

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10 JULY 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Councillor C L Atkinson (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Councillors: Cllr. Mrs C Adams, Mrs A V Heaviside, T E Gregan, J V Keyes and B S Marshall.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs J M Bass, F A Delderfield (Chairman), Mrs H R Dundon and District Council Members for the Ward; Councillors Jade Hughes and Richard Siddall.

Cllr. C L Atkinson opened the meeting, advising that this is his first occasion in the Chair. He welcomed Cllrs Mrs A V Heaviside and J.V Keyes, co-opted at the previous meeting.

### **072.23 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside disclosed an interest in a planning application (HOUSE/MAL/23/00589 - Construction of single storey side extension at Horseshoes 12 Totham Hill Green) to be discussed later as she lived in a neighbouring property. There were no other disclosures.

### **073.23 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

A member of the public commented on a proposal by the Essex County Council to regulate parking at certain hours in the area of the School, including from the School to the Scout Hut, to regulate traffic and to allow the bus to pass through. The Chairman thanked him for his contribution.

Representatives of the volunteer fund raising group for playground equipment were present and reported and commented on their progress in fund raising ideas and approaches. A number of questions have arisen as their work continues which the Chairman commented upon and the Clerk will try to assist with answers or responses to the various points which the Group will send to him.

Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside described the work of the Totham Hill Recreation Ground Association several years ago which raised fund for playground equipment at Totham North. Cllr Brian Marshall advised that he would be willing to join any group at Totham South.

### **074.23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 12 June 2023 were confirmed and signed.

### **075.23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Cricket Field:** The Clerk has placed an order for the ash tree at the Cricket Field to be attended to by Mr Murphy, a local Tree Surgeon.

**Overgrown Hedges:** It was noted that a number of hedges in the area were overgrown, but the protocol for farmers is not to cut them until September to avoid disturbing nesting birds.

### **076.23 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS OF OTHER BODIES AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.**

There were no items to report.

### 077.23 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY:

**Water Pipeline:** Information was received and notice given from Savills, acting for the Essex and Suffolk Water Division of Northumbrian Water Ltd, about a new water pipeline from Langford to Layer. The pipeline crosses part of the Pond Land at Broad Street Green and the contractors will require access to the land during construction. There were no other items of Planning Policy to discuss.

### 078.23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

**Appeal Decision:** An appeal decision was received on MAL/22/00624 for the removal of the occupancy condition in connection with employment at the Forrester Park Golf Club which the Maldon District Council had refused. The appeal was allowed.

**Latest Applications:** Comments on planning applications received up to week ending 7 July 2023 were as follows:

(Note: The Parish Council receives notification of and may give its views on planning applications, in accordance with planning legislation, policy and local plans. The Maldon District Council is responsible for making decisions on them.)

**ADV/MAL/23/00545** The temporary display of advertisements comprising;  
(a) 4 No. free-standing non-illuminated flagpole adverts and 1 No. single-sided free-standing non-illuminated advert located to the north of the junction of the Westcombe Park Spine Road and the Broad Street Green Road roundabout,  
(b) 4 No. free-standing non-illuminated flagpole adverts and 1 No. single-sided free-standing non-illuminated advert located to the south-east of the junction of the Westcombe Park Spine Road and the Broad Street Green Road roundabout

Together with the removal of an existing free-standing non-illuminated advert located to the west of Broad Street Green Road. The adverts are in connection with the sale of homes at Westcombe Park, Heybridge. The adverts are proposed to be displayed during the period in which new houses remain available for sale, for a temporary period not exceeding 5 years. Land South Of Poplar Grove Farm Poplar Grove Chase – No comment.

**FUL/MAL/23/00212** To change the use of unused arable land to a new Churchyard extension. Land at St Peters Church, Church Road – The Council supports the application.

**HOUSE/MAL/23/00581** Construction of a summer house outbuilding. Little Wood 37 Colchester Road – The Council has no objection provided the structure is not used for residential purposes.

**HOUSE/MAL/23/00589** Construction of single storey side extension. Horseshoes 12 Totham Hill Green – No comment

**FUL/MAL/23/00591** Installation of a workshop/ maintenance building and associated works. Land At Forrester Park Golf And Tennis Club Beckingham Road – No comment.

**WTPO/MAL/23/00595** T1 - Oak tree - (T6 on TPO 1/00) - Reduce two branches on Eastern side by 5m. 4 The Chase – The Council supports the views of the Tree Officer.

**For Information Only**

**PROW/MAL/23/00519** Proposed stopping up of 299m of PROW 296\_30 (from Langford Road at position F on the enclosed plan to where it terminates/joins the road at position G on the enclosed plan). Proposed extension to PROW 249\_03 to connect to PROW 296\_13 (positions B to D on the enclosed Plan). Land At Broad Street Green Road And Langford Road And Maypole Road - Noted

## **079.23 FINANCE**

**Confirmation of Payments:** Payments were confirmed for:

| <b>Amount (£)</b> | <b>Payee</b>              | <b>Service</b>                                                |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 36.41             | Npower Business Solutions | Bus shelter lighting 1 Apr – 30 Jun 2023                      |
| 1089.00           | Maldon District Council   | Grounds Maintenance Q1 2023-4                                 |
| 1098.22           | C R Potter                | Salary/allowance £820.00<br>Broadband 27 Jun – 26 Sep £278.22 |

**External Audit:** The Clerk confirmed that the internal audit had been completed and the Annual Accounting Statement and associated papers had been to PKF, the external auditors. The Notice of Public Rights and public examination of unaudited accounts is in place until 4 August. The internal audit has been completed voluntarily over the last 23 years by Mr Peter Wrigley and this was his the last time he would be able to act in this role. Members expressed appreciation for Mr Wrigley's work over the years

## **080.23 AMENITIES**

The Chairman (as Chairman of the Amenities Committee) reported on work carried out since the last meeting. The swings and anything wooden had been removed from the Jubilee Recreation Ground because of damage or rot. Some equipment may be able to be repaired, rebuilt and replaced with better ground fixings.

The poor quality of the equipment and fixings, as well as wood being placed in the ground has resulted in some damage but criminal damage is a significant issue as well. For example some recent damage was caused intentionally and deliberately using bolt cutters.

The message of the earlier discussion was noted and it is the intention of the Council to work with the Group as discussed earlier.

## **081.23 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION**

**Localism Rangers Work:** The Clerk has submitted Highway fault reports in respect of various traffic signs obscured by vegetation. Other signs were a Village sign and one at the end of School Road. The finger post sign at the end of Braxted lane is

leaning over. Some of these matters may be able to be dealt with by the Highway Rangers.

**Speed Indicator Displays:** Quotations for four alternative products were obtained and considered and it was agreed to purchase under Quotation 3: Pandora Technologies Ltd for £7,015 (excluding VAT which the Council recovers). A mounting post and installation costs are additional charges.

## **082.23 COMMUNITY POLICING, SAFETY AND REGULATION**

**Community Protection Team Report:** The latest report was noted. Most of the activity was in carrying out speed checks and 76 motorists were recorded speeding over 2 hours and 45 minutes or one every two minutes; although in one late afternoon session it was one motorist every minute.

**Speedwatch reports:** Cllr C L Atkinson had advised that four checks have been carried out during the month with 26 drivers reported as driving over the speed limit.

**Parking restrictions in Walden House and adjoining roads:** A proposal (previously circulated) from the County Council to introduce parking restrictions in parts Walden House Road, Catchpole Lane and Maypole Road was supported.

**Parking in Layby:** It was reported that some vehicles park continuously in the Layby in Walden House Road blocking it for users who may wish to park for short periods. Restrictions may be necessary.

## **083.23 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**

There were no items.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

## QUOTATIONS FOR SPEED SIGNS

One wide based post required in each case, approx. £250 plus installation cost.

| Quotation 1: Westcotec                  | Item                 | Price Each | No. Required | Total |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| Quotation Reference: AJQ13956           | Display              | 4045       | 2            | 8090  |
| Model Title: SID with Smiley/Angry Face | Delivery             | 30         | 1            | 30    |
|                                         | Data collection unit | 379        | 2            | 758   |
| Solar Panel appears to be included      |                      |            |              |       |
| Warranty:                               | 6 years              |            |              |       |
|                                         | Total                |            |              | 8878  |

| Quotation 2: Start Traffic     | Item              | Price Each | No. Required | Total |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| Quotation Reference: SO231148  | Display           | 3406       | 2            | 6812  |
| Model Title: SID Vario         | Delivery          | 0          | 1            | 0     |
| Model Reference No: 15896 - GR | Mounting Brackets | 150        | 2            | 300   |
| Solar Panel included           |                   |            |              |       |
| Warranty:                      | 2 years           |            |              |       |
| Data Collection not mentioned  | Total             |            |              | 7112  |

| Quotation 3: Pandora Technologies Ltd | Item              | Price Each | No. Required | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| Quotation Reference:                  | Display           | 2600       | 2            | 5200  |
| Model Title: Radar Speed Sign         | Delivery          | 65         | 1            | 65    |
| Model Reference No: PTSC 906          | Mounting Brackets | 150        | 2            | 300   |
| Solar Panel No. PTSC 823              | Solar Kit         | 475        | 2            | 950   |
| Data Collection Facility              | Data logging      | 250        | 2            | 500   |
| Warranty                              | 2 Years           |            |              | 7015  |

Not up to date; Quotation dated 2 December 2021

| Original Quotation: Mallatite | Item              | Price Each | No. Required | Total |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| Quotation Reference: 37264    | Display           | 2140       | 2            | 4280  |
| Model Title: Radar Speed Sign | Delivery          | 105        | 1            | 105   |
| Model Reference No: PTSC 906  | Mounting Brackets | 132        | 2            | 264   |
| Warranty:                     |                   |            |              |       |
| Solar Panel                   | Solar Kit         | 625        | 2            | 1250  |
|                               |                   |            |              | 5899  |
| Add 15% (say) Inflation       |                   |            |              | 6774  |

No Data collection facility included