

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13 APRIL 2015 AT 8.00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present. Chairman: Cllr. Mrs C Adams

Cllrs. C L Atkinson, F A Delderfield, A J Gable, J C Gegan, Mrs A V Heaviside, J V Keyes and Mrs E Parsons.

Apologies for absence: Cllr. R L Bass.

47.15 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Cllr F A Delderfield had declared an interest in all planning applications as a member of the Maldon District Council's North-Western Area Planning Committee and would confine his role to advising on factual information where appropriate. Cllr J C Gegan declared a non-pecuniary interest in HOUSE/MAL/15/00103 below and did not take part in the discussion.

48.15 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Six Members of the public were present. A questioner referred to a Maldon District Council survey identifying a preference for bungalows in Great Totham and asked the Council's response. The Chairman advised that this matter could be addressed in any future Parish Plan. Two other members of the public questioned a planning application at land to the rear of Kelvedon Road and in particular the suitability of the site, impact on neighbours and the absence of footways in the area. The Chairman advised that this application is due for consideration later in the meeting.

49.15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16 March 2015 were confirmed and signed. The Clerk thanked the Chairman and Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside for taking the meeting notes.

50.15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising

51.15 COMMUNITY POLICING

Cllr C L Atkinson reported that he and others had attended the Speed-watch training after an unsatisfactory waiting period. Other Councils were in the same position which Members felt would hinder the progress of the current idea of trying to enlist the help of the public. It was thought that the Police and Crime Commissioner should be advised of the position.

Cllr J C Gegan advised of several break-ins and robberies in the area.

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

The Clerk had attended a meeting of the District Clerk's Forum and a meeting with the new Chairman of the EALC about the organisation's work.

53.15 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Clerk reported that nine persons have been validly nominated for election as Parish Councillors. The Chairman noted that Cllr Mrs E Parsons is not standing and thanked her for her 32 years continuous service as a Member. Cllr Mrs Parsons is a Yeoman of the Parish.

54.15 FINANCE:

Finance Report: The end of year finance report (copy attached) was received and noted. The budget lines for work on the Jubilee Recreation Ground fencing and around the War Memorial Bus Shelter overlap and became combined in practise. It was agreed to carry forward unspent non-recurring items and other amounts where items are to be completed or invoices were outstanding on 31 March.

Annual Accounts: The Clerk explained that the figures for 2013/14 are re-stated to move £701 from precept to other receipts on the advice of the external auditor to reflect the government grant included and paid over by the Maldon District Council as part of the precept.

Members examined the draft accounts for 2014/15 (copy attached) and the Clerk explained how they had been arrived at and demonstrated supporting information and underlying records. The Council then examined each of the Statements in the Annual Governance Statement in detail and recognised examples of where the Council complies. It was **resolved** to:

1. Approve the accounts and accounting statements for 2014/15 which will be reported to the Audit Commission in the Annual Return.
2. Approve the Annual Governance Statement, assuring the Council's internal control, included in the Annual Return to the Audit Commission. (Note: The annual return will also include a report completed by the internal auditor.)

55.15 AMENITIES

Report of the Chairman of the Amenities Committee: Cllr C L Atkinson reported he is looking at rubber chips for the safety surface at the Jubilee Recreation Ground instead of wood chips and he has had further tree maintenance work at School Road carried out and planted buckthorn bushes in hedgerows in School Road and Braxted Lane. The Clerk will send a return to the Essex Wildlife Trust.

He also reported that a seat has been donated for installation next to the War Memorial Bus Shelter and he will arrange the installation, and a seat at Totham North has a broken slat. His report was received and adopted.

Playground Inspections: The Clerk reported that playground inspections will take place in week commencing 20 April.

Clean-Up Day: Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside reported on finalise arrangements for the Clean-Up Day on 19 April.

Cricket Nets: The Cricket Club had sent a message to explain a position they had reached with a neighbour over the location of their new practise nets. The Club said: *unfortunately, the only location that would provide an agreement from both parties is for the net to be positioned between the current net and the fence to the adjacent field. This, however, would mean that 2 small trees positioned near the fence would need to be removed or relocated. We appreciate that Great Totham Parish Council has stipulated that trees cannot be removed, however we wondered if the Parish Council would allow the Cricket Club a little flexibility with this stipulation. Great Totham Cricket Club would be happy to relocate or plant as many new trees as the Parish Council wishes, if we are allowed to go ahead with this project.* It was agreed to accept this way forward and to delegate a decision on the final location to Cllr C L Atkinson.

56.14 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Rangers Scheme: No further items were identified but Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside is to report a bent sign to the Highways Department.

Road Closures: Notice of temporary road closures in the area was received.

Highways Pilot Enforcement Project: A report on a Highways Pilot Enforcement Project in the Maldon District was received and noted.

57.15 VE DAY 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Further to information passed on at the last meeting about the VE Day 70th Anniversary, the question of whether to light the Beacon on 8 May was discussed. It was noted that time is short and there is much to do if lighting goes ahead. The Clerk advised that he has arranged holiday ending the day before the lighting and is also engaged on the end of year financial so cannot be of much help. Cllr J V Keyes offered to make the arrangements and the Clerk would supply copies of the road closure details used previously and discuss Cllr Keyes's plan with him when he has drafted it; and Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside agreed to help with advertising and Cllr C L Atkinson offered to organise the road closure signs.

58.15 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY:

The Chairman reported on a Planning Training Day Goldhanger on 8 April which she had attended with Cllrs C L Atkinson, J C Gregan and the Clerk. The event was informative and well organised with an opportunity to meet the new senior planning staff.

59.15 CORRESPONDENCE

Details of the continuing CIF Grant Scheme were received and the Clerk has sent details to local organisations. A note about a day of talks at Maldon Town Hall on *The Vernacular Georgian House* was also received.

60.15 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

General correspondence, appeals and decisions.

Appeal Notices: An appeal notice respect of **OUT/MAL/13/00787**, detached house on land adjacent to Finials, Colchester Road, was received. This follows a High Court decision that the original appeal be re-determined.

An appeal notice was also received in respect of **OUT/MAL/14/01231**, demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 3 detached houses at the Warrens, Walden House Road.

Appeal Decisions: An appeal decision in respect of **FUL/MAL/14/00608**, Erection of five dwellings on land at rear of 77-82 Maldon Road, was received. The appeal was allowed.

An appeal decision in respect of **ENF/MAL/13/00242**, Enforcement at Bakers Lane, Tolleshunt Major was received. The appeal was allowed and the enforcement notice quashed. The report is of interest to this Council as it considers whether or not a mobile home is movable.

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

Latest applications: The applications lodged with the Maldon District Council to week ending 10 April 2015 were considered and the Council's comments were as follows:

HOUSE/MAL/15/00103 Two storey and single storey rear extension, alteration of front bays, insertion of dormers/windows to side elevation and alter front dormer to match. Rear balcony. Re-roof in slate and then clad dwelling in cement fibre boarding. New porch. Chasefield Farm 64 Walden House Road – The Council has no objections and supports the application. (Cllr J C Gegan declared a non-pecuniary interest in this application and did not take part in the discussion.)

FUL/MAL/15/00246 Demolition of existing three bed dwelling & outbuildings and erection of a new four bed detached house & detached garage. 1 Hillside Cottage Beckingham Road – Upon being put to a vote and carried by four votes to two it was agreed that the Council has no objections and supports the application.

OUT/MAL/15/00286 Outline planning permission for 1 x detached dwelling with all matters reserved. Land West Of Round Bush Corner Mountains Road –

The Council objects to the proposed development as the site is outside of any area intended for development and contrary to policies in the Local replacement Plan, the Submitted Local Development Plan and Guidance within the National Planning Policy Framework.

The site is in a Special Landscape Area and the proposed development would be incongruous and have an unacceptable urbanising effect through visual intrusion and encroachment into the rural landscape. It would fail to protect or enhance the landscape and would constitute an unacceptable loss of an important small open corner area, set against developing woodland, outside of the village settlement and which currently contributes positively to the character of the rural area.

Development of this site for housing remote from community services and essential support facilities and inaccessible by a range of transport would represent an unsustainable form of development and would therefore be contrary to policies T1 and T2 of the adopted Maldon District Replacement Local Plan; policies H4, T1 and T2 of the Maldon District Pre-Submission Local Development Plan; and Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework. The Council therefore recommends refusal,

OUT/MAL/15/00220 Residential development comprising five bungalows incorporating new access road. Barn Hayes 29 Beacon Hill –

The Council objects to the proposed development as the site is outside of any area intended for development and contrary to policies in the Local replacement Plan, the Submitted Local Development Plan and Guidance within the National Planning Policy Framework.

The site is in a Special Landscape Area and the proposed development would be incongruous and have an unacceptable urbanising effect through visual intrusion and encroachment into the rural landscape which currently contributes positively to the character of the area. It would fail to protect or enhance the natural beauty, tranquillity, amenity and traditional quality of the rural landscape setting contrary to policies BE1 and CC6 of adopted Maldon District Replacement Local Plan, the core planning principles and guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework, and policies D1, S8, H4 and N2 of the Maldon District Pre-Submission Local Development Plan.

Although the application site is in Great Totham Parish it abuts the Wickham Bishops parish boundary to the west and the Little Braxted parish boundary is a short distance away to the north. The settlement development limit for Kelvedon Road (Wickham Bishops Parish) is along the line of the parish boundaries. The site is an important open gap outside of and next to the settlement limits and any building here would constitute back-land development outside of the settlement causing an unnecessary and undesirable coalescence of the Parishes. The back-land nature of the development would also lead to unneighbourly overlooking.

Development of the site for housing would represent an unsustainable form of development as it is remote from community services and essential support facilities and inaccessible by a range of transport and would therefore be contrary to policies T1 and T2 of the adopted Maldon District Replacement Local Plan; policies H4, T1 and T2 of the Maldon District Pre-Submission Local Development Plan; and Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

Access to the site is over a private track (although there is doubt about its availability for the adaptations proposed in the application) leading from Beacon Hill a busy road linking several parishes to the wider highway network. The proposed access is close to a crossroads with limited visibility. As the site is remote from services use of a car is needed. Walking is hazardous in the absence of footways or walkable verges. The Council therefore recommends refusal,

OUT/MAL/15/00267 Outline planning application with some matters reserved for the residential development of 14 dwellings, garages and associated works. Land East of Malone Cottage, Maypole Road (Wickham Bishops Parish) – As the proposal site is close to Great Totham Parish Members reviewed the observations made by Wickham Bishops Parish Council and concurs with them. The Council therefore recommends refusal.

61.15 CONFIRMATION OF CHEQUES

Cheques were confirmed for:

Amount (£)	Payee	Service
12.64	C R Potter	Minutes binding, computer monitor lead
11.25	E-On	Bus shelter lighting – energy charge
10.00	Friends of Historic Essex	Annual Subscription
285.00	R Clark	Remove old posts & reinstate and install posts & chains around sign.
417.34	C R Potter	Salary/allowance £340.00 Broadband 27 Mar – 26 Jun £77.34

62.15 FUTURE BUSINESS

There were no items put forward

The meeting closed at 9.32 pm whereupon the Chairman asked Members to remain.

COUNCILLOR F A DELDERFIELD

The Chairman had asked Members to remain for an address she wished to make concerning Councillor Delderfield's forthcoming retirement from the Maldon District Council. Cllr Mrs Adams said:

Thank you for staying behind for a few minutes. It has been requested of me that we gather together to show our appreciation to someone who has served our community very well over many years.

I am of course talking about Frank he has been a District Councillor for Maldon, representing the Great Totham Ward (which includes Little Totham and Great Braxted) since 1983 and has been chairman twice and led the authority in 1989. As you probably all know by now, Frank has decided not to stand for re-election to the District Council this year, although, he remains on the Parish Council.

Frank as a young man found Great Totham to be the place he wanted to set up home and almost from the first he has contributed to public life to endeavour to maintain and improve the village he lives in, for example, he has been a school governor and remains a village hall trustee. Frank is a go to kind of man, always approachable.

On a personal note I remember when I phoned Frank about 30 years ago and asked if anything could be done about a muddy rutted path that ran from opposite the Bull Triangle to the village hall, between the greensward and the cricket pitch fence. This was the path everyone on foot, from the south of the village, used to go to the hall and was a bit of a nightmare for those attending nursery school there every day, particularly in the rain. He said to leave it with him and in what seemed like days rather than weeks he had somehow organised a team to lay an asphalt path, which is still used to this day. There was no big fanfare he just got on with it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Frank, both on behalf of all of us here and the village as a whole for helping to make this village a place we are proud to call home. Please raise your glasses and thank Frank for all his work as a District Councillor on our behalf.