



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

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chair), A. Gardner, G. Minish, R. Millett, C. Thorne and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were 3 members of the public present

110/2024 Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr J. Pollock

111/2024 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda Cllr C. Thorne and Cllr M. Gibson declared an interest in item 121/2024 (c)

112/2024 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th. June 2024. **All Agreed**

113/2024 Co-Option

Councillors are requested to receive written application for the office of Parish Councillor and co-opt candidate to fill the vacancy. The Candidates having completed a short application form and confirmed his eligibility for the position of Councillor within the statutory rules (Local Government Act 1972 section 79). Forms have been returned to the Parish Clerk by the prescribed deadline

The eligible candidates have been invited to attend a meeting with Councillors and speak for a maximum of five minutes. The candidates are asked to introduce themselves, give a resume of their background and experience, and explain why they wish to become a member of the Council.

Councillors then voted. As a result of the vote Cllr M. Gibson proposed Mr. J. Cobb to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Cllr G. Minish seconded. **All Agreed**

Mr. J. Cobb then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and E Consent form.

He was given the Register of Interest form to complete and sign then return it to the Clerk ASAP so that the form can be logged with Maldon District Council within 28 days. He then took his seat as a Councillor

114/2024 Chair's report and any update since last meeting

May I start by welcoming our new Councillor to the fold.

As I am sure everyone will have noticed the new toddler play equipment is now operational. Work is ongoing on potential other projects with quotations being sought. Cllr Thorne will provide an update on this. The Seascope event is underway with activities today (24th. July) and tomorrow based at Stone Sailing Club. Last week St. Lawrence Parish Council hosted the quarterly meeting of the Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils. Whilst the group has no statutory powers it is a very useful way to disseminate information and attracts presentations from a wide variety of experts. Cllr Minish will report further on this.

115/2024 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda

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

Street Lights with LED bulbs means that the Parish Council would not pay as much for the street lights. Could the Parish Council investigate if this is true? The rate should be changed on the unmetered supply of electricity. Has the litter picking role been filled? SLPC has a litter picker that started in May '24 and is regularly undertaken.

116/2024 Representative Reports

a) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils – Cllr G. Minish

A DHGPC meeting took place where it was agreed that all Highways issues to be reported to ECC Cllr W. Stamp directly. She will co-ordinate all highway issues in the Dengie area. There have been 6- 8000 potholes reported to Essex Highways. Speed (TruCam) Cllr G. Minish is trying to get a combined Speedwatch team to go to neighbouring villages and not undertake Speedwatch in their own village. DHGPC will co-ordinate any Speedwatch volunteers. Next meeting 9th. October.

b) Greening of the village – Any Update since last meeting – Cllr C. Thorne

The Weather has been playing havoc with the Greening project but our new member Lyn has been able to do some much-needed weeding and has constructed and installed a compost bin made from recycled timber. This has been sited at the bottom end of the Car park and will enable the making of compost; this is something that has been missing for several years resulting in us using our own bins.

c) Asset Management report – Any Update since last meeting – Cllr C. Thorne

The Play Inspection Report Dated 8-May-2024 has been received and its contents have been noted and will be actioned upon as appropriate.

The main area of concern in the report has already been dealt with, this is the condition of the Toddler Multiplay unit. We have removed the old item of equipment and have purchased from a local company, Playquip Ltd, a New, much improved Toddler Multiplay item. This has been manufactured and installed by Playquip who in my opinion carried out the work in a really professional manner and had the new equipment up and running in one week of work on site. This has already had the thumbs up and approval of Rachel and the Diddydots children.

My second area of immediate concern is the lack of a litter picker within the village, this means that the Litter Bin within the children's Play area is not being emptied on a regular basis and at present is full to the brim, and technically we should close the play area until the bin is emptied.

As Cllr Thorne had received advice from a Playquip installer that the children's play area should be closed due to the litter bin overflowing the Clerk said it will be closed. Cllr Thorne said that he had cleared the bin for the last 2 years but would not undertake this anymore. Councillors agreed to clear the bin and the play area be left open.

Cllr C. Thorne to obtain quotes for rubber matting against the continuing upkeep of the bark.

117/2024 Defibrillator update – Cllr R. Millett

I'm inclined to change wording re defibs. Two of the three Council owned defibrillators are working and the third has been checked and a new battery is on order. The meeting was reminded that the protocol for accessing defibrillators is via 999 as they have the full records of availability of all units in the area, not just those owned by SLPC, and will direct users to the nearest available one

118/2024 Planning Application/s

24/00520/LDP - Sunrise High View St Lawrence Southminster

Claim for lawful development certificate for a proposed first floor rear extension

RESOLVED: No objection to this planning application

119/2024 Planning decision/s made affecting St. Lawrence

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

Install solar panels to reduce electrical grid consumption. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

120/2024 Appeals made affecting St. Lawrence

23/00081/FUL (Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/23/3331044) Pebbles, 59 Mountview Crescent, St Lawrence Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with 2 storey dwelling with 3 bedrooms, associated external works (including an air source heat pump) and landscaping.

Decision Level: Delegated - **APPEAL ALLOWED – 02.07.24**

121/2024 Finance

- a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. June 2024

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. June 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 July 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

122/2024 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village

123/2024 Items for Next Agenda

Street Lighting update: Playground litter bin / bark / matting: Letter to guys using the car park

Defibrillator update:

124/2024 Next meeting will be held on 25th. September 2024

125/2024 Councillors to note the meeting dates in 2024: 23.10.24: 27.11.24: 18.12.24

Signed

M. Gibson – Chair of SLPC

25th. September 2024

126/2024 Councillors to agree on 2025 meeting dates:

**22.01.25: 26.02.25: 26.03.25: 23.04.25: 28.05.25: 18.06.25: 23.07.25: 24.09.25: 22.10.25:
26.11.25: 17.12.25**

127/2024 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chair then closed the meeting at 7.55pm and thanked everyone for attending.

DRAFT

Signed

M. Gibson – Chair of SLPC

25th. September 2024