

Little Totham Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting, Tuesday 1st July 2025

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 1st July in the Evangelical Hall, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Chairman: N. Lawrence

Councillors: A. Birkin, T. Gritton, V. Hare and J. Hughes

Parishioners: 3

25.90 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Councillor Venton.

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

No interests.

25.92 Minutes 03/06/25

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd June 2025 be approved and confirmed.

25.93 Common land

The process of registering the common is underway, but it is unknown how long this will take. Chairman Lawrence talked about getting aerial photos of the common so that changes can be compared in the future. The clerk will look at Defra maps and Councillor Hare has a contact with a drone who she will ask. It was agreed that the two recent occurrences of parking on the small common for events should not set a precedence for regular parking to be permitted.

25.94 Planning enforcement

Ongoing, but no update since last meeting.

25.95 a) Planning applications

No new planning applications.

b) Planning decisions

No new planning decisions.

25.96 Outdoor gym equipment project

MDC Planning stated that planning permission is only required if the equipment exceeds 4metres in height and 200 cubic metres capacity and Sovereign Play has confirmed the equipment is within these parameters. Councillor Hughes will seek information about the opening date of the application process for the Rural Prosperity Funding.

25.97 Connexin pole installation

Notes from the meeting at Wickham Bishops have been circulated and Essex and Suffolk Water sent the map of proposed poles which only shows two for Lt Totham. This subject will be discussed at the next MDC Parishes forum on 14th July.

25.98 Memorial Bench for Bernie Appleton

Chairman Lawrence has spoken with Lorna Key about the possibility of a memorial bench for Bernie Appleton to recognise all that he did for the village. Councillor Hare will contact his family for feedback as to whether they think this is a suitable idea.

Councillor Hughes has a contact who could replace the damaged Tommy at a reduced rate while he establishes his business, she will send his details to Chairman Lawrence. There is still uncertainty about how many Tommies were originally purchased. There is one to be collected from Sawyers Field, which Chairman Lawrence will store.

25.99 Litter bin at the play area

Clerk to find out if this could be emptied by MDC.

25.100 Tru Cam report

There were 7 captures for May.

25.101 Invoices presented for payment

M. Gardiner	Clerk's salary June	£212.10
Microsoft	365 subscription renewal	£84.99
LT Evangelical Church	Hire of hall	£20.00

25.102 Correspondence

Ongoing correspondence with resident about the cutting and maintenance of pump verge. All other correspondence has been circulated to councillors.

25.103 Update from District Councillor

Councillor Hughes reported that there has been issues at Blackwater Leisure Centre because the organisation running it wants to increase the profitable element which is the gym. However, this will mean some of the regular hirers will lose their space and will need to find alternative venues which has not been a popular decision.

25.104 Public questions

Ann Jesney has been watering the newly planted trees during the recent dry spell. There is no ongoing commitment under the planting initiative for them to be watered by contractors. It was agreed to include a thanks to Ann in the newsletter and ask for other volunteers to help with the watering to try to ensure the new trees survive.

A resident in attendance confirmed that the original artist of the village sign has moved away from the area but can be contacted to ask about cleaning up the sign.

There was a long discussion about the issue of speeding traffic getting worse through the village. All are encouraged to log times and vehicles registrations of particular offenders e.g. Flagfinders bus so that the relevant organisations can be informed. Councillors Hughes will try to find a central contact for Beckingham Business Park to raise awareness of speeding with all of the businesses.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.44pm

Signed by the Chairman.....

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH’S AGENDA – 5th August 2025
Re-establishing CSW