



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>. February 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

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

**019/2025 Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr M. Lear. No other apologies were received

**020/2025 Declaration of Interest**

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

**None declared**

**021/2025 Minutes**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup>. January 2025 **All Agreed**

**022/2025 Chair's report and any update since last meeting**

It has been lovely to see the Dairy Stores open again. I don't think I can remember a time when there was so much stock and the whole place is bright and welcoming. The village have turned out to support this essential amenity. Kasia and Tom are doing a great job.

Essex and Suffolk Water have started on the water main replacement work, gradually moving north towards the village. Every household has had full information about what is being done.

The Jubilee Field has had a considerable number of trees planted – and many thanks to everyone who has helped on this project. Cllr Millett is still working hard putting mulch around the newly planted trees and bushes – and I suspect would appreciate some help!

Work on resurfacing the northern end of Main Road has been postponed within the last few days so we await the next date. We are told that the work will only take one day but there will be some disruption and inconvenience when it does happen. Access for residents has to be provided.

**023/2025 Essex County Councillor Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp. No report was submitted**

**024/2025 District Councillor/s Report – Cllr Linda Haywood - No report was submitted**

**025/2025 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda**

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

Any news on the Skatepark? The skatepark is progressing slowly but it will take time due to funding application being processed

**026/2025 Representative Reports**

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

No meetings have taken place

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

Months of dreaming and planning came together on Saturday 15th February, in St Lawrence Bay.

Volunteers guided by the Essex Forest Initiative (EFI) created the birth of a small woodland and a forest food garden. The EFI donated the trees and mulch.

The Jubilee Field is a much-loved community asset and this project now brings a new aspect of interest for all ages.

A local landscape architect kindly gave up her time to create artwork for an on-site vision board to conjure imagination while the small trees grow. 100 native tree whips, 16 fruit trees of Essex varieties and 53 soft fruit bushes were planted by the volunteers young and old who refuelled with homemade soup, tea and cake.

With more local resident support and funding, it's hoped to further develop the fruit tree area into an abundant food forest offering far greater biodiversity and wildlife habitat plus more food, medicinal and culinary herbs and flowers. This would encourage more bees, butterfly's, bugs and birds.

Diddydots with Rachel their Forest School teacher, are very much involved and the children cannot wait to tread the new pathway, this project will boost their fun and education.

Signed

*M Gibson*

M. Gibson – Chair of SLPC

26<sup>th</sup>. March 2025

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

No updates since last meeting. An inspection will be carried out when the field has dried out.

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

The skatepark is progressing slowly but it will take time due to funding application being processed. Cllr M. Lear has a plan of the proposed skatepark

**027/2025 Funding application – update from Cllr A. Gardner**

a) Should confidential information be supplied to this application

Councillors agreed to the Clerk sending to Gilly Terkelsen the 2023-2024 accounts. Councillors also requested the Clerk to produce a “Safeguarding policy”

**028/2025 Re-opening of the Dairy – Cllr A. Gardner**

It has been lovely to see the Dairy Stores open again. I don't think I can remember a time when there was so much stock and the whole place is bright and welcoming. The village have turned out to support this essential amenity. Kasia and Tom are doing a great job. Advertising of opening hours to be published on the Facebook page

**029/2025 Feedback regarding Bill Farries, NHS First Responder – Cllr A. Gardner**

Due to a recent accident Cllr A. Gardner contacted the only First responder for the village. He is prepared to have a stall at any event in the village to assist in First Aid response. A resident offered to advertise this issue and any other problems on his podcast each month.

**030/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response**

**25/00117/HOUSE** - Beacon Hill House Bradwell Road St Lawrence

Convert existing conservatory to orangery

**RESOLVED:** St. Lawrence Parish Council Supports this application

**031/2025 Planning decision/s made affecting St. Lawrence**

**24/00930/FUL** - Land Adjacent to Peacehaven Moorhen Avenue St Lawrence Essex

Replacement of Caravan and continued use of land for leisure purposes. **REFUSE**

**24/00937/HOUSE** - Stone Haven Tinnocks Lane St Lawrence Southminster

Extension of existing first floor dormer with catslide roof format. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

**032/2025 Finance**

a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. January 2025

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. January 2025

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 February 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements **All Agreed**

**033/2025 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village**

No defective street lights have been reported

**034/2025 Items for Next Agenda****035/2025 Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>. March 2025**

Remainder of 2025 meetings **23.04.25: 28.05.25 Annual Parish Meeting & SLPC AGM: 18.06.25: 23.07.25: 24.09.25: 22.10.25: 26.11.25: 17.12.25**

**036/2025 Closure of the Meeting**

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

The Chair then closed the meeting at 7.30pm and thanked everyone for attending.