



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 24th. January 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chairman), Cllr C. Thorne, C. Crump, R. Millett, G. Minish, J. Pollock, ECC Cllr W. Stamp, MDC Cllr L. Haywood and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council).

There were 29 members of the public present and 3 Essex Police Officers

001/2024 Chairmans welcome The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

002/2024 Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr A. Gardner

003/2024 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda

Cllr M. Gibson declared an interest in item 013/2024 (b)

Cllr J. Pollock declared an interest in item 010/2024

004/2024 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 22nd. November 2023 and 13th. December 2023. **All Agreed**

005/2024 Chairmans report and any update since last meeting

The major item to report is that I have had an online meeting with Nicola Syder (MDC), Samantha Wright (Safer Essex Roads Partnership, Essex Police), Russell Panter (South Essex Parking Partnership) and PC Lewis Nicholson (Maldon Town Team, Essex Police).

The ongoing issues regarding speeding, parking etc were explored in detail and a number of areas were identified which could help:

SPEEDING

A speed survey can be arranged to identify / confirm areas of concern. It was noted that the last time a speed survey was done there were roadworks operating close to the check area which had the effect of reducing speed.

Noted that there are two new officers who can conduct TRUCAM speeding patrols, in addition to the Community Engagement Team who will be able to assist with this.

It could be worth the Parish Council joining the Community Speed Watch scheme.

Traffic calming measures can be requested via the Local Highways Panel.

Bus speeding is to be reported direct to Heddingham by the Parish Council. The not untypical behaviour of buses "bullying" other road users was highlighted. The Commercial Vehicle unit will be made aware of the problems within St Lawrence which include delivery vans.

There is a facility on the Essex Police site "Extra Eyes" for reporting poor or dangerous driving.

I will be sending information through on places and times for speeding and other issues – so please let me have information on this. Without accurate information it is not easy to identify just where to focus attention. Remember that posting on Facebook isn't reporting issues.

ABUSE OF YELLOW LINES (single and double)

The lines are in a poor condition which makes enforcement difficult.

The South Essex Parking partnership will do the following:

- a. Get a full assessment of the condition of double and single yellow lines
- b. Enforcement of sections of lines that are in reasonable condition
- c. Upgrade yellow lines where necessary (depending on contractor availability)
- d. Once the lines have been repainted and upgraded a long-term plan for enforcement on a more regular basis can be instituted.

Delivery drivers are allowed to legally to park on yellow lines for a short time while delivering. The issue will be monitored but enforcement is almost impossible.

OBSTRUCTIVE AND DANGEROUS PARKING

Essex Police can deal with this and the recommendation is that if parking is dangerous and needs

Signed

M Gibson

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M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

dealing with as a matter of urgency it needs to be reported through to 101, so officers can be deployed. Parking on the pavement and inconsiderate parking by persistent offenders can be reported direct to the Maldon Town Team, who will be able to contact the registered keepers about their parking, advising or enforcing.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would report incidents of dangerous or obstructive parking, including pavement parking via 101 or the Maldon Town Team

The Parish Council will advise the community to report through the appropriate channels – 101, www.essex.police.uk or Extra Eyes

There will be another online meeting in early March to review actions so far.

I felt this was a very constructive meeting. Officers are now far more aware of the issues the village face as well as the frustration when nothing seems to happen. There are regular police patrols into the village but it is very easy to miss them so there is a tendency to feel that we are ignored.

However, everyone needs to be aware that if a major incident happens somewhere in the county, policing resources are redirected accordingly and then it isn't just St Lawrence that is affected, but the whole of Maldon. On the other hand, I can remember a major incident some 10 years ago when there was a serious storm surge on top of a high spring tide with flood warnings all along the coast. That evening /night, as residents nearest to the water watched levels carefully, there were frequent police patrols – checking water levels. I spoke to one patrol who pulled up on the Stone ramp as several of us were checking. We had concluded that water levels were dropping (this was well after midnight) and the police patrol heard our comments. They remarked that the reason they had been sent here was to evaluate water levels as it was touch and go on whether Heybridge needed to be evacuated. This patrol were actually from Harlow, drafted in to help so it can work the other way.

On another topic entirely, I have been chasing the Environment Agency regarding the state the footpath on the seawall had been left in following the recent repair to the wall. The reply was as follows: "We will look to flatten and re-grass this section, however, it is unlikely we will be able to do this before the weather improves and the conditions are right for the grass to establish." I'm sure I'll find out when something happens!

Sgt. Neal of Essex Police officer spoke about

- He spoke about policing in Maldon and St. Lawrence
- He produced figures for the St. Lawrence area
- The Clerk asked the police officer for his slide presentation. He would not as it breached the data protection policy of Essex Police
- Policing priorities – Chief Constable sets out the victim is paramount to Officers

All Police Officers remained to take individual questions from the residents.

006/2024 Essex County Councillor Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp

Cllr W. Stamp has already circulated all information to the Clerk which has been forwarded onto Councillors. Any Essex issues please get in contact with the Parish Clerk

007/2024 District Councillor/s Report – Cllr Linda Haywood

New MDC Councillors are still settling in. MDC is trying to get a balanced budget for 2024/2025.

The LDP is being worked on but will not be in place until 2025/2026. The plan has been revisited again as it was not 100% accurate

Cllr L. Haywood left the meeting

008/2024 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda

A total maximum time of 15 minutes is allowed for all public participation sessions

No questions were asked.

009/2024 Representative Reports

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

There is not much to report this month, The Saint Lawrence WI successfully planted their commutative tree. We installed the Christmas lights on to the Fir tree in the Play area and also on to the Dinghy Planter and have now removed them and put them in to store in the Portacabin. Chris Millet purchased some new lights for this year for which we will reimburse him. Roll on Spring.

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/2024/>

c) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils – update from Cllr G. Minish

Meeting last Thursday to employing a Clerk. Terms of Reference was discussed. A levy of £40 pa was

Signed

M Gibson

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proposed.

- d) **Update on seeking a paid Litter picking person/s for the village.** No update on a replacement
- e) **Funding for play equipment** – ECC Locality Funding approved £1000 for part payment of a new Basketball goal

010/2024 Planning Application/s

23/01250/HOUSE - 514 Moorhen Avenue St Lawrence Southminster Essex

Demolition of existing stables and construction of a single storey outbuilding

RESOLVED: No Objection to this application with conditions of

There is an Article 4 Direction which applies to properties on Moorhen Avenue. This is to protect the grass verges along unmade roads. It is purely to do with the grass verges, although it has been largely unenforced by MDC.

The site is on a flood zone and there is no information flood prevention / mitigation. The Wade Stream is very close to the rear of the proposed building.

The plans show a substantial outbuilding which looks more like an annexe or even a separate residence than an outbuilding. It is shown as having a home gym, sauna and shower room, plus a home office and a garden store. All three spaces are considerable in size – not dissimilar to the size of the rooms in the house (which has not yet been built). There is a designated study within the plans for the 4-bedroomed house.

The plans show a gap of 150mm between the proposed building and the boundary to allow for a new fence line. We assume that this is an error – after all 150mm too narrow to be able to put a fence in.

011/2024 Planning decision/s made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence

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

012/2024 Planning Appeal/s made affecting St. Lawrence

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78

Pebbles 59 Mountview Crescent St Lawrence Essex

Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with 2 storey dwelling with 3 bedrooms, associated external works (including an air source heat pump) and landscaping. Application Ref: 23/00081/FUL

Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/23/3331044 Appeal Start Date: 5 January 2024

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

013/2024 Grant applications –

- a) St. Lawrence Newland Church requesting £600

Cllr J. Pollock proposed accepting this grant application. Cllr C. Crump seconded. **All Agreed**

- b) St. Lawrence Village Hall Trust requesting £600

Cllr C. Thorne proposed accepting this grant application. Cllr G. Minish seconded. **All Agreed**

014/2024 Finance

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

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. December 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. Councillors to consider the quotation of £250 to supply & install a metal post fence latch and

Padlock. Cllr C. Thorne proposed to accept the quotation of £250. Cllr J. Pollock seconded. **All Agreed**

- d. To approve the payment of Accounts for January 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet

the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

015/2024 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village

None reported

016/2024 Items for Next Agenda

017/2024 Next meeting will be held on 28th. February 2024 at 7pm in the village hall

018/2024 Councillors to note meeting dates in 2024

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

Signed

M Gibson

M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

28th. February 2024

019/2024 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.30pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

M Gibson
M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

28th. February 2024