

# Little Totham Parish Council

## Minutes of Meeting, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February in the Evangelical Hall, at 7.30pm

### PRESENT

Chairman N. Lawrence

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

Parishioners: 2

**25.14 Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Councillor Hughes.

### **25.15 To invite Councillors to declare an interest in matters on the Agenda**

Councillor King has an ongoing interest in the common land.

### **25.16 Minutes 07/01/25**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be approved and confirmed.

### **25.17 Update for parish newsletter**

Councillor King had already written a paragraph and sent to the clerk.

**RESOLVED Clerk to add co-option of Cllr Birkin to the paragraph and submit to the newsletter editor.**

### **25.18 Co-option of new parish councillor**

Chairman Lawrence proposed and Councillor Venton seconded that Anita Birkin be co-opted as a parish councillor, and all agreed. Councillor Birkin signed the declaration of acceptance of office form in the presence of the clerk and the clerk countersigned.

**RESOLVED Clerk to send link to register of interests form to Councillor Birkin.**

### **25.19 Planning enforcement**

The clerk had circulated MDC's response to the request for planning enforcement information to councillors and the clerk to Tolleshunt Major and Tolleshunt Knights Parish Councils.

**RESOLVED Clerk to ask for feedback to the response from the other parish councils and discuss at March meeting when Councillor Hughes is present.**

### **25.20 Common land**

*Councillor King left the room while this item was discussed.*

Chairman Lawrence reported that he had been back in contact with Mr Mabbitt about transferring ownership of the common land. Dyer and Crowe Solicitors have given an indicative cost of £1,000 +VAT for each party to carry out the legal work and are prepared to represent both the parish council and Mr Mabbitt because there is no financial gain for either side. Mr Mabbitt has confirmed that he will cover his own legal fees. It was proposed by Councillor Hare that the land transfer is progressed and the parish council takes on ownership of the common land, seconded by Councillor Venton and all agreed.

**RESOLVED Chairman Lawrence to report the decision to Mr Mabbitt and the clerk to obtain two other quotes for the legal work.**

*Councillor King re-joined the meeting and Chairman Lawrence updated him.*

**25.21 a) Planning applications**

No new applications received.

**b) Planning decisions**

24/00903/HOUSE Addition of windows to the front and rear elevations Two Jays, Green Lane – approved.

**25.22 Outdoor gym equipment project**

The clerk reported that she has been in contact with the Asset Manager at MDC who has confirmed that they could grant Landlords Consent for the installation of gym equipment in Sawyers Field and set up a document to legalise the agreement between MDC and the parish council. Other grant sources need to be explored now. Sovereign Play will attend on 17<sup>th</sup> March to assess the site and provide a free quote for the equipment and installation which can then be used in any funding applications, but other comparative quotes will also need to be obtained.

**RESOLVED Clerk, Chairman Lawrence and Councillor Venton to meet Sovereign Play on 17<sup>th</sup> March.**

**25.23 Tru Cam report**

The latest report received was for December when two people were caught speeding.

**25.24 Invoices presented for payment**

HMRC	Income tax	£26.40
M. Gardiner	Clerk's salary January	£230.72
MDC	Tru cam patrols	£305.78
Skippers	Ground maintenance	£594.00
LT Evangelical Church	Hire of hall	£20.00

**25.25 Correspondence**

A resident had informed Chairman Lawrence that the rope handrail on the common land bridge needs tightening up and the shingle needs topping up. Peter Hare agreed to look and assess.

The clerk has received the new training programme from EALC and will circulate to Councillor King who is potentially interested in planning training and Councillor Birkin. All other correspondence had been circulated to councillors.

**25.26 Update from District Councillor**

There was no update from Councillor Hughes.

**25.27 Public questions**

There were no questions.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.21pm

Signed by the Chairman.....

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
Planning enforcement