MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2025 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 Mrs A V Heaviside, J.V Keyes, B S Marshall and N J Snelling.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T E Gregan

001.25 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS
There were no disclosures

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

003.25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16 December 2024 were confirmed and signed.

004.25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
There were no matters arising.

005.25 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS OF OTHER BODIES AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.
There were no matters arising.

006.25 PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY:
There were no planning policy or strategy matters to consider

007.25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS
Planning Decisions: The latest decisions were noted.

Latest Applications: Comments on planning applications received up to week ending 10 January 2025 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.)

MAL/24/00851 Siting of two Sheppard's Huts at land off Back Lane – Application withdrawn.
FUL/MAL/24/00963 Proposed garage with annexe accommodation to be occupied by a dependent relative in conjunction with occupation of the main dwelling. Cherry Barn 56B Walden House Road – No comment
LDE/MAL/24/00971 Claim for a lawful development certificate for existing use of the land as residential garden. 83 Broad Street Green Road Great Totham Maldon Essex – No comment.
VAR/ MAL/24/00987 Variation of condition 2 on approved planning permission

24/00198/HOUSE (Demolition of detached garage to facilitate single story side and rear extension. Single storey front extension. Alterations to fenestration including changes to existing roof forms). 4 Mount Lodge Chase – No comment.

008.25 FINANCE
Confirmation of Payments: Payments were confirmed for:

225.10	Prince of Wales	Volunteers Reception	
62.39	Npower Commercial Gas	Bus shelter lighting 1 Oct – 31 Dec 2024	
1000.00	C R Potter	Salary/allowance	1000.00

009.25 AMENITIES
Report of Chairman of Amenities Committee: The Chairman was on holiday and Cllr B S Marshall reported:
Bull Green: A quotation for a safety surface (of the whole enclosed area) in the play area at Bull Green was received but the cost was considered excessive. Further estimates from alternative suppliers would be sought including for areas for selected equipment only. Cllr Marshall is to examine the Zip-Wire at the Jubilee Recreation Ground.
Relocation of Equipment: a letter objecting to the re-location of some equipment from the Jubilee Recreation Ground to Bull Green was received. The clerk will reply explaining that the move is for the equipment for younger children only and that for older children will remain at the Jubilee Recreation Ground. This will make it visible to the public and less likely to be damaged intentionally.

010.25 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
Braxted Lane Finger Post: Cllr J V Keyes has removed the whole sign and stored the base post whilst the post section is away for repair. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Keyes for organising the repairs. (Note: the finger post is retained for its antiquity and is not of the design and standard required for modern direction signs)

011.24 COMMUNITY POLICING, SAFETY AND REGULATION
Community Protection Team: The latest report was noted but Members were unable to see exactly what the patrols were finding as the reports were not detailed enough. A representative would be invited to the next or following meeting so as the Parish Council and the Service understands more about the service and the service is clear about our requirements
Parking at School Road: Parking near the Maldon road end of School Road remains a problem of access to and from a resident's premises.
Parking near the School: Parking around the School (not to be confused with the item above) in Walden House Road, Catchpole lane and near the Kelvedon Road junction continues to be a problem especially around starting and finishing times. Other road users are finding it difficult to travel normally in the area and there is also a problem of access to and from a residents' premises.
Dogs in the Recreation Grounds: The same letter above about playground equipment (Minute 009.25) mentioned that dogs are safer at the Jubilee Recreation Ground as they cannot run into the road which they are able to from Bull Green. In fact dogs should not be anywhere in the Parish Council's Recreation Grounds or Bull

Green which are all “Play Sites”. This is governed by the Maldon District Order which states: *Dog Exclusion Areas. Areas where dogs are excluded at all times are:*
All children’s play sites to which the public has access within the District of Maldon
This can be raised with the Community Protection Team
Defibrillator: The Clerk is currently checking the defibrillator at Chapel Road but a longer term solution needs to be found.
Speedwatch: No further checking sessions were held during the period.

012.25 RETIREMENT OF THE CLERK
The Clerk retires on 31 March 2025 after over 50 years of service and arrangements are being put in place for his replacement. This will include:

- Advertising for and appointment of new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
- Advising contacts
- Website, e-mail and postal address changed and switchover
- Transfer of records and papers
- Transfer of equipment

The Vice-Chairman is seeking advice from a Town Clerk who lives locally.

013.25 BEACON LIGHTING 8 MAY 2025
Councillors J V Keyes and N Snelling continue with organising and making arrangements for the Beacon lighting on 8 May for VE Day 80. These include:

- Arranging and putting in place road closures
- Advising nearby residents of lighting and road closures
- Contacting emergency services
- Beacon preparation and lighting (9.30pm)
- Marshalling at the event
- Publicity

Cllr Keyes has applied for a road closure order and the Clerk will advise the Council’s insurers. The Clerk will hand over the public address system to Cllr. Keyes.

014 .25 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.
There was no other business and the meeting closed at approximately 8.45 pm.

Next Meeting of the Council: 10 February 2025.