

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chairman C L Atkinson

Councillors: Mrs C Adams (Vice/Chairman) F A Delderfield, Mrs H R Dundon, T E Gegan, Mrs A V Heaviside, J.V Keyes, B S Marshall and N J Snelling.

Also present: District Councillor R Siddall.

135.24 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures

136.24 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

No members of the public were present.

137.24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14 October 2024 were confirmed and signed.

138.24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Action Plans: The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are continuing trialling action plans of key actions arising from each meeting which describes agreed actions and who is carrying them out. The Action Plans are produced soon after each meeting so that all involved are immediately clear about the actions to be taken and who is leading on them as well as raising any connected issues. The trial has been useful and effective to date.

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

Report of the Maldon District Council: District Councillor Richard Siddall updated on the work of the District Council.

A new corporate plan has been introduced. The objectives include being committed to running a local authority that puts residents first, and is a great place to work, providing quality services whilst working in partnership to support communities.

The District Council has announced a public survey to help create a management plan for Promenade Park. The plan will ensure that the Council can be clear about how they manage Promenade Park going forward.

He also reported on the progress of discussions about the future of St Peters Hospital at Maldon and drew attention to the *Talk for Your Health Campaign*. He advised that a paper on devolution is soon to be published by H M Government.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Siddall for his report.

140.24 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY:

There were no policy matters to consider

141.24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Decisions: The latest decisions were noted.

Latest Applications: Comments on planning applications received up to week ending 15 November 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/24/00819 First floor front extension with pitched roof projection over existing garage. First floor rear extension with pitched roof projection. Alterations to fenestrations on ground level. 10 Foster Road – No comment.
HOUSE/MAL/24/00820 Single storey side extension. 18 Mill Road – No comment.
FUL/MAL/24/00817 Removal of existing ménage and construction of new detached two storey dwelling with detached cart lodge, access, parking and landscaping. South Ménage at Chasefield Farm 64 Walden House Road -
HOUSE/MAL/24/00826 First floor side extension over existing store and garage with pitched roof over to match existing. 21 Maldon Road – No comment.
HOUSE/MAL/24/00838 Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and replace with new single storey rear extension. Remlap 17 Hall Road
FUL/MAL/24/00710 Identical two storey side and rear extension, with single storey rear extension for 2no dwellings. Howells Farm Cottages Maypole Road – No comment.
<p>COU/MAL/24/00851 Change of use of agricultural land to accommodate two shepherd's huts for holiday lets. Land Between Back Lane And Maypole Road –</p> <p>A proposal was made to support the application and upon being put to a vote the proposal was rejected by five votes to three, whereupon the Council recommended refusal on the following grounds:</p> <p>The proposal site is outside of any area intended for development and located off a narrow lane which exits to a junction of five roads, one of which is an unclassified but very busy road used as the main route between Maldon/Heybridge and Witham and serving much of the south end of Great Totham. It is heavily used by local motorists as well as those driving through.</p> <p>Furthermore the application makes no reference to arrangements for services required by users such as sewage, water, electricity or waste disposal</p>
<p><u>For Information Only</u></p> <p>NMA/MAL/24/00864 Application for non-material amendment following grant of planning permission 24/00465/HOUSE (Addition of car port to northern side elevation of dwelling.) Amendment sought: Infill the gable of the carport with black timber feather edged horizontal cladding, 29 Fieldfare Way – Noted</p>

142.24 FINANCE

Confirmation of Payments: Payments were confirmed for:

Amount	Payee	Service
1169.58	Maldon District Council	Grounds Maintenance Q2 2024-5
305.00	DNA Electrical	Installation of Defibrillator at United Reformed Church
150.00	Mr Lee Parish	Cut grass and undergrowth at Totham Hill Recreation Ground
1000.00	C R Potter	Salary/allowance

Estimates Update: An updated finance report for the current year was considered and noted (A copy of the report is appended to these minutes).

Precept for 2025/26 The precept for the current financial year for a Band D property is £26.72 producing a total of £35,754. It was provisionally agreed to increase this by the present level of inflation and the Clerk would bring a further report to the next meeting.

143.24 AMENITIES

Report of Chairman of Amenities Committee:

Hedges: The Clerk has not had a response from usual hedge cutters and Cllr T E Gegan advised that he may know of an alternative contractor.

Oak Tree at Cricket field: The Vice-Chairman has continued to find further estimates to carry out additional work to the tree but most had replied that the job is too large for them. (The tree is listed and the permission is in place to carry out essential work).

Condor Mower and Strimmers: The Council owns a Hayter Condor Mower and two strimmers which have not been used for some considerable time, since the Maldon district council became this Council's contractor for grass maintenance. Recently he tried to test them but they failed to start. Cllr T E Gegan offered to collect them and examine them with a view to starting them an offering them for sale.

Bull Green Playground Equipment. Work to the slide is not yet finished. Cllr Gegan is in contact with a contractor who may be able to provide and install any necessary safety surfaces similar to those installed at Great Braxted.

144.24 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Localism Rangers work: No further work was identified

Further Highway Faults: no further faults were identified.

Barber Close: The Vice-Chairman reported overgrown weeds on the road and footway at Barber Close for reporting to Essex Highways. These type of issues are reported on the Essex Highways Fault Reporting System and on doing so the following message was returned. "This road is private and not maintained by ECC".

Parking Restrictions Order – Walden House Road area.

The No Waiting restrictions requested by the Council have now been implemented at Great Totham South to alleviate congestion and improve safety. The restrictions are: No waiting at any time around the junction of Kelvedon Road and Great Totham Road, and the junctions of Walden House Road, Catchpole Lane and the Paddocks; and no waiting Monday to Friday between 8 am and 9.30am; and 2.30pm and 4.00pm in Walden House Road and Catchpole Lane.

Temporary closures on A12: A letter from National Highways advising about overnight closures for repair works on the A12 was received and noted.

145.24 COMMUNITY POLICING, SAFETY AND REGULATION

Community Protection Team Report: No further report was available.

Speed Indicator Devices: Following the report at the last meeting the Chairman arranged for Mr Mason to check and adjust the Speed Indicator Devices. Mr Mason checked the signs on Saturday 5 October starting at 10.00 am. He reported as follows:

North Sign: Checked sign on North side of Village. App downloaded and integrated. Sensitivity of Radar signal increased to 100% which improved the accuracy of the reading when compared with speed gun.

Suggestion that the School Patrol sign could be causing a malfunction in the readings. On inspection of this sign it appears that the panel on the side is rusted and no longer safe especially as there are electric power cables inside. More concerning is that one panel is at ground level and accessible to young children. As there is no longer a School patrol in operation it would be sensible to remove it.

South Sign: Also interrogated and set to 10% sensitivity suggested for accuracy that the installers return to site and move the unit 6” – 9” on the pole towards the road. It is thought that this would align the radar beam with the road. It would appear to be a simple operation and amounts to loosening the fixings and sliding along and retightening.

Whilst speaking to a local resident living at the house near the south sign he indicated that he was concerned about the speed of vehicles leaving the Village, and suggested that Speedwatch or the Maldon Speed Reduction team could set up in that area in future. The sign appears to be having a good effect of slowing the vehicles entering the Village but there is a real problem in the opposite direction/

Defibrillators: The Parish Council has bought a defibrillator and, with the agreement of the Church, had it installed at the United Reformed Church at Chapel Road. A total of eight sets of public defibrillator equipment provided and housed by various organisations is now available over the area as shown below:

The Prince of Wales	Prances Scout Hut
Great Totham Village Hall	Beacon Hill Sports Association
Forrester Park	United Reformed Church
The Green Man	Blackwater Medical Centre, Heybridge

Dog Fouling: Further Dog fouling was reported and the Clerk will advise the Community Protection Team.

146.24 COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS

The Council, holds an annual reception for volunteers who carry out work for the Council and community in litter picking and Speedwatch and so on. This will be on 16 December 2024.

147.24 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

There was no other business and the meeting closed 8.35 pm.