MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18 DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillor Chairman: Cllr. F A Delderfield.
Councillors: Cllrs. Mrs C Adams, C L Atkinson, Mrs J M Bass, Mrs H R Dundon, T E Gregan, Mrs A V Heaviside, J.V Keyes and B S Marshall.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. C L Atkinson, T E Gregan, J.V Keyes, and District Council Members for the Ward; Councillors Jade Hughes and Richard Siddall.

135.23 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS
There were no disclosures.

121.23 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK
No members of the public were present.

122.23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13 November 2023 were confirmed and signed.

123.23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Speeding in Captains Wood Road: Following a request for speed checks in Captains Wood Road by the Community Protection Offices we have been advised that Essex Police are unable to process any new site requests at present by it will be looked into if the situation changes.
Footway in Captains Wood Road: A request will be made of the County Council to find a solution to passing traffic mounting the footway, such as bollards, due to the carriageway being narrow. There was also concern that the road was selected as an official diversion during roadworks elsewhere as it is so narrow.
Parking at Staplers Heath: Following a complaint about parking preventing access to the “Square” off Staplers Heath, the Clerk visited on three occasions but not in the evening or weekend. But it was recognised that the issue is not continuous as residents probably use vehicles for work and so on. The resident has been contacted the Council to supply some photographic examples when the problem next arises so that they can be used to request any enforcement activity, or road improvements.

124.23 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS OF OTHER BODIES AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.
Maldon District Council has announced free parking on Thursdays in December and Christmas Eve; and a new programme of Heritage Winter Talks arranged on various dates over the winter. Basics Essex, a volunteer group of doctors and paramedics is requesting funding support from parish councils. It was decided to consider this at the December meeting during the budget discussion.

A copy of a letter was noted for information from a landowner to a resident alleging anti-social behaviour.

125.23 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY:
There were no matters to discuss.

126.23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS
Planning Decisions: The Clerk reported on the latest planning decisions of the Maldon District Council.
Latest Applications: Comments on planning applications received up to week ending 10 November 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.)

Confirmation of comments made following circulation to meet deadlines: Week Ending 13 October:

FUL/MAL/23/00894 Erection of four dwelling houses and associated garages and alterations and extension of the existing access and provision of parking spaces to Pippins. Land Adjacent To Oaklands Kelvedon Road - The Council notes that one dwelling already exists on the site and considers that a further four would be overdevelopment and contrary to the Great Totham Neighbourhood Plan. The Council is also concerned that the development would lead to the undesirable coalescence of the Great Totham and Wickham Bishops settlements.
NMA/MAL/23/00681 Application for non-material amendment following grant of Planning Permission 21/00752/RES (Reserved matters application for the approval of access, appearance, landscaping, layout & scale for the construction of 160 residential units with associated access, parking, servicing and landscaping (Phase 1 only) on approved application 15/00419/OUT (Part outline/part detailed (hybrid) application for mixed use development [etc.] - Noted

Applications received week ending 3 November 2023

FUL/MAL/23/01049 Conversion of two existing barns into a new four bedroom dwelling with car port. Land At The Stables Plains Road – The policy on conversion of redundant modern (as opposed to ancient) barns is unclear. The Council objects as the site is on back-land behind other premises and outside of any area intended for development. The Proposal is contrary to the Great Totham Neighbourhood Plan. The policy on conversion of redundant modern (as opposed to ancient) barns is unclear. The Council objects as the site is on back-land behind other premises and outside of any area intended for development. The Proposal is contrary to the Great Totham Neighbourhood Plan.
VARM/MAL/23/01062 Variation of condition 2 and condition 3 on planning application 22/00523/RESM (Reserved matters application for the approval of access, appearance, landscaping, layout & scale for the construction of 262 residential units with associated access, parking, servicing and landscaping (Phase 2 only) on approved application 15/00419/OUT (Part outline/part detailed (hybrid) application for mixed use development including: (i) Residential development (Use Class C3) for up to 1138 dwellings including 30% as affordable housing (Outline) (ii) Residential Care for up to 120 beds

(Use Class C2) (Outline) (iii) "Neighbourhood" uses which may include retail, commercial, and community uses (Use Classes A1 and/or A2 and/or A3 and/or A4 and/or A5 and/or D1a and/or D1b) (Outline) (iv) Primary school and early years childcare facility (Use Class D1c) (Outline) (v) A relief road between Broad Street Green Road and Langford Road (Detailed element) (vi) Formal and informal open space (including any associated sports pavilion/clubhouse) (Use Class D2e) (Outline); (vii) Construction of initial gas and electricity sub-stations (Detailed); and (Viii) All associated amenity space, landscaping, parking, servicing, utilities (other than as listed in item (vii) above), footpath and cycle links, on-site drainage, and infrastructure works (Outline).). Land At Broad Street Green Road And Langford Road And Maypole Road Great Totham Essex – Noted.

127.23 FINANCE
Confirmation of Payments: Payments were confirmed for:

Amount	Payee	Service	
80.00	Silicon Alley	Printer cartridges and paper	
820.00	C R Potter	Salary/allowance	820.00

Estimates for 2023/24: Pre-consideration of estimate requirements for the next financial year was made. For the previous two years the Parish Council's precept had remained the same at £17,243 representing a Council Tax for a Band D property of £13.36 (per year) and it was clear that the Council cannot continue to operate at the same level. It was unanimously agreed to double the precept to £34,486 representing a Council Tax for a Band D property of £26.72, based on the current year's figures.
Banking arrangements update: The Clerk is still trying to update the signatories with Barclay's Bank following the rejection of a request to transfer funds between accounts.

128.23 AMENITIES
Cllr. C L Atkinson reported repairs to the seat at the War Memorial Bus Shelter carried by Cllr. B S Marshall following criminal damage, and the seat at Totham Hill Green which he had repaired. The contractors had cut the hedges earlier in the day over all sites. A Great Totham sign needs having the vegetation cut. Notices had been placed anonymously around Bull Green about parking in the lay-by. He is planning to move the boat from the Jubilee Recreation Ground to Bull Green. The report was received and adopted.

129.23 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
Localism Rangers Work: The Rangers would be asked to clean and tidy up the Village sign at Broad Street Green Road. No further work was identified.
Speed Indicator Displays: Cllr T.E Gregan has received delivery of the Speed Equipment and will be investigating a suitable contractor to install it.

130.23 COMMUNITY POLICING, SAFETY AND REGULATION
Community Protection Team Report: The latest report was noted. The Team had been examining parking near the School and had spoken to the Head Teacher.

Speedwatch reports: Cllr C L Atkinson reported that two speed checks have been carried out during the month with 15 drivers reported to the Police as driving over the speed limit. He had also had contact with Essex Police Speedwatch Team.
Speed Limits: It was agreed to request that the speed limit in Maypole Road should be extended to the Five Corners junction and review whether it should be 30mph restrictions to be put in place.
Captains Wood Road: Cllr. Atkinson commented on the diversion of traffic through Captains Wood Road and whether an alternative, wider, route should have been considered.

131.23 NEW WEBSITE
The Clerk is working with Temerity, the consultants, and the framework of the new website is being completed. Robert Potter has offered to take photographs and some from the Neighbourhood Plan may be able to be used. The Clerk now has to identify and assemble the files and documents and check titles and prepare PDF versions for loading. It is hoped the draft will be available at the next meeting for Members to approve.

132.23 ORDNANCE SURVEY: SETTLEMENT NAMES.
The following message was received from Kate Higgie, Ph D, Data Management Specialist (Geographical Names), at the Ordnance Survey:

Good Afternoon, I have received a query in about Great Totham and would be grateful if you have any advice on the matter.

Should, in your expert opinion, OS capture Great Totham differently. In that I ask should the depiction a) stay as it is for the two separate settlements having the same name or b) as Great Totham North and Great Totham South in the 2020 Village Design Statement, or c) should they be Totham North and Totham South as the 2020-2035 Neighbourhood Plan Statement.

This would be for the purposes of a better representation of the geography, and not form official boundaries

The Clerk had looked into this and it was agreed to send the following reply:

Dear Kate,

I took extracts from the maps to our meeting to give Members a graphic explanation.

Great Totham North and South arises from the titles of the two modern electoral registers covering the whole parish, although the parish is not warded; but this is misleading and does not accurately reflect the actual geography.

In terms of your alternatives it seemed at first appropriate to use either b or c but when members thought about it the titles of the Plan and Design Statements were, on reflection, aimed at identifying the two main settlement areas as defined by earlier planning envelopes; rather than the parish as a whole.

Actually there are a further four distinct settlements. These are at Beacon Hill, Totham Hill, Kelvedon Road and Broad Street Green as well as clusters of dwellings at Plains Road and near Godfrey's Farm. All of these being outside of the two main settlement area.

We do have some evidence however of Great Totham (South) on a 1930's finger post but there is no mention of Great Totham (North) on the equivalent finger post at the opposite location. However North or South does not appear in postal addresses or when seeking addresses on Google Maps or on (my) SATNAV. (The finger post remains for its antiquity value and is unlikely to be noted as a waymark by the speedily passing motorist. It had recently toppled and is being investigated by Essex Highways.)

Moreover, the Great Totham North register includes electors from Colchester and Beckingham Roads who live south of Beacon Hill which is in the South Register; conversely, Beacon Hill settlement is in the South Register but its location is as far north as the main North settlement (See annotated attachment).

I have a Cassini 1921-22 Popular Edition re-print which shows the same configuration of titles as today, with Great Totham in the two locations as well as Totham Hill, Beacon Hill and Broad Street Green.

Members concluded that they would recommend that the Ordnance Survey map notations remain the same and do not include North and South. I hope our explanation is clear but please contact me if you need further information.

133.23 REMEMBRANCE: The Chairman thanked Cllr. C L Atkinson for displaying the Solitary soldiers at the village signs. He and several members and the Clerk had attended and took part in the Remembrance Service at St Peter's Church.

134.23 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9.05pm