

Little Totham Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting, Tuesday 6th May 2025

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 6th May in the Evangelical Hall, at 7.45pm

PRESENT

Chairman J. Hughes

Councillors: T. Gritton, V. Hare and J. King

Parishioners: 1

25.58 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Councillors Lawrence, Birkin and Venton

25.59 To invite Councillors to declare an interest in matters on the Agenda

Councillor King has an ongoing interest in the common land.

Councillor Hughes declared an interest in Item 8 as a former trustee of Clarks Farm Greyhound Rescue.

Councillor Gritton declared an interest in Item 11 having already been in contact with the company about the proposed pole near his property in Green Lane.

25.60 Minutes 01/04/25

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st April 2025 be approved and confirmed.

25.61 Update for parish newsletter

The annual review from Chairman Lawrence will be submitted as the update for June's newsletter.

25.62 Switchover to digital phones in Essex

The Programme Communication Officer at ECC for the switchover is Matt Dean. He will be sending material to be used to raise awareness and can attend a meeting if required.

25.63 Planning enforcement

Tolleshunt Knights Parish Council have not yet received a response to the latest FOI request to MDC.

25.64 Common land

It was proposed by Councillor Hughes and seconded by Councillor Hare that Dyer and Crowe are formally instructed to carry out the conveyancing work. Dyer and Crowe will register the common land first with Land Registry and then ownership will be transferred from Mr Mabbitt to Little Totham Parish Council.

25.65 a) Planning applications

Councillor Hughes left the room for this discussion.

25/00380/FUL Proposed additional kennels at Clarks Farm Greyhound Rescue, Wash Lane.

Steve Cobb, owner of the rescue centre gave an overview of the history and purpose of the charity. He explained the need for additional kennels and showed maps of the site to councillors. He answered questions and reported there will be no change to the operating hours or streetview of the site if the additional kennels are approved. Councillors agreed to support the application.

b) Planning decisions

No decisions from MDC.

25.66 Outdoor gym equipment project

The full quote and information pack received from Sovereign Play had been circulated to councillors. Despite the guidance from an MDC officer that planning permission is not necessary, Councillor Siddall has confirmed that it is required.

25.67 Damaged village tommy

The tommy which had been located at The Swan has been damaged and is not repairable. It will be decided whether to replace it at the June meeting when more councillors are present. It will also be established how many tommies there are and their current locations.

25.68 Telegraph poles

Notices have been placed around the parish in proposed locations to erect new poles by a company called Connexin. It is not clear what the poles are for or when the work will be carried out. Councillor Gritton has informed the company that Green Lane is a private road, not public highway.

RESOLVED Clerk to contact Connexin to request more information.

Councillor Hare left the meeting at 8.31pm.

25.69 Annual Parish Meeting – 23rd May

Date is confirmed as 23rd May starting at 7.00pm in the Evangelical Church.

25.70 Tru Cam report

There were 6 captures for speeding during March.

25.71 Invoices presented for payment

M. Gardiner	Clerk's salary April	£198.84
LT Evangelical Church	Hire of hall	£20.00
Skippers	Grass cutting (Feb – April)	£594

25.72 Correspondence

A request had been received from resident Richard Fedelmesi about using the small common for private parking on 17th May. Councillor King agreed to speak to Mr Fedelmesi.

All other correspondence had been circulated to councillors.

25.73 Update from District Councillor

Councillor Hughes reported that there has been no response from government yet to the Essex submission for Devolution and LGR. MDC has invested in improvement works to the ampitheatre at Prom Park which is nearing completion and a new skatepark at West Maldon Community Centre.

25.74 Public questions

No questions or issues raised.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.55pm

Signed by the Chairman.....

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH’S AGENDA – 3rd June 2025
Review of councillor roles, Connexin poles, damaged village tommy