



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>. May 2024 at 7.30pm 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 5 members of the public present

**080/2024 Chairmans welcome**

**081/2024 Apologies for Absence** were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp

**082/2024 Declaration of Interest**

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

Cllr C. Thorne declared an interest in item 089/2024

Cllr M. Gibson declared an interest in item 087/2024

**083/2024 Minutes**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup>. April 2024. **All Agreed**

**084/2024 Chairmans report and any update since last meeting**

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.

**085/2024 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 from the public

Signed

*M Gibson*

26<sup>th</sup>. June 2024

M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

**086/2024 Representative Reports**

a) **Greening of the village – Any Updated information since last meeting** - Cllr C. Thorne  
A resident is happy to take control of the greening of the village

b) **Asset Management report – Any Updated information since last meeting** - Cllr C. Thorne

c) **Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils – Cllr G. Minish.** Nothing to report

**087/2024 Planning Application/s**

**24/00368/FUL** - Stone Sailing Club Tinnocks Lane St Lawrence Southminster

Install solar panels to reduce electrical grid consumption.

**RESOLVED: Support this planning application**

**088/2024 Planning decision/s made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence**

**FUL/MAL/24/00167** - Land Adjacent To Peacehaven Moorhen Avenue St Lawrence Essex

Installation of boundary fence and gate. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

**Planning Appeal/s**

**23/00065/FUL** - Land Adjacent To Peacehaven Moorhen Avenue St Lawrence Essex

Replacement of caravan for holiday use Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/24/3339362

Appeal Start Date: 9 May 2024

**089/2024 Finance**

a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30<sup>th</sup>. April 2024

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30<sup>th</sup>. April 2024

b. To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2024/25

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2024/25

c. To approve the payment of Accounts for May 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

**090/2024 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village**

No defective lights reported

**091/2024 Items for Next Agenda**

Payment from 2 traders using the car park

**092/2024 Next meeting will be held on 26<sup>th</sup>. June 2024****093/2024 Councillors to note meeting dates in 2024**

24.07.24: 25.09.24: 23.10.24: 27.11.24: 18.12.24

**094/2024 Closure of the Meeting**

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 7.45pm and thanked everyone for attending.