



TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY PARISH COUNCIL



Notice is hereby given that the meeting of Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 28th May 2024 in the Village Hall, Tollesbury Road, Tolleshunt D'Arcy commencing at 7.30 pm, to which members of the Council are summoned for the transaction of the under-mentioned business.

M. Curtis

Michelle Curtis – Clerk to the Council

21st May 2024

Councillors: J Smith (Chairman), J Denney, R Evans, I Ewing, M Henderson,
W Middleton, G Munson

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for Absence**
To receive apologies for absence.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To disclose the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registrable Interests and Non-Registrable Interests relating to items of business on the agenda having regard to paragraph 9 and Appendix B of the Code of Conduct for Members. (Members are reminded that they are also required to disclose any such interests as soon as they become aware should the need arise throughout the meeting.)
3. **County and District Councillors**
To receive information from County and District Councillors
4. **Public Forum**
Public participation - Residents wishing to raise a matter in the public forum should inform the Parish Clerk of the topic by noon the previous working day. A maximum time of 15 minutes will be allowed.
5. **Parish Working Group**
To receive a verbal update from the Parish Working Group.
6. **Minutes**
To receive and approve the minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on 14th May 2024.

7. Planning Applications

Applications are circulated to all Councillors with the agenda, for study ahead of the meeting. Planning documents are also available for everyone to view on the Maldon District Council website (www.maldon.gov.uk).

7.1 Application No: 24/00392/LDP PP-13032698

Proposal: Claim for lawful development certificate for a proposed fence to replace existing hedge

Location: 1 D'Arcy Way Tolleshunt D'Arcy

7.2 To consider any other planning applications received from Maldon District Council

8. Planning Decisions

To note planning decisions made by Maldon District Council

FUL/MAL/24/00101 - Land Adjacent To Rosedean Tudwick Road – Refused

9. Accounts 2023/24

To approve the accounts and AGAR for 2023/24

10. Internal Audit

10.1 To receive the Internal Auditor's Report

10.2 To carry out a review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit

11. Finance

11.1 To receive and approve the Monthly Financial Report as at 30th April 2024.

11.2 To receive and approve payments

12. Car Park

To receive an email from the landowner concerning the car park at the Recreation Ground

13. Pavilion

To consider quotations to replace the front and back doors on the Pavilion

14. Police

To receive the Police Reports (confidential)

15. Community Engagement Officers

15.1 To receive the TruCam Report for 2023/24

15.2 To receive the CET Report for April 2024

16. Representative Reports

To receive a verbal update from Parish Council Representatives

16.1 Burial Ground – Cllr Henderson

16.2 Recreation Ground/Pavilion – Cllr Middleton

16.3 Public Rights of Way – Cllr Henderson

16.4 Road Safety/Highways – Cllr Denney

16.5 Village Hall Working Group – Cllr Evans

17. Dates of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th June 2024 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm

Chairman: John Smith - 07505 008891

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Address: PO Box 13205, Maldon, Essex CM9 9FU

Tel: 07483 325853 **Email:** clerk@tolleshuntarcy.org

Website: www.tolleshuntarcy.org

Parish briefing. May 2024

I appreciate that there has been a long gap since the last report, but I wanted to wait until the format of the Local Highway Panel and member led Highways schemes were announced as these will be of the most interest to parish councils.

It will not be a surprise to hear that recent months have been taken up with formulating the budget for ECC as it has been for MDC. Most councils across the country are experiencing pressure on their budgets due to many factors.

Costs for all councils are increasing with inflation and recent rises in the national living wage, material costs for construction and maintenance have also seen huge increases since the pandemic.

ECC produced a balanced budget this year against some challenging issues. Adult social care, home to school transport and children's services are all currently putting additional pressure on the budget and this is unlikely to change in future.

With a gross budget of over £2b and a net budget of £1.2 billion we have to prioritise spending to those services that are aimed at the most vulnerable in society. Adults are living longer which means that more residents will need social care in their old age. Although we try to enable people to stay in their own homes, sometimes they need more expensive domiciliary care or need to be looked after in residential care settings. In addition some children born with very acute issues at birth are surviving into childhood, which they may not have in the past. Of course this is good news medically but many have very complex needs and the costs fall onto ECC children's services. ECC currently has 8 children that cost the council over £250k per week. There is also an increase in separated migrant children in Essex for which the authority has responsibility.

To put these costs into perspective, adult social care spends over £2.2m every day of the year. Children's services and younger years costs £1m per day, schools & education £1.5m, Environment and waste £250k, home to school transport £140k, libraries £44k, coroners £17k. You might ask about highways and infrastructure. This costs £108k every day.

Although it can be argued that the bulk of council tax paid by residents only benefits a small percentage of the population, in fact there are 17,000 people who are beneficiaries of adult social care, but it is entirely reasonable that the most vulnerable are looked after first. The social care budget also includes support for those with special educational needs which accounts for over £250k per year. Inevitably many of us will need social care in the future, if not us then a family member or relative. There is a strong drive to keep people able to live at home rather than be taken into residential homes, but this often incurs a high cost for equipment and domiciliary care.

There is a considerable predicated budget gap for the county council in three years which will be very difficult to close. The council is therefore undergoing a whole council transformation project that will see a totally different organisation in a year or two. The council is very different to how it was pre covid and it will be even more different next year. Most areas of county hall are mothballed and further rationalisation is planned for the future.

There has been much in the news about councils declaring a section 114 which effectively says to the government that it cannot pay its outgoings. Essex is not in that position although some neighbouring counties are. We are fortunate to have delivered sound financial management in recent years with over £600m already taken out of its cost base. We cannot be complacent which is why we are acting so fast with the transformation package.

Highways is always an issue and one that occupies my inbox most frequently and will be a concern to parish councils and residents. We have seen one of the wettest winters in decades and this has made defects worse and made repairs impossible at times. In fact the six months to the end of March 2024 was the wettest since the year 1830. This year an additional £12m is being put into highways to alleviate the backlog in repairs, employ new crews for local works and to the local highways panels. Regrettably there simply isn't sufficient money to repair every single pothole and as fast as they are repaired, they keep breeding!

Nobody can reasonably say that the LHP's worked perfectly in the past and they had become frustrating for residents and councillors alike. There was some times a three to four year delivery time and in many cases schemes just stayed on the lists year after year. There had been a call to abolish them altogether but it was decided to give them another try. Initially the highways panels were designed to carry out small projects determined locally, however since their inception they had grown out of all proportion and most panels were seeing applications costing in excess of £100,000. On the 27th of March the local highways panels were relaunched with a new list of applicable schemes and a new timeline for delivery.

From this year there will be two panels, a local panel and a chairman's panel. The chairman's panel is brand new and will look at larger schemes across the county and the chairman of each LHP will sit on the chairman's panel in order to decide which schemes to fund. It has its own budget which this year is £2m and will meet on May 16th. The local highway panel at district level has a new list of acceptable capital funded schemes which are as follows:

Signage, dropped kerbs (not for domestic access), VAS (installation only), white lining road markings, school keep clear markings, bollards / parking measures, gateway features, grasscrete, salt bins, limited crossing upgrades, railings, bus shelters (from June 2024), speed limit reduction, small cycle parking facilities, raised kerbs, safety reviews, quiet lanes, tactile paving, hand railings and traffic calming signage (Chairman's panel to fund physical works).

There will also be a very strict timeline for validation, design and costing ahead of delivery. In most cases schemes will be delivered within six months. However the panel only have a budget of £100,000 per year, so competition for schemes will be strong.

For the new scheme only ECC members can submit applications to the LHP therefore residents, parish councils and district members will have to direct applications to the division member.

However, all panels have seen their budgets cut from previous years and the Maldon panel has a budget of £100,000 for the financial year 2024/25. The Maldon panel met on 24th April and reviewed the schemes that were awaiting funding. It chose to fund 15 schemes itself and refer 4 to the chairman's panel. These schemes used all of the current year budget, therefore it will not be possible to fund any new applications or fund older schemes still awaiting funding until 2025/26. To put this into perspective, the panel had schemes costed at nearly £500k on its current lists, although many would not have been within the new criteria for delivery.

This will of course be disappointing to parish councils as it is to me but should additional funding be forthcoming during the year, we may be able to look at some new applications. In addition when we know more about the panels in the coming financial year we will be able to either fund schemes already on the list or add new ones.

Parishes will be aware that in recent years, ECC has operated a priority pothole schemes for its members. Across two tranches, ECC members were able to identify a set number of potholes that would get an urgent repair. Although this worked well, the scheme has now been updated.

ECC members will now have sole access to an entire highways crew for one week to work in their division. This will be on a rolling basis and utilises the 12 new crews that have been funded centrally. This means that across the Maldon District the three members will have 15 weeks work to allocate. The scope of work that the crews can carry out is still being finalised but it includes repairs to roads, footways, vegetation clearing etc.

I am now reaching out to you to ask for nominations of work in your parishes. This is a new initiative and there are likely to be teething troubles, but the pilot areas have seen some excellent progress earlier this year. Therefore if there are lengths of road or footway that require urgent attention or other jobs that the crews can undertake, please let me know as soon as possible. I should have access to the crew on five separate weeks during the summer and it is essential that I am able to allocate sufficient work for them otherwise they will be utilised elsewhere. Please note that they cannot carry out capital works which would normally come under the remit of the LHP.

As is always the case, it is essential that highway defects are reported using the essexhighways.org website where it is also possible to track the progress of all ongoing cases. If repairs are not carried out in a reasonable time, please let me know, providing the reference number and I can try to escalate the fault.

We will have our locality funds again this year and I was very happy to have allocated mine across the division last year. We also had the community fund which was spent on buying chrome books for some schools, play items for preschools, two skate events at the skate parks, a visit by the drugs bus and we purchased 600 check your drink strips which were given out to sixth form students. These are easy to use and detect ketamine and GHB if it has been used to spike drinks. My individual locality fund is £5,000 and I am looking for suitable projects to be considered.

During the year there had been much talk of devolution, in fact ECC, Southend and Thurrock had followed a level four deal that had been offered by the secretary of state. Unfortunately this was put on hold but it is still very much at the forefront of thinking. Clearly we will have a general election this year and both main parties have already stated that local government reform is a priority. In fact the Labour Party have recently come out strongly in favour of country wide unitarization. I suspect that the finances available to either colour of government will show that the current organisation of local councils is unsustainable. We are in for some interesting times!

Yesterday saw the re-election of Roger Hirst as our Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. I appreciate that we are in volatile political times, but Roger has actually delivered more police officers into Essex Police than there has ever been before and most types of crime have been significantly reduced. Clearly there is more to be done and some areas have seen a recent increase in rural crime. I have already tackled Roger about this and extra resources are being diverted to this problem.

I am also working on the local issues of the minerals plan, flood alleviation and of course the consultation into medical services in the area. We held an infrastructure summit recently where some of the options were discussed with the NHS, MP's, ECC Leader and other stakeholders. I think we made some progress but my previous dealings with the NHS gives me little confidence that a solution will be either easy or entirely what some residents want. It is absolutely essential that local residents have access to local medical services at least at a level we currently enjoy, ideally greater. I can assure everyone that we are putting pressure on our MP's and the NHS to find a solution to this critical issue.

In my portfolio as cabinet member for the arts, heritage and culture I oversaw a number of dedicated art and culture grants this year, a couple went to organisations in the Maldon district. I have also headed the formation of the new Essex film unit which is based at county hall. The film office now works with many producers and film companies from the UK and abroad which are bringing many exciting opportunities to various parts of the county. In fact we arranged for Mr. Bates versus the Post Office to be filmed at the Shire Hall in Chelmsford and also the recent Channel 4 production of Murder Trial. These bring in valuable income to the locations as well as very significant ancillary spend in the local areas. For example in the two weeks of filming for Murder Trial the Shire Hall received £53,000 but the local businesses benefited to the tune of over £200,000 in ancillary spend. We have arranged a major feature film to be shot in an Essex parish church which will see significant income to both the parish council and diocese as well as the final instalment of the Slow Horses franchise which is to be partly

filmed in Harlow this summer. Clearly there are a myriad of different film locations in the Maldon district and the film office is working with the District Council to bring as many productions here as possible. Tollesbury has seen some major filming in the past, but I would love to see some more areas in my division featured on the big or little screen and benefit from the considerable financial impact that this brings.

We all know that at some stage this year there will be a general election at which there is every likelihood that we will see a change of government. It is often hard to emphasise to residents that what happens in Westminster has little impact over what local councils deliver, no matter what political party they may be led by. My main concern is to play my role in delivering the front line services that directly impact residents whether it be at county or district level. It may not always be possible to solve every problem or get every pot hole fixed, but all I can do is try my hardest which I will continue to do to the best of my ability.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark FL Durham'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Mark' being the most prominent.

Cllr. Mark FL Durham CC.
May 3rd 2024



MALDON DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Weekly List Of Decisions
Week Ending 26th April 2024

FUL/MAL/24/00101 Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Erection of a 2 bedroom chalet bungalow and formation of new vehicular access

Land Adjacent To Rosedean Tudwick Road Tolleshunt D'Arcy Essex
(UPRN - 010094634720)

Mr Brian Griffiths - BG Designs

REFUSE for the following reasons:-

- 1 The proposed development, by reason of its location, would be disconnected from services and facilities and would provide poor quality and limited access to public transportation, resulting in an increased need of private vehicle ownership. The development would therefore be unsustainable and contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework's "presumption of sustainable development" and policies S1, S8 and T2 of the Maldon District Local Development Plan.

- 2 The introduction of a residential dwelling and associated paraphernalia on the site would represent the inappropriate urbanisation of the site and would have a harmful impact on the rural character of the area, to the detriment of the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. The harm is exacerbated by the visual prominence of the plot of the proposed dwelling. The proposal is therefore considered to result in demonstrable harm to the character and appearance of the site and locality contrary to policies S8, D1 and H4 of the Maldon District Local Development Plan as well as the principles and guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE STATEMENT

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Positive and Proactive Statement:

The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application by identifying matters of concern with the proposal and determining the application within a timely manner, clearly setting out the reason(s) for refusal, allowing the Applicant/Agent the opportunity to consider whether there is a way forward to seek a revision to the proposal.

Officer: Hayley Sadler

Dated : 24/04/2024

Car Park

Thu 2024 05 09 4:51 PM

To:clerk@tolleshuntarcy.org <clerk@tolleshuntarcy.org>

Dear Councillors.

We would like to start by saying how disappointed we are that you felt the need to send the letter you did regarding the car park.

In response to the demands in your letter dated 12th March 2024, will not be contributing to the costs of the works you carried out and we will not be signing over the land to the Parish Council.

As the landowners, we are fully aware of our responsibility to maintain the area, which we have done for 12 years. We have taken steps so as not to be in a position where we need to make major repairs, including cordoning off our land in December 2023 to protect the surface from the inclement weather and increasing traffic from the use of Scout Hut.

It was made clear to Councillor Ewing, before any works commenced, that we would not be contributing to the repairs you were undertaking, and at no point did either one of us say we would definitely contribute. In fact, the impression given was that you would do it anyway so there was continuity between surfaces!

We stated that although we were not opposed to the repairs, we would not be contributing to them. It was also made clear we did not ask or expect you to do any work to the land we own.

After seeking advice, and in part due to the aggravation and stress, we were advised to stop the use of the land as a car park. Initially we agreed with this advice. The car park is of no benefit to us, in fact it is quite the opposite. However, we have always honoured our commitment to provide parking facilities to the community, especially for parents using the school, therefore after consideration we have decided to still provide those facilities to the local community.

During discussions it was made clear to us that we are 'providing car parking facilities to the local community' and that we have no obligation towards the Parish Council or anyone else regarding the car park and any rules or guidelines we want to have in place. With this in mind and to make our lives easier, keep our property secure and prevent it being misused we have some guidelines and rules we will be putting in place. These will commence from the week beginning the 27th May 2024. Signs will be put up and notices added to social media pages.

- The car park will be closed between 2000 – 0800 on the days that the Scout Hut is not in use and there are no local events being held that may need the use of the car park. We feel for a village car park this is an acceptable time to be closed, will have less impact on the people living around it and keep people from misusing it. We will need a timetable from the person/business using the Scout Hut AND if there are any events being held at the Village Hall, so we know when it is in use and when we need to be the ones to secure and close it.
- On the days that the Scout Hut is being used later than 2000, the person in charge of using it is to close the gate behind them as they leave the car park. This is something we insist on as we are not prepared to keep coming out to check whether they have left so we can secure

the car park. If they continually fail to secure the car park after they leave, we will be closing it at 2000, every night, regardless of the use of the Scout Hut and the users will have to find alternative parking.

- We will review these rules and guidelines annually, or sooner if necessary.

Could you please pass the above information on to the relevant people/businesses and remind the user of the Scout Hut that the car park is for the use of the local community and not just for them.

In turn the above should help keep your property more secure and also stop cars and dirt bikes driving onto the Recreation Ground overnight.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Agenda Item 15.1

Parish	Site Code	Truvelo	Month	CO	COURSE	PROSECUTE	GRAND TOTAL
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M018		Apr-23	1	20		21
TOLLESHUNT DARCY	T496		May-23	2	8		10
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M018		May-23		10		10
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M018		Jun-23	1	8		9
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M018		Jul-23	3	2		5
TOLLESHUNT DARCY	T496		Aug-23	0	6		6
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M018		Aug-23	0	11		11
TOLLESHUNT DARCY	T496		Sep-23	1	1		2
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M018		Sep-23	0	10		10
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M018		Oct-23		13		13
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M060		Oct-23	1	4		5
TOLLESHUNT DARCY	T496		Nov-23		1		1
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M018		Nov-23		7		7
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M060		Dec-23	3	31		34
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M018	LCT348	Jan-24		1		1
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M060	LCT512	Jan-24		17		17
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M060	LCT512	Feb-24	1	23		24
TOLLESHUNT DARCY	T496	LCT228	Mar-24		2		2
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY	M060	LCT512	Mar-24	2	10		12
							200

CO Conditional Officer
 Course Speed Awareness Course
 Prosecute Court

Parish/Town Council	Month	Total Number of Hours
Tolleshunt D'Arcy	April	2
Number of Tru Cam Patrols	Hours Spent on Tru Cam	Number of Offenders
4	2	12

Officer	Parish	Date	Start	Finish	Total	Speed Enforcement Patrol (TRUCAM)	Drivers caught speeding	Comments/Any other duties
BC/SC	Tolleshunt D'Arcy	16/04/2024	10:00	10:30	00:30	LCT512	2	
BC/SA	Tolleshunt D'Arcy	17/04/2024	14:25	14:55	00:30	LCT512	1	
AR/SA	Tolleshunt D'Arcy	21/04/2024	16:15	16:45	00:30	T496	4	
SC	Tolleshunt D'Arcy	26/04/2024	14:45	15:15	00:30	MO21	5	
					2:00:00		12	