

Little Totham Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting, Tuesday 5th August 2025

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 5th August in the Evangelical Hall, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Chairman: N. Lawrence

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

Parishioners: 1

25.105 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Councillor Venton and Councillor Hughes.

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

Councillor King has an ongoing interest in the common land.

25.107 Minutes 01/07/25

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

25.108 Common land

a) no update from Dyer and Crowe on the registration process.
b) there are currently unauthorised paddocks set up on the common for grazing by unknown people who do not have commoners rights. Councillor King proposed that Councillors Siddall and Hughes are formally requested in their capacity as district councillors to ask MDC to enact the Scheme of Management for the common so that they can assist with issues around encroachment and enclosure. It would be useful to start this process now before MDC is absorbed into a new unitary authority through Local Government Reform. Councillors all agreed to this action.

RESOLVED Clerk to write to Councillors Siddall and Hughes to request their help with enactment.

c) there are no aerial maps available on the Defra website and Councillor Hare's contact will not take any aerial photos free of charge with a drone. Google maps can be used but are not always right up-to-date or there are companies that take and sell aerial photos. This can be further investigated as the process of taking on the common progresses.

d) Ann Jesney was acknowledged in the newsletter for watering the new trees, but no further volunteers have come forward. The Christmas tree is suffering from lack of water.

25.109 a) Planning applications

25/00657/FUL PP-14172607 application for the provision of a single dwelling Godfreys Bungalow, Sheepcoates Lane – this is for retention of the bungalow which should have been demolished after the new farmhouse was built.

25/00650/FUL PP-14144108 retrospective permission for the stationing of a mobile unit to be used as welfare and office unit at Willowbrook Farm, The Street – councillors agreed to respond to object and Councillor Siddall has called this in for planning committee.

b) Planning decisions

No new planning decisions.

25.110 Outdoor gym equipment project

The clerk and chairman Lawrence attended the recent Maldon parishes forum meeting and heard a presentation about the new community grant which MDC will soon be launching. An application for the gym equipment will be made as soon as the grant scheme is open.

25.111 Connexin pole installation

Of the two proposed poles for Lt Totham, the one in Sawyers Road has now been installed and the one near the Swan has yet to be done.

25.112 Memorial bench and replacement tommies

Councillor Hare has been in contact with Bernie Appleton's family and the preference is likely to be for a memorial tree at the church with a plaque rather than a bench.

There is still uncertainty about how many Tommies were originally purchased.

RESOLVED Councillor Hughes still to send details of contact for possible new tommies to chairman Lawrence.

25.113 Litter bin at the play area

MDC confirmed that this litter bin can be added to their schedule of emptying bins.

25.114 Traffic

a) there were 3 captures for June with tru cam and 3 for July as well.

b) the clerk read through the list of community speedwatch volunteers she had found on file and will contact those still in the village.

Councillor Birkin reported that she had recorded traffic movements outside her property on a Friday from 5am-12pm. She had counted 500 cars and 90 lorries with no more than a two-minute gap during the period.

RESOLVED Clerk to write to Morleys about the skip lorries and to find current costings for highways speed reduction projects.

25.115 Invoices presented for payment

M. Gardiner	Clerk's salary July	£190.32
Skippers	Ground maintenance	£702
MDC	Tru cam patrols	£311.11
IncedIT	Internet security	£34.99
DM Payroll	Payroll services	£79.20
LT Evangelical Church	Hire of hall	£20.00

25.116 Correspondence

Ongoing correspondence with resident about the cutting and maintenance of pump verge. Skippers are now cutting the grass on the verge again, but the resident has sent boundary and solicitors documents to demonstrate that the parish council has responsibility for clearing the overgrown vegetation from the brook that runs behind the verge.

The artist who designed and painted the village sign has sent information about cleaning the sign and Councillor Birkin offered to attempt to do this, following necessary safety precautions.

25.117 Update from District Councillor

No report provided.

25.118 Public questions

Peter Hare was thanked for recent clearance work at the little common and pond.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.58pm

Signed by the Chairman.....

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA – 2nd September 2025

Re-establishing CSW