



Chair D. Loudfoot
Vice- Chair G. Howeson

Clerk: W.J. Adshead-Grant

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pleshey Parish Council held at Pleshey Village Hall on Wednesday 11th June 2025 at 8pm.

2025/1332 Chair's Welcome:

Chair: Loudfoot.

Councilors: Holland and Howeson.

2025/1333 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Kenning , Gunn and Groves.

2025/1334 Declarations of interest (existence and nature) regarding items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

2025/1335 Public participation session for anyone with an interest or concern that they wish to raise with the Parish Council.

One member of the public attended and requested a £100 grant for the Village Hall equipment purchase.

2025/1336 Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM and Ordinary meeting held on 14th May 2025.

Resolution: **The minutes were confirmed.**

2025/1337 External authorities report.

- Chelmsford City Council:
 - No report.
- Essex County Council:

- Highways

The Members Highways Initiative (MHI) of 24/25 has fixed more than 8,000 additional carriageway defects and 6,000 footway defects over the last year, on top of the standard work schedules. I get an extra allowance for defects raised by residents or Parish Councils. I have made extensive use of this over the last year, and I am pleased to say it will continue into this year.

A new allowance starts – so If there is a serious concern with a defect, email cllr.mike.steel@essex.gov.uk

To use MHI, I need:

1. The issue should already be reported on Highways Track-It
<https://www.essexhighways.org/track-it> I need the reference number
2. If it is not already on Track it, please add it <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us> and you will get a reference number
3. A photo would be helpful, if safe to take

4. Description of the location, or what3words. If it is several defects over a short distance, please give more details of locations.

This can cover roads, pavements, kerbs, unlit signs.

Drainage issue on Grange Road

I reported to the last meeting that I had met with the Flood team lead at Grange Road, on Friday 7th Feb 25, and talked to the residents. And that we believe that there must be an under-road pipe which should take the water from the ditch on the west, to the one on the right. We cannot jet that pipe through unless we can find the entrances at either end. So far, they have not been located. We can see a slight raise in the road, which would indicate where such a pipe is located. The resident (responsible for the west ditch) said they would try and cut back into the verge to see if they can locate the pipe. If they can, I can arrange for it to be jetted.

I have just communicated with them, and they have not found anything yet. I have asked the flood manager to see them again, to determine next steps.

Devolution and LGR:

The Government are keen to extend the number of unitary authorities and mayors and have asked for expressions of interest. Conservative run Essex County Council have responded positively and submitted their expression of interest. They launched a consultation on the principles of Unitaries and Mayors and this closed on April 14th. The proposals are that the current fifteen councils in Essex, which include the County Council, two unitaries (Thurrock and Southend) and twelve other District, City and Borough councils, should be rationalised to between three and five unitaries. The unitary would take on the responsibilities currently held by both District and County. In addition, there would be a directly elected mayor with a combined authority to make key decisions on issues including Transport and Housing. The timetable is:

- Elections for a Greater Essex Mayor on May 7th, 2026
- Elections for the new-look Essex councils in May 2027
- The new councils would replace the existing ones in 2028.

Essex will need to submit their detailed proposal by September this year, with how many unitaries and their composition. Also, consideration will be given to those areas without a town or parish council and what additions need to be put in place. The latest news is that the Local Government Minister, Jim McMahon, has proposed that the make-up of the Combined Authority would include three voting members from Essex and two each from Thurrock and Southend. The County Council argues that it represents 80% of the population and therefore should have at least 50% of the votes; they propose 2:1:1 with the mayor having the casting vote. We await the outcome.

Love Your Bus

Chignal and High Easter Parish Council, jointly applied for funds for extra services and were successful.

Finances.

Budget - £13,250 FY 2025-2026.

2025/1338 Financial Report:

Unity Trust Bank:

Current:	£193.13	0% Interest.
Savings:	£14,459.93	2.4% Interest.

Barclays Bank:

Current: £580.66 0% Interest.

Savings: £0

Reserve £8608.72 (included above).

Total £15,233.72

Resolution: The accounts were noted.

2025/1339 Payments for approval at the meeting:

Item	Budget Line	Payment
ATH Training	reserve	£420.00
Clerk - Expenses - Nuts and Bolts	GJPA	£61.32
Clerk- June Salary & Expenses	salary	£219.78
HMRC - June	Paye	£123.60
Essex pension fund	Pension	£199.79
Cllr Loudfoot - Annual Assembly	General Reserve	£89.20
Cllr Kenning - Annual Assembly	General Reserve	£45.39
Cllr Howeson-Annual Assembly	General Reserve	£20.00
JCM - Strim	GJPA	£84.00
Pleshey village hall	Grants	£100.00

Total £1,363.08

Resolution: The payments were approved.

2025/1340 Review and agree the monthly bank reconciliation – Vice Chairman.

Resolution: The bank reconciliation was approved with zero difference.

2025/1341 Allotments

- Review of quotes.

One quote received for the bottom fence from JCM.

The second quote being sought from a Maldon fencing company.

Resolution: Clerk to confirm alternative quotes.

Reports and Updates

2025/1342 Update on the Risk Matrix.

No items added or removed.

2025/1343 Update on GJPA.

The annual inspection is due to take place in June.

Routine Inspections Works identified:

- Fall areas need to be cleared of moss / grass.
- The wooden picnic bench is not secured.
- Wood and Concrete bench to be cleaned and stained.
- Carousel bearing service/replace.
- Consider changing the bark surfaces for alternative products.
- Wash / Clean various items.
- Some vegetation / trees need to be cut back – 2 meters away from equipment.

Resolution: Clerk to arrange a quote for tree works.

Resolution: Clerk to arrange a quote for changing the safety surface from wood chip.

Resolution: Clerk to get the bearing service undertaken.

Resolution: Clerk to confirm with Chelmsford City Council that the whole of the playground needs to be cut back to remove hazards.

Resolution: The Clerk to have delegated spending power of £1000 to have the bearing serviced.

2025/1344 Update on the new website and options to replace e-voice.

No actioned needed.

Resolution: Close this item.

2025/1345 Update on the information board at the Caste viewing point.

The board design has a minor issue as part of the design does not have approval to reproduce. Essex Place Services will complete the copyright approvals. A QR code will be produced to fill the position on the design. The design stage has been paid for. Additional fees will need to be paid for production and installation.

2025/1346 Discuss Parking in the Street and options to improve the parking.

Discussions around speed bumps, yellow lines, 20 MPH and parking.

Resolution: Item deferred.

2025/1347 Discuss the Village Tidy Up.

Resolution: Close the item.

2025/1348 Discuss the trees around the Castle and interaction with English Heritage.

Clerk has been in correspondence with English Heritage who confirm that there is discussion underway and surveys are required before any work is undertaken.

2025/1349 Discuss the Sign for the gate.

Resolution: The sign has been fitted to the gate.

2025/1350 Items for the next agenda – All.

- The Information board at the viewing point.
- Parking in the street.
- Trees around the Castle.
- Blood Kit sign for the defib and update the Circuit.
- Annual Meeting 2026 Invite History Speaker.

Meeting closed 21:03
Will Adshead-Grant

10.09.2025	Monthly Meeting 8PM.
12.11.2025	Monthly Meeting -8PM.
14. 01. 2026	Monthly Meeting 8PM.
11. 03. 2026	Monthly Meeting 8PM.
13. 05. 2026	AGM at 6.30pm & Annual Assembly of the Parish at 8PM.
10. 06. 2026	Monthly Meeting 8PM.
09. 09. 2026	Monthly Meeting 8PM.
11. 11.2026	Monthly Meeting 8PM.