

Steeple Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting on Thursday 22nd. May 2025 at 6.30pm in Steeple Village Hall

Present: MDC Cllrs R. Pratt, L. Haywood, T. Fittock, M. Neall, Cllr C. Poulter and Kevin B. Money Locum Parish Clerk. There were 4 members of the public present.

Cllr M. Neall acted as Chair for this meeting

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from

2. **Report from Steeple Parish Council** – Parish Clerk

Steeple Parish Council had 4 Councillors at the beginning of the year. We lost Karen Potten in August but Chantelle Poulter joined the Council. Our main focus this year has been to slow down the traffic through our village. We have employed the services of MDC TruCam and the voluntary speed watch team have helped out immensely. The park has a new array of activities in the form of a new Monkey Wall Challenge and slide. We are constantly reporting pot holes and road signs that need repairing and we have had some success. The grassed areas in the village are all looking good, thanks to Richard Garwood and his team. We will continue to work hard to improve Steeple this year. Then March '25 came. We lost 3 Councillors in a matter of weeks sending STPC into chaos. I would like to thank the 4 MDC Councillors for stepping into these difficult times but I now have a new team around me and I hope that STPC can continue to give its residents the support it deserves

3. **Report from Essex County Councillor** – Wendy Stamp

ECC Report sent prior to the meeting. It can be found at

<https://e-voice.org.uk/steepleparishcouncil/supporting-documents/2025/>

4. **Report from Maldon District Councillor** – Linda Haywood

Maldon District Council – District/Cllr Linda Haywood

An update of a few things that are happening within the Maldon area.

I'm going to start with the exciting news the green food waste bags are being supplied again soon for free at local collection points.

MDC have now started installing the skate parks and the first one is ready to use in West Maldon.

This is more suited for beginners.

There are also plans for more events within the prom park this year

Local Development Plan target has increased from 276 to 579 per annum.

This will mean over the next year applications that possibly wouldn't be approved have more of a chance of getting through with this new change.

Areas are going to be changing with Devolution

Nothing decided yet as to which way it will be going. I will keep you updated when I hear more.

We have recently been looking into what we can do re helping climate control.

Seagrass Meadows have been suggested as we have one at St Lawrence that is very beneficial producing a lot of co2 from a small patch of grass.

Hopefully we can take this forward and do our bit to help the environment.

5. **Community Group Report**

Steeple community group 2025

We started the community group over 5 years ago.

We supported residents of Steeple throughout the pandemic with shopping, prescription collections, food parcels etc.

We had already started the design of the village sign and set about raising funds.

Villagers raised over a thousand pounds selling masks, which left just £3000 more to raise. We did it, and we all love our sign which is situated on South Green.

We have created the bus stop book shop for all to enjoy.

The fruit orchard was planted which added interest to a previously empty field.
We funded a few extra pieces of play equipment for the park.
A path for wheelchair access has been created which leads to a covered area which is stocked with toys and sandpits.
The area has been used to host children's birthday parties. Wildlife areas continue to be maintained and stocked with nest boxes and bug hotels.
We cleared a neglected area in the park and a new hedge row was planted. We did the same in batts Road. We are clearing the pathways through Steeple to make it safer for pedestrians to walk.
The clothes bank is well used and appreciated by all.
We support the village hall by keeping the grounds tidy.
Planters throughout the village add a touch of colour.
We continue to support vulnerable members of the village by helping them to maintain their gardens or doing a bit of shopping if they need it.
We are proud of what we have achieved in such a short time.
Steeple is a wonderful place to live and we will strive to keep it that way.
Our fb is informative and well used. [steeplevillageessexcommunitygroup](#)
The VE Day celebrations on Sunday 11th May have been carefully thought out by the community group.
We have created the pattern of the Bradwell air field runways within the orchard on the playing field, marked out with wildflowers along the margins. (unfortunately, it's a bit early to see those)
We have included the church with a blessing and the parish council are planting a tree.
The party is fully funded by the community group and is free to all.
We do hope you can attend this special day. Details are in the village magazine.
See you all there. Kay

6. Village Hall Report

The village hall is not in a great position. Hardly any one-off bookings and regulars.
Had few hirers try and book hall for groups but no interest so they ended up cancelling.

7. Public Forum

No questions from the public

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 6.45pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

Joanne Partridge - Chair