

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21 AUGUST 2017 AT 7.30 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chairman, Cllr J C Gregan.

Cllrs. Mrs C Adams, C L Atkinson, F A Delderfield, A V Heaviside, J V Keyes and B S Marshall.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. A J Gable.

097.17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17 July 2017 were confirmed and signed.

098.17 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded Members that, in common with other local authorities, this item is placed high on the agenda to give Members the earliest opportunity to declare known interests in items set out for later discussion; notwithstanding that they should also declare interests as soon as they become aware should the need arise throughout the meeting. Members were also reminded to review and update if necessary their interests recorded in the Register of Interests and which they are required to declare under the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct. There were no declarations.

099.17 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

No public were present.

100.17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS OF OTHER BODIES AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Essex Wildlife Trust: An invitation was received for the Essex Wildlife Trust AGM and Members Day on 16 September at Abbots Hall Farm.

County Councillor Mark Durham: Cllr. Mark Durham, in preparation for his proposed visit to the Council, wrote to ask what are the three most pressing matters which we would like to discuss. Members identified the following concerns:

1. In respect of the proposed developments at "North Heybridge" of which a large part is actually in Great Totham, the Council is concerned that the planned highway infrastructure actually progresses in a timely way so that works are completed ready to serve both the new and existing community in advance of the additional traffic expected from these new developments. How will the County Council achieve this outcome?
2. Also in respect of the North Heybridge and other developments around Maldon; what plans are in place to improve the existing highway network to manage the effect of considerably more traffic on the local roads beyond the planned improvements in the immediate vicinity of North Heybridge. Not only will the developments themselves generate more traffic the new "bypass" will give existing traffic a fast route to the B1022 and so make Great Totham busier. Also what improvements are planned for the bus services?
3. The Council's third concern is the traffic congestion and inconvenience caused by traffic in Walden House and surrounding roads in Great Totham at school times. What plans, if any, are there to improve this position?

The Reverend Jonathan Pearce: It was agreed to write to the vicar, The Reverend Jonathan Pearce, upon his retirement from his post as Vicar for the Parish of Great Totham. A formal link between Church and Council is the annual Remembrance Service.

101.17 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Maldon District Conservation & Design Awards 2017: The Clerk advised that due to the closing date for entries and time available he had been unable to carry out the necessary work to make an entry.

Illegal Waste Tipping: Cllr B S Marshall reported that the “fly-tipping” material reported at Plains Road has now been removed.

102.17 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY:

Neighbourhood Planning: Notes of the Steering Group meeting of 8 August were received. The next meeting is planned for 5 September. Parish Council Members who have attended the Steering Group are Cllrs. Mrs C Adams, C L Atkinson, F A Delderfield, A J Gable, J C Gregan and Mrs A V Heaviside. It was suggested that there should be four formally appointed Members of the Parish Council comprising (say) Cllrs. Mrs C Adams, A J Gable, J C Gregan and Mrs A V Heaviside with formal appointment being made at the next meeting of the Council. Other Members may also attend.

Grant Support: A note about the current year being the final year for central government NP grants being available was received. Mr Paul Mutton, from the Steering Group, is working with the Chairman, Clerk and Michelle Gardiner of the RCCE to prepare an application.

Neighbourhood Plans update: The Maldon District Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plans update for its Members and has asked for a short summary of work on the neighbourhood plan, since April this year. It was agreed to say that:

Prior to April we have:

- Consulted parishioners at the Annual Parish Assembly
- Established our plan boundary
- Consulted the RCCE and joined the NP activities

Since April we have:

- Engaged further with the RCCE
- Set up a Steering Group
- Consulted the public attending the Church Fete
- Developed objectives for the Steering Group and are
- Developing a work (project) plan and budget
- Setting up a discrete website.

103.17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Notices of Appeal: Notices of Appeal were received in respect MAL/15/00349, (variation of conditions) of change of use to age at poultry shed, Moors Farm, Little Totham and MAL/17/00253, extensions at Pond House, Maldon Road. Both will use the written procedure.

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

Latest Applications: Comments on planning applications received up to week ending 18 August 2017 were as follows:

WTPO/MAL/17/00724 Proposed work includes digging a trench that will sever roots running between the protected tree and the property and to install a root barrier. 38/40 Chapel Road - The Council is guided by and supports the Maldon District Council Tree Officer's recommendation.

FUL/MAL/17/00812 Conversion of existing dog kennels to form holiday let. Dog Kennels Bentley House Broad Street Green Road – The proposed development would not result in any detrimental harm to the character and appearance of the area or have any significant loss of amenity to adjacent residential occupiers, or impact on the highway. The development would provide much needed additional accommodation for visitors and bring additional economic growth to the local economy. The Council has no objection provided conditions are attached and monitored to limit the accommodation to seasonal use in a similar way to caravan site.

HOUSE/MAL/17/00813 First floor rear extension above existing ground floor rear extension. Bentley House Broad Street Green Road - The proposed development is not considered to be out of proportion to the plot and would not result in any detrimental harm to the character and appearance to the rural area. The Council recommends approval.

RES/MAL/17/00800 Reserved matters application for the approval of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale on approved planning application OUT/MAL/13/00787 (Extend access drive and erect two storey detached house and detached garage, lay out parking and amenity areas). 70 Colchester Road – The proposed development is considered to be in proportion to the plot. The Council has no objection provided an anomaly is clarified between the Illustrative Proposed Block and Roof Plan, which shows the front boundary tightly drawn against the hedge and end of the drive, and the Landscape Proposal which appears to continue the development beyond the front boundary.

HOUSE/MAL/17/00881 Proposed single storey rear extension to replace existing porch. 8 Walden House Road – The proposed development harmonises with the existing pattern of development in the area and is considered acceptable and in accordance with local and national plan policies. The Council recommends approval.

104.17 FINANCE:

Litter and dog waste bins: The Maldon District Council was advised that this Council has carried out an exercise to note where dog fouling takes place and the relationship to existing dog waste bins. A few dog walkers were randomly approached, and it was evident that they do clear up their dog waste, and asked where there are gaps in bin provision. We concluded that the following areas would benefit from dog waste bins:

- At Prince of Wales Road, in the area of the Barn Church;
- On the corner of Bull Green near the Staplers Heath/Walden House Road junction;
- At the Maldon road end of the public right of way from near 73 Maldon Road to the Church;

- At Colchester Road in the area between Mill Road and Rookery Lane junctions.

Also, a general litter bin in the Totham Hill Recreation Ground needs replacing as it is damaged.

The District Council replied that “I can by all means look at the areas you have highlighted as where there may be a lack of provision for bins currently. Our budget for street bins is under ever increasing strain, can I ask does the parish have any funds that they may have to offer for the extra proposed bins. Generally we provide the bins at cost price then the charge for the 1st years emptying is also chargeable on top.”

The Clerk has calculated that as a guide, if we purchased the bins from a manufacturer and had them fitted the cost would be about £940 plus the cost of emptying for a year, say. £1,000 in total. There is no Parish Council budget provision but possibly that amount could be found from a half year budget review.

Cllr J V Keyes is to take the matter up with the District Council.

Purchase of Burial Ground: It was noted that there is no response to a letter delivered by recorded delivery and the Churchwardens will be asked to re-assess existing burial capacity. Meanwhile we should try to identify an alternative site. Also the new incumbent will be briefed after he takes up office.

Playdale Request for meeting on site: Cllrs C L Atkinson and F A Delderfield will pass to the Clerk their available dates for a site meeting with Playdale.

Confirmation of Payments: Cheques were confirmed for:

Amount (£)	Payee	Service
17.00	NALC	Local Council Review subscription
444.00	C R Potter	Salary/allowance

105.17 AMENITIES

Report of the Chairman of the Committee: Cllr C L Atkinson reported on various Amenities matters:

- (i) A further visit to a School Road Resident about a tree at the Jubilee Recreation ground overhanging his garden. It was agreed that Cllr Atkinson obtains quotations for the necessary tree surgery.
- (ii) A service check on the mowing contract. Some areas need attention and other are not cut adequately due to overhanging vegetation.
- (iii) The Clerk has placed a further order for hedge cutting work.
- (iv) Den at Heybridge Pit – No problems identified at present.
- (v) Brimstone Corridor – A contact at the Essex Wildlife Trust has been identified for Buckthorn plants.
- (vi) Cllr Atkinson has investigated a report about a protruding screw and broken plastic covering on equipment at the Jubilee Recreation Ground and taken remedial action.

His report was received and adopted.

106.17 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Rangers Scheme: There was no further requests. The Clerk has submitted highway fault reports for other points raised which may not be Rangers work; and road name sign faults which are the responsibility of the Maldon District Council.

Traffic Regulation Orders: No orders were received.

Bull Green Lay-by: A reply from the South Essex Parking Partnership advised that parking restrictions can take up to 18 months to implement if funding is available. They have sent an application form and procedure document. As it was received earlier in the day the Clerk has not yet studied the detail but will complete it as required.

107.17 COMMUNITY POLICING, SAFETY AND REGULATION

Speedwatch Report: Cllr C L Atkinson reported on recent Speedwatch activity. A new group has started at Little Totham and a representative is hoping to visit the Great Totham group.

Bull Green Lay-by: The Clerk has reported two vehicles parked in the new lay-by for a lengthy period. Both have valid MOT certificates and are taxed. A car with advertising for *vehicles wanted* is reported as abandoned from 1 September if its tax is not renewed. A second vehicle is reported as a highway obstruction on the advice of the Highway Liaison Officer.

108.17 ANY URGENT BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no urgent business.

The Chairman advised that he would not be at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.