



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>. February 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

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

**020/2023 Chairman's welcome** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**021/2023 Apologies for Absence** were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp, MDC Cllr P. Channer, Cllr A. Gardner and Cllr C. Thorne

**022/2023 Declaration of Interest**

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

**023/2023 Minutes**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup>. January 2023. **All Agreed**

**024/2023 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting**

The Chairman supplied the following report. It read

The £200 alternative fuel payments have started to come through but it is worth reminding people to check their electricity accounts to see that they have been received.

The new sign board at the entrance to the car park is now complete – and looks very smart. Many thanks to Cllr Thorne for his perseverance on this issue.

Hopefully now the weather has improved a bit we can finally get the remaining dog bin installed in Seaway.

At the January meeting the issue of parking in the entrance to The Plovers was raised, with access to the unadopted part of the road (to the right) being obstructed. We requested photographs so the issue can be reported to try to get some enforcement action for obstruction. However, to date we have not received any photographs and both Cllr Thorne and I have not found vehicles parked there without due reason. I did see Essex and Suffolk Water vans there – and at the time it was obvious that they were working on the water network both in The Plovers and Main Road.

I have also received a letter from The Plovers Management Ltd enquiring whether double yellow lines could be put in place at the entrance to The Plovers. I have replied and commented that unless there is a proven need Essex County Council would be unlikely to consider the request. Firm evidence is needed to back up a request (and that is something that we do not have at this point in time). The existing double and single yellow lines in the village are largely ignored and enforcement is sadly lacking.

I am currently waiting for the Big Lunch Coronation pack to arrive. I hope when it does arrive it will make planning easier. Whatever we do we have to remember that we have limited people resources and given the squeeze on finances everywhere whatever is organised needs to be simple to set up and not assume that people will be prepared to spend money. It's going to be a difficult balance.

**025/2023 Essex County Councillors Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp**

Cllr W. Stamp had supplied all ECC information throughout the month which has been circulated

**026/2023 District Councillor/s Report – MDC Cllr Penny Channer**

Cllr P. Channer supplied the report below prior to the meeting. It read

The Holocaust Memorial Day fell on 27 January 2023. MDC supported via our social media channels. Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

MDC were pleased to report that on Friday 20 January the Llys Helig has successfully moved from her

Signed

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berth in Burnham-on-Crouch into a dry dock within the river Crouch. The dry dock departed on Saturday with the Llys Helig being moved to a new location in preparation for restoration by the owner. If you would like to know more please contact [steven.butcher@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:steven.butcher@maldon.gov.uk)

Essex Rural Partnership Full Members Meeting Dates 2023 – Please see the details of the full members meetings; 1) Wednesday 26th April Start 10:30am Finish approx. 2pm (after lunch) 2) Thursday 19th October Start 10:30am Finish approx. 2pm (after lunch)

Both meetings will be held at Layer Marney Tower, Layer Marney, Nr Colchester Essex C05 9US. This year they will welcome guest speakers covering a wide range of topics that will be of great interest to our rural communities here in Essex. Further information will be shared nearer the time of the meetings and both the ERP Bulletin and website will be kept up to date also.

Essex Rural Partnership February Bulletin - Please find attached as a link the latest edition of the Essex Rural Partnership (ERP) Monthly Bulletin for February.

The newly formed Dengie Earth Matters (DEM)group, supported by Claire Williamson, our Climate Action Lead, held a Solar Power forum at Bradwell Village Hall on the 26th January from 7:30pm . The panel was chaired by David Gould an experienced public speaker and compère.

The expert panel included:

- Luciana Almeida, ECC – Project Manager for the Solar Together scheme
- Stuart Bird, Sustainable Danbury –Stuart is a member of the Sustainable Danbury community group. He has an engineering background and lot of experience with community energy schemes.
- Les Flack, resident of Latchingdon – Les has solar panel and battery storage and will be giving a testimonial

The purpose of the meeting was to allow residents to find out about the benefits of solar energy before the new ECC Solar Together scheme is launched. The organiser, Christine Gould, hopes to replicate this meeting in Burnham and Latchingdon.

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board meeting - Members of the public found out more about the work of NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) and wider health and care system by going to the ICB's board meeting on the 19th January from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.,

There was an opportunity during the meeting to address questions from members of the public on matters relating to items on the agenda. You can find out more information, including previous board meeting papers, on the mid and south Essex Integrated Care System website .

Bills in respect of Anglian Water will be rising from 1 April 2023. If residents are struggling, please ask them to get in touch with Anglian Water. For further information, please see their Extra Care Support pages or call the Extra Care Team directly on 0800 169 3630.

Employability Research - ECC are undertaking some research on working in the public sector, please see the details below.

Public sector partners across Essex want to learn about people's thoughts on working in public sector roles. We're looking to hear from a range of people including:

- Current public sector employees
- Job hunters
- Volunteers
- People who have recently left the public sector

Virtual focus groups took place on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th January.

Essex Police Marine Unit – Please see attached the Winter newsletter update from the Marine Unit and details of 'Let's Talk About Marine Crime' poster.

Voter ID Awareness – Please remember that there are changes to voting in person – attached is a helpful guide on Voter ID from the Electoral Commission.

Voter ID Support – Maldon District CVS are looking at offering support for people in the community without appropriate photo ID, and help them register for a Voter Authority Certificate. This will be at any of their digital sessions, details of which can be found on -

<https://www.maldondistrictconnects.org.uk/search?category=1462>

LGBT+ History Month (February) – Two Officers from Essex Police were joined by our Chairman, Cllr Bob Boyce MBE, to raise the Progress Flag in Promenade Park to mark LGBT+ History month. The overall aim of LGBT+ History month is to promote equality and diversity for the benefit of the public. The flag will be flown for the month of February.

Show The Love campaign – The Heybridge and Maldon Climate Action Partnership are running a project supporting the Green Hearts for February campaign <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love> The hearts are being made by the Men's Shed and a number of Maldon high street shops are supporting this campaign.

North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) - Please find attached details of two courses funded by NEEB as

Signed

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part of the skills programme.

Essex Engagement Team - Please find attached as a link the January newsletter provided by the Essex Police Rural Engagement Team (RET).

Essex Heavy Military Vehicles Association – The groups Winter gathering event took place in Promenade Park from 10am – 3pm Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board meeting to consider service harmonisation - Local health and care leaders met in a meeting in public on Thursday 9 February 2023 to discuss and agree next steps in making access to services more equal across mid and south Essex. The programme of work called 'service harmonisation,' seeks to agree a consistent offer for residents of mid and south Essex across a number of areas\*. Members of the public were invited to observe the meeting that took place from 3:00pm to 4:00pm at the Marconi Room, Chelmsford, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1JE.

Prom Park EV Buggy - The Parks Team has recently taken delivery of a new electric vehicle to use in Prom Park. The new buggy, which replaces a diesel vehicle, will be used to carry machinery for grounds maintenance tasks such as mowing and strimming and for general tasks such as bin emptying.

Replacing a diesel vehicle with an electric one is not only better for the environment and reduce our carbon emissions, but it will also make sure that the park remains a tranquil attraction for everyone to enjoy. It delivers our pledge "Be an authority that leads by example" from our Climate Action Strategy, click on the link to find out more. We are looking to ask school children to help name the buggy!

Air Quality Action Plan Funding Success – We are really pleased to advise that we have been successful in obtaining grant funding of £129,000 from DEFRA. Our grant funding will be used to help us deliver the measures set out in the Market Hill Air Quality Action Plan. Officers will now begin a scoping exercise setting out the project, after which we'll be able to feedback to Members with more details on our next steps.

\*New\* Maldon District For Business Newsletter - The first new newsletter for businesses, which has replaced the Sense of Place newsletter has been circulated.

Thames Barge Trust – MDC were pleased to hear from the Thames Sailing Barge Trust (TSBT), that they have been awarded £19,600 by Trinity House to support the training scheme the Trust operates.

This provides training in traditional seafaring skills, Barge maintenance, Mates and ultimately skippers.

Coronation Webpage – We have created a webpage Coronation of King Charles III - Visit Maldon District where we will add details of events as we receive them, and announce any plans that we have once they have been agreed. There is also a link for residents to apply for a road closure for their street parties on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>.

Coronation Website - The official Coronation website is now live and can be found at <https://coronation.gov.uk/> This site includes information on how to get involved and prepare for the Coronation

Update on Swan Housing Association - Sanctuary's business combination with Swan Housing Association has completed and Swan is now a wholly owned and controlled subsidiary of Sanctuary Housing Association. Swan continues to operate as a standalone operation while we work through integration. Therefore, you should continue to raise enquiries relating to Swan and Sanctuary via your usual method at each organisation. David Soothill, a director at Sanctuary, has assumed responsibility of Swan as MD and can be reached at [dsoothill@swan.org.uk](mailto:dsoothill@swan.org.uk).

## **027/2023 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda**

### **a) 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**

4 events this year - Boot sale on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>.April - Music night 17.06.23 - Race night 12.08.23 - Movie night 02.09.23. A firework night may be arranged. The RA to provide the Clerk with costing to put the firework event on.

### **b) King's Coronation event**

More volunteers are required to assist the Residents Association and Parish Council

The RA is happy to put the event on with a DJ – Bar - Fish & Chip van – Bouncy Castle – Ice Cream van – Teas & Coffees – Sports events – Picnic for everyone.

**c) Street lighting update.** The Clerk informed the meeting that, having spoken to A&J Lighting about the streetlights in St. Lawrence, their advice was that the cheapest solution is to fit part night sensors to your light fittings, this will turn the lights on at dusk and off again at midnight. They will come on again at 5.30am until dawn (winter months only). These will reduce the energy consumption. Each unit costs £60. Solar lighting is available so no future electric costs, these turn on at dusk at 100%

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brightness and turn down to 25% output until motion is detected. This continues throughout the night until dawn. These lights require a special bracket as they are larger than standard light fittings. Each solar light and bracket are £2000 per unit.

## Following item 027/2023 there is no more public participation in the Council meeting

### 028/2023 Representative Reports

#### a) Greening of the village – To receive a written report from Cllr C. Thorne

Cllr C. Thorne supplied a report prior to the meeting. It read

We have now taken down the Christmas lights from the tree and Dinghy planter, and have put them into storage in the Portacabin for next Christmas.

The Saplings that we have planted in previous years are still surviving, although it is likely that we have lost maybe 50 % of these. The larger trees that have been planted adjacent to Diddydots fence are faring much better but still appear to struggle with our climate.

The tree that was planted earlier in the year as part of the Queens green canopy campaign is standing up to the weather as is the one recently planted by the St Lawrence WI.

Now that the new sign board for the car park has been installed I think that it would be nice to clear and plant up the area in front of it, we had the hedge cut back last year and managed to plant in some roses that have survived the summer drought (with the aid of some watering by the team).

And finally, we are all looking forward to spring, and daffodils that are poking their heads through.

#### b) Asset Management report – To receive a written update report from Cllr C. Thorne

Cllr C. Thorne supplied a report prior to the meeting. It read

**Play equipment: 22-02-23:** The general state of condition is good.

**Toddler Multiplay equipment.** 26/10/22: Please see attached documents. 23-01-23: We are now in possession of estimates from 2 suppliers for this equipment. **22-02-23:** We now need to build up the funds to allow us to replace this item of equipment. Are there any grants available for this?

**Play Area Gate:**26/10/22: The latch has been removed from the gate, and hopefully now meets the disability requirements. The condition of the equipment is as before. **22-02-23:** As before.

**Jubilee Field: 22-02-23:** As before

**Basketball equipment:** 23-01-23: We now have 2 estimates for new equipment. **22-02-23:** As before

**Portacabin in Play area:** It is in a poor state of repair in some aspects. 26/10/22: Please see attached prices from A S Lipscombe & S & D Maintenance, for consideration. 14-12-2022: We now have 2 Estimates for this work, as above. And now have answers to some questions raised on their specifications. We are still waiting on an answer from S & D Maintenance regarding the cost on increasing the depth of foundation pads to 500 mm deep. 23-01-23. We have only received an Estimate for the work based on a foundation depth of 500 mm from one contractor, A Lipscombe. I would recommend that this price is accepted so that work can proceed. **22-02-23:** We have instructed Messrs. A Lipscombe to proceed with these works, as soon as is practicable.

Key Holders: Marian Gibson. Chris Thorne, Rosemary Millet

**Car park: 22-02-23:** is in a sound condition.

**Signage:** The Jubilee Field car park is still without a Sign. 23-11-2022: The sign board has now been ordered from Whitehill Direct. And we have made a saving of £100.00 on the original estimated cost. Plus a Grant of £500.00 from ECC. . 23-01-23: We have now taken delivery of the full sign board which has been stored in the Portacabin. We have an estimate for its erection from one contractor ( A Lipscombe) which I would recommend that we accept. We are in discussion with the Sign writing company for the Artwork. **22-02-23: Great News.** The New Sign board has been installed and erected. The measuring, manufacture and installation of the Artwork, Graphics and back board for the sign has now been completed in a very professional manner. I would like to give my great thanks to the company that stuck with us through this and especially Mr Jez Mc Coy of Planet Graphics who is a local resident , and carried out all of this work totally Free of Charge.

**Hedges:** 26/10/22: As agreed at the last meeting, R Garwood has been instructed to reduce the height of the hedge adjacent to the play area/ village hall. 14-12-2022: This work has now been carried out.

**22-02-23:** As before

**River Viewing Shelter:** 26/10/22: We require the nomination of contractors to obtain prices, can we have some recommendations please, and perhaps put out on our Facebook page that contractors are required to price this item. 14-12-2022: We have received some feedback from our Facebook page, but to date NO enquires from Decorating contractors. These contractors are required as a matter of some urgency so that we can form our budget costings. **22-02-23:** As before. Is it possible to post this on Facebook again?

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**Dog Bins:** 26/10/22: It was suggested at the last meeting to move the lower Dog bin in the jubilee field and place it nearer to the main gate, is this agreeable? If so, we will obtain a costing. 23-11-2022: This is ongoing. We have also been asked to contact Gerry Lewsey regarding the Dog Bin situation in Seaway, hopefully to get agreement on the siting of the previously requested and purchased, new bin. 14-12-2022: I have spoken to Gerry Lewsey, but he is NOT aware on any agreement on residents on this matter. **22-02-23**: We are waiting on further clarification on this item from local residents in that road.

**CCTV Equipment:** H & D security have been called in to adjust the angle of the camera and to look at the reason for fogging of the image on screen. The seal to the camera is apparently failing and will require replacement; a Costing for this will follow in due course. **22-02-23**: Although the mast that supports the camera and light may not meet safe access requirements by ladder. It does appear to be structurally sound. Therefore I suggest that we need to look at other means of accessing the camera and light, maybe H & D and A J lighting utilising joint access platforms/maintenance times. Key Holders: CCTV Room- Marian Gibson, Christopher Thorne, Rosemary Millet. CCTV Cabinet- Marian Gibson. Rosemary Millet, Christopher Thorne

**Table Tennis Table (external by Water sports Club):** This is in a sound condition.

**Goal Posts:** These are in a reasonable state of repair.

**Field gates main entrance to Jubilee Field:** These are in reasonable state of repair.

**Village Sign adjacent to Bradwell road:** Is in sound condition.

**SLPC display Notice board (opposite Stone Pub):** Is in sound condition

**SLPC display Notice board (by Dairy Stores):** Is in a sound condition. 23-01-23: It has been reported that it is difficult to access this board, some of the time.

**New equipment for older children:** Please see Estimate from Playdale, and Zip wire costing Via John Pollock.

**Disability Access:** This is an area that I feel we will have to have a closer look at in the near future, especially the entrance gate to Jubilee Field. 26/10/22: Play area gate has been attended too. **22-02-23**: As before

**Single bar play equipment:** We have accepted an estimate from Richard Garwood & Sons to have the hollow in the ground levelled and seeded. And they are supplying a section of rubber stabilizing matt Free of Charge. This will make a **saving** of approximately £200.00.

### **029/2023 Planning Application/s**

**WTPO/MAL/23/00107** - Stonewaters 89 Main Road St Lawrence Southminster  
Quercus Robur - 1.5 metre reduction in height of the crown, 2.5 metre reduction in lateral growth of the crown, removal of dead wood and snapped branches overhanging the main road and removal of dead hedra helix (Ivy) in the upper crown.

**RESOLVED: SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION subject to the tree officer's approval**

### **030/2023 Planning decision/s made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence**

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

### **031/2023 Planning Appeal/s made affecting St. Lawrence**

Councillors noted the planning appeals below

**22/00525/FUL** - The Gnomes 91 Main Road St Lawrence Essex

Demolition of existing chalet and garage and the erection of 3 detached dwellings, detached garages with associated parking and landscaping.

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against MDC's decision to refuse to grant planning permission. The appeal will be determined on the basis of written representations

Appeal Start Date: 7 February 2023

**22/00847/HOUSE** - Colonsay, Seaview Parade, St Lawrence

Single storey front extension and the addition of first floor rear Juliet balconies. **APPEAL DISMISSED**

### **032/20232 Finance**

a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. January 2023

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. January 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 February 2023 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

Signed

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**033/2023 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village**

o/s 43 Main Road

**034/2023 Items for Next Agenda**

Cllr C. Thorne gave his apologies for 22.03.23 meeting

TruCam to start on 1<sup>st</sup>. April 2023 – Cllr M. Gibson and Cllr J. Pollock to advise the Clerk of possible positions.

RA to provide costing for a firework display in the village

Street Lighting update

Update on Newsletter – Cllr A. Gardner

**035/2023 Next meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup>. March 2023 at 7pm in the village hall**

The May meeting has been changed to Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>. May 2023 to take into consideration the new Councillors and Council following the elections on 4<sup>th</sup>.May 2023

**036/2023 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 – Chairman of SLPC

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