



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 22nd. March 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chairman), A. Gardner, R. Millett and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were also 6 members of the public present.

037/2023 Chairman's welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

038/2023 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp, Cllr J. Pollock and Cllr C. Thorne

039/2023 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda
None Declared

040/2023 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd. February 2023. **All Agreed**

041/2023 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

Further to the issues with parking in the Plovers, this was reported to MDC, who investigated and came to the conclusion that there were no restrictions within the Plovers that could be acted upon. However, given that at least some problem is connected with development work, Planning were being asked to investigate whether conditions were being breached.

Following the accident at Black House Farm Cottages, the residents have been in touch with Cllr Channer and Cllr Stamp as well as myself. This is an area where there have been a number of accidents over the years, with damage to the cottages and gardens as vehicles fail to negotiate the bends. Safety measures had been a proposal to the LHP but appear to have been dropped. Highways have been out to assess the situation and have come to the conclusion that the normal barriers could not be fitted given the lack of space. I suspect that this is a stretch of road that needs a speed limit – this recent accident was a near fatality and there has been at least one other one this stretch of road over the years. Watch this space.

042/2023 Essex County Councillors Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp

Reports and information have been received throughout the month and forwarded onto Councillors

043/2023 District Councillor/s Report – MDC Cllr Penny Channer

Cllr P. Channer supplied a report after the meeting. It read:

Corporate Plan - The Council at a recent Full Council Meeting approved the Corporate Plan 2023-2027 'Where Quality of Life Matters' and is available on the Council's website.

Council Tax Explainer Video – The Council has produced a short video to explain what happens to the Council Tax it collects from residents. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bu5akDtnHbA>

High Call Volumes – The annual billing cycle for council tax means the Council's customers team are experiencing high call volumes, so to manage expectations, a message has been posted on the Council's website – 'New Council Tax Bills - We are currently experiencing a high volume of calls. If you are calling about your council tax bill for 2023/24 please complete a contact us form and we will get back to you. Thank you for your patience during this busy time

New Community Grant Scheme – A new grant scheme is now open for applications. Voluntary community and charity organisations in the Maldon District are invited to apply for a grant of up to £1,000 to set up a new community hub or to support or provide more facilities at existing projects.

Coronation Toolkit - The Coronation fast approaches and communities are thinking about/preparing how to celebrate and mark the occasion. A Coronation Toolkit is available. Please can you share this toolkit with your local communities <https://coronation.gov.uk/toolkit/> and indeed Parish Councils may wish to use it.

Signed

M Gibson

26th. April 2023

M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

Maldon Market Improvement – The authority is seeking expressions of interest from operators who may wish to operate Maldon's weekly market. Details can be found on the Council's website.

Pre-election Period – The Council entered the pre-election period from Monday 13 March – Friday 5 May inclusive starting from the date of the posting of the Notice of Election, which was on Monday 13 March 2023.

Voter ID – Please place the attached posters on your websites or by whatever appropriate means to draw to residents' attention the need to have Voter ID at the forthcoming elections. Please see (attached) an A3 and A4 poster about Voter ID which can be displayed to help communicate the changes to voting in person.

Polling Station Video – Please see the video the Council is putting out on its social media channels to help residents understand what will happen at the Polling Station in May: <https://t.co/5Wo1YDjSTX>

The Lead Elections and Democratic Services Manager is Claire Hawken. Please contact, Claire Hawken, Lead Elections & Democratic Services Manager at MDC if you need information/have enquiries /need assistance regarding matters regarding elections.

New Lost Property Form – A new lost property form/process has been developed, should a visitor lose something in one of our Parks. Hopefully this will mean we can reunite lost items more efficiently.

Maldon District Food Support and Cost of Living Support – Support continues by the Council and with others and information is updated on the Cost of Living Support webpage which was created for residents on the Maldon District Council website. The webpage provides information on how residents can get help with paying their bills, food support, employment and overcoming financial hardship. An interactive Maldon District Cost of Living Support map was also created on the Maldon District Council website. The GIS map informs residents of where they can access community activities, digital support, food and crisis support, money and finances and warm places. Further Household Support from April – It has been announced that the Government will be providing further funding to support vulnerable households from April. MDC will receive the details from the Government, and the Council will provide any further information on its website. Broadband Social Tariff - At a time when living costs are reaching record highs, several broadband providers are offering special discounted deals to help people receiving benefits to stay connected. Essex County Council are encouraging those who may be eligible to make the most of the offers from broadband providers.

Essex residents missing out on discounted broadband deals – Essex County Council is urging residents to make the most of the discounted broadband deals. £2 Bus Fare Extended – The Government has announced that the £2 bus fare for single journeys which was due to end at the end of March, has been extended to 30 June. Make the most of it and help support one of the Maldon District Council's climate pledges to 'kick the car habit' and reduce your car use or simply go exploring. ECC Recycling Centre – A reminder that the booking system for Essex County Council's recycling centres went live on Monday 13 March 2023. More information is available on the Love Essex website. The recycling centres are managed by Essex County Council not Maldon District Council. The team at @lovessexuk will be able to help answer any questions. Top tips for Easter recycling - Over 80 million Easter eggs are sold in the UK each year, with the cardboard, foil and Easter cards generating an estimated 8,000 tonnes of waste. So, be egg-cellent at recycling with these handy tips: Choose your eggs wisely and check the packaging for recycling information. Try and avoid cardboard boxes with plastic windows. Flatten the boxes to save space in your kerbside collection. Clean foil can be recycled at the kerbside with your cans. Remember to scrunch it into a ball - the bigger the better! Choose glitter-free cards and recycle in your kerbside collection. If you're gifted flowers, make sure you compost them once they're dead, or pop them in your garden waste bin. Enchanted Woodland Ball (attached) – The Council has been asked by the authority's friends at Abberton Rural Training to share details of their fundraising event. The event supports wounded and injured service personnel. Litter Picks- Essex Conservation Volunteers ran a series of litter picks in partnership with The Rivers Trust. There were four events which took place in Maldon and Heybridge.

Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation Lock Hill

Blackwater Estuary, Blackwater Sailing Club.

Promenade Park to Northey Island.

Heybridge Creek

Launch of the New North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) Website – The North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) has announced the arrival of its new website North Essex Economic Board (neeb.org.uk) You can also follow NEEB on the socials - where you will be able to find out the latest news and updates from NEEB. Facebook @neebgrowth Instagram @neebgrowth LinkedIn @neebgrowth UKHSA - COVID-19 spring booster –The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has confirmed its advice for a 2023 spring COVID-19 booster programme to those who are clinically vulnerable: adults aged 75

Signed

M Gibson

26th. April 2023

M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

years and over residents in a care home for older adults immunosuppressed individuals 5 years and over

044/2023 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda

St. Lawrence Residents Association report from the Chairman of the RA.

A total maximum time of 20 minutes is allowed for all public participation sessions

The roving CCTV requires cleaning and advice was to hang on until another problem comes up.

- Costing for Firework event

Ski club is happy to host the event. A donation from the Parish Council would be appreciated.

The date to be confirmed.

- King's Coronation event

Bouncy Castle: Public houses to be approached: Fish & Chip van is unavailable: Ice Cream van is not available: WI to open Church Hall for the TV can be shown the event.

Saturday is the Coronation Day: Sunday "Big Lunch": The Church Beacon could be lit on the Monday: Volunteers are needed to put these events on.

A suggestion article on the newsletter with a cut off at the bottom. To be left at the Dairy Shop

- Update on Parish Newsletter – Cllr A. Gardner

A draft information leaflet has been designed to be produced

- TruCam update – Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk circulated the positions suggested by Councillors. The residents also put forward some positions. It was left to the Clerk to contact MDC TruCam section to arrange the correct positioning for the TruCam

Following item 044/2023 there is no more public participation in the Council meeting

045/2023 Election 2023 update from the Clerk

The Clerk informed the meeting that any nomination papers must be with MDC by 4pm on Tuesday 4th April 2023. For further information please go to the SLPC website at

<https://e-voice.org.uk/stlawrenceparishcouncil/elections-2023/>

046/2023 Planning Application/s

23/00074/HOUSE - Cornerstone Moorhen Avenue St Lawrence Essex

Proposed part garage conversion.

RESOLVED: Support this planning application

23/00164/HOUSE - The Old Rectory Bradwell Road St Lawrence

Replacement 2 storey side extension. Demolition of existing single storey two bay garage and construction of two storey outbuilding comprising of an annexe, 3 bay garage and office/storage area within the roof space

RESOLVED: Support this planning application by majority decision

047/2023 Planning decision/s made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence

No planning decisions have been made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence

048/2023 Planning Appeal/s made affecting St. Lawrence

No planning appeals have been made affecting St. Lawrence

049/20232 Finance

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 28th February 2023

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 28th February 2023

- b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2022/23

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2022/23

- c) To approve the payment of Accounts for March 2023 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

d) SLPC website – The Clerk to update Councillors on costing for the GoDaddy website and to discuss alternative website arrangements.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the cost of the SLPC was £160 per year. There is now a FREE website. The Clerk has set this up at <https://e-voice.org.uk/stlawrenceparishcouncil/>.

Cllr M. Gibson proposed to stop the GoDaddy website from 2023. Cllr R. Millett seconded. **All Agreed**

Signed

M Gibson

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M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

The clerk was asked to cancel this agreement with GoDaddy with immediate effect.

e) To discuss adding another Councillor/s as signatory for Unity Trust Bank – making 4/5 Councillors Cllr M. Gibson proposed deferring this item to another meeting to become an additional signatory on the internet banking. Cllr R. Millett seconded. **All Agreed**

050/2023 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village

None reported

051/2023 Items for Next Agenda

052/2023 Next meeting will be held on 26th. April 2023 at 7pm in the village hall which is the Annual Parish Meeting followed by Full Council meeting

The next Planning meeting is via Zoom on Monday 17th. April 2023 at 10am

053/2023 Closure of the Meeting

To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 7.50pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

M Gibson
M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

26th. April 2023