had been carried out.

17. Administration

Tolleshunt D'Arcy Primary School – The Clerk reported that an email had been received from a teacher at Tolleshunt D'Arcy Primary School asking if a member of the Parish Council would attend the school and talk to the children about issues that face Tolleshunt D'Arcy.

Action: Clerk to see if Cllr Barwick, Vice-Chairman, can attend the school on behalf of the Parish Council. If Cllr Barwick is unable to attend, Cllr Evans will attend.

Poppy Wreath – In recent years some children of Tolleshunt D'Arcy Primary School have laid the wreath next to the Tommy silhouette.

Action: Cllr Barwick to ask Tolleshunt D'Arcy Primary School if they would be happy for the children to lay the wreath.

18. Representative Reports

18.1 Burial Ground

18.1.1 Update on the Burial Ground

Cllr Henderson advised that there were no issues to report.

18.2 Recreation Ground/Pavilion

18.2.1 Update on the Recreation Ground/Pavilion

Cllr Middleton advised that there were no issues to report.

Thanks were expressed to ex-Councillor Jason Brown who recently carried out some repairs to the doors of the Pavilion preventing rain from leaking into the building.

18.3 Public Rights of Way

18.3.1 Update on Public Rights of Way

Cllr Henderson advised that there were no issues to report.

18.4 Road Safety/Highways

18.4.1 Update on Road Safety/Highways

Cllr Barwick was not present to provide an update.

19. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items

Cllr Evans suggested that the Parish Council write to Grays to request an update on the closed pub.

Action: Cllr Evans to prepare a draft letter which will be sent to the Clerk who will circulate it to Councillors for approval.

Cllr Middleton reported that he had carried out the monthly inspection of the defibrillator and the battery on the one in the Village Hall needed replacing.

Action: Clerk to purchase a new battery to bring the equipment back into operation.

Next agenda - Budget 2024/25

20. Date of the Next Meeting

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

Tuesday 28th November 2023 – 7.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

Signed.....

Date:.....