



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>. September 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chair), J. Cobb, A. Gardner, G. Minish, R. Millett, J. Pollock and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were 9 members of the public present

**128/2024 Apologies for Absence** were received from MDC Cllr L. Haywood

- To accept the resignation of Christopher Thorne with immediate effect. Councillors expressed great sadness as Christopher Thorne did a lot for the village

**129/2024 To elect a vice-chair for the remainder of the year**

Cllr M. Gibson proposed Cllr G. Minish to act as vice-chair for the remainder of the year. Cllr R. Millett seconded. **All Agreed**

**130/2024 Declaration of Interest**

To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda Cllr R. Millett declared an interest in item 142/2024 c

**131/2024 Minutes**

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

**132/2024 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 were asked to introduce themselves, give a resume of their background and experience and explain why they wish to become a member of the Council.

Cllr M. Gibson proposed to co-opt Matthew Lear onto the Parish Council. Cllr A. Gardner seconded.

**All Agreed.** Cllr M. Lear then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, E Consent form and was given the Register of Interest form to be returned to the clerk within 28 days.

Cllr M. Lear then took their seat as a Parish Councillor

**133/2024 Chair's report and any update since last meeting**

Since the last meeting we have started on the process to hopefully reduce our electricity bill for street lighting. UK Power Networks had no records for our installations – whether the system changed after the lights were installed, I do not know. There is a complicated form to complete – and we have dealt with those parts of it that we can. However, we now await A & J Lighting to provide the rest of the data – the actual type of light fitting, the switching system etc. We will report back when more information is available.

We had a useful informal meeting of Councillors to deal with outstanding asset issues. I am not doing a separate report on Asset Management as it can all be dealt with here.

One of the broken picnic tables has been disposed of and the other two are being used as a temporary measure to block a hole in the perimeter fence. A permanent solution is being explored.

Cllr Millett has taken over the Greening project and will report on her activities later

The gates will be revisited next year.

The play equipment is in a good condition now but it is worth noting that the play bark is going to need topping up next year. Initially it could do with raking and we will ask Garwood's to deal with that.

The hedges have had their annual cut and tidy up and Garwood's will also be applying weedkiller in the car park etc.

We have a small project to put forward for Locality Funding- a picnic table which would go near the boat in the car park - which might even encourage people to use that rather than the bench in the play area to

Signed

*M Gibson*

M. Gibson – Chair of SLPC

25<sup>th</sup>. September 2024

eat their fish and chips - and there is a bin there for the rubbish. The clerk is completing the paperwork for this.

**134/2024 Essex County Councillor Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp.** No report was given

**135/2024 District Councillor/s Report – Cllr Linda Haywood.** No report was given

**136/2024 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda**

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

To increase the recreation ground with skate parks and more activities for children.

Cllrs J. Cobb and M. Lear to look into and to cost the project. To ask local Councils for any information.

Football goals to be erected for the younger children

**137/2024 Representative Reports**

**a) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils – Any update since last meeting**

Nothing to report. Next meeting 9<sup>th</sup>. October 2024

**b) Greening of the village – Cllr R. Millett any update since last meeting**

The boat flowering has been added to.

Hedges around the perimeter of the recreation ground. St. Lawrence is very short of trees in the village.

The Forestry commission is prepared to inform the Councillors and residents about having extra trees

planted in the village and on the recreation ground. The diagram circulated informed the meeting that

about 2300 trees could be planted. The planting time is in February and/or Spring.

The Food Forest is a better idea to start the project. The saplings will be a year old and will adapt easier.

**c) Asset Management report – Cllr M. Gibson any update since last meeting** See item 133/2024

**138/2024 Defibrillator update – Cllr R. Millett.** All 3 defibrillators are working well

**139/2024 Planning Application/s**

**24/00522/FUL** - Plot 9 To 10 Sunny Way St Lawrence Essex

Removal of existing caravan on site and installation of 1no. park home, utilising existing parking and access arrangements.

**RESOLVED:** SLPC recommends refusal to this application. It is an inappropriate and temporary development which contravenes policies D1, D2, and H4 of the local plan

**24/00700/HOUSE** - Sunrise High View St Lawrence Southminster

First floor side extension.

**RESOLVED:** SLPC has no comment on this application subject to any neighbours' comments

**140/2024 Planning decision/s made affecting St. Lawrence**

**HOUSE/MAL/24/00467** - Barden High View St Lawrence Southminster

Single storey rear extension. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

**WTPO/MAL/24/00486** - The Gnomes 91 Main Road St Lawrence Southminster

T1 on TPO 6/81 - Turkey Oak- Height reduction of 2m. Crown lift to 4m. Lateral reduction of 2.5m. Cut Ivy band. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

**WTPO/MAL/24/00500** - The Oaks 87 Main Road St Lawrence Southminster

(T3 on TPO 6/81) Turkey Oak – Fell. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

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

Claim for lawful development certificate for a proposed first floor rear extension. **REFUSE**

**141/2024 Appeals made affecting St. Lawrence**

**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 DISMISSED – 19.09.2024**

**142/2024 Finance**

**a.** To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. August 2024

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. August 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 August and September 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

Signed

*M Gibson*

M. Gibson – Chair of SLPC

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d. Councillors to agree to increase signatories for Unity Trust Bank

e. Councillors to review and adopt the New Financial Regulations for SLPC. **All Agreed**

**143/2024 Budget 2025-2026.** Councillors to discuss draft budget for 2025-2026  
Councillors discussed the 2025-2026 draft budget

**144/2024 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village**  
None reported

**145/2024 Items for Next Agenda**

**146/2024 Next meeting will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup>. October 2024**

**147/2024 Councillors to note meeting dates in 2024: 27.11.24: 18.12.24**

**148/2024 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**

**149/2024 Closure of the Meeting**

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

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.10pm and thanked everyone for attending.