

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Pavilion on 9th March 2023 at 8pm

Present:

Councillor R Collins (Chairman), Councillor K Hornett, Councillor L Kane, Councillor C Knapman, District Cllr R Siddall, the Clerk and three members of the public

22/64 Election of a Chairman

Following the resignation of Chairman Cllr I Armstrong, Cllr R Collins was duly elected as Chairman and accepted the role.

RESOLVED: That Cllr R Collins becomes the Chairman of the Parish Council.

22/65 Apologies for Absence

All councillors were present.

22/66 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 12th January 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

22/67 Declarations of Interest

None received.

22/68 Resignation of a Councillor

RESOLVED: The resignation of Cllr I Armstrong was noted.

22/69 Maldon District Councillor Update

District Councillor R Siddall addressed the council advising:

- Maldon District Council (MDC) are now close to achieving the target for a five-year land supply. They have employed the services of a Barrister to verify the method used by officers to calculate the land supply to prevent developer's challenging the Council in the future and which had been done previously. Provided the District Council can show over four years land supply any challenge would be weighted in favour of the Council.
- There are currently 1,800 houses in outline planning permission but this is likely to change as building rates are slowing due to the current economic conditions.
- As the Government's planning rules are changing MDC need to develop an up-to-date Local Plan. This is moving forward, albeit slowly.
- MDC are now looking at planning needs for the next 20 years.
- MDC now have a new Corporate Plan which will be refined and reviewed after the election.

- There is a need in North East Essex to ensure there are adequate business units suitable for small businesses to allow them to thrive.
- The Council remains short of money and further cuts have been made. It is essential a review of the Council's strategy takes place, after the election, to ensure works are prioritised to meet the needs of residents.
- The pre-election period starts on Monday the 13th March, two clear weeks before other authorities.
- Maldon Independents are now a political group, registered with the Electoral Commission. Their values have been published this week.

A member of the public asked what MDC was doing about the necessary infrastructure needed to properly service residents in the new developments. Cllr Siddall advised the Council had been let down by both Essex County Council and officers at MDC. Infrastructure needs will be addressed in the Corporate Plan.

Cllr Hornett thanked Cllr Siddall for taking the time to attend the meeting and his support over the past four years.

RESOLVED: Cllr Siddall's update was noted.

22/70 Public Participation Session

A member of the public asked if a blanket tree preservation order (TPO) could be placed on the oak trees in the village.

Councillors advised a TPO could only be put on a tree if it was under threat.

The Chairman advised the Council has spent over £2k in the last year surveying and maintaining the five oak trees around the field.

A member of the public asked if the Council had received a report following the drains being surveyed.

The Chairman advised no report has been received by the Council.

It was noted a lot of work had been done on the drains surrounding the new housing development which included flushing and rodding.

RESOLVED: Cllr Knapman will try to ascertain from the Management Committee of the new housing development who initiated the survey.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will contact ECC Highways to request a copy of the report.

22/71 Sole Trustee Status for the Pavilion

Cllr Hornet gave an update advising the Pavilion Management Committee had met and resolved the Parish Council should become the sole trustee of the Pavilion. He confirmed the current committee members would remain on the managing committee dealing with the day-to-day management of the Pavilion while the Parish Council will manage major issues allowing VAT to be reclaimed and efficiencies put in place.

It was noted the two parcels of land owned by the Village Hall Charity would need to be transferred to the Parish Council which may result in legal costs.

22/72 Side Gate to Playing Field

Councillors discussed the resolution made at the November 2022 meeting (Minute 47.5) to permanently close the pedestrian gate to the playing field and recent feedback received from residents asking to keep the gate in place.

RESOLVED: The side gate will remain in situ and the Council will review as necessary.

22/73 Pavilion Gate

Cllr Knapman confirmed the cost for a new six bar gate, including a drop bolt for safety, to be installed by Roger Clarke would be £898.06.

RESOLVED: Members agreed the cost to install the new gate.

22/74 King's Coronation Event

Councillors discussed the planned activities to celebrate the King's Coronation which will include:

- The Braxted's Coronation Big Lunch will take place on Sunday 7th May from 1pm to 5pm.
- Residents will bring their own picnics
- A raffle will be held with finds given to the Pavilion Management Committee.
- A band and singer will be performing.
- A grant application has been submitted for additional tables, chairs and gazebos.
- Information of the event will be published on social media and in the Braxted Bulletin

Cllr Hornet confirmed the Council's insurance covered the planned activities.

22/75 Remembrance Day Sunday Service

Members received a report from Cllr Morgan regarding the three parishes holding the Remembrance Day Sunday Service at the war memorial.

The Council is in agreement and will participate in the Committee but felt it would be best to defer the appointment to the committee until after the election.

RESOLVED: That the decision confirming which councillor will be appointed to the committee to be deferred until the May meeting.

22/76 Parish Council Meeting Dates

Councillors received a draft schedule of meeting dates for the civic year 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That the schedule of meeting dates for the civic year 2023/24 be agreed.

22/77 Great Braxted Village Clean Up 2023

Members received an update on preparations for the village Spring Clean which will take place on the 18th March 2023 from 10 am to 12pm.

Cllr Hornett advised the Pavilion had been booked and refreshments would be served from 11am.

22/78 Parish Meet & Greet

Cllr Knapman discussed holding a parish meet and greet session after the elections, in July or August, to give residents the opportunity to meet the new councillors and learn about the functions of the Parish Council. He advised a small printing charge would be required to leaflet each household.

Cllr Knapman requested pre-approval to send approximately £20 on printing invitations.

RESOLVED: that the Council will organise the Meet and Greet and invitation printing costs be approved.

22/79 Volunteer Policy

Councillors received a draft volunteer policy which was required as part of the applications for grant funding.

RESOLVED: the Volunteer Policy be adopted by the Parish Council.

22/80 Planning

There were no planning applications to consider

Cllr Hornett gave an update on plans Brice Aggregates are considering, due to the A12 Chelmsford widening scheme, to move activities to Appleford Farm. A leaflet has been sent to all Councillors detailing the Company's plans.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will request a copy of the leaflet.

22/81 Environment

22/81.1 TRUCM Service

Councillors discussed the merits of continuing to use the TRUCAM service agreeing it was essential to keep the service to help control speeding in the village.

RESOLVED: That the TRUCAM service be continued on a rolling 6-month contract to Sep 2023.

RESOLVED: the Clerk will request the service is operational at the two approved sites in the village.

Councillors further discussed persistent speeding on High Ridge and what traffic calming measures could be adopted.

RESOLVED: that a Local Highways application be submitted to request a reduction in speed from 30mph to 20mph in the area.

RESOLVED: that information regarding the Twenty's Plenty for Essex campaign is brought to the next meeting.

22/82 Clerks Training

The clerk advised she had commenced the Certificate in Local Government Administration training (CiLCA) recently the cost of which was being met by Maldon Town Council.

She requested the Parish Council support the application for a bursary provided by the EALC which would enable core training courses to be undertaken at 25% of the usual cost up to a value of £500.

The Clerk also requested the Council fund the purchase of the book Arnold-Barker on Local Council Administration at a cost of £163 plus P&P and 'The Clerks Manual 2023' at a cost of £67.50 plus P&P.

RESOLVED: The council agreed to support the application for a bursary and purchase of the required reference books.

22/83 Finance

22/83.1 Accounts for payment made between meetings between the period 13th January 2023 and 1st March 2023 be approved as follows:

Staff Costs	£495.85
Office Expenses	£12.00
HMRC	£116.45
Maldon District Council	£150.95
Cllr Knapman Expenses	£305.50
Total	£1,080.75

RESOLVED: that the accounts be approved for payment.

22/83.2 Signatory Removal from Bank Account

RESOLVED: Councillors signed the necessary forms to remove Mr Armstrong's access to the bank account.

22/84 General Announcements

Cllr K Hornett and Cllr L Kane announced they would not be standing at the elections in May.

The Chairman thanked both Members for the contributions they have made as councillors. Cllr Collins provided an update on the grant funding applications he had submitted to raise between £80-90k for works to the Pavilion. One had been rejected and two are still being considered but additional data is required to support the applications.

Cllr Collins advised 200 trees would need to be planted in the village to offset the carbon lost by the Pavilion and due to its position solar panels were not an option due to the direction of the roof.

Cllr Siddall advised trees were available free of charge from ECC and would send through the details.

A member of the public advised the fencing around the field required maintenance.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Knapman will inspect the fencing and determine what works are required.

RESOLVED: that the Council consider budgeting an amount for fence maintenance in the 2024/25 budget.

A member of the public expressed concern about cars parking on the area outside the Pavilion Gate.

RESOLVED: that the matter be brought to the May meeting for councillors to discuss methods of deterring parking in this area.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Cllr Richard Collins
Chairman