MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.30 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chairman Cllr. Mrs C Adams
Cllrs. C L Atkinson, F A Delderfield, J C Gregan, Mrs A V Heaviside, J V Keyes and B S Marshall.

Apologies were received from Cllr. R L Bass and A J Gable.

015.16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 18 January 2016 were confirmed and signed.

016.16 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST
There were no disclosures.

017.16 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Adjournment)
No members of the public were present.

018.16. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS OF OTHER BODIES AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.**
The Chairman referred again to an invitation to meet with the Leader/Deputy Leader of Maldon District Council and said she would attend and Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside agreed to also attend. The Clerk reported an invitation by Heybridge Parish Council to take part in a Quiz on 19 March and a press release from Maldon District Council advising of the Police and Crime Commissioners elections on 5 May.

019.16 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Totham Hill Green: The Clerk reported that the car parked on Totham Hill Green and now been removed and he will investigate the status of one of the tracks and seek advice on dealing with damage and erosion to the surface and edges of the Green.
Roundbush Corner: Cllr F A Delderfield is chasing up a response to the reported problem of flooding, and potential icing, of the highway at Roundbush Corner.

020.16 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY:
Lower Thames Crossing: Notice of a public consultation on a lower Thames Crossing was received and Cllr R L Bass had sent a message advising that the Essex County Council will be preparing a response. He will keep us informed of progress and be very grateful for our support in due course. As the closing date for responses is 24 March it was agreed to hold this item over until the next meeting and to agree a response.
Community Led Planning: An update on The Maldon District Council Community Led Planning Protocol was received. The question of a plan for the Parish will be discussed at the Annual Assembly and the Clerk will prepare a note or presentation on the different plans and processes.

Pre-Application Advice Charges: A consultation was received from the Essex County Council on a proposal to introduce charging for pre-application advice and developer contribution enquires on Strategic Development (transportation) and Community Infrastructure. This was noted.

021.16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Appeal Notices: Notices of appeal were received for DET/MAL/15/05033**,** Compliance with conditions 11 and 12 (detailed remediation of site for FUL/MAL/13/00918, erection of three dwellings) at 11 Colchester Road and; OUT/MAL/15/00057, Outline application for the erection of one new dwelling at land rear of 61 Broad Street Green Road. The written procedure will be used in both cases.

Appeal Decision: An appeal decision was received in respect of OUT/MAL/14/00936 for the erection of up to 115 dwelling houses and associated infrastructure at land off Maldon Road. The appeal is dismissed.

Planning Decisions: The Clerk reported on the latest planning decisions of the District Council.

Latest Applications: Comments on planning applications received up to week ending 12 February 2016 were as follows:

ADV/MAL/15/01164 Stand alone entrance sign. Perrins Colchester Road – The Council recommends approval as the sign will be an asset in promoting the business.

FUL/MAL/15/01369 Addition of garage and an increase of size to the back and side of the house to application FUL/MAL/14/00441 (Erection of single detached dwelling served by re-positioned access) allowed on appeal on 17 December 2014. Ravello Maypole Road – The Council recommends approval.

HOUSE/MAL/15/01337 Side extension. White Lodge 9 Plains Road – The Council recommends approval.

Amended Plans - **FUL/MAL/15/01268** Conversion of agricultural building to residential. Barn At Sheepcoates Farm Church Road – The Council cannot comment as it is unable to read the text on the plans.

Amended Plans - **LBC/MAL/15/01269** Conversion of agricultural building to residential. Barn At Sheepcoates Farm Church Road – The Council cannot comment as it is unable to read the text on the plans.

FUL/MAL/15/00885 Development of 145 residential dwellings with associated landscaping, open space, access, parking and ancillary infrastructure including pumping station. Land west of Broad Street Green Road – The Parish Council's views on this application are: The Council supports the application in principle, provided it fits in with the Masterplan, except that it has concerns about all traffic entering and emerging on a single road and the adequacy of parking arrangements. As well as individual properties having parking spaces the estate roads should have sufficient width to accommodate the parking requirements of residents with several vehicles, visitors', users of local services, delivery and service vehicles, at the same time as allowing traffic flow, including for emergency vehicles.

Amended Plans - **OUT/MAL/15/00419** Part outline/part detailed (hybrid) application for mixed use development including:
(i) Residential development (Use Class C3) (Outline)
(ii) Residential Care (Use Class C2) (Outline)
(iii) "Neighbourhood" uses which may include retail, commercial, and community uses (Use Classes A1 and/or A2 and/or A3 and/or A4 and/or A5 and/or D1a and/or D1b) (Outline)
(iv) Primary school and early years childcare facility (Use Class D1c) (Outline)
(v) Strategic flood relief infrastructure, including the construction of retaining earthworks, connecting ditches, pipe work and syphons, water flow control measures, and outfall to the Chelmer and Blackwater river systems (Detailed element)
(vi) A relief road between Broad Street Green Road and Langford Road (Detailed element)
(vii) Formal and informal open space (including any associated sports pavilion/clubhouse) (Use Class D2e) (Outline);
(viii) Construction of initial gas and electricity sub-stations (Detailed); and
(ix) All associated amenity space, landscaping, parking, servicing, utilities (other than as listed in item (viii) above), footpath and cycle links, on-site drainage, and infrastructure works (Outline).
Land at Broad Street Green Road, Maypole Road and Langford Road Great Totham/Heybridge.

The Council supports the application in principle.

The Council does however have an objection to a detail of item (vi) A relief road between Broad Street Green Road and Langford Road above. The Council is concerned about the new junctions where the proposed relief road bi-sects the lower end of Maypole Road. Maypole Road provides a direct link from Great Totham and Wickham Bishops with Hatfield Peverel, Maldon and the A414 and at present all junctions from the end of Maypole Road at Langford Cross to Knowles Farm on the A414 and the B1018 have roundabouts.

The proposed relief road shows the new junction as two ‘T’ junctions so traffic from the Great Totham and Wickham Bishops direction heading to Maldon and beyond will have to turn right across the north-east bound lane of the relief road. This will create a hazard and cause inconvenience and delay compared with the present position. Alternatively the contrived proposal will cause some traffic to take the longer route via Great Totham village, creating additional traffic there, to join the relief road at Broad Street Green. The obvious solution is to replicate the present position with a roundabout on the relief road where it meets Maypole Road.

For Information: The Parish Council has suggested to the developer that the relief road is named in recognition of HM the Queen’s 90th birthday, such as *Queen Elizabeth Way*; and if feasible to plant 90 oak trees along its route, preferably in advance of the road’s construction.

022.16 FINANCE:
Confirmation of cheques: Cheques were confirmed for:

Amount (£)	Payee	Service
3069.62	Playdale Playgrounds	Deposit for work on zip-wire and safety filling at Jubilee Recreation Ground
50.00	Great Totham Gardening Club	Donation for upkeep of flower beds
420.00	Great Totham Village Hall	Hire of Hall for meetings 2015/16
287.33	Maldon District Council	Grass cutting contract Oct to end Dec 2015
340.00	C R Potter	Salary/allowance

Insurance Cover: The Council's combined insurance is due for renewal on 1 April and the Council's current schedule was reviewed. It was agreed that the risks and insurance cover remain the same subject to the usual indexing values of "all risks" items.
Burial Ground: Last November Strutt and Parker, the vendor's agents, had advised the Council that the matter of offering for sale land for an extension to the burial ground is on hold. As three months has passed the Clerk asked if there is any change to the position and a reply was received directly from the vendor saying that the position has not changed and is still on hold. The Clerk has asked to be informed when we are able to pick up our negotiations again.

023.16 AMENITIES
Report of the Chairman of the Committee: Cllr C L Atkinson reported that he has arranged to have the gap closed near the gate at the Totham Hill Recreation Ground. Another gap has appeared further along the hedge where the brambles were cut during hedge cutting work. He has removed the damaged litter bin. Repairs to the zip-wire and replenishment of the Cushionfall at the Jubilee Recreation Ground have been ordered and Cllr Atkinson is obtaining a quote for repairs to the slide from a local firm. His report was received and adopted.
Buckthorn: Cllr Atkinson advised that about 50% of the Buckthorn plantings have survived Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside will try to obtain replacements. The plantings, on Parish Council property, form part of the local Brimstone butterfly corridor
Annual Playground Inspections: The District Council has advised that the contractor for the annual playground inspections will visit in April. The cost is £55 per play site.
Amenities Committee: The Clerk would try to find a venue to meet on 10 March as the Village Hall is not available.
Tree Planting: Wickham Bishops Parish Council intend planting trees at the Beacon Hill Sports Ground to commemorate HM the Queen's 90th birthday. This will involve part of the site situated in Great Totham and they have asked for a representative from this Parish to discuss the arrangements. Cllr F A Delderfield agreed to be the representative.

Notice Board: A parishioner has suggested the Council might consider installing a noticeboard somewhere on Catchpole Lane. Perhaps on the verge between the footpath which exits from Morton Road and Burns Green thinking that it would be very useful for people in that part of the Parish Council to see notices and information; when taking children to school, dog walkers, residents walking to shops and waiting for buses and so on. Members thought this a good idea and Cllr J C Gregan thought he would be able to supply a board similar to that on the Green at Totham North. Rather than try to visualise a particular site Members would visit the area to identify one.

024.16 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
Rangers Scheme: No further work was identified.
Colchester Road: Two further letters were received about road traffic collisions at Colchester Road which asked the Council to recommend a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph. Although one collision involved a person living nearby, in others, Members thought there may be the involvement of so called *Boy Racers*. As the Parish Council has no direct powers to deal with highways matters or enforcement of traffic offences it was agreed to send a copy of this correspondence to Essex County Council and Essex Police, and mention the Speed-Watch scheme to those who wrote

025.16 COMMUNITY POLICING
Speedwatch: Cllr C L Atkinson reported on a demonstration he received of a piece of equipment, based on a tripod, on which the existing "gun" can be mounted and activated at chosen speeds. This would be a better alternative than a laser based gun previously proposed and would solve the problem of the gun being hand held. The cost is £695 rather than £1,700 plus £200 annual calibration charge for a laser gun. This was agreed and Cllr Atkinson was thanked for his work in researching it.

026.16 HM THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY
Beacon Lighting: Cllr J V Keyes reported that he has secured a road closure order.

It was agreed not to include other activities such as a fairground. Cllr B S Marshall is to supply transport and arrangements for this will be publicised.

Cllr Keyes is to provide a risk assessment for the event to satisfy the public liability insurance requirements.
St Peters Flower Festival: The Clerk has discussed in principle with the organisers the idea of making any Yeomanry Awards at the time of the Flower Festival.

027.16 EMERGENCY PLANNING
An e-mail message introduced a new emergency planning officer at the Maldon District Council and asked the position of the Parish Council in regard to emergency planning. The Chairman is to liaise with Cllr A J Gable to put together a response.

028.16 ANY URGENT BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
It was agreed to hold the Clean-up Day on 10 April and Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside is making the arrangements. There was no other urgent business.

029.16 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
As there were no public present a resolution was not required.

030.16 YEOMANRY AWARDS: Four individuals were nominated for the Yeomanry Awards and confirmed as meeting the criteria. No limit was made on the number of candidates elected but it was agreed that successful candidates must secure more than 50% of the votes of Members present; being four votes or more since seven Members were present.

A secret ballot was organised and two candidates received the required four votes or more. The names of the successful candidates will be recorded in the minutes when made public.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm