



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 26th. April 2023 following the APM in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chairman), Cllr C. Thorne, A. Gardner, R. Millett, J. Pollock, MDC Cllr P. Channer and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were also 3 members of the public present.

054/2023 Chairman's welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

055/2023 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp and MDC M. Helm

056/2023 Declaration of Interest

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

057/2023 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd. March 2023. **All Agreed**
To confirm and sign the Planning Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th. April 2023.
All Agreed

058/2023 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

I would like to start by thanking our outgoing District Councillors, Penny Channer and Michael Helm for the work they have done on behalf of St Lawrence over many years and wish them both a happy retirement.

I would also like to thank our clerk, Kevin Money for the constant support and advice he gives the Council as well as my fellow Councillors for their work throughout the year.

2022/23 saw the Jubilee celebrations with an enormous crowd turning up to see the beacon lit and lots of people on the Field for the celebrations there. Members of the Residents' Association did most of the organising the event on the field, with assistance from the WI and the Parish Council. The Residents' Association also organised a number of other events during the year including a public screening of the funeral of the Queen at the Church Centre.

2023/24 sees the celebrations around the Coronation and Gilly Terkelsen has stepped up as lead to organise this event.

Hopefully we will have a year when weather conditions enable projects to be completed as the extremes of 2022/23 made work difficult to say the least. The Jubilee Field has varied from rock hard and brown – other than a green patch where a burst water main irrigated it beautifully, then heavy rainfall and icy conditions, when the bottom end of the field resembled a skating rink. Then it has been back to rain with the field so wet it has been unusable. And the net effect has been that works have all been delayed.

However, we have a number of proposals for new and replacement play equipment and quotations have been received. Now we need to try to find some grant funding to help us to improve the facilities.

Maintenance projects are put out to tender – but it is not easy to get more than one quotation, and sometimes we struggle to get just one.

The routine maintenance jobs - grass and hedge cutting, maintaining street lights along most of Main Road and administration costs including insurance on the parish's assets have continued throughout.

The defibrillators by the Sailing Club, the Church Centre and the Village Hall are maintained by the Parish Council and are checked every month. Pads and batteries have to be replaced from time to time. If the machine is used we get a message telling us we need to check its status.

The Greening the Village project is ongoing. The trees planted in 2022 have miraculously survived, thanks largely to the watering team during dry spells, and more will be planted. The area at the entrance to the Jubilee Field car park by the new notice board is the next target. The hedges around the Jubilee Field and along Main Road have had a big cut back. They did look a bit sparse initially but now new

Signed

M. Gibson
M. Gibson
Chairman

17th. May 2023

growth has come though they look much better.

The damage to the seawall immediately to the west of the village was repaired during Spring last year but there is now another area that needs repairing. We have been assured by the Environment Agency that the work is in the budget for 2023/24 but have no more detail at this point in time.

The Parish Council have budgeted for speed checks to be done in the village during the 2023 /24 year.

The Parish Council is only seven strong, when all positions are filled. Our clerk, Kevin Money works very part time keeping us within the confines of the law but we are here on the ground. We are volunteers.

We are all happy to do what we can to help but have to refer things on as we have no remit to sort so many of the issues – and then hope that the authorities actually realise where St Lawrence is! But this an area where all residents can help by actually reporting issues to the relevant authority. If there are parking issues, report them, potholes, report them.

We are of course aware that there are always more things to be done but our limited budget – which comes by way of the Council Precept as part of residents' Council Tax bill means that we always have to prioritise in order to get best value for residents' money.

059/2023 Essex County Councillors Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp

I am finalising my annual report that would normally be submitted in time for the annual parish meeting. I am concerned that some of the meetings are scheduled within the pre-election period and the contents of my report may be challenged under this period. I have also taken guidance.

I considered submitting the good positive news only but that would totally unbalance the context of the whole report.

Based on the above, can I ask that you schedule my report for a later meeting and explain at the annual meeting why the report will be later this time

060/2023 District Councillor/s Report – MDC Cllr Penny Channer

Maldon District Council Elections for the Maldon District Council and Parish Councils - elections are to take place on 4th May 2023. Please see the web site for details. Voter ID comes in at the elections so it is important electors ensure that they have Voter ID if voting at a polling station.

Voter ID Animation – Please find attached a short animation for social media to remind residents about Voter ID

Find It Friday, 21st April – In the run up to Friday 21st April, the council will be reminding residents to make sure they know where their Voter ID is, **or apply for a Voter Authority Certificate by 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023**. There is a video for people to watch.

Ride London Classique Route Announced – The council welcomes back the RideLondon Classique teams who will be taking on the #maldondistrict #essex challenge once again. Sat 27th May 2023, starting & finishing in #maldon <https://www.ridelondon.co.uk/the-classique/about-the-classique>. Details are awaited for the traffic management processes to be completed between ECC and Ride London and these will provide the precise details and timings of the rolling road closures and closures which will be required along the route.

MDC understand the BBC will be broadcasting live from Maldon during the event, so the Council will work with the team to ensure we capitalise on promotion of the District by providing information for their commentary.

New Emergency Alert – The new Emergency Alerts service is now live with a test is scheduled for 23 April. The system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone if their lives are at risk in an emergency. The service will be used to warn about life- threatening emergencies such as severe flooding.

Emergency Alerts are messages sent to all compatible 4G and 5G mobile phones when there's a danger to your life, health or property in the area you're located. They don't need your location or phone number.

Only the government and the emergency services can send them. If you don't have a mobile, you'll still be kept informed through other channels.

If you get an Emergency Alert on your phone, you'll hear a loud, siren-like sound. A message on your screen will tell you about the emergency and how best to respond. You'll be able to check an alert is genuine at www.gov.uk/alerts

To learn more about Emergency Alerts, look out for the nationwide information campaign and visit www.gov.uk/alerts

Essex County Council (B1010 Maldon Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Maldon) (40mph Speed Limit) Order 2023 (TRAF/7724) - ECC have issued a new 40mph speed limit, see attached sealed order in

Signed

M Gibson
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Chairman

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respect of the B1010 Maldon Road, Burnham on Crouch. Details as the sealed order attached.

National Coronation Update - A main one stop shop is available at coronation.gov.uk. Don't forget that if you've got any events to add them here and do share the link so that anyone who's organising something can add them too if they want <https://coronation.gov.uk/events/>.

This year, millions of people across the UK will come together to share friendship, food and fun and celebrate the Coronation of HM The King and HM The Queen Consort with a Coronation Big Lunch in their communities.

Following tremendous support in 2022 for the Platinum Jubilee, please enable as many residents as possible to join the celebrations by:

Spreading the word about the Coronation Big Lunch and how to get involved. Residents can sign up for free Coronation Big Lunch resources.

Reducing red tape for road closures, and make them free where possible Organising a public Coronation Big Lunch to bring people together

The Big Lunch: If anyone is looking for more information on the Big Lunch, it can be found at <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch/councils>. They also have a map of Big Lunch events which can be found at <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/pop-your-big-lunch-on-the-map>. Any streets, schools, groups and communities that take part could also be in with a chance of winning a Community Garden specially designed and planted by Eden Project, as well as £2,500 towards their next project and a Big Lunch hamper. Three runners up will also win £1000 to make community projects happen locally: https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/coronation-communities?utm_source=EPHomepage&utm_medium=webbanner&utm_campaign=big_lunch23

Tourism Activity Update – Attached is a PDF which gives an indication of the recent activity that the Tourism Team have been undertaking to promote the District. Tourism is important to the District for the revenue it brings into businesses and others within the District and the employment opportunities the tourism sector offers.

New Concessions – From Saturday 1st April 2023 there is an ice cream van operating in Riverside Park weekends, school holidays & Bank Holidays. It should be sited adjacent to the Beacon on the grass, not on the seawall itself. Also, from 1st April 2023 there is a photographer starting to sell his photos in Promenade Park and he is sited between Rossi & the top kiosk (weather permitting).

The beach huts in Promenade Park area also officially open for weekends only at the moment from Saturday, 1st April 2023.

Best Growth Hub Temporary Closure - South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) have advised that owing to delays in funding confirmation from Government, the Business Essex, Southend and Thurrock Growth Hub service (BEST) will close for a temporary period from 1st April 2023. BEST Growth Hub provides business support and navigation covers Greater Essex. BEST has historically been the first point of referral for local businesses seeking support. Although the number of Maldon District businesses accessing their services has always been relatively low. BEST and Maldon District

Council's websites will be updated from next week to reflect this change. Backing Essex Businesses, who are funded by ECC, will take over as the primary referral route for business support.

Essex Rural Partnership – Please see the latest bulletin

Essex Library of Things- Let's Get Active: Libraries- Let's get Active announced that on Saturday 1 April there was the launch of a borrowing scheme for family sport and games equipment. Essex Library of Things: Let's Get Active is a list of free items that you can borrow from the library and use at home. You can pick them up from your local library and borrow them for up to a week at a time (and renew them provided no-one else has reserved them).

You can find out more about the Library of Things: Let's Get Active!

From the relevant web site.

Helping keep women and girls safe on the streets: Essex Residents could become an 'Active Bystander' by taking part in a new initiative that aims to address sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour towards women and girls. Anyone in the county can sign up to take part in 45-minute online module. Residents will gain a better understanding of what to do if they see inappropriate or threatening behaviour, with advice on how to tackle it in a safe way. Supporting careers in Health & Social Care
Essex County Council's Adult and Community Learning (ACL) service has announced the extension of its Nightingale Care Bursary. The bursary helps people in health and social care jobs access courses and qualifications for free.

So, whether you're looking to start a new and fulfilling career in care or want to upskill - ACL can support you. If you're a health and care provider, you can also access the bursary to support staff training and

Signed

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development opportunities. Access the relevant web site for details.

Essex Climate Action: Many areas in Essex are at risk of flooding when it rains heavily. Surface water flooding happens when rain from major storms overwhelms local drainage systems and cannot soak into the ground, lying or flowing over the ground instead. This can be prevented through appropriate front garden design. Watch the video on the Essex Flood and Water Management Facebook page to learn how you can reduce your garden's flood risk and how you can be the winner of £250 worth of Royal Horticultural Society vouchers.

Wasting food at home feeds climate change - If food is thrown away in general rubbish, it'll likely end up in landfill. Here, rotting food emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas. If global food waste was a country, it would be the third highest emitter of greenhouse gases behind the US and China.

At Love Essex, it is helping residents with easy tips to prevent food from going to waste – and encouraging them to take the Essex Food Waste Pledge.

Every month this year, Love Essex will set a new food waste challenge. Residents who complete challenges (and sign the pledge) have the chance to win £60 in supermarket vouchers. This is the amount of money that the average Essex household wastes every month by throwing away food that could have been eaten. The video and how to take the pledge can be found on its (Love Essex) web site.

Solar Together Essex registration extended - Over 6,600 Essex residents have signed up for Solar Together Essex, a group buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. It is the fourth time that Essex County Council has run the scheme and the most successful to date.

By using the buying power of the group, residents can expect a competitive price compared to the open market. This year's applicants will receive an average discount of 32% based on an installation of 12 panels.

Applicants will have until 21 April 2023 to make a decision. If they decide to proceed, once the details are passed to the installer, then a date will be set for a technical survey.

Owing to the popularity of this year's scheme, the closing date will be extended until 21 April 2023 to allow any new applicants to join the group and benefit from the discounted rates.

Essex County Council's Environment and Climate Action team - will this year be participating in a range of events. If you would like to learn more about what we can all do to reduce our carbon footprint, you can join the team at one of the following events.

If you're a business, there is The Big Green Business Expo on Thursday, 20 April, where core businesses will teach you how to make your company more sustainable.

The Essex Business Partnership is hosting their annual Business Show on Tuesday, 23 May. The event will be full of exciting speakers, business-related exhibition stands, and it will provide the opportunity to network with other local businesses.

There is the Essex Green Weekend in Othona at Bradwell on Sea. The event will take place between Friday, 28 April and Monday, 1 May. You can enjoy a weekend out in fresh air, whilst also learning more about what climate actions you can take at home to reduce your carbon footprint.

061/2023 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

b) Costing and a detailed Risk Assessment for Firework event

No report was given

c) Update on the King's Coronation event in the village

The event is being organised and is well in hand. See SLPC Facebook for further information

Cllr R. Millett proposed that SLPC pay for the Banner (cost about £35 +VAT). Cllr A. Gardner seconded.

All Agreed

d) Update on Parish Newsletter – Cllr A. Gardner

The newsletter has been published. The cost has been covered by The Dairy

e) TruCam location/s update – Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that all suggested locations for the TruCam was still at MDC being investigated.

Representative Reports

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

The weather as we all know has been extremely wet and has hampered our weeding efforts; hopefully

Signed

M. Gibson
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Chairman

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this will soon be completed.

The St Lawrence WI has asked if they could supply and plant another tree in Jubilee Field, to celebrate the forthcoming Kings Coronation. I have taken the liberty of saying yes, and have suggested that it is planted in between the 2 existing commemorative trees (I hope that everyone is in agreement with this). 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), this has obviously been hampered by the weather.

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

Play equipment: 26-04-23: The general state of condition is good, although the play bark is showing signs of settlement and will require topping up in the not too distant future

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. **26-04-23:** We now need to **build up the funds to allow** us to replace this item of equipment and the play Bark. Are there any grants available for this? **PLAY AREA:** There are several sections of Arris temporary fencing that are stored adjacent to the Portacabin, these are large items of fence that always present a safety issue as far as falling/toppling onto people is a possibility. It is recommended that these are sold off and cleared from site, to make the area safe and clear.

Play Area Gate:26-04-23: Is binding in its frame at times due to exceptionally wet weather.

Jubilee Field: 26-04-23: The main entrance gate to the field has been damaged by the high winds and that the bolt retaining hole in the ground gets full of stones which inhibits its locking operation. Can I suggest that we fit an easy clean bolt socket that would hopefully solve the problem as long as the **people that open the large gate ensure the bolt socket is kept clear of stones?**

Basketball equipment: 23-01-23: We now have 2 estimates for new equipment. **26-04-23:** As before

Portacabin in Play area: It is in a poor state of repair in some aspects. 22-02-23: We have instructed Messrs. A Lipscombe to proceed with these works, as soon as is practicable. **26-04-23:** The start of the repair work has been delayed by the very wet weather, but it is now under way.

Key Holders: Marian Gibson. Chris Thorne, Rosemary Millet

Car park: 26-04-23: is in a sound condition.

Signage: 26-04-23:The new sign to Jubilee Field Car Park is still looking smart, and I would once again like to give our thanks to Mr Jez Mc Coy of Planet Graphics who carried out the Art work and installation of said art 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. **26-04-23:** As before

River Viewing Shelter: 26/10/22: This requires Re Decoration. We have been supplied with a professional Specification by Dulux Trade. **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. **26-04-23: As before. Is it possible to post this on Facebook again?**

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.**26-04-23:** 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. **26-04-23:** As before Key Holders: CCTV Room- Marian Gibson, Christopher Thorne, and Rosemary Millet.

CCTV Cabinet- Marian Gibson. Rosemary Millet, Christopher Thorne

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

[Type here]

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

Field gates main entrance to Jubilee Field: 26-04-23: Please see Jubilee Field section.

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. **26-04-23:** As before.

New equipment for older children: Please see Estimate from Playdale, and Zip wire costing Via John Pollock. **26-04-23:** As Before

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.

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. **26-04-23:** This work has now been carried out.

Following item 061/2023 there is no more public participation in the Council meeting

062/2023 Elections 2023 update – Parish Clerk. The Parish Clerk updated the meeting on the 2023 Elections by saying that 5 Councillors had been elected in an Uncontested Election. The Parish Clerk also stated that the Co-Option process to fill the 2 vacancies can take place after 9th. May 2023. Advertising of these positions will be done via the website, Facebook and Notice Boards.

063/2023 Planning Application/s. No further planning applications have been received

064/2023 Planning decision/s made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence
HOUSE/MAL/23/00074 - Cornerstone Moorhen Avenue St Lawrence Essex
Proposed part garage conversion. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

065/2023 Planning Appeal/s made affecting St. Lawrence. No appeals have been submitted

066/20232 Finance

- a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. March 2023
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. March 2023
- b. To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2022/23 and 2023/2024
Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2022/23 and 2023/2024
- c. To approve the payment of Accounts for April 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 the new website at
<https://e-voice.org.uk/stlawrenceparishcouncil/>
The Parish Clerk informed the meeting of the NEW SLPC website and gave out the website address
- e. To discuss adding another Councillor/s as signatories for Unity Trust Bank
The RFO recommended to Council to add 2 further Councillors as signatories to the Unity Trust Bank. Cllr M. Gibson proposed Cllrs R. Millett and J. Pollock to be added to the signatories. Cllr C. Thorne seconded. **All Agreed**

067/2023 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village
No defective streetlights have been reported

068/2023 Items for Next Agenda

069/2023 Next meeting will be held on 17th. May 2023 at 7pm in the village hall

070/2023 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8pm and thanked everyone for attending.