

Little Totham Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting, Tuesday 8th September 2026

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 8th September 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: 3

In attendance: Parish Clerk

26.95 Apologies for Absence: None

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

Cllr King has an ongoing interest in the common land.

26.97 Minutes 04/08/26

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th August 2026 be approved and confirmed.

26.98 Traffic issues

- a) There had been no speed watch sessions due to holidays. An extra volunteer will be completing the training on 29th September. The clerk will circulate dates to run some sessions in September.
- b) There were 8 tru cam patrols in July with 8 captures, the highest speed was 38mph. Captures are increasing in line with the increase in patrols.
- c) The Elan City speed device has been purchased and delivered to Cllr Lawrence. Cllr Venton will collect from Cllr Lawrence and look at the set up needed.

26.99 Common land

The clerk had circulated the risk assessment checklist which all can start using when out for walks and fill out by hand or electronically after the visit. Completed forms will be kept and stored by the clerk to fulfil the risk assessment inspections.

- a) A meeting was held on 2nd September with Michael Padmore at TCV and a representative from Colchester Natural History Society. All of the conservation organisations will work together to give advice on managing the common and an application will be made to the Local Nature Recovery grant to fund works. Any work to take place will be communicated to the commoners and residents in advance.
- b) Cllr King has re-established dialogue with a previous contact from Essex Wildlife Trust about the common management. Cllr King can also arrange for a topping cut to be carried out in the Autumn. He will get a quote and then circulate for councillor's agreement.

26.100 Planning

a) Applications:

26/00523/FUL PP-15121894 provision of a single dwelling at Bullace Cottage, Office Lane – support.

b) Decisions: None

26.101 Financial Regulations

The clerk had amended the draft Financial Regulations based on feedback from councillors.

RESOLVED that the revised Financial Regulations are approved on proposal of Cllr Lawrence, seconded Cllr Birkin and all agreed.

26.102 Remembrance Service

District councillor Siddall is not available for the village Remembrance Service this year and it is possible that Cllr Lawrence will not be able to attend. Cllr Gritton offered to attend to represent the parish council and lay the wreath. The clerk will let the church representatives know and copy Cllr Gritton in. Cllr Lawrence will find out if the new tommyes are ready for collection.

26.103 Invoices presented for payment

M. Gardiner	Clerk’s salary Aug	£196.34
HMRC	PAYE	£49.20
M. Gardiner	20s plenty banner (reclaim cost)	£55.00
LT Evangelical Church	Hire of hall	£20.00

26.104 Correspondence

The village sign is damaged and a resident is holding on to the broken section. Cllr Birkin to check the sign and the clerk to send her options for renovation/replacement.

The play equipment inspection reports from the annual inspection have been received and there are some recommendations. Steve Birkin has offered to help as he previously worked in playground repairs. The clerk to send the report to MDC regarding the gate in Sawyers Field as that is their responsibility and to source some potential companies to carry out repairs to play equipment.

26.105 Update from District Councillor

Cllr Hughes reported that Local Government Reorganisation has been cancelled for Essex. MDC elections will go ahead next May but Cllr Hughes will not be standing. There is a full council meeting to be held on 10th September.

26.106 Public questions

There were no questions from the public.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.39pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH’S AGENDA – 6th October 2026

Remembrance Service, 6-month enforcement update, grants for gym equipment, tree safety survey