

Little Totham Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting, Tuesday 3rd March 2026

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

PRESENT

Chairman: N. Lawrence

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

Parishioners: 10

In attendance: Parish Clerk, County Councillor Mark Durham

26.25 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Cllr Venton.

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

Cllr King has an ongoing interest in the common land.

26.27 Minutes 03/02/26

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd February 2026 be approved and confirmed.

26.28 Traffic issues

Councillor Lawrence thanked members of the public and Cllr Durham for attending the meeting. The clerk explained the background to inviting Cllr Durham to today's meeting. The Open Meeting to discuss traffic concerns in November 2025 had resulted in ideas and potential actions to address the issues, but input was needed from Cllr Durham to understand which options are viable and can be taken forward.

Cllr Durham started by giving an overview of ECC expenditure and how Highways factors in to the overall budget. He then went through the list of potential actions from the Open Meeting and explained what can and cannot be done by Essex Highways. Discussion was opened up and Cllr Durham answered questions from parish councillors and residents. Cllr Durham invited urgent/priority matters to be flagged to him by email and he will pursue.

RESOLVED the clerk will send a meeting follow up email to Cllr Durham

26.29 Common land

Still waiting for the first stage invoice from Dyer and Crowe.

26.30 Planning enforcement

The clerk had circulated a list of planning enforcement cases which had been compiled by going back through old emails and files. Cllr Hare made some amendments to the list and Willowbrook Farm can be removed.

RESOLVED the clerk will send to MDC planning enforcement and ask for updates as they advised rather than sending further FOI requests.

26.31 Planning

a) Applications

No new applications received.

b) Decisions

25/00847/HOUSE single storey side extension Mandalay, Post Office Lane – approved

26.32 MDC tru cam patrols 2026/27

There were 2 Tru cam captures for speeding in January. MDC has sent the new request forms to continue the service in 2026/27. The cost will increase from £43.24 per hour to £44.91. Following discussion about tru cam during the item with Cllr Durham, residents are in support of increasing the number of patrols. It was agreed to increase the number of hours in the contract from 2 per month to 4 per month, proposed Cllr Hughes and seconded Cllr Birkin with all in favour. Tru cam report information will be included in the parish council’s paragraph in the newsletter.

RESOLVED the clerk will send the service form to MDC requesting an increase from 2 to 4 hours per month.

26.33 Clerk’s report

All Saints PCC has requested use of the small common for the car show on 23rd May 2026, all councillors in agreement to this request. The new laptop for parish council use has been purchased from Silicon Alley in Maldon and the clerk will be moving to a .gov.uk email address in accordance with Assertion 10 in the AGAR process. The clerk met with officers at MDC to discuss the outdoor gym equipment application to Where Quality of Life Matters grant. Additional information to be submitted to demonstrate that the equipment will be used e.g. quoting the successful seated exercise classes that the clerk organised with Maldon CVS.

26.34 Invoices presented for payment

M. Gardiner	Clerk’s salary Feb	£207.67
HMRC	Tax	£52.00
M. Gardiner	Claim for PC laptop	£379.00
LT Evangelical Church	Hire of hall	£20.00

26.35 Correspondence

All correspondence had been circulated to councillors.

26.36 Update from District Councillor

Cllr Hughes reported on the banking hub which has recently been set up and opened at MDC offices.

26.37 Public questions

No questions.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.47pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA – 14th April 2026
Annual Parish Meeting