



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 22nd. January 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chair), G. Minish (Vice-Chair), J. Cobb, A. Gardner, M. Lear, R. Millett, MDC Cllr L. Haywood and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were 10 members of the public present

001/2025 Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr J. Pollock

002/2025 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 item 012/2025 (b)

003/2025 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th. December 2024. **All Agreed**

004/2025 Chair's report and any update since last meeting

I was saddened to hear that Cheslea has decided to discontinue the Youth Club due to life pressures. It has been a great success – and something the village really needed. Now we need to find another suitably person/s who could pick up the reins.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2. The actual anniversary falls on Thursday 8th May and is not a public holiday. There are a lot of suggestions of things that could be done to commemorate the event but unless there is someone in the village who desperately wants to organise this, I suspect that a beacon lighting would be the most sensible way to mark the day.

Essex and Suffolk Water are about to start some pretty major work on the watermain leading into the village. The work is due to take about 2 months and much of it will be along field margins but there will be traffic delays at times. Full details are being sent to all households

005/2025 Essex County Councillor Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp. No report was given

006/2025 District Councillor/s Report – Cllr Linda Haywood

The local shop is looking good.

New leisure contracts have been published by updating the skate parks expanding the gymnasium new swimming pool

NPPF meeting was held yesterday. Rules have been amended. MDC officers must now look at plans in a different way – leaning towards increasing the new housing targets.

Local Development plan had 276 houses (6.53 years of housing). The new targets for houses are 569 houses leaving 2.75 years of housing. Leaving plots of land may be built upon. More houses will be built to meet this new target from Government.

007/2025 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda

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

A resident rose an issue about a problem in Mountview Crescent leaving debris outside the property.

MDC Cllr L. Haywood suggested contacting MDC Health and Safety department.

008/2025 Representative Reports

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

Had a meeting on 08.01.25. Guest speaker from Rural England. DHGPC requires £60 per Parish / Town Council. DHGPC is pushing for Solar Farms to be given the green light. Speedwatch – Redraw the poster for 12 volunteers. The response is very low. Public limited insurance is required for volunteers to work for DHGPC. Next meeting 12th. March 2025. The group has been going for 12 months with less attendees and nothing is getting done. The meeting are now every 3 months.

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

Despite the miserable weather on Sunday morning, we had a very positive get together with Richard & Jack Garwood, some fellow councillors and a few Greening volunteers.

Signed

M Gibson

M. Gibson – Chair of SLPC

26th. February 2025

Resulting in Richard having the information he needs to send the SLPC his quote for his much appreciated maintenance of Jubilee Field.

Diddydots along with a larger Village Greening team will be very much involved in nurturing the new planting sponsored by Essex County Council Forestry & Woodland Climate & Mitigation.

A Big Thanks goes to Les & Gilly. They have both worked very hard, in their own time, with a Forestry Officer and signage design - to explain the importance of this project to the public visiting Jubilee Field Megan Garwood (ne Cowell) met with Gilly, Karl, Les and myself offering to design the main sign, to be placed at the edge of the new planting area. She has kindly given up her own time to do this for St Lawrence.

Jon & Jack have given suggestions for possible local companies to make the first sign. When we find the best quote, we will ask the Essex Community Fund for financial support.

We are also seeing if local businesses might be able to contribute.

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

A quotation for the grass and hedge cutting was submitted for £3329.51p each year for 2025 – 2028.

Cllr M. Gibson proposed accepting this quotation. Cllr A. Gardner seconded. **All Agreed**

A quite time over the Christmas period

d) Skatepark update – Cllrs M. Lear / J. Cobb

Further quotation has been sought. The groundworks need sourcing. The nett cost is about £20,000

A Councillor/s was requested to source out funding opportunities.

009/2025 Encouraging First Responder volunteers in the village – Cllr A. Gardner

A villager had a fall she rang 999 no-one attended until 6am the following morning.

Cllr A. Gardner to contact the first responder in the village to see if more first responders could be trained.

MDC Cllr L. Haywood left the meeting

010/2025 Planning Application/s. No planning applications have been received

011/2025 Planning decision/s made affecting St. Lawrence. No planning decisions have been made

012/2025 Grant application

a) St. Lawrence Newland Church £600

Cllr R. Millett proposed to accept this grant application from St. Lawrence Newland Church of £600.

Cllr G. Minish seconded. **All Agreed**

b) St. Lawrence Village Hall Trust £600

Cllr A. Gardner proposed to accept this grant application from St. Lawrence Village Hall Trust of £600.

Cllr R. Millett seconded. **All Agreed**

013/2025 Finance

a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. December 2024

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. December 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 January 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the

Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

014/2025 Budget 2025-2026. Councillors to finalise the budget for 2025-2026

Cllr M. Gibson proposed an expenditure of £37799 for 2025-2026. This results in a Precept demand from MDC of £35169. Using the MDC tax base figure of 594.80 resulted in a Band D property figure of £59.13p (an increase of £1.47p or 2.55%). Cllr G. Minish seconded. **All Agreed**

015/2024 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village

2 in Main Road – details to be forwarded to the Clerk

016/2025 Items for Next Agenda

017/2025 Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th. February 2025

Remainder of 2025 meetings **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**

018/2025 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chair then closed the meeting at 7.50pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

M Gibson

M. Gibson – Chair of SLPC

26th. February 2025