MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17 JUNE 2013 AT 8.00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Vice-Chairman Cllr. F A Delderfield.
Cllrs. C L Atkinson, A J Gable, J C Gregan, Mrs A V Heaviside, J V Keyes and Mrs E Parsons.

Apologies for absence: Cllrs. Mrs C Adams and R L Bass.

78.13 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
One member of the public was present. There were no questions.

79.13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 20 May 2013 were confirmed and signed.

80.13 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Land Off Maypole Road: An e-mail from Maldon District Council confirmed that they are in the process of issuing Enforcement Notices against Mr Field and Mr Phillips in relation to contraventions at land off Maypole Road.

81.13 COMMUNITY POLICING
There were no items.

82.13 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND NEWS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES
Transport Meeting: Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside reported on a recent Transport Meeting at Essex County Council where she had again raised the question of bus re-routing via Totham North which she hoped would be taken up as the County Council makes a contribution to the bus company.

83.13 FINANCE:
Internal Audit 2012/13: Mr Peter Wrigley had completed the internal audit of the books and papers for 2012/13 and gave his opinion that the statement of accounts and books represent the Council's true financial position. There are no observations or issues for attention. Members expressed appreciation for the work of Mr Wrigley who carries out the internal audit free of charge. It was suggested that Mr Wrigley is invited to the Chairman's Christmas Reception.
Annual Return 2012/13: The Clerk confirmed the timely despatch of the Annual Return and associated documents to the External Auditors.

84.13 AMENITIES
Report of the Chairman of the Committee: Cllr J V Keyes reported that grass cutting is satisfactory and the flower beds have been done at the Green. He is to repair broken seat slats at Spring Lane and Mill Cottages as well as one on the Cricket Field. A note was received about Ash Dieback and Cllr Keyes is to examine the Council's trees. The report was received and adopted.
Playground Inspection: The annual playground inspection report was received and there are some items needing attention. Cllr Keyes took the report and will examine it and take or recommend actions.

85.13 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
Rangers Scheme: No further work was identified.
North/South Footpath: The Chairman reported that a plan has been drawn up for a path between Beckingham Road and the Village Hall at a cost of £26.000, which may come down as it includes the part already in place between the Village Hall and Bull Brook. The plan is now more advanced than ever before. It was noted that the part near the Village Hall is overgrown.

86.13 ARMED FORCES DAY
An invitation to Armed Forces Day at Maldon on 29 June was received and noted.

87.13 SOLAR PANELS
At the last meeting Cllr J C Gregan had requested a discussion on the Council's views about solar panel installations, especially those of a large scale, and this would provide useful information should such a planning application be made for this Parish. Cllr Gregan provided copies of a document showing the advantages and disadvantages of solar panels. It was acknowledged that H M Government is offering incentives for these installations and generally there are usually no objections to those on domestic buildings unless they are listed.

In the case of large scale installations it would be preferable to locate them on industrial buildings wherever possible. Those located in fields do not look very nice in the countryside and are not efficient. There is concern about subsidies stimulating a "gold rush" of large proposals. The Chairman referred to a current application at Little Braxted to cover some 12% of the Parish with solar panels recently considered by the North-West Area Planning Committee and recommended for refusal.

Some Members felt in favour of large solar panel installations compared with wind turbines should the need for such a choice arise. It was concluded that the Council's view on the concept of solar panels is not necessarily against an installation which is modest in size and otherwise reasonable in all respects. Any particular proposal would be considered on its individual merits.

88.13 CORRESPONDENCE
Correspondence included information about The Essex and Maldon Art Festivals, Essex Wildlife Trust Members, Active Lives, Superfast Essex, The Essex Playing Fields Association Summer Ball. and a bulletin from the EALC

89.13 PLANNING
Appeal Decision: An appeal in respect of MAL/12/00158, one dwelling on land adjoining 46 Catchpole Lane was allowed.
Planning decisions: The Clerk reported on the latest Maldon District Council planning decisions.
Latest applications: The Vice-Chairman, in the Chair, confined his role to chairing this item and did not take part in the discussion on account of his position as a member of the Maldon District Council's North Western Area Planning Committee: The applications lodged with the Maldon District Council to week ending 14 June 2013 were considered and the Council's comments were as follows:

WTPO/MAL/13/00455 TPO 1/2000 T6 - Oak, Reduce crown on property side by 2m max and garden side by 1-1.5m. Remove dead wood. 4 The Chase – The Council supports the views of the Maldon District Council Tree Officer.

FUL/MAL/13/00368 (Amended by the submission of a Design and Access Statement) Demolition of existing house and erection of new house. Caper Cottage Goat Lodge Road – Support.

FUL/MAL/13/00368 (Amended by the submission of an Arboricultural Report) Demolition of existing house and erection of new house. Caper Cottage Goat Lodge Road – If the Maldon District Council Tree Officer concurs with this report then the Council supports it.

HOUSE/MAL/13/00381 (Amended by revised description) Installation of solar panels on the ground covering approximately 24 m sq in area. Great Totham Hall, Church Road. – Noted.

FUL/MAL/13/00519 Re-proposed material amendment to provide an extension to plot 2 only on approved planning permission FUL/MAL/11/00919 (Construction of 4no. 3 bedroom detached bungalows with associated garages). Land East Of 21 And 32 Harvey Road – Support.

For information only NMA/MAL/13/00466 Non-material amendment following grant of Planning permission FUL/MAL/11/01137 (Construct two new dwellings. Revision to existing drive arrangements and new access to Lofts Farm land) Reduce proposed access road in width & minor amendments to internal layout/elevational treatment of 2 No. proposed dwellings. Land North West Of Lofts Farm Broad Street Green Road Great Totham - Noted.

90.13 CONFIRMATION OF CHEQUES
Cheques were confirmed for:

Amount (£)	Payee	Service
132.00	Maldon District Council	Annual independent playground inspections.
10.00	Friends of Historic Essex	Annual membership
50.00	Friends of St Peters Church	Corporate Membership Subscription
207.00	C R Potter	Salary/allowance

91.13 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS
Village Plan and Housing Needs Survey: Cllr J V Keyes asked if we have a Village Plan and if we have carried out a Housing Needs Survey as he had been asked the same question. The Clerk reminded Cllr Keyes that the Council decided to defer the decision on whether to instigate a Village Plan until after the publication of the new Maldon District Local Development Plan [Minute 41.13, 18 March 2013]; and similarly with a Housing Survey [Minute 40.08, 17 March 2008] originally conducted for the Local Development Framework and soon to be updated for the new Plan.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm