

Little Totham Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting, Tuesday 2nd December 2025

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 2nd December in the Evangelical Hall, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Chairman: N. Lawrence

Councillors: A. Birkin, V. Hare, J. Hughes, J. King and S. Venton
In attendance: Parish Clerk

Parishioners: 2

25.160 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Councillor Gritton.

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

Councillor King has an ongoing interest in the common.

25.162 Minutes 04/11/25

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th November 2025 be approved and confirmed.

25.163 Dates for 2026 meetings

Dates were agreed as follows for 2026 meetings – 6th Jan, 3rd Feb, 3rd Mar, 14th Apr, 12th May, 2nd Jun, 7th Jul, 4th Aug, 8th Sep, 6th Oct, 3rd Nov, 1st Dec. Councillor Birkin will include dates in the newsletter update.

25.164 Common land

No update from Dyer and Crowe about the registration. The clerk reported on the recent useful training she had attended delivered by the Open Spaces Society (OSS). It was agreed to join the OSS membership scheme for an annual fee of £45 as they can provide specialist support to members. They can give advice on the scheme of management and agreement with MDC.

25.165 a) Planning applications

No new planning applications.

Chairman Lawrence reported on a notification he has received about 14 proposed houses in land off Plains Road for which an application will imminently be submitted.

b) Planning decisions

25/00380/FUL additional kennels at Clarks Farm greyhound rescue centre in Wash Lane – approved.

25.166 Replacement tommies

The new tommies have been ordered. Chairman Lawrence will ask Councillor Gritton to collect the existing tommy from Sawyers field for safekeeping.

25.167 Traffic

a) There was 1 tru cam capture in October.

b) The clerk had a meeting with Janet, the county co-ordinator for Community Speedwatch. Janet advised that the scheme will be set up as a parish council group with the clerk as local co-ordinator and new sites can be added. Training will be organised next year in the parish and then online for anyone that is not available on the training date.

c) Chairman Lawrence is looking into being involved in a trial for the development of a new automatic camera.

25.168 Parish Council laptop quote

The clerk had got a second quote from ‘Silicon Alley’ based in Maldon for £399 but they also offered a better price if they receive delivery of perfect laptops in slightly damaged boxes. One more quote will be obtained by the clerk but councillors authorised spending of up to £400 for a new laptop.

25.169 Christmas tree

Gigaclear had agreed a donation of £100 for the village Christmas tree. The donation had been acknowledged in the newsletter update. Councillor Venton agreed to arrange purchase and delivery from Tom’s Farm Shop.

25.170 Invoices presented for payment

M. Gardiner	Clerk’s salary November	£219.20
HMRC	Tax	£245.21
Skippers	Ground maintenance	£702.00
DM Payroll	Payroll service	£79.20
LT Evangelical Church	Hire of hall	£20.00

25.171 Correspondence

Marion Wakeling had contacted the clerk to ask if mains drainage had ever been considered along Plains Road, no councillors were aware of previous request for this. All other correspondence has been circulated to councillors.

25.172 Update from District Councillor

The planning department at MDC is still very busy and applications are taking longer than usual to be processed and determined. The consultation for Local Government Reorganisation is now open for local residents to submit comments <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/essex-southend-on-sea-thurrock/>

25.173 Public questions

No questions from the public.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.41pm

Signed by the Chairman.....

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA – 6th January 2026
Precept 2026/27