



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>. October 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

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

**150/2024 Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr M. Lear and J. Cobb

**151/2024 Declaration of Interest**

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

**None Declared**

**152/2024 Minutes**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup>. September 2024. **All Agreed**

**153/2024 Chair's report and any update since last meeting**

LED Lighting: We have finally received the form back from A & J Lighting and have forwarded it to UK Power Networks for processing. As before, we will update you as and when we have more information.

There have been a number of planning related issues arising during the last month and Cllr Heywood has been advised of all of them and hopefully the Planning Department at MDC will be actioning them.

Briefly they are as follows:

At the September meeting we considered an application for placing a mobile home on plot 9 – 10 Sunny Way. We were unhappy with the proposal and I discovered a couple of days later that the neighbours were very concerned. Since then, there have been developments with a caravan being installed on the site and a number of vehicles also appearing. The planning application has not yet been determined but this does rather look like an attempt to ignore the rules! It is possible that positioning a caravan on the site may contravene the Article 4 Direction.

There are reports circulating that the owners of St Lawrence Caravan Site are planning to pipe the Wade to extend their land so more caravans can be installed. We are aware that a number of new concrete bases have been installed already as well as a gateway at the entrance. The number of caravans on the site is governed by planning permission. The Wade is a watercourse, although it may look like a ditch, with outlets at both ends into the Blackwater. Originally it was much wider and separated Ramsey Island from the mainland. It is also as part of the flood defences for the village providing drainage. Any changes to its course are likely to be of concern to the Environment Agency and we will be consulting them.

Another planning issue has come up regarding odd subdivisions of sites with new buildings appearing on them which are not covered by extant planning permissions. I have suggested to Linda Heywood that it would be very useful if she could persuade the planning department to pay a visit to St Lawrence and walk round with us to see just what is happening.

**154/2024 Essex County Councillor Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp** No report was given

**155/2024 District Councillor Report – Cllr Linda Haywood**

Not too much to update from MDC.

**156/2024 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda**

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

Members of the public expressed concern about the by now prolonged closure of the shop and post office and suggested that there may be a duty for the Parish Council to ensure the amenity is kept for the village. The information the Parish Council has is that the lease is being transferred to someone new but why there has been this long interregnum we do not know. We will seek to clarify the suggestion of a duty on the Parish Council to provide this service as this is something the Clerk, the Chairman and also our District Councillor are not aware of

Signed

*M. Gibson*  
M. Gibson – Chair of SLPC

27<sup>th</sup>. November 2024

**157/2024 Representative Reports****a) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils – Cllr G. Minish any update since last meeting**

Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup>. October. Cllr G. Minish is now the liaison officer between Police and TruCam at MDC. His role is to co-ordinator all speed watch teams in the area. The next DHGPC meeting is in January '25

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

Garwood's are up to date with all the grass and hedge cutting. The boat is successfully looking after itself for this time of year and I plan to have Tommy on display in the next few days.

After a group meeting, including residents and councillors with Jaime Carvalho. Forestry & Woodland Officer. Climate Adaption & Mitigation for Essex County Council on Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Plans are progressing well, and there is a lot of support and interest within the community.

The defibrillators have all been checked today and are in good order.

**c) Asset Management report – Cllr M. Gibson any update since last meeting**

Waiting for the quotations on the skatepark together with private and business funding from villagers.

**158/2024 Planning Application/s** No planning applications have been received

**159/2024 Planning decision/s made affecting St. Lawrence** No planning decisions have been made

**160/2024 Appeals made affecting St. Lawrence** No planning appeals have been received

**161/2024 Finance**

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

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30<sup>th</sup>. September 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 October 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

**162/2024 Budget 2025-2026.** Councillors to discuss draft budget for 2025-2026

Councillors discussed the draft 2025-2026 budget

**163/2024 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village.** None reported

**164/2024 Items for Next Agenda**

Budget 2025-2026: Skatepark update:

**165/2024 Next meeting will be held on 27<sup>th</sup>. November 2024 at 7pm in the village hall**

**166/2024 Councillors to note meeting dates in 2024: 18.12.24**

**167/2024 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**

**168/2024 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.