MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chairman: Cllr. F A Delderfield
Councillors: Mrs C Adams, C L Atkinson, Mrs H R Dundon, A J Gable, J C Gregan, J V Keyes and B S Marshall.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs A V Heaviside and District Councillor R Siddall.

095.21 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS
There were no disclosures.

096.21 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK
No public were present.

097.21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13 September 2021 were confirmed and signed.

098.21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Overgrown Bush: It was noted that Essex Highways had now cut back a large bush obstructing the footway in Maldon Road near the junction with School Road.
Overgrown hedges: It was noted that the problem of overgrown hedges on the B1022 and other roads is still a problem and the Clerk will refer it again to Essex Highways.

099.21 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS OF OTHER BODIES AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.
Beacon Hill Sports Association: Notice of the AGM for the Beacon Hill Sports Association was received and Cllr Mrs C Adams said she may attend.
Village Hall: Cllr Mrs Adams also reported on future work to the Village Hall roof. A letter about the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance funding was received.
Mid-Essex NHS Trust: Cllr A J Gable reported on a meeting of the Mid-Essex NHS Trust.
The Maldon Charter: The Chairman had attended the 850th Anniversary of the Maldon Charter at All saints Church, Maldon.

100.21 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY:
Neighbourhood Plan: The public consultation on the Plan is in progress and ends on 5 November. The Clerk is having a notice added to the website and Cllr. J C Gregan will contact our consultant to have this completed soon.
North Heybridge Garden Suburb: The developers had decided to re-name this development as *Westcombe Park*; after the Westcombe Family who were once considerable landowners at Langford, Heybridge and Great Totham. The leaflet outlined the investigative work being carried out on the site, including archaeological investigations; and the planned building phases.

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

E-Mail Message from Member: Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside had sent an e-mail commenting on and expressing concern about the planning process at the District Council. The message and the Clerk's response are appended to these minutes.
Latest Applications: Comments on planning applications received up to week ending 8 October 2021 were as follows:

1	**HOUSE/MAL/21/00859** Proposed detached double garage. Greystones Scraley Road – The Council supports the application. The proposed development would not have an adverse material impact on the occupiers of neighbouring properties and would not result in substantial detrimental harm to the site.
2	**FUL/MAL/21/00901** Replacement dwelling with detached garage and extension to garden land. Walden Cottage 58 Walden House Road – The Council objects to the application. The proposed replacement dwelling does not meet the criteria set out in the Local Development Plan for a replacement dwelling. Its design, scale and setting are inappropriate and would out of character with the nearby buildings, of a generally lower and less prominent level, and harmful to the street scene. Its size, position and setting would also be detrimental to the important open landscape appearance in this particular area which is outside of and provides a space between settlements.
3	**OUT/MAL/21/00987** One detached dwelling. Land Adjacent 24 Catchpole Lane – The Council objects to the application. The development would result in unjustified encroachment of built form onto undeveloped land causing detrimental harm. The proposed site is outside of the development limits and provides an important break in the residential developments into open countryside.
4	**FUL/MAL/21/00686** Detached Annexe. 20 Harvey Road – The Council objects to the application. The proposed development, and its positioning, are inappropriate and unsympathetic and would impact on the character of the site and it surroundings, which include a popular and well-used public right of way; and contrary to the Local Development Plan.
5	**LDE/21/01004** Claim for lawful development certificate for existing use of building as office purposes. Building At The Old Dairy Broad Street Green Road – The Council has no evidence to the contrary.
6	**ADV/21/00945** Advertisement consent for 3No. Free standing pole mounted non- illuminated signs located on the site's frontage to Broad Street Green Road, Maypole Road and Langford Road in connection with the development of the site. Land At Broad Street Green Road and Langford Road and Maypole Road – The Council has no objection to the proposal provided a time limit is set for the duration of the consent.

102.21 FINANCE
Confirmation of Payments: Payments were confirmed for:

Amount	Payee	Service
20.00	St Peter's Church	Hire of Honywood School for Neighbourhood Plan meeting
28.54	E-On	Bus shelter lighting 1 July – 30 Sept 2021
1591.08	Maldon District Council	960.00 Grass Cutting July – September 2021 631.08 Community Engagement Jul – Sep

151.94	C L Atkinson	Reimbursement for purchasing body camera equipment for Speedwatch volunteers.
50.00	The Royal British Legion	Donation for Poppy Wreath
794.49	C R Potter	Salary/allowance 570.00 Broadband 27 Jun – 26 Sep 224.49

Finance Report: the 2nd Quarter Finance report was received and noted. A copy is attached to these minutes.

103.21 AMENITIES

Report of the Chairman of the Amenities Committee: Cllr C L Atkinson reported that he had disposed of a dead fox found at the Jubilee Recreation Ground and had repaired the seat at the end of Braxted Lane. Cllr B S Marshall had repaired the See-Saw at the Totham Hill Recreation Ground. Both were thanked for the work carried out. The report was received and adopted.

War Memorial Bus Shelter: Mr Terry Jenkins who lives at the Shop asked if he could supply planting boxes and plants for placing in the paved area near the War memorial Bus Shelter. He will also maintain them. Members were pleased to accept his offer.

104.21 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Localism Rangers Work: No work was identified.

Highways Highlights: A copy of this publication was circulated.

105.21 COMMUNITY POLICING, SAFETY AND REGULATION

Community Protection Team Report: The latest Community Protection Officers report was received and noted.

Use of the Community Protection Service: Using the services of the Maldon District Community Protection Officers (CPO) was initially considered as a temporary service to gain experience of it. It was agreed to now use the service on an ongoing basis and make appropriate budgeting provision.

Taxi Placed at end of School Road: The CPO Team will be asked to have moved a taxi displaying advertising car parked on the site splay at the corner of School and Maldon Roads, which has been there for over a week.

Mini-Bus parked in Walden House Road: The CPO Team will also be asked to examine a mini-bus taxi which appears to have been abandoned in Walden House Road down towards the School from the crossroads.

Car Parked War Memorial Bus Shelter: A car is frequently parked, in the evenings and weekends, partly obstructing the footway near the shop and War Memorial Bus Shelter believed to belong to a tenant of the flat there. The Clerk has mentioned it to the flat owner, but if it persists the CPO service will be advised.

Speedwatch: Cllr Atkinson reported that the threshold for prosecution has been raised to 40mph on Speedwatch. He had received the Bodycams (Safety Cameras) for use by volunteers and is awaiting the correct data storage cards.

Parking in Layby: It was noted that a black pick-up truck has been parked in the Bull Green lay-by at the shop end of Walden House Road for some time. The Council's intention when pressing for the lay-by to be installed was to provide short-term parking, say for an hour, to avoid vehicles parking on the carriageway when using the local services. (although it is understood that some residents of

Heriot Way, which has a hill near the junction, park overnight in the lay-by when there is ice on the road preventing them coming out).

The Council could apply for a formal limit on parking but the CPO's would be asked if there a simpler way. For example if we had signs which say that time is limited would that allow you the CPO's to ask vehicles to move on.

106.21 HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE
Special Parish Assembly: A Special meeting to discuss the Jubilee will be held at 7.30 on 22 November at the Village Hall. Local organisations will be invited to attend where addresses are known and the public as a whole by notice.
Beacon Lighting Event: The Council intends this to be a significant event and neighbouring parishes will be invited to take part. Wickham Bishops has already suggested taking part and the Braxteds will be invited to participate as well.

Cllr. B S Marshall offered a mini bus to transport people to and from the event. His offer was appreciated and gratefully accepted.

Commemorative Items: The Council provided commemorative mugs for children at the Silver Jubilee and this will be discussed further at a later date.
The Queen's Green Canopy: Dr James Bettley DL had written about the initiative to create a *Green Canopy* by planting trees in various places by local groups from October 2021. The Clerk had explained the Council's idea of a Green Corridor along the proposed new by-pass at the South end of the Parish.

107.21 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
The Council takes a significant part in the Annual Remembrance Service at St Peter's Church; this year it will be on Sunday 14 November starting at 10.50 (sharp).

Councillors: Mrs C Adams and J V Keyes will read lessons, The Clerk will recall the names of the fallen and the Chairman will lay a wreath.

108.21 THE LATE COUNCILLOR RODNEY LISTER BASS
A commemoration service will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on 9 November and Members are invited to attend. Those attending will be: The Chairman and Mrs Delderfield, The Vice Chairman, Cllr. J V Keyes, Cllr J C Gregan and Mrs Gregan, and the Clerk.

109.21 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.
The Clerk advised that he will be away from Monday 18th to Thursday 28 October

The Meeting closed at 8.38pm

Attachment referred to in Minute 101.21
E-Mail Message from Member:

Thank you, Clive. Don't suppose we ever got a reply from 'the powers that be' when we asked why so many planning applications refused by local authorities were granted on appeal, did we? I am reminded of this by some ill-informed comments with respect to our 'poor response' to both the Hall Road and Heybridge developments as reported in the Maldon and Burnham!!

Vicky

Good Morning Vicki,

Although the heading is Westcombe Park I assume you are referring to planning applications generally.

The question is enormous as well as probably too general to answer, even if it were possible to identify “the powers that be”.

However, if we look at any particular planning application determined by a particular Planning Authority we will find a decision notice giving the outcome and how it was arrived at. The application will have been tested against the appropriate legislation and any local plans in place as well as Government guidance and the result will appear in the papers/reports and so on accompanying any particular application; some decisions on applications are delegated to officers and others are determined by elected members at Committee or Council level depending on the nature or magnitude of the proposed development.

If we look at any particular inspectors report following an appeal investigation we will find that the inspectors approach is clear. The inspector also examines the decision against the facts, legislation and planning rules; a site visit is usual (and not usually attended by others) and some appeals may require a public hearing. The resulting Inspectors Report and decision will rest purely on the examination of the facts against the rules and the reasoning is explained.

Planning legislation is the same as any other set of rules and interpretation is not always straightforward; understanding of it might vary by those involved at different levels of decision making which could lead to decisions being challenged, as well as any bias which might be displayed, intended or unintended, by those involved.

Most appeals are not successful. The latest figures I can find on appeal statistics are: Nationally 65% of appeals are dismissed (lost) but Maldon District Council is slightly better at 67% dismissed. The “so many” actual numbers and percentages of all applications involved at Maldon could be established by going through the weekly lists.

Hope this helps.

Clive Potter
Clerk to the Council