

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on 12th March 2024 at 8pm

Present:

Councillor R Collins (Chairman), Councillor C Knapman (Vice Chairman), Councillor E Miles, District Councillor Richard Siddall, District Councillor Jade Hughes, the Clerk and 4 members of the public

Cllr Collins read out the community statement.

23/109 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Davis.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Davis' apology was noted by the council.

23/110 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th January and the 5th March 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23/111 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

23/112 Maldon District Councillor Update

Cllr Siddall provided an update on Maldon District Council's activities including:-

- The council has been awarded a grant of up to £5m for cultural and sports initiatives. This was awarded as Maldon District Council is one of only a few Level 1 Authorities (designated to be a lower economic standard) to have received levelling up funding.
- The council are investigating the possibility of introducing a DART (call on demand) bus service in the local area.
- The council maintains a 6.3-year housing land supply. Cllr Collins queried this figure given many developers have reduced development of houses due to a lack of demand.
- The council has approved a balanced budget for 2024/25.
- The forecast for end of year is looking positive.
- £5m of reserves are held against a target of £2.4m
- A full restructure of the council is being planned.
- Officer motivation metrics have improved against a backdrop of cultural change.
- The Secretary of State has given his approval for the King Charles III England Coast Path Stretch in Essex, connecting Wallasea Island to Burnham-on-Crouch. All three sections are now open (Wallasea Island to Burnham on Crouch, Burnham on Crouch to Maldon and Maldon to Salcott)

- Councillors have been holding talks with the NHS regarding the proposed closure of St Peters hospital and are working together for a solution to maintain outpatient services in the area.
- The UK Prosperity Fund for capital assets has been launched.
- UFest will again take place in the summer.
- The council are currently recruiting for a Director of North Essex Councils
- The planning department was recently restructured and there is now a manager in place who is in charge of enforcement.

Cllr Collins requested Cllr Siddall respond to an email that he has sent on Monday 11th March 2024 regarding Orchard Farm to ensure proper planning consents have been received for all building works, mobile and static caravans currently located on the site.

Cllr Collins advised the District Councillors the commodity centre has, for over 7 years failed to adhere to planning conditions regarding the planting of nature areas.

Cllr Siddall confirmed he will escalate both issues and respond to Cllr Collins.

A member of the public asked if central green waste could be re-considered. Cllr Siddall advised this was not an option as it was less cost effective than the current process.

23/113 Public Participation Session

A member of the public raised concern about the Essex Minerals Plan and how, if the proposals are passed and new quarries start operating, will the roads in the village be kept clean.

The Chairman advised this will be covered by a separate agenda item.

23/114 Pavilion Refurbishment

The Chairman provided an update on the pavilion refurbishment project noting:-

- The contract had been signed by the government minister and the Chairman for the £69k grant. However, the council is waiting for the Department to request bank details to initiate the payment.
- The planning application for the storage extension is currently being considered by Maldon District Council with a decision expected by the 28th March 2024.
- Cllr Holt continues to investigate the installation of solar panels and quotes are being sought. However, there are several considerations to confirm including battery storage. Kelvedon Village Hall have recently installed solar panels. Councillors Collins and Holt plan to visit to discuss the system they have installed.

Cllr Knapman advised the Pavilion Management Committee has recently undertaken a fire risk assessment which raised a few concerns which the Parish Council will rectify as part of phase 1 of the refurbishment project.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

23/115 Planning

23/115/1

23/01177/VAR PP-12650295 Variation of condition 2 on approved planning permission 21/01218/VAR at Apple Barn Shrub Farm, Maldon Road Tiptree.

Councillors considered the application.

RESOLVED: that the council respond with **NO COMMENT**.

23/115/2

24/00072/PACUAR Application for prior approval for the change of use of two agricultural buildings into four dwellings at The Barn, Braxted Park Road Tiptree.

Councillors considered the application

Councillors will look at the applications in further detail and come back to the clerk.

RESOLVED: that councillors will study the application and send their comments to the clerk.

To Note the Parish Council's Response to Planning Applications Considered Outside of a Meeting and Circulated via Email (in Accordance with Council Resolution 20/12.2)

23/115/3 24/00112/REQDCO – No Comment

23/115/4 24/00131/REQDCO – No Comment

To note applications submitted and distributed by Maldon District Council 'for information only'.

23/114/5 24/00188/AGR PP-12802636 Prior notification for an agricultural grain storage building at land adjacent to Broomfields Farm Lea Lane Great Braxted.

23/116 Planning Decisions

23/116/1 HOUSE/MAL/23/01170 replacement garage with first floor home office, single story rear extension and new carport in grounds at Lea Lane Wood, Lea Lane Great Braxted – **Approved**

23/116/2 FUL/MAL/23/01042 extension and alterations to existing dwelling including demolition. Erection of outbuildings including garden annex, cart lodge with accommodation above and stables at Ashmans Farm Braxted Road Kelvedon – **Refused**

Cllr Collins provided background information relating to the Orchards on Lea Lane and advised there appeared to be a house being built on site and questioned the number of mobile and static caravans on the site and queried if the correct planning permissions had

been received. To date no enforcement action has been taken by Maldon District Council despite Lea Lane being regularly, illegally closed when caravans were installed.

Cllr Colins advised he had written to Maldon District Council on the 11th March 2024 to confirm the number of caravans (both mobile and static) are permitted on site and to confirm the day room is being built to the agreed plans.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

23/117 Essex Minerals Local Plan 2025-2040

Cllr Collins summarised the proposed plans on Colemans Farm, confirming land all the way to the river is currently being considered as new sites for quarries and Brice Aggregates have plans for the installation of a substantial conveyor belt measuring 400m long and 9m in height. Further, Cllr Collins explained the facts and planning elements of the site consultation document and the red, amber, green (RAG) assessment of each site.

If approved, the main access roads to western Essex will be through gravel pits for the next 15 years.

The Braxted and Blackwater Conservation Group have retained the services of an experienced consultant to examine the plans and provide a formal response to Essex County Council.

Several concerns have been raised including:-

- Several of the proposed sites are on a flood plain.
- The majority of sites run alongside the Blackwater River, an important ecological feature of the area.
- Contamination of the river and damage this will cause to wildlife habitats.
- The pollution caused by washing the gravel.

Cllr Siddal joined the meeting at 20.30pm.

Cllr Siddal advised Maldon District Council will be responding to Essex County Council recommending refusal for all sites.

Cllr Colins suggested all councillors object on a personal basis as well as the council submitting its own objection.

Cllr Hughes joined the meeting at 20.34.

Matt Taylor has obtained a quote for a consultant to examine the plan and obtain a professional response.

Councillors discussed contributing financially toward the consultant's costs and how the council will respond to the proposals.

Resolved: that GBPC will contribute £200 toward the costs under Section 137 powers.

Resolved: that the parish council will respond to Essex County Council objecting to the sites proposed which are located in the village.

23/118 Environment

23/118/1 Use of Byelaws or Signage on the Field

Councillors received a report noting the opportunity for creating a byelaw was remote with no evidence of wrong doing on the field able to be used to support the application. As a compromise a sign confirming the rules of use on the field could be installed, which would link to the Pavilion Management's rules of use.

Cllr Miles suggested a further line could be added stating 'refusal to leave, upon the request of a parish councillor or representative of, will be considered trespassing'.

RESOLVED: that the parish council will obtain quotes for rules of use sign and consider these at the next meeting.

23/118/2 Hedging to Hide Waste Bins Outside 10 & 11 High Ridge

This item was not discussed as a resident has personally purchased hedging plants and asked for any funds the council may have paid toward the cost be put toward another project.

23/118/3 Speed Calming Signs

A member of the public advised speeding through the village seems to have calmed since speed warning signs were installed.

Councillors received a report and considered a quote to supply two additional signs.

RESOLVED: that the council purchase two additional signs at a cost of £89.60

23/118/4 Continuation of Trucam Service

Councillors received a report and considered continuing using Maldon District Council's Community Engagement Team to provide 2 hours per month of Trucam patrols.

RESOLVED: that the Trucam service be continued for a further 12 months, to 31st march 2025.

23/118/5 Easter Egg Hunt

A member of the public, and a resident of the village, addressed the council providing the organisation detail of an Easter Egg Hunt to be held in and around the village on Sunday the 31st March 2024 from 9.30am to 11.30am.

The member of the public sought permission to install temporary signs on the village green and advised if the event was well attended, they would consider making this an annual event.

RESOLVED: that the council have no objection and complimented the member of the public on her initiative in organising the event.

23/119 Finance

23/119/1 Accounts for Payment

The Council approved the following payments made between the 21st January 2024 and the 7th March 2024:-

Accounts for Payment **For authorisation on**
12/03/2024

<i>Date</i>	<i>Supplier</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Net</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>
21/01/2024	Mr A Holt	Water heater and valve	£ 195.00	£ 39.00	£ 234.00
21/01/2024	GB Pavilion Management Committee	Reimbursement of Pavilion Project costs	£ 447.24	£ -	£ 447.24
23/04/2023	Very Nice Blinds	Shutters for pavilion	£ 1,416.67	£ 283.33	£ 1,700.00
24/01/2024	ID Mobile	January mobile phone bill	£ 5.00	£ 1.00	£ 6.00
28/01/2024	Mrs Lynda Townend	January Salary	£ 247.60	£ -	£ 247.60
28/01/2024	HMRC	January payment	£ 62.00	£ -	£ 62.00
28/01/2024	Mrs Lynda Townend	December and January expenses	£ 33.70		£ 33.70
29/01/2024	Point Graphics	Traffic signs	£ 511.00	£ 102.20	£ 613.20
06/02/2024	Cllr Knapman - expenses	pavilion expenses	£ 20.74	£ -	£ 20.74
06/02/2024	Cllr Knapman - expenses	Cricket sign	£ 44.50	£ 8.90	£ 53.40
06/02/2023	Maldon District Council	TRUCAM costs - Oct, Nov and Dec	£ 243.18	£ 48.64	£ 291.82
13/02/2024	Will Teasel	Install under sink water heater	£ 380.00	£ -	£ 380.00
13/02/2024	Cllr Knapman - expenses	New fire blanket for pavilion	£ 13.94	£ 2.79	£ 16.73
19/02/2024	Cllr Knapman - expenses	Furniture oil for playground	£ 26.64	£ 5.32	£ 31.96
19/02/2024	EALC	Training courses	£ 225.00	£ 45.00	£ 270.00
24/02/2024	ID Mobile	February mobile phone bill	£ 5.00	£ 1.00	£ 6.00
28/02/2024	Mrs Lynda Townend	February Salary	£ 247.80	£ -	£ 247.80
28/02/2024	HMRC	February payment	£ 61.80	£ -	£ 61.80
29/02/2024	Maldon District Council	Election 2023 costs	£ 99.85	£ -	£ 99.85
04/03/2024	Cllr Knapman - expenses	Flash floor cleaner for Pavilion	£ 15.00	0	£15.00
05/03/2024	All Colour Windows and Doors	French door key turn barrels	£ 76.67	15.33	£92.00
TOTAL:					£2,543.60

RESOLVED: The accounts for payment listed above be approved for payment.

23/119/2 Grant to Beacon Hill Football Team

The council discussed awarding Beacon Hill Football Team with a grant to be put toward new kit.

Cllr Hughes advised she was a coach at the club and confirmed several children in the village played for the team.

RESOLVED: that the council will contribute £50 toward the cost of new kit.

23/120 Policies and Procedures

23/120/1 Procurement Policy

Cllr Collins advised the council that many grant funding application require sight of the council's procurement policy. Councillors received a draft Procurement Policy and discussed adopting this.

RESOLVED: that the Council adopt the Procurement Policy and will review this on an annual basis.

23/120/2 Biodiversity Policy

Councillors received a report and draft Biodiversity Policy.

RESOLVED: that the Council adopt the Biodiversity Policy which will be reviewed on an annual basis.

23/120/3 Gov.uk Domain Name

Councillors received a report recommending transferring the councils' domain name to the suffix gov.uk in line with NALC recommendations.

RESOLVED: that the Council will transfer to a gov.uk domain name with the preferred option being greatbraxtedpc.gov.uk and continue payment of the org.uk domain for a period of 12 months.

23/120/4 Pavilion Terms and Conditions

This item will be carried over to the next meeting.

23/121 General Announcements

The clerk advised a solution to the costs associated with Remembrance Sunday had been found.

23/122 Items to be Included on the Next Agenda

Agenda item 12.4 Pavilion Terms and Conditions will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Any items to be included on the agenda should be submitted to the clerk.

RESOLVED: that Members will send information for future agenda items to the clerk.

23/123 Date of Next Meeting

The Clerk advised the next meeting should include the annual parish meeting and asked if councillors would like to invite local organisations to show case their contribution to village life.

RESOLVED: that the council will hold the annual parish meeting at 19.30 on the 14th May 2024 followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting commencing at 20.00.

23/124 Chairman Closed the Meeting

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.51.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Cllr R Collins

Chairman