

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18 MAY 2015 AT 8.00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chairman Cllr. Mrs C Adams.

Cllrs. C L Atkinson, R L Bass, A J Gable, J C Gregan, Mrs A V Heaviside, J V Keyes and B S Marshall.

Apologies for absence: Cllr. F A Delderfield.

63.15 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman asked for nominations for Chairman and it was proposed by Cllr R L Bass and seconded by Cllr. J C Gregan that Cllr Mrs C Adams be re-elected Chairman for the following year. There were no other nominations and Cllr. Mrs Adams was elected unanimously as Chairman.

64.15 CHAIRMAN'S STATUTORY DECLARATION

Cllr Mrs Adams made a Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

65.15 RETURN OF ELECTION OF MEMBERS

The Maldon District Council Returning Officer sent notice that the following persons were duly elected Parish Councillors for Great Totham on 7 May 2015:

Mrs C Adams	C L Atkinson	R L Bass
F A Delderfield	A J Gable	J C Gregan
Mrs A V Heaviside	J V Keyes	B S Marshall

The Clerk advised that all Members had made a Statutory Declaration of Office with the exception of Cllr F A Delderfield who is on holiday.

66.15 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside that Cllr F A Delderfield be appointed Vice-Chairman. There being no other nominations Cllr Delderfield was duly appointed in his absence.

67.15 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

It was agreed that the Committees will comprise the following Members:

Amenities Committee: Cllrs. C L Atkinson (Chairman), F A Delderfield, A V Heaviside, J V Keyes, Mrs C Adams (ex-officio).

Planning Committee: All members of the Council

Members form Finance Working Groups to advise the Council as and when required, usually when drawing up the estimates and finalising the accounts.

68.15 APPOINTMENT OF CONTACTS AND LEAD MEMBERS:

Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator Cllr C L Atkinson (until the Scheme is fully established).

Essex County Council - Public Rights of Way Contact: Cllr. Mrs A V Heaviside

Essex County Council - Public Transport Contact: Cllr. Mrs A V Heaviside.

Essex County Council - Winter Salt-bag Organiser - Cllr J C Gregan.

Maldon District Council – Emergency Planning: Cllrs. Mrs C Adams and A J Gable

Parish Council Representative on Great Totham Village Hall Council:
Cllr. Mrs C Adams

69.15 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Three members of the public were present. There were no questions.

70.15 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures, but later Cllr J V Keyes declared a personal interest in planning application MAL/15/00374 under agenda item 17 (ii) and did not take part in the discussion. Cllr R L Bass asked if his disclosures in the Register of Interests for the Essex County Council for Parish Council purposes. The Clerk referred Cllr Bass to the Maldon District Council which now organises and keeps the register.

71.15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13 April 2015 were confirmed and signed.

72.15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Clean-Up Day: The Chairman expressed appreciation for all those who participated and Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside for organising the events. The Day was successful with several bags of rubbish collected.

Bent Sign: Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside is to report a further bent sign (in Hall Road)

Beacon Lighting: The Chairman thanked Cllr J V Keyes and everyone else involved for organising the Beacon Lighting.

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

Village Hall: The Chairman reported an increase, the first for five years, in the hourly hiring rate of 50p for the Village Hall, and advised that the Hall is looking for some new trustees.

Maldon District Council: Cllr R L Bass congratulated Cllr J V Keyes on his election to the Maldon District Council.

74.15 AMENITIES

Report of the Chairman of the Committee: Cllr C L Atkinson reported that he is making brackets to fix a seat in position next to the War Memorial Bus Shelter. He has planted Buckthorn Bushes in School Road and Braxted Lane and the Clerk is to register this with the Essex Wildlife Trust. The annual independent playground inspection report has just been received. Cllr Atkinson's report was received and adopted.

New practice nets: The Clerk reported a telephone conversation with a neighbour of the Cricket Ground saying that she would be unhappy if healthy trees were removed to accommodate the nets. The Clerk advised the caller that he thought the trees might be diseased and asked her to put her concerns in writing to the Council so they could be discussed [at this meeting] by the Council. The Cricket Club were asked to suspend work pending the meeting but no further contact has been made by the caller. Mr Davis attended and was invited to address the meeting and he explained the scheme again and

its location and advised that the trees were not apparently diseased but small, and replacements will be planted. It was agreed that the Club proceeds with the project.

75.15 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Rangers Scheme: No further work was identified.

Speeding in Maldon Road A letter was received about speeding in Maldon Road making it difficult to cross the road and suggesting a pedestrian crossing or refuge south of the Prince of Wales Road junction. It was thought that speed checks and Speedwatch would help address the problem.

Speed limit at Colchester Road: The Clerk had met with the Clerk of Great Braxted Parish Council who are discussing a request to extend the speed limit from the Great Totham boundary northwards. This Council had previously made a similar request and would be inclined to support a new one.

76.15 COMMUNITY POLICING

Speedwatch: Cllr C L Atkinson updated on the Speedwatch Scheme and a trial run is to take place the Thursday following this meeting. The locations for the Scheme are Maldon Road near School Road and Bull Green, and Mill Road. It was hoped that further locations could be added later.

77.15 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY:

Examination of the LDP: Information about the examination of the LDP was received explaining that the Inspector has effectively caused an unnecessary and unacceptable position by halting the progress of the whole plan because of a specific policy which needs further work to bring it to an acceptable position. It was agreed to write to the Secretary of State to complain and to support the Maldon District Council's response.

Statement of Community Involvement: A letter about the Essex County Council's Revised Statement of Community Involvement [for minerals and waste planning] was received and noted.

78.15 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence included a letter advising that an application has been made by CAMRA to have the Compasses listed as a Community Asset; and a bus survey which Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside agreed to complete.

79.15 PLANNING

Planning Appeals: Three appeal decisions were received: MAL/14/00692, Land to the Rear of Quinneys, Maypole Road and; MAL/14/00446 Compass Hill [sic] Cottage were dismissed. MAL/14/00600, Land adjacent to 2 Poplar Grove, Broad Street Green Road, was allowed.

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 15 May 2015 were considered and the Council's comments were as follows:

FUL/MAL/15/00266 New vehicular access. Great Mountains Farm Colchester Road. The Council objects to an additional access on to the B1022, a busy distributor road, and recommends refusal.

FUL/MAL/15/00315 Application for 4No detached dwellings (follows approval on appeal against OUT/MAL/13/00710). Land South Of 2 Kelvedon Road. The Council has no comments

OUT/MAL/15/00192 Residential development of 11 houses. The Bull Public House 2 Maldon Road.

The Council objects as the proposed development is outside of any area intended for development in the current Maldon District Replacement Local Plan and the submitted Maldon District Local Development Plan presently lodged with the Secretary of State. The proposal is contrary to policies within the above mentioned Plans and the guidance and provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the adverse impacts would significantly and demonstrably outweigh any benefits.

The proposed development would have an intrusive visual impact upon the area and its surroundings as well as a material detrimental effect on the appearance of the wider countryside which is noted for its landscape value as defined as a Special Landscape Area (SLA).

Development in this location would be inappropriate and harmful to the street scene as well as detrimental to the rural character, appearance and setting of the Bull Public House, a significant and important listed building, located at the edge of the settlement.

The loss of most of the car park is an unacceptable reduction and may well prejudice the future viability of the business

The Development would not be sustainable. The Great Totham Primary School is full. Except for a twice a week morning only outpost of a Witham surgery in the next village, the nearest doctors and dentists are at Maldon, Witham and Tiptree, and they are generally oversubscribed. There are limited employment opportunities in the Village and most people travel outside to their workplace. The Parish Council recommends that the application is refused.

FOR INFORMATION: LDP/MAL/15/00272 Erect 2no. buildings for purposes incidental to the enjoyment of dwelling. Chasefield Farm 64 Walden House Road. The Council notes the application and recommends that a condition is applied which limits the use of the buildings as incidental to the main dwelling

HOUSE/MAL/15/00335 Side and rear extensions including demolition of existing structures. 3 Walden House Road. The Council had no objections and recommends approval.

HOUSE/MAL/15/00374 Two storey rear extension to provide additional living and bedroom accommodation. Ash Cottage 8 Brick Spring Lane. The Council had no objections and recommends approval.

HOUSE/MAL/15/00411 Proposed two storey rear extension to existing house. 45 Maldon Road. The Council had no objections and recommends approval.

80.15 CONFIRMATION OF CHEQUES

Cheques were confirmed for:

Amount (£)	Payee	Service
292.70	Maldon District Council	Grass cutting March 2015
24.28	Essex and Suffolk Water	Water charge for changing rooms 1 April to 30 September 2014
183.30	H J Pook Insurance	Condor mower policy
530.77	Essex Association of Local Councils	Affiliation Fees for Essex and National Associations 2015/16
340.00	C R Potter	Salary and allowance
17.00	NALC	Local Council Review Subscription

81.15 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Parish Yeomanry: It was agreed that since it is five years since the Parish Yeomanry was considered the Council should have an agenda item to consider reviewing it.

Member of Parliament: Cllr R L Bass proposed that the Council writes to the Member of Parliament for Witham, Priti Patel, to congratulate her on her re-election and ministerial appointment. This was duly seconded and upon being put to the vote resulted in an equality of 4 votes for and 4 against, whereupon the Chairman cast against.

Caravan in Church Road: It was noted that a caravan is sited and occupied in Church Road near the entrance to Sains's Chase. Cllr J V Keyes is to raise this at the Maldon District Council

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm