

Little Totham Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting, Tuesday 4th March 2025

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 4th March in the Evangelical Hall, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Chairman N. Lawrence

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

Parishioners: 4

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

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

Councillor King has an ongoing interest in the common land.

25.30 Minutes 11/02/25

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th February 2025 be approved and confirmed.

25.31 Update for parish newsletter

Councillor Hughes will write the update this month in place of Councillor Venton.

RESOLVED Councillor Hughes to send paragraph to the clerk.

25.32 Switchover to digital phones in Essex

Councillors discussed the potential impact of the switchover particularly for elderly and vulnerable residents and what the parish council can do to raise awareness. Councillor Hare reported that her experience with the switchover has not been positive.

RESOLVED Clerk to find out timescale and if publicity material is available from ECC.

25.33 Planning enforcement

The clerk had received and circulated MDC's response to the FOI for planning enforcement information for Jan-Feb 2025 which had this time been requested by Tolleshunt Major Parish Council. The information being sent from MDC is not very detailed.

RESOLVED Continue to review information received and then decide way forward with other parish councils.

25.34 Common land

The clerk had received quotes of £1,950+VAT from Brights solicitors and £1,250+VAT from Holmes & Hill for the legal work for the transfer of the common land to compare with Dyer and Crowe.

RESOLVED Chairman Lawrence to obtain quote in writing from Dyer and Crowe.

25.35 a) Planning applications

No new applications received.

b) Planning decisions

No decisions from MDC.

25.36 Outdoor gym equipment project

Site meeting to be held at Sawyers Field on 17th March with Sovereign Play to discuss options.

RESOLVED Clerk and Councillor Venton to meet Sovereign Play on 17th March.

25.37 Tru Cam report

The latest report received was for January when two people were caught speeding. The clerk will ask District Cllr Siddall about using Great Totham’s speed camera.

25.38 Invoices presented for payment

M. Gardiner	Clerk’s salary February	£230.72
LT Evangelical Church	Hire of hall	£20.00

25.39 Correspondence

The clerk reported that Skippers usually send their quote out in mid-March to start the new grass cutting contract from 1st April. Comparative quotes are being sought in advance of this from MDC and JC Services.

All other correspondence had been circulated to councillors.

25.40 Update from District Councillor

Members are reviewing the maintenance programme for MDC offices as spend is not prudent if the buildings will not be used following devolution and Local Government Reorganisation programme. Latest information about devolution can be found here <https://www.essex.gov.uk/about-council/plans-and-strategies/our-vision-essex/devolution-and-local-government-reorganisation> on ECC’s website.

25.41 Public questions

Questions/issues raised:

- Parish Council working with the church and being more involved in village events – car show, open gardens, fete and dog show dates to be included in newsletter update
- Making sure residents are aware that the Defibrillator is available for all at The Swan – include in newsletter update
- Highways issues to be reported – Clerk will check if they are already on the online reporting system
- Little Renters Farm – vehicle movements etc, clerk to look into.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.53pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA – 1st April 2025

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual meeting of the parish council

Planning enforcement

Digital phone switchover