

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

In the Chair: Cllr Smith – Chairman

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also Present: Steve Howard – Parish Working Group (PWG)
1 Member of the public

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Thompson.

3. Vice-Chairman

Following the resignation of Cllr Barwick, it was necessary to appoint a new Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman nominated Cllr Middleton of Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council for the ensuing municipal year. This nomination was unanimously agreed. Cllr Middleton was declared Vice-Chairman for Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council for the ensuing municipal year.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

5. County Councillor and District Councillors

There were no County or District Councillors at the meeting.

6. Public Forum

The resident, who is the landowner of the car park stated that his wife had sent an email to the Parish Council advising that due to health and safety concerns, they had decided to close off the car park to vehicle access.

7. Parish Working Group

Steve reported the following:

- The grass verge on Tollesbury Road is regularly raised as a query from residents. This item is still pending following the reorganisation of the Local Highways Panel.
- The Community Speed Watch (CSW) has been out patrolling. During the 9 hours of patrolling in December, there were 23 captures; 17 in Tollesbury Road and 6 in Church Street.
The CSW would like to carry out more patrols but needs volunteers to come forward.

Action: Clerk to advertise via the Parish Council social media that volunteers are required for CSW.

8. Minutes

Minutes 28th November 2023

Resolved: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th November 2023 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed by those who attended.

The Chairman signed the Minutes.

9. Finance

9.1 Monthly Financial Report

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

Bank Reconciliation – a Closing balance of £40,356.98

Expenditure to date – Budget £31,971 – Actual £20,470

Income to date (including Precept (£22,721) £31,971 – Actual £27,371

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

The Clerk reported:

- £832.43 received from HMRC for the VAT recovered between April and September 2023.

The Chairman signed the Reports.

9.2 Payments

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to approve the payments totalling £2,220.04.

10. Planning

10.1 Planning Applications

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

Application No: 23/01160/OUTM PP-12537071

Proposal: Outline planning application with all matters reserved except access for up to 159 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), including 40% affordable housing, pre-school (Use Class E(f) and F1(a)), a road link connecting West Street to North Road, ancillary infrastructure, public open space, play space, suitable alternative natural greenspace (SANG) and sustainable drainage.

Location: Land North Of West Street Tollesbury

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

- There is already a traffic issue with speeding vehicles through the village; a development of this size would significantly impact an existing problem. It is likely that user of the access in North Road would drive via Chapel Road/Back Road and this road is not suitable for increased traffic numbers.
- Detrimental impact on existing services – the schools and doctors are already oversubscribed.

10.2 Planning Decisions

To note decisions made by Maldon District Council

HOUSE/MAL/23/01047 – 25 Chapel Road – Approved

10.3 Appeals

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

10.4 Planning Appeal Decisions

To note decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate – None received

10.5 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)

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

11. Car Park – Recreation Ground

11.1 Correspondence from landowner

The correspondence from the landowner of the car park was received and noted.

The Chairman explained that there was a history regarding the car park in relation to previous planning applications submitted.

As the landowner was present, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting (7.52pm).

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to reconvene the meeting (8.01pm).

A meeting with the landowner to discuss ownership is to be arranged.

11.2 Car Park Repairs/Expansion

Councillors discussed the proposed four phases for works at the Recreation Ground:

- 1 – Repairs to the entrance of the car park
- 2 – Repair the car park
- 3 – Extend the car park
- 4 - Pathway from the car park to the pavilion

It was agreed that quotations for all the work were required.

Action: Cllr Ewing to meet with a Contractor to obtain a quotation. This will form the work specification to obtain additional quotations.

Once all quotations have been obtained, this will allow the Parish Council to agree on the next steps.

12. Budget 2024/25

12.1 Maldon District Council - 2024/2025 Council Tax Base

The correspondence from Maldon District Council confirming the 2024/25 council tax base was received and noted. The tax base for 2024/25 is 446.5. This was set at 449.4 in 2023/24.

12.2 Budget and Precept for 2024/25

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to increase the 2024/25 precept proposed at the November meeting by 9%. There are various works required for the car park, path to the Pavilion and doors to the Pavilion.

The Full Council agreed to set the precept of £24,766.37 for 2024/5, an increase of £2,044.97, which is 9% against 2023/24. Based on a Band D

property, the cost per household is £55.47, which is an increase of £4.91 per annum.

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to set the 2024/25 precept at £24,766.37.

13. Training

Cllr Middleton agreed to attend Chairman training.

Action: Clerk to find out when Chairman training is being held at the EALC.

14. Police/Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

14.1 Police Report

The Police Reports were received and noted.

14.2 Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

CPO Report

The CPO Report for November 2023 was received and noted.

It was noted that during the CPOs Patrols in November, there were 16 speeding offences - 7 on Church Street, 1 on Kelvedon Road and 8 on Tollesbury Road.

15. Administration

There was no new information to report.

16. Representative Reports

16.1 Burial Ground

16.1.1 Update on the Burial Ground

Cllr Henderson advised that there were no new issues to report.

16.2 Recreation Ground/Pavilion

16.2.1 Update on the Recreation Ground/Pavilion

Cllr Middleton advised that there were no new issues to report.

16.2.2 Blackwater Gymnastics – Interest Connection

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to ratify the decision for an internet connection into the Pavilion. The contact is between Blackwater Gymnastics and the internet provider.

16.3 Public Rights of Way

16.3.1 Update on Public Rights of Way

Cllr Henderson advised that there were no new issues to report.

16.4 Road Safety/Highways

16.4.1 Update on Road Safety/Highways

It was reported that the road sign at Chapel Road/Station Road had fallen over.

Action: Clerk to report to Essex County Council.

Before the meeting, the Clerk had circulated a letter to Councillors from a resident regarding the speeding issues in the village, particularly Church Street.

Action: Clerk to reply to the resident advising that whilst the Parish Council has no powers over highways matters it had been very active over the last few years in trying to mitigate the speeding problems. These actions are

documented in numerous Parish Council and Annual Assembly meeting minutes. Also to suggest that the resident may consider joining the local volunteers on Speed Watch giving the PWG contact details.

17. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items

Cllr Munson stated that Lyndsey Barwick had previously provided the Parish Council with updates on the Village Hall. As Lyndsey was no longer a Parish Councillor who would update the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to ask Robert Morgan, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, if he could provide the Parish Council with quarterly updates.

18. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on:
Tuesday 30th January 2024 – 7.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.42p.m.

Signed.....

Date:.....