

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17 MARCH 2014 AT 8.55 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chairman, Cllr. Mrs C Adams.

Cllrs. R L Bass, F A Delderfield, A J Gable, J C Gregan, Mrs A V Heaviside, J V Keyes, and Mrs E Parsons.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C L Atkinson.

31.14 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Cllr F A Delderfield declared an interest in all planning applications as a member of the Maldon District Council's North-Western Area Planning Committee and confined his role to advising on factual information where appropriate.

32.14 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Two members of the public were present. A question was asked by Mr Henry Bass, a Member of the Maldon District Council, about the Council's approach to development under the Rural Exception Scheme. The Chairman explained that the Council is currently looking at developing a village plan and at an appropriate time may invite an officer from the RCCE to meet and discuss the scheme.

33.14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17 February 2014 were confirmed and signed.

34.14 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Caravans in Church Road: Cllr F A Delderfield advised that he is still awaiting further information from the Maldon District Council following planning enquiries.

St Peter's Flower Festival: Cllr Mrs E Parsons confirmed that arrangements for the Council's entry are in hand.

35.14 COMMUNITY POLICING

At the earlier Annual Parish Meeting it was noted that a police representative is often present at Wickham Bishops Parish Council meetings and it was agreed to ask the local officer to a future meeting of this Council.

36.14 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND NEWS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES

Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside reported on a meeting about the local plan she had attended at Heybridge, when education was discussed. The Clerk attended a Clerk's Forum and an item about planning is on this agenda.

37.14 FINANCE

Risks and Insurance Cover: The Council's risks were reviewed and confirmed at the existing level of insurance cover. Some items continue as Index linked. The renewal notice for the policy with Zurich Municipal was received and agreed.

Annual Audit: Notice of audit for the 2013/14 financial year was received and it was agreed to ask Mr Wrigley to conduct the internal audit. The Clerk will prepare a plan and timetable for completing the audit.

Draft Transparency Code: A consultation on a Draft Transparency Code for parish councils with a turnover not exceeding £25,000 was received and noted.

38.14 AMENITIES

Report of the Chairman of the Committee: Cllr J V Keyes had no report to make. The Clerk reported that the gates to the Totham Hill Recreation Ground had been stolen and Cllr J V Keyes was asked to arrange for the entrance to be secured and to obtain quotes for new gates. Cllr J C Gregan offered to also arrange a quote.

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

39.14 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Rangers Scheme: No further work was identified at present. The hedge survey is almost complete. Cllr R L Bass advised that the Rangers are concentrating on working on drainage matters at present following the earlier heavy rain and flooding.

Bus strategy Review: A change of dates for meetings to update on the Bus strategy Review was noted. The Maldon District meeting is at 10.13am on 5 June at Maldon Town Hall.

Speed Limit Orders: Notice was received confirming a speed limit order in respect of roads in Little Totham and Tolleshunt Major including part of Plains Road.

40.14 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY

Working Group: Individual members of the Working Group reported on their progress on drawing together information on preparatory work for parish planning. Cllr A J Gable has made contact with the NHS body and Cllr J C Gregan was awaiting replies to enquiries.

Sustainability: Cllr J C Gregan had requested a discussion on the meaning of “sustainability” in relation to planning decisions but had since withdrawn the request as he now had a greater understanding. However, it was thought beneficial to receive a paper from the National Planning Policy Framework on “Achieving Sustainable Development” and this was noted.

Planning Considerations: A note from the Head of Planning Services about material and non-material planning considerations was received. Cllr R L Bass urged that we “practise what we preach”, and referred to several recent planning applications where he thought the Parish Council’s response was inconsistent.

Land at Hall Road: Correspondence about a proposal to amend a Section 52 Agreement in respect of land at Hall Road was received and noted. Cllr F A Delderfield advised that, so far, District Council members had not accepted the proposal and had asked for further information.

Minerals Local Plan: A notice was received about access to information on modifications to the Essex Replacement Minerals Local Plan.

Local development Plan: Information was received about a meeting at Goldhanger on 26 February updating on the Local development Plan.

41.14 TOTHAMONLINE WEBSITE

It was noted that Mr mark Chrisell is taking over the “tothamonline” website from Mrs Gutsell. The Parish Council would have a link with the site if it creates its own website.

42.14 CORRESPONDENCE

The local Member of Parliament had offered to supply an update on matters she had dealt with in the Parish and it was agreed to ask for such an update; An invitation to enter the RCCE 2014 Essex Village of the Year and Best Kept Village Competition was received but it was decided not to enter this year; Heybridge Parish Council had sent an invitation to a Quiz Evening; Some E-mails from Mr C Heaviside about a planning application for a solar panel installation were received; A note on training

available from the EALC was received and Members will identify any courses of interest to them.

43.14 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Stables, Colchester Road: A response to a complaint about the issue of a Certificate of Lawfulness in respect of a house at the Stables, Colchester Road was received and found to be unsatisfactory. It was decided to refer it to the Maldon District Council's second level in the complaints procedure.

MAL/13/00885: Notice of appeal was received in respect of this application for land near 93 and 95 Broad Street Green Road.

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

Latest applications: The Council's comments on planning applications lodged with the District Council, for Great Totham, to week ending 14 March 2014 are shown below:

FUL/MAL/14/00116 Amendment of approved application FUL/MAL/11/01136 (Construct 2 new dwellings. Review of existing drive/footpath to Lofts Farm and new access) to provide 2 detached single garages. Land West Of Lofts Farm Broad Street Green Road (Heybridge Parish) – Support

For information only NMA/MAL/14/00115 Application for non-material amendment following grant of Planning Permission HOUSE/MAL/13/01025 (Convert garage into habitable room) - Replace proposed brick pane with render. 30 Seagers. - Noted

FUL/MAL/14/00162 & LBC/MAL/14/00163 Replace existing crittal windows to the rear elevations with timber framed slim double glazed casements. Willie Almshouse, School Road - Support

44.14 CONFIRMATION OF CHEQUES

Cheques were confirmed for:

Amount (£)	Payee	Service
933.25	Zurich Municipal	Insurance Premium 2.4.14. - 1. 4. 15.
210.20	C R Potter	Salary/allowance £203.00 Postage Stamps £7.20

45.14 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Caravan on Land Off Maypole Road: Cllr J V Keyes referred to the parking of a caravan on land off Maypole Road and the Vice-Chairman advised that the Maldon district Council is aware and looking at the case.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.