



Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Wednesday 22nd. May 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chairman), A. Gardner, R. Millett, G. Minish, J. Pollock, C. Thorne, MDC L. Haywood and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were 4 members of the public present

1. **Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp
3. **2023-24 Chairman's report**

I would like to start this report by thanking all my fellow Councillors for their work over the last 12 months. I would also like to thank our clerk, Kevin Money for the constant support and advice he gives the Council.

The Parish Council, within the last year, has replaced the basketball goal and a replacement toddlers climbing frame is on order. As a result of the regular maintenance check on the CCTV system, which covers the field and car park, components that were coming to the end of their life have been replaced – this during 2024/25 financial year. We also have 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. Work is now underway to assess the likely requirements for maintenance in the next couple of years.

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 have to prioritise in order to get best value for residents' money.

The Greening the Village project is ongoing. This village does not have expanses of public land. The Jubilee Field is a multi-purpose space so there is a limit to how much planting can be done without encroaching on the play areas. It is worth remembering that until some 20 years ago there was no public open space in the village.

We have been in constant touch with the authorities regarding issues around speeding and parking in the village. Regular Tru Cam checks are being done, and, no, we don't know in advance when they are going to be here. There has been a survey of the yellow lines along Main Road and we have been assured that they will be repainted after which enforcement can be done.

It feels like a constant battle to get essential road repairs done. There are potholes in the village that were highlighted a couple of years ago that are still waiting for attention. I've spent some time going through all the highways defects listed on the ECC site – the frightening part for us is that almost without exception there is a vague reference to planned maintenance but no indication of timescale! Remember that anyone can report highways defects using the online facility.

The Parish Council is seven people strong. 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 all volunteers. We are all happy to do what we can to help with issues but sometimes we just have to refer things on – and hope that the authorities actually realise where St Lawrence is.

4. **Essex County Councillor's report.** A report was supplied prior to the meeting. This can be found at <https://e-voice.org.uk/stlawrenceparishcouncil/reports/>
5. **Maldon District Councillor's report** - To receive a report from MDC Cllr Linda Haywood
 - MDC received funding for BMX track and skatepark at Burnham
 - Splash Park re-opening during school holidays only but can be hired outside school holidays
 - Burnham pontoon has received the go-ahead and will be completed within a year
 - Parking in Maldon High Street has changed with an increase in parking cost. Free bays have been taken away. MDC has decided to remove the Whitehorse car park with the local businesses not happy.

Signed

M. Gibson

26th. June 2024

M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

- Car parking machines are now card and cash payments
- MDC Council tax increased by 2.98%
- Garden waste cost rose from £50 to £70
- Local Development plan is being reviewed. Land supply is now more than 5-year supply
- MDC offices are now open during the day but most MDC officers are hybrid working.

6. Public Forum

Local government electors, included on the current electoral roll in the parish of St. Lawrence, may ask questions of the Council, which will usually be answered by the Chairman, the Clerk to the Council, or a designated Councillor. It is sometimes helpful to let the Clerk have prior notice of any matters you may wish to raise.

A resident spoke about the TruCam system in the village and how successful in prosecuting offenders.

7. Closure of the meeting. To close the Meeting at the conclusion of all business.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 7.25pm and thanked everyone for attending.