

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15 JUNE 2015 AT 8.00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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

Apologies for absence: Cllrs. Mrs C Adams, R L Bass and F A Delderfield.

82.15 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman the Clerk requested that a Member asks for nominations for Chairman of the meeting and it was agreed unanimously that Cllr. J C Gregan takes the Chair.

83.15 COUNCILLOR F A DELDERFIELD

Members were pleased to hear that Her Majesty the Queen has granted Cllr. F A Delderfield the British Empire Medal for services to the local communities in Great Totham and the Maldon District, upon his retirement from the District Council. It was resolved to write and congratulate Cllr Delderfield on receiving this well-earned and deserved award.

84.15 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

85.15 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr J C Gregan declared a personal interest in planning application COUPA/MAL/15/00564 under agenda item 14 (ii) and did not take part in the discussion. There were no other disclosures.

86.15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2015 were confirmed and signed.

87.15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Bent Sign: Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside has made a further on-line report about a bent sign.

Bus Survey: Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside advised that she has completed a bus survey by the County Council.

Member Details: The Clerk had circulated an amended list of Members details for publication and asked for any corrections or alterations in the next few days.

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

There were no reports.

89.15 FINANCE

Internal Auditor: The 2014/15 internal audit is complete and satisfactory and there are no observations or issues to be reported for attention. A copy of the report and annual statement extract was circulated with the agenda.

Transparency Code: The Clerk reported that submission of an Annual Statement to external auditors will not be required under the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities, subject to turnover limits, but will have to be published on-line. The Clerk is to contact the County Council about having space on a website for Essex parish councils.

90.15 AMENITIES

Report of the Chairman of the Committee: Cllr C L Atkinson has examined the annual independent playground inspection report and needs to arrange for a gate post to be shifted to widen the gap between it and the gate. The gate at THRG has been forced and needs a chain fixed. The Clerk is trying to locate a supplier of rubber chip safety surface material and a repairer of the zip-wire. Cllr Atkinson's report was received and adopted.

War Memorial Bus Shelter: It was agreed to have the external wall near the new paving re-painted.

91.15 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Rangers Scheme: Concern was expressed about vegetation growth beside and on the surface of the walkable verge from the Village Hall towards Beckingham Road. Cllr J V Keyes agreed to take this up with the Local Highways Panel of which he is a member.

Bull Green: Information was received about the proposed reduced width lay-by at Walden House Road beside Bull Green. The work will require the permission of the Parish Council to remove and replant the hedge under its ownership and Members looked at details. It was agreed that the Council supports the removal and replanting of the hedge as proposal and gives permission in respect of the part of the Green that it owns (the Parish Council bought the land from the County Council in 1992 but the corners were retained). It was agreed to ask the County Council to retain the chestnut tree behind the present hedge, perhaps by taking it into the new hedge line and put in place measures to prevent general access to the Green by motor vehicles whilst the hedge develops. Members are pleased that the scheme is progressing.

Bus stop in Catchpole Lane: A copy of a letter to the bus operators about a missing bus stop in Catchpole Lane was noted.

92.15 COMMUNITY POLICING

Speedwatch: Cllr C L Atkinson updated on the Speedwatch Scheme and checks which have been carried out and there will be another in two or three weeks time. Cllr Ian Wardrop of Wickham Bishops Parish Council has been particularly helpful to the team. A letter has been supplied to hand out to motorists who have questions about the scheme. Cllr Atkinson said more volunteers are required.

93.15 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY:

Examination of the LDP: A press release advised that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has recalled the plan from the Inspector to test his interim findings. Priti Patel Has written to acknowledge a copy of this Council's letter sent to her.

Compasses Public House: The Maldon district Council has confirmed that the Compasses Public House being listed as an Asset of Community Value.

Affordable Housing: A letter from Hills Building Group and further information about a proposed Affordable Housing initiative was received and a meeting requested. It was agreed to respond that at the moment the Council is unable to enter into any discussions about an affordable housing scheme.

There is no hard data on the need for affordable housing in Great Totham but the Council is not discounting that there may be one. In the coming months Members are hoping to work on a Village Plan and part of the process will include survey work including housing needs. If this demonstrates a need then it will be progressed at that time. Meanwhile, if Hills have what they consider to be a potential site in the Parish it can be fed into the process to help Members develop the plan.

94.00 PARISH YEOMANRY

To consider the present position of the Parish Yeomanry and to decide if and how to make further appointments. This item was deferred until the next meeting when more members will be present.

95.15 CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were received: Notice of a consultation by the Essex Fire and Rescue Service about their organisation in the future. A notice about a DOG Watch Scheme being launched by the District Council, and information about the salt bag scheme which Cllr J C Gregan is dealing with.

96.15 PLANNING

Planning Appeals: Two appeal decisions were received: MAL/13/00787, Two storey detached house at land adjacent to 68 Colchester Road and: MAL/13/00920 for stationing of caravans for residential purposes for one Gypsy pitch and utility/day room at Captains Wood Road. Both were allowed.

With regard to the second decision above, the Clerk referred to a case in the Parish where the absence of enforcement had enabled the status of a Gypsy pitch to be changed and thought that the Parish Council might want to ask the District Council if they have a proactive mechanism in place to ensure compliance with the on-going conditions set down by the Inspector in this and other cases. Cllr J V Keyes agreed to take this matter up with the Maldon District Council.

Decisions: The Clerk reported on the latest Maldon District Council planning decisions. Applications MAL/14/01148, 12 houses at land rear of 76-80 Maldon Road and; MAL/15/00315, 4 detached dwellings south of 2 Kelvedon Road, were withdrawn.

Latest applications: The applications lodged with the Maldon District Council to week ending 12 June 2015 were considered and the Council's comments were as follows:

OUT/MAL/15/00419 (Great Totham, Heybridge, Langford & Ulting Parishes)
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 notes the application, has no objections and recommends approval

FUL/MAL/15/00457 Application for the removal of condition No.1 on planning application reference MAL/154/81. Removal of Agricultural Occupancy restriction. 1 Poplar Grove Chase - The Council has no evidence or observations

OUT/MAL/15/00416 Erection of one house & driveway & garage Land Adjacent To 6 Captains Wood Road – The Council has no objections and recommends approval

HOUSE/MAL/15/00434 Proposed garage and playroom (within roof) building within grounds of house. Rohan House Broadoak Chase Mill Road - The Council has no objections and recommends approval

HOUSE/MAL/15/00478 To fix exterior rain screen insulation to front and side elevation of property and to clad existing front and side elevation with a fibre cement board cladding, such as hardieplank or Marley eternit cedars weatherboard in pearl colour. 24 Goat Lodge Road - The Council has no objections and recommends approval

For information only PDE/MAL/15/00560 Single storey rear extension which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by maximum projection 5.0m with maximum height of 3.8 m, height to eaves 2.7m. 5 Playle Chase – Noted

COUPA/MAL/15/00564 Prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house. Farm Outbuildings Shrub Hill Farm Maldon Road Tiptree [Great Braxted Parish] – Noted, no observations.

97.15 CONFIRMATION OF CHEQUES

Cheques were confirmed for:

Amount (£)	Payee	Service
319.12	Maldon District Council	Annual playground inspections £132.00 Road Closure Order £187.12
525.47	C R Potter	Salary/allowance £340.00 Nitro Pro PDF Software £112.99 Ledger book & envelopes £63.97 Stamps & postage 8.51
292.70	Maldon District Council	Grass Cutting - April
75.00	R Clark	Cut back trees in School Road

98.15 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Meeting Start Times: Cllr J V Keyes asked if the starting time of Council meetings could be moved forward to 7.30 pm. Members were generally in agreement and a change of time would not be a problem in principle for the Clerk but the Hall is not available until 7.40 pm during school term time when it is in use by the Brownies. He advised that the starting time could be 7.45 pm if someone is willing to prepare the Hall or earlier on a day perhaps or at a different venue. I was agreed to discuss the proposal at the next meeting when more Members are present.