

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024 AT 8.17 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

(Following the Annual Parish Assembly)

Present: Chairman: Councillor F A Delderfield.

Councillors: Cllrs. Mrs C Adams, C L Atkinson, Mrs J M Bass, Mrs H R Dundon, T E Gegan, Mrs A V Heaviside, J.V Keyes, B S Marshall.

District Councillor Richard Siddall and County Councillor Mark Durham.

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Jade Hughes.

026.24 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures.

027.24 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

Two members of the public were present. A question was asked about the light near the bus shelter at Colchester Road which had not worked for some time. The Chairman advised that the complete lighting unit needed replacing and, with the help of Cllr T E Gegan, a suitable contractor has been identified to carry out the work as soon as available.

028.24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 12 February 2024 were confirmed and signed.

029.24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

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

Councillor Richard Siddall had reported on the work of the Maldon District Council earlier at the Parish Assembly as had Councillor Mark Durham on the Essex County Council.

031.24 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY:

Planning Application Decisions: Mrs M Pipe had asked for a copy of a newspaper article to be circulated to members. It was from the Telegraph noting that Maldon District Council rejects one in three applications for small scale development or substantial improvements to a property such as extensions, (rather than major developments).

Minerals Plan: Cllr. Mrs C Adams referred to an updated Minerals Plan which she had seen and the Vice-Chairman will examine it.

Permitted Development Rights consultation: It was noted that a consultation on

032.24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Notice of Appeal: Notice of appeal was received against the refusal of permission to carry out work on a preserved walnut tree at the Prince of Wales Public House. The tree is subject to restrictions under WTPO/22/01153.

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

Permitted Development Rights: It was noted that a consultation is in progress to review of changes to Permitted Development Rights. This covers:

Changes to allow certain permitted development rights which enable householders to improve and enlarge their homes including:

- the building upwards permitted development which enable the upward extension of a range of existing buildings.
- the demolition of certain buildings and rebuild as homes.
- the installation of electrical outlets and upstands for recharging electric vehicles.
- the installation of air source heat pumps.

Latest Applications: Comments on planning applications received up to week ending 8 March 2024 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.)

HOUSE/MAL/23/01198 Single storey link extension to side elevation to form pool house. Alterations to fenestration to facilitate conversion of garage to gym. New cart lodge & extension to existing driveway. Great Ruffins Beacon Hill – The Council has no objections provided the application is not contrary to any planning policies.

LBC/MAL/23/01199 Single storey link extension to side elevation to form pool house. Alterations to fenestration to facilitate conversion of garage to gym. New cart lodge & extension to existing driveway. Great Ruffins Beacon Hill – The Council has no objections provided the application is not contrary to any planning policies and supports the recommendations of the specialist buildings and conservation officer

RES/MAL/24/00022 Reserved matters application for the approval of all matters on approved planning application 20/01000/OUT (Replacement of a commercial building with up to three dwellings). Building at the Old Dairy Broad Street Green Road – The Council supports the application as the layout and design is appropriate for the site.

HOUSE/MAL/24/00115 S73A Application for single storey rear extension to create a garage. Paynes Cottage Walden House Road – No comment

HOUSE/MAL/24/00124 Proposed detached double garage. Orchard House 61 Maldon Road – The Council recommends refusal of this application which is for development between the front elevation of the dwelling and front boundary; as well as close to the side and front boundaries of the property. The proposal is therefore contrary to National Planning Guidelines and the adopted Great Totham Neighbourhood Plan and associated Design Guide.

HOUSE/MAL/24/00146 Alterations to fenestration of dwelling house including external rendering. Addition of fence and gate to front access. New patio to rear. Ardan 48 Colchester Road – No comment

HOUSE/MAL/24/00169 Two storey front and rear extensions. Demolition of existing garage to facilitate single storey side extension. Alterations to

fenestration including changes to roof to principal elevation. Roundbush Colchester Road Great Totham Maldon – No comment
HOUSE/MAL/24/00174 Proposed single storey rear extension including link extension to existing garage. Patio to the rear. The Cottage 20 Chapel Road – No comment

033.24 FINANCE

Confirmation of Payments: Payments were confirmed for:

Amount (£)	Payee	Service
188.62	Maldon District Council	Parish Council Uncontested Election 4 May 2023
1058.39	Gallagher Insurance Brokers	Annual Insurance Premium – AJG Community Schemes
160.00	Great Totham Village Hall	Hire of Hall for Meetings - August 2023 to March 2024
1110.78	Tom’s Farm Shop	Posts, rails, postmix & wire for safety fence at playground equipment at Bull Green
1089.42	C R Potter	Salary/Allowance 810.00 Broadband Dec to Mar 269.42* Postage Stamps 10.00 *Includes *8.80 deducted for earlier overpayment.

Authorisation of Payments and Signing of Cheques: The Clerk reported that new regulations are being introduced in respect of the authorisation of payments including the signing of cheques. These are in response to developments in on-line banking and payments systems.

Insurance Policy: The Clerk will advise the Council's insurers of the installation of the speed indicator equipment and its value, as an additional risk.

034.24 AMENITIES

Report of Chairman of Amenities Committee: C L Atkinson reported that following the purchase of the materials for the fencing around the playground equipment he and Cllr. B S Marshall will erect it as soon as the weather is suitable. A seat located at the new site would be of benefit. Further work to be carried out at the Jubilee Recreation Ground.

Public seats: Work needs to be carried out on some of the public seats: The Beacon Hill seat is severely damaged and the seat in Mill Road has a slat loose as well as has the seat in Spring Lane.

Committee: It was agreed that a meeting of the Committee is not required at present.

035 24 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Local Rangers: In the absence of the Local Rangers Cllr. Durham had advised that urgent items could be referred to him. The Clerk would send him details of the displaced finger post at the end of Braxted Lane.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points.

Essex County Council has asked about the number of electric vehicle charge points in the Parish. No public Points are known although it was recognised that some individual households may have them. It was noted that some public car parks in the Maldon District have them. Cllr J V Keyes agreed to look at the subject in detail.

The County Council has set out its vision on the matter as follows: Essex Council Council

Our vision for the Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy is very simple - to deliver '**the Right Charger in the Right Place**'. This means that by 2030, residents, businesses, and visitors to Essex, where car or van travel is necessary for their journey, will be able to use electric vehicles and be assured there is an accessible, reliable, easy-to-use, safe, and fairly priced charging network.

(Councillor B S Marshall declared an interest in the following and left the meeting whilst it was discussed.)

DART Bus Service Application:

Arrow Taxis had sent a copy of a proposal for providing a service between Great Totham and the local area and Broomfield Hospital and asked for the Councils comments and support. The Chairman's action was agreed in responding as follows to meet the consultation deadline:

Thank you for sending us your proposals at Arrow Taxis for a new DRT service. Great Totham Parish Council fully supports your concept and your bid. Attending Broomfield Hospital can be very challenging and tiresome for those who cannot drive there (and those who can often find it difficult to park) so we believe your innovative scheme would be very much welcomed.

As you will know, Great Totham is comprised of four distinct settlements as well as outlying hamlets; The main settlement, (usually referred to as Totham South) is centred around the Post Office and School, Totham Hill (or North) the second largest, is centred around the former Compasses Public House; and there are smaller settlements at Beacon Hill and Broad Street Green. Taking these areas in turn in travelling to Broomfield Hospital by present public transport can be tiresome and time consuming:

Great Totham South residents: *Involves a bus to Maldon; a second bus to Chelmsford; and a third to the Hospital. An alternative route is to travel by bus to Witham, and a second bus or train to Chelmsford and a bus to the Hospital.*

Great Totham North residents: *Involves a bus to Maldon; a second bus to Chelmsford; and a third to the Hospital.*

Beacon Hill Residents: *Involves travel by bus to Witham, and a second bus or train to Chelmsford and a bus to the Hospital.*

Broad Street Green Residents: *Involves a bus to Maldon; a second bus to Chelmsford; and a third to the Hospital.*

Future North Heybridge Garden Suburb Residents: *In the absence of a new service: will involve a bus to Maldon; a second bus to Chelmsford; and a third to the Hospital.*

It may be argued that with the ever growing parcels delivery services another one is unnecessary, but the DART proposal is somewhat different as it includes both people and parcels. The system works well in the remoter areas of Ireland.

(Councillor Mark Durham left the meeting and the Chairman thanked him for his attendance at the earlier Annual Parish Assembly).

036.24 COMMUNITY POLICING, SAFETY AND REGULATION

Community Protection Team Report: The latest report showing 76 speeding offences was noted. In one Trucam session of 30 minutes in Maldon Road on 27 February twenty drivers were exceeding the speed limit, equating to one every ninety seconds.

Speedwatch: Cllr C L Atkinson reported that Speedwatch had recommenced and three sessions have been held. There are now four volunteers and, under new rules, checks require three volunteers to conduct the checks at each session.

Road Safety: Cllr C L Atkinson also reported that, exceptionally, there were no fatalities on the highways in Essex during February.

Update on a defibrillator at the North end of the Village: The Clerk will enquire of the United Reformed Church (URC) about locating a defibrillator there.

037.24 THE BEACON

The Clerk will make enquiries about the Beacon Lightings for the D-Day commemorations on Thursday 6th June 2024.

038.24 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

There was no other business and the meeting closed 9.00 pm.