

# **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 22 DECEMBER 2014 AT 8.00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs C Adams.  
Cllrs. C L Atkinson, F A Delderfield and Mrs A V Heaviside.

Apologies for absence: Cllrs. A J Gable, J C Gregan, J V Keyes and Mrs E Parsons. The Clerk was also absent.

## **170.14 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Cllr F A Delderfield had declared an interest in all planning applications as a member of the Maldon District Council's North-Western Area Planning Committee and would confine his role to advising on factual information where appropriate.

## **171.14 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No members of the public were present.

## **172.14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2014 were confirmed and signed.

## **173.14 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

## **174.14 COMMUNITY POLICING**

**Crime:** Cllr C L Atkinson advised that he had reported thefts of external Christmas lights in Harvey Road and Staplers.

**Speedwatch:** Cllr Mrs A V Heaviside agreed to publicise the need for additional volunteers for Speed Watch in the Parish Magazine as we are now in a position to go forward.

## **175.14 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND NEWS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES**

The Chairman, Vice Chairman, as Chairman of the Maldon District Council, and Clerk attended a Christmas Reception at Heybridge Parish Council involving local organisations and neighbouring authorities.

## **176.14 FINANCE**

**Finance Working Group:** A Finance Working Group met on 15 December and their report and draft estimates are appended to these minutes. It was agreed to keep the precept at its present level for a Band D household and to approve the revised estimates for the current year and the draft estimates for 2015/16 subject to an amount to be included for an increase in the Clerk's salary/allowance.

The Clerk's salary and allowance is £3280 p.a. The total comprises £1544 salary and £1,736 office allowance. It was agreed to increase the total by £800 from April 2015 and the Clerk will be asked to apportion the amount appropriately between salary and allowance. The estimates for 2015/16 will be amended accordingly.

It was then **resolved** unanimously to agree a precept of £12,181 resulting in a Parish Council tax of £10 for a band D household.

**Burial Ground:** It was noted that purchase of the new burial ground is unable to be progressed at the moment but the Clerk is in contact with the agents and will reopen negotiations as soon as possible

#### **177.14 AMENITIES**

**Report of the Chairman of the Amenities Committee:** Cllr C L Atkinson reported on amenities works in progress. Quotes have been invited for bus shelter work, the replacement of posts on Bull Green and the refurbishment of the path at the Jubilee Recreation Ground. The Clerk's advice on the number of quotes required for each project and possible suitable firms is to be sought. Some of the 6" wooden base boards in the Children's play area need replacing with treated timber and Stinging nettles by the bus shelter need to be dealt with. Roger Clark will be asked to carry this out. The Football Club will be contacted about leaving the gate open. The report was received and adopted.

#### **178.14 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION**

**Rangers Scheme:** The footpath between Harvey Road and The Chase is overgrown with brambles, and requires cutting back on both sides. Cllr Atkinson is to confirm the exact number of the path [No. 11].

**Hall Road Parking:** A further response to the Council's request for parking restrictions in Hall Road was found most unsatisfactory and it was agreed to ask for details of the definitive list of criteria constituting illegal parking.

**Highway Faults:** It was noted that a deep pot hole at the front of Staplers Heath has been reported on line but the County Council does not think it warrants repair at the moment. Members disagreed with this response especially as it is located where the water overflows from the highways drain and degrades the road surface thus making the hole deeper.

#### **179.14 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY:**

**Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule:** A letter about the progression of the Maldon District Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule was received and the paragraph about continuing use of S 106 obligations noted.

**Heybridge Garden Suburb:** Briefing information was noted from a seminar which some members had attended about Heybridge Garden Suburb.

#### **180.14 CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was received about Essex County Council's Energy Switch campaign and it was agreed to place this on the notice boards and in the Parish magazine; A second letter, from UK Power Networks, the company that owns and maintains cables and lines across our region, has publicised a telephone number - 0800 31 63 10 - to be accessed in the event of a power cut. They also operate a Priority Service Register for vulnerable residents. A copy of the notice has been placed on the notice Board and in the Information Point. It was suggested MDC Emergency Planning awareness talk might be more appropriate following the 2015 Parish Elections, when there may be new members.

## **181.14 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**The Stables:** Following the poor service from Maldon District Council with regard to The Stables, Priti Patel's assistance is to be requested.

**Planning workshops:** With so many members absent, the Clerk will be asked to circulate information regarding proposed Maldon District Council planning workshops

**Appeal Decision:** An Appeal Decision was received in respect of FUL/MAL/14/00441, Erection of a single detached dwelling at land between Mapstones and Ballingdon, Maypole Road, Great Totham. The appeal was allowed.

**Appeal Notices:** Notices of Appeal were received in respect of FUL/MAL/14/00608, Land rear of 77-82 Maldon Road, change of use to residential and erection of five dwellings and:

FUL/MAL/14/00411, Croft Cottage 18 Totham Hill Green, Erection of one detached dwelling.

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

**Latest applications:** The applications lodged with the Maldon District Council to week ending 19 December 2014 were considered and the Council's comments were as follows:

**FUL/MAL/14/00941** Erection of agricultural shed/barn for the storage of machinery. Land North Of Poplar Grove Chase – The Council has no objection.

**FUL/MAL/14/01128** Proposed detached dwelling house. Site Adjacent To Ashcroft Kelvedon Road – The Council objects to this proposal as it is outside of any settlement development limits and to allow it would be contrary to Policy S8 of the Local Development Plan. The Council therefore recommends refusal.

**OUT/MAL/14/00990** Outline planning application with all matters reserved other than access for a residential development of up to 100 dwellings, with associated public open space and infrastructure. Land Holloway Road, Heybridge - The Council has no objections to this application providing it complies with the requirements of the overall "Masterplan" for the area and adequately addresses matters relating to flood management and highways.

The Council therefore recommends approval.

**FUL/MAL/14/01148** Demolition of existing property, erection of 12No. houses and associated roadworks.

The Council points out that the location of the proposal site is misleading as it is incorrectly stated in various documents: The public notice quotes land to rear of 76 – 80 Maldon Road but the title of the applicant's site plan drawing number 2173:10 quotes Rear of 72 – 68 Maldon Road; the application form shows the site address as 72 – 68 Maldon Road and Notice 1 shows proposed development at 68 -82 Maldon Road. Please note that, for the avoidance of doubt, the Council has taken the land edged in red on OS Mastermap 25 June 2013, CM-00239140 supplied with the application and showing land to the rear of numbers 68 – 82 Maldon Road as the proposal site, although not titled as such.

The Parish Council's views on this application are: The Council objects to this proposal and recommends refusal as it is for development outside of the defined settlement boundaries, and any area intended for development and would have an undesirable impact upon the countryside and the nearby listed buildings. It would constitute over-development of the site on back-land with poor access to a busy distributor road.

The Council therefore recommends refusal

**For Information Only NMA/MAL/14/01141** Application for non-material amendment following grant of planning permission FUL/MAL/14/00259 (Proposed 1.5 storey extension to rear of dwelling) 1. Removal of velux to elevation facing no.22 Chapel Road, 2. Relocate velux to stairwell to upper roof. 3. Install Juliet balcony to rear elevation master bedroom 4. Window specification changed to UPVC as per existing. The Cottage 20 Chapel Road – It was noted that this application has now been determined and refused

#### **182.14 CONFIRMATION OF CHEQUES**

Cheques were confirmed for:

| <b>Amount (£)</b> | <b>Payee</b>                        | <b>Service</b>                                                                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 65.00             | The Society of Local Council Clerks | Annual Subscription                                                                                |
| 40.00             | Essex Wildlife Trust                | Annual subscription                                                                                |
| 332.73            | C R Potter                          | Salary/allowance £273.00<br>Paper, labels, envelopes £44.73<br>Update Chairman's name board £15.00 |

#### **183.14 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

No matters were raised.

The Chairman invited those present to the Compasses.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

## **NOTES OF THE FINANCE WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 DECEMBER 2014 AT 7.30 PM AT 19 MILL ROAD**

Present: Cllrs. Mrs C Adams, C L Atkinson, F A Delderfield, A J Gable, J C Gregan and Mrs A V Heaviside.

### **2014/15 Financial Year**

The Working Party looked at the estimates for the present year and noted that under General Administration the audit fee was doubled from the previous year. Due to work required to the safety surface to the playground at the Jubilee Recreation Ground and repairs to the Zip-wire it is necessary to recommend an increase in the playground maintenance budget to £2,500. Budget lines 50, 51, and 53 have been recalculated and partly reallocated to lines 56 and 34 now that the extent of works required is being firmed up

The current year expenditure on the new burial ground remains unpredictable at present and all or some of it may need rolling over to next year.

### **2015/16 Financial Year**

In considering its advice for 2015/16 the Working Party repeated or slightly increased most of the General Administration and Amenity budget lines. Major exceptions are in allowing for the scheduled 2015 Parish Council election, keeping the playground maintenance budget at the same level as the revised current years level, and allowing for two hedge cuts by the contractor to upgrade the quality.

Last year it was agreed to review The Clerk's salary annually and this should be carried out by the full Council.

£1,000 is included in non-recurring to allow for initial costs for a Village Plan.

The Maldon District Council is to pass on a grant of £406 to alleviate the reduction in the tax base. This will help the Council to maintain its precept at the same level as the current year at £10 for a Band D Household if it so wishes. The Working Party recommends that it does.

The closing balance works out at a theoretical minus £710. It is unlikely that this will be that case in reality given the uncertainty of the burial ground purchase, but should it be the case the deficit is covered by reserves.