

Little Totham Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting, Tuesday 3rd June 2025

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 3rd June in the Evangelical Hall, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Chairman: N. Lawrence

Councillors: A. Birkin, V. Hare J. Hughes and S. Venton

Parishioners: 3

25.75 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Councillors Gritton and King.

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

No interests.

25.77 Minutes 06/05/25

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th May 2025 be approved and confirmed.

25.78 Review of councillor roles

Councillor Hare asked for someone else to take over emptying the bin on the play area. Councillor Venton offered to help with this and it was agreed to review the need for this bin at the next meeting.

Clerk will update the list of roles on the website to include Councillor King as common land representative and Councillor Birkin has kindly agreed to take on writing the newsletter update each month.

25.79 Planning enforcement

Tolleshunt Knights Parish Council did not receive a request to the latest FOI request so wrote to the new Chief Executive at MDC. Their email was passed to Matt Winslow, Head of Planning who has offered to go through the enforcement cases with each parish.

25.80 Common land

It has been agreed with Mr Mabbitt that each party will pay 50% of the fees to Dyer and Crowe.

Payment will be made at the end of the transfer process. Mr Mabbitt has confirmed that he does not want to keep the Lord of the Manor title.

The common has not been cut this year and brambles are starting to encroach. Parish Council might be able to access grants for management when transfer has completed and will look at setting up a common committee with representation from the commoners and wildlife organisations.

25.81 a) Planning applications

No new planning applications.

b) Planning decisions

25/00218/PADOT Prior approval for change of use of buildings to flexible commercial use Little Renters Farm, Beckingham Street – approved

23/00366/FUL Appeal for retrospective application for change of use of land to domestic, stationing of mobile home and creation of a new access Willowbrook Farm, The Street – appeal dismissed.

25.82 Outdoor gym equipment project

Clerk to contact Sovereign Play to discuss the need for planning permission and Councillors Hughes to speak with Matt Winslow to confirm the process.

25.83 Damaged village tommy

It was discussed and agreed not to replace the damaged village tommy. Councillor Birkin will include a request in the newsletter to locate the other mobile tommy.

25.84 Connexin pole installation

Chairman Lawrence has been in contact with Amber Dearlove at Connexin but communication has been frustrating and contradictory. He and Councillor Birkin attended a meeting organised by Wickham Bishops Parish Council with Connexin and Essex and Suffolk Water and they reported back from that meeting. Connexin will install on existing poles where they can, like telegraph poles but not electricity ones. The devices will monitor water meters to start with but could be used for other digital metering in the future. The poles need to be 2 metres below ground and are 10 metres tall so churches and private homes could be possible locations. A plan of proposed poles for CM9 area will be provided to the parish council.

A resident explained the problems she is having contacting Connexin or ES Water regarding a proposed pole near her home in Park Wood Lane. Clerk will email contact names and details to the resident.

25.85 Tru Cam report

There were 4 captures for speeding during April. The clerk has compiled a list of former community speedwatch volunteers to be checked by Chairman Lawrence. These people will then be contacted to see if they are still available to relaunch the scheme.

25.86 Invoices presented for payment

Clear Insurance	PC insurance	£745.69
M. Gardiner	Clerk's salary May	£190.32
HMRC	Tax	£95.00
EALC	Affiliation fees 2025/26	£155.06
LT Evangelical Church	Hire of hall	£40.00

25.87 Correspondence

Email received from a resident about the cutting and maintenance of the pump verge and ditch. Rowena Collins is unwell, so the clerk will find someone else to do the internal audit this year. All other correspondence had been circulated to councillors.

25.88 Update from District Councillor

Councillor Hughes reported that Councillor Siddall has been re-elected as Leader of MDC and the civic year of meetings is all about to start again.

25.89 Public questions

Peter Hare is in progress with strimming the pond near the play equipment to keep on top of the vegetation growth.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.52pm

Signed by the Chairman.....

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH’S AGENDA – 1st July 2025

Emptying the bin