



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 23rd. November 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chairman), C. Thorne (Vice-Chairman), A. Gardner, R. Millett, J. Pollock and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were 5 members of the public present.

168/2022 Chairman's welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

169/2022 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp & MDC Cllr P. Channer

170/2022 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 the Village Hall

171/2022 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th. October 2022. **All Agreed**

172/2022 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

On behalf of St Lawrence Parish Council, I laid a wreath at the village war memorial on Remembrance Sunday. It is a privilege to perform this small civic duty remembering all who have served their country over the years.

We have had a rather disconnected time in the village in the last couple of weeks as the landlines went out of operation. Those who had transferred across to the digital system were fine but the rest of us were struggled with our patchy mobile signal and those with no mobile phone were left incommunicado – not nice for the elderly and infirm. The issue seems to have been theft of copper wire somewhere between the village and the exchange in Tillingham but information has been hard to come by. Our District Councillor, Penny Channer, got involved – and emailed the MP to see what pressure could be put on. I think the lines are all back operating now although as they came back there were some crossed lines. We do not know exactly how many people were affected, let alone who, and consequently it is not possible to check that everyone now has an operational phone. Luckily there is a strong sense of community and neighbours do know who might need help.

173/2022 Essex County Councillors Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp

a) Update on Locality Fund application – Parish Clerk

The Clerk informed the meeting that the locality funding has been approved subject to payment of the Car Park sign.

174/2022 District Councillor/s Report – MDC Cllr Penny Channer

No report was given but all MDC information had been circulated to Councillors. MDC P. Channer supplied a report up to 7th. November 2022

175/2022 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda

a) St. Lawrence Residents Association report from the Chairman of the RA.

A total maximum time of 20 minutes is allowed for all public participation sessions

Lyn asked for ECC Cllr W. Stamp to provide a contact at MDC funding for assisting Seaview estate road. Planning decisions at 179/2022 – Why does MDC planning officers refuse an application where local residents support such an application? Councillors referred the resident to MDC Planning Officers

Following item 175/2022 there was no more public participation in the Council meeting

176/2022 Representative Reports

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

We have started to remove some of the plants from the dinghy for overwintering; these are being looked

Signed

M Gibson

M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

14th. December 2022

after by Jim and Carole Taylor, who have carried this out for several years now. Some additional planting for winter colour in the dinghy is on our agenda for the upcoming months. The Saint Lawrence WI carried out their Tree planting a couple of weeks back, and have installed a very nice crab apple tree, that will hopefully give some good autumn colour over the succeeding years. This tree forms part of the Queens Green Canopy and joins our previously planted tree to commemorate her reign. The Queens Green Canopy tree has survived the very dry summer, thanks in no part to a lot of watering by the team, Thank You to all who helped.

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

This is a new description for items of equipment that comes under the control of SLPC, our aim is to record the conditions and state of repair for all Play equipment, Buildings, Fences, Signs, Green keeping and all associated items. It may take some time to compile and fully update this list of items so please bear with me on this. This list will be updated on a monthly basis as to the current state of condition. This list will now require to be referred back to October 2022 for comparison. This is to reduce the amount of paperwork that is produced.

1. **Play equipment**: 23-11-2022: The general state of condition is good.
2. **Toddler Multiplay equipment**. 26/10/22: Please see attached documents. 23-11-2022: We are now in possession of estimates from 2 suppliers for this equipment
3. **Play Area Gate**: 26/10/22: The latch has been removed from the gate, and hopefully now meets the disability requirements. The condition of the equipment is as before. 23-11-2022: As before
4. **Jubilee Field**: 23-11-2022: As before
5. **Basketball equipment**: 23-11-2022: We now have 2 estimates for new equipment.
6. **Portacabin in Play area**: It is in a poor state of repair in some aspects. 26/10/22: Please see attached prices from A S Lipscombe & S & D Maintenance, for consideration. 23-11-2022: We now have 2 Estimates for this work, as above. And now have answers to some questions raised on their specifications. Key Holders: Marian Gibson. Chris Thorne, Rosemary Millet
7. **Car park**: 23-11-2022: is in a sound condition.
8. **Signage**: The Jubilee Field car park is still without a Sign. **23-11-2022: The sign board has now been ordered from Whitehill Direct**. and we have made a saving of £100.00 on the original estimated cost. Plus a Grant of £825.00 from ECC.
9. **Hedges**: 26/10/22: As agreed at the last meeting, R Garwood has been instructed to reduce the height of the hedge adjacent to the play area/ village hall. 23-11-2022: This work has now been carried out.
10. **River Viewing Shelter**: 26/10/22: We require the nomination of contractors to obtain prices, can we have some recommendations please, and perhaps put out on our Facebook page that contractors are required to price this item. 23-11-2022: As before.
11. **Dog Bins**: 26/10/22: It was suggested at the last meeting to move the lower Dog bin in the jubilee field and place it nearer to the main gate, is this agreeable? If so, we will obtain a costing. 23-11-2022: This is ongoing. We have also been asked to contact Gerry Lewsey regarding the Dog Bin situation in Seaway, hopefully to get agreement on the siting of the previously requested and purchased, new bin.
12. **CCTV Equipment**: H D Security have raised a query on the mast that supports the camera that is placed in the corner of the play area. They have stated that the mast is not of the correct type for that situation. This is an area that we will have to closely look into for future replacement/renewal. Key Holders: CCTV Room- Marian Gibson, Christopher Thorne, Rosemary Millet. CCTV Cabinet- Marian Gibson. Rosemary Millet, Christopher Thorne
13. **Table Tennis Table (external by Water sports Club)**: This is in a sound condition.
14. **Goal Posts**: These are in a reasonable state of repair.
15. **Field gates main entrance to Jubilee Field**: These are in reasonable state of repair.
16. **Village Sign adjacent to Bradwell road**: Is in sound condition.
17. **SLPC display Notice board (opposite Stone Pub)**: Is in sound condition
18. **SLPC display Notice board (by Dairy Stores)**: Is in a sound condition.
19. **New equipment for older children**: Please see Estimate from Playdale, and Zip wire costing Via John Pollock.

Signed

M Gibson

M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

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- 20. Disability Access:** This is an area that I feel we will have to have a closer look at in the near future, especially the entrance gate to Jubilee Field. 26/10/22: Play area gate has been attended too. 23-11-2022: As before
- 21. Single bar play equipment:** We have accepted an estimate from Richard Garwood & Sons to have the hollow in the ground levelled and seeded. And they are supplying a section of rubber stabilizing matt Free of Charge. This will make a **Saving** of approximately £200.00.

177/2022 Parish Councillor vacancies – update from the Parish Clerk
The Clerk informed the meeting that he had not received any applications to fill the vacancy on the Council and the deadline has expired. As the next local elections are within 6 months the legal advice is that no co-option can take place until after the May 2023 elections.

178/2022 Planning Application/s. No planning applications had been received

179/2022 Decision/s made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence
Councillors noted the decision made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence
FUL/MAL/22/00921 - Plots 90 And 92 Riverton Drive St Lawrence Essex
Redevelopment to provide two detached houses. **REFUSED**

180/2022 Appeal/s made affecting St. Lawrence. No notification of any appeals had been received

181/2022 Finance

- a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October 2022
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October 2022
- b. To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2022/23
Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2022/23
- c. To approve the payment of Accounts for November 2022 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**
- d. To approve the charges of using the car park on a weekly basis – Cllr J. Pollock
Cllr J. Pollock has contacted both vendors who use the car park. A total of £2.50p per hour for each vendor. Cllr J. Pollock to email the Clerk with documentation

182/2022 2023/2024 Budget
Councillors to discuss the Council's anticipated expenditure for 2023/2024
Cllr. M. Gibson proposed and Cllr C. Thorne seconded the Councils' 2023-2024 budget of £34854.
All Agreed

This resulted in a Precept demand to BDC of £32214. Which using the MDC Tax Base figure of 590.0 resulted in a Band D property rate of £54.60p, which is an increase of 15p per month.
The RFO was asked to submit the Precept demand form to MDC when requested.

183/2022 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village
Street light o/s 87 Main was looked at by A&J Lighting but there is no power coming from UK Power. This has been reported to UK Power company

184/2022 Councillors to note 2023 meeting dates
25.01.23: 28.02.23: 28.03.23: 26.04.23: 24.05.23: 28.06.23: 26.07.23: 27.09.23: 25.10.23: 22.11.23: 13.12.23

185/2022 Items for Next Agenda
To remove Parish council street lighting
Cllr R. Millett gave her apologies for the next meeting

186/2022 Next meeting will be held on 14th. December 2022 at 7pm in the village hall

187/2022 Closure of the Meeting
To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8pm and thanked everyone for attending.