

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chairman), Cllr C. Thorne, A. Gardner, R. Millett, G. Minish, (Clerk to Parish Council). There were 9 members of the public present.

198/2023 Chairmans welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

199/2023 Apologies for Absence were received from Kevin Money (Clerk to SLPC) Cllrs John Pollock, Chelsea Crump, ECC Cllr W. Stamp, MDC Cllr Linda Hayward

200/2023 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda
Cllr Throne declared a pecuniary interest in payment re greening of the village – purchase of supplies

201/2023 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 22nd November 2023
Postponed to January Meeting

202/2023 Chairmans report and any update since last meeting

Cllr Minish represented the Council at the meeting of the Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils where the group was being re-established. The intention is to have quarterly meetings.

There are ongoing discussions with MDC officers regarding a variety of issues and we are working towards getting the right officers to the January meeting.

203/2023 Esses County Councillor Report: Cllr Wendy Stamp has sent updates to the Council. The most recent highways action report was noted – with no work having been carried out on the Dengie, let alone Maldon District as whole

204/2023 District Councillor/s Report – Cllr Linda Haywood. No report

205/2023 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda

Residents welcomed the news that some Locality Funding is being allocated to St Lawrence for the Basketball net.

206/2023 Representative Reports

a) Greening of the village –Cllr C. Thorne gave a verbal report. The WI commemorative tree (partially funded from the Greening budget) has been planted.

Additional Christmas Tree lights have been purchased and hopefully the weather will improve sufficiently for them to be erected.

b) Asset Management report – Cllr C. Thorne gave a verbal report.

The locality Funding for the new basketball net was noted.

There are still no quotations for repainting the Viewing Platform. It is an ongoing issue getting quotations for works.

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

Noted that the people who expressed an interest have not followed up.

207/2023 Planning Application/s

23/01040/VARM St Lawrence Carvan Site: Variations of Condition. Oppose.

St Lawrence Parish Council has always supported the site being closed for the winter months as it is a holiday site only. This is not an area where there is year round tourism as there are no amenities or attractions to support this.

23/01186/ FUL, Greenfield, 45 Main Road, St Lawrence: Oppose

Reasons for opposition:

Overdevelopment of site noting narrow frontage

Non-compliance with MDC Vehicle Parking Standards

Overlooking and overshadowing of neighbouring bungalow (no 49)

Flood risk from run-off noting that the site is lower than the road and given the ground conditions soakaways are not very effective.

Likelihood of contamination on site (asbestos)

New vehicle access to Main Road would be required noting that Main Road is narrow with very poor visibility so making exiting dangerous. No space allowed for vehicles to turn on site and the road is too narrow to allow for vehicles to reverse in.

If this application is approved conditions must be placed on parking for vehicles associated with the build – they must be on site, not on Main Road or neighbouring unmade roads. Provision would also be needed for delivery vehicles to park on the site itself. Hours of work would need to be specified with no activity at weekends.

208/2023 Planning decision/s made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence: None

209/2023 Planning Appeal/s made affecting St. Lawrence

No planning appeals have been submitted affecting St. Lawrence

210/2023 Grant Application – St Lawrence Newland Church

Postponed to January.

211/2023 Finance

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

Not available given the Clerk's illness.

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

Not available given the Clerk's illness.

c. To consider the quotation for installation of a metal post fence latch and padlock. Agreed that GM / CT would look further into the specification for this.

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

212/2023 Budget 2024/2025 – Councillors to discuss anticipated expenditure for 2024/2025

Councillors discussed thoroughly the anticipated expenditure for 2024/2025. A Precept figure of £34233 was agreed which equates to a 2.433% increase (£1.37 p.a.) for a Band D property

213/2023 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village

None reported

214/2023 Items for Next Agenda

Litter picking

215/2023 Next meeting will be held on 24 January 2024 at 7pm in the village hall

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

216/2023 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 7.40pm and thanked everyone for attending.