



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

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chairman), Cllr C. Thorne, C. Crump, A. Gardner, R. Millett, G. Minish, J. Pollock and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were 19 members of the public present.

177/2023 Chairmans welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

178/2023 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp

179/2023 Declaration of Interest

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

180/2023 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 25th. October 2023 **All Agreed**

181/2023 Chairmans report and any update since last meeting

At the last meeting I updated the Council with the news that the repair to the seawall at the western end of the village was scheduled for November - and this time I can confirm that it has been done. It is not the most beautiful of repairs as the hole basically seems to have been filled with a very grey concrete but hopefully this will secure the wall. The whole of this section of wall is not in the best of condition and the repairs done over the last few years to have a rather temporary feel to them. Hopefully the wall will be upgraded for the security of the community.

While on the subject of the seawall another concern is the state of the footpath that runs along the top. This is a public footpath, part of the Coastal Path, and responsibility for maintenance should fall to the County Council. The surface is badly rutted, in wet weather much of the path is so muddy that it is not really safe to use and the rest is a lake. This has been reported to the County Council but much like the rest of their estate in St Lawrence repairs seem to be non-existent.

One area that has had coloured paint put round some of the worst faults is the entrance to Wick Farm Road. The markings have all but worn off and the road is getting worse, not helped by the buses as some drivers almost seem to do wheelies to turn – and yes more loose stone fly.

Needless to say, the wet weather is also showing just how bad the rest of the roads are. It is practically impossible to walk along the pavement on Main Road without being splashed as vehicles go through the many puddles.

From reports we have received from Cllr Stamp it appears that we are not alone – with repairs simply not happening in this area. To be polite about it this is very frustrating!

182/2023 Visitors – Ben Chapman / Adrian from MDC TruCam section and Police Sgt. M. Dolby (subject to operational commitments)

After having this date in their diaries for some months the MDC Community Engagement team have informed the Council that they have decided not to attend this meeting. With the continuing absence of MDC Cllr L. Haywood and no representation from MDC, this meeting was set up to assist the residents with all the traffic and parking problems in St. Lawrence MDC have let down the residents of St. Lawrence.

183/2023 Essex County Councillor Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp

Reports were given throughout the month which have been circulated to Councillors

184/2023 District Councillor/s Report – Cllr Linda Haywood

Again, no report was given

185/2023 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda**A total maximum time of 15 minutes is allowed for all public participation sessions**

Due to the absence of MDC who could assist the residents and Council with the problem of parking and speeding in the village the residents made the suggestions below

- Options on parking problems. Double yellow lines are no longer visible
- Lack of signage on parking each sign is about £90 – 2 signs passed Waterstones Club
- Disabled bays near the sea area
- No parking allowed passed this point
- Regular traffic warden for the village

A resident, after consulting with the children of the village, put forward some ideas of play equipment for the recreation park. They were

- MUGA for all ages £30 per sq. meter
- Basketball net
- Skate ramp
- Zip wire line 30m line cost £2400

The Clerk informed the meeting that an application to Essex County Council Locality Fund for a new basketball pole and net will be submitted to ECC Cllr W. Stamp during the forthcoming week.

This was welcomed by the residents.

The Clerk also mentioned using reserves to acquire new play equipment, which Cllr C. Thorne has been working on for some time, costing about £13,000. This again was welcomed by the residents.

186/2023 Representative Reports**a) Greening of the village – To receive a written report from Cllr C. Thorne**

We are now entering autumn and expect to be able to plant some spring bulbs to compliment those that are already planted by the Village Sign and also in Jubilee Field. These bulbs have now been ordered up and have been delivered.

I have been in discussion with the Village WI regarding their proposed planting of a tree to commemorate the Kings Charles' Coronation, we have agreed on a Sorbus "Pink Pagoda" which should form a nice addition to the existing trees. This will be planted adjacent to the village hall fence, sited midway between the 2 existing commemorative trees. I am awaiting confirmation from the WI regarding the planting of this tree.

We do still need volunteers to assist us with all of the Greening Project as it is the same few people doing all of the work, we now have one new volunteer who is going to join us.

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

This report can be found at <https://e-voice.org.uk/stlawrenceparishcouncil/reports/>

c) To seek a paid Litter picking person/s for the village

2 residents are interested in the position. Cllr R. Millett to liaise with the interested parties

d) Funding for play equipment

ECC Locality Funding is being applied for some additional play equipment.

187/2023 Planning Application/s No planning applications have been submitted affecting St. Lawrence

188/2023 Planning decision/s made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence

FUL/MAL/23/00065 - Land Adjacent to Peacehaven Moorhen Avenue St Lawrence Essex
Replacement of caravan for holiday use. **REFUSE**

189/2023 Planning Appeal/s made affecting St. Lawrence

No planning appeals have been submitted affecting St. Lawrence

190/2023 Finance

a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st October 2023

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st October 2023

b. To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2023/24

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2023/24

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

Signed

M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

13th. December 2023

d. Additional signatories to Unity Trust Bank – Information forms

Cllr R. Millett will soon be a registered authorised signatory with Unity Trust Bank

191/2023 Budget 2024/2025 – Councillors to discuss anticipated expenditure for 2024/2025
Councillors discussed thoroughly the anticipated expenditure for 2024/2025. A provisional expenditure for 2024/2025 was £41673 resulting in a provisional Precept figure of £34033.

Cllr M. Gibson proposed deferring this item to be finalised at the December meeting. **All Agreed**

192/2023 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village

None reported

193/2023 Items for Next Agenda

2024/2025 budget

Litter picking

194/2023 Next meeting will be held on 13th. December 2023 at 7pm in the village hall

195/2023 Councillors to note provisional meeting dates in 2024

**24.01.24: 28.02.24: 27.03.24: 24.04.24: 22.05.24 (AVM & AGM): 26.06.24: 24.07.24: 25.09.24:
23.10.24: 27.11.24: 18.12.24**

196/2023 Exclusions of the public and press

Councillors to Resolve that by virtue of the provisions of Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded during discussion of the following business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

197/2023 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.25pm and thanked everyone for attending.