



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

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chair), G. Minish (Vice-Chair), J. Cobb, A. Gardner, M. Lear, J. Pollock and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were 3 members of the public present

**053/2025 Apologies for Absence** were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp, MDC Cllr L. Haywood and Cllr R. Millett

1) To accept the resignation of the Parish Clerk  
Councillors accepted the resignation of the Parish Clerk

**038/2025 Declaration of Interest**

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

**None Declared**

**039/2025 Minutes**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup>. February 2025 **All Agreed**

**040/2025 Chair's report and any update since last meeting**

It has been a particularly busy few weeks!

Work on mulching the newly planted trees and bushes has been completed with many thanks to Rosemary and Chris Millett.

The water main replacement work continues apace. The work is now into the main village as drilling takes place to install the new main. This is along the east side of the children's playground, and down the hedge in the car park. There is going to be some disruption to the car park and the playground as holes have to be dug to enable connections to be made. It does mean the car park is going to be just a little obstructed for a couple of weeks.

Throughout the Essex and Suffolk Water staff have been considerate and have always kept us informed.

The next major item is, of course, the skatepark. I know we were exploring a half pipe installation but on 6<sup>th</sup>

March we received an email which did rather change our thinking. Maldon District Council are replacing the skatepark in Burnham but the old one still has a lot of life left in it. It was offered to the Parish Councils – first come first served! The net result is that the bottom section of the car park is currently storage for a skate park!

The quid pro quo of the free skate park is of course that we had to find transport and then have to get it installed. An intrepid band of councillors (Minish, Lear and Cobb) organised the transport – HIAB, flat-bed lorry, telehandler..... Many thanks are due to them and our kind donors: Neil Cowell for loan of the telehandler and Owlshall Environmental Ltd for the loan of the HIAB lorry. Cllr Lear is now working hard with the others to come up with the best way to instal this lovely new asset. I will leave him to update us later.

Yesterday I attended the second Parish and Town Council Engagement Forum meeting. There was an update on Devolution and Local Government Reform. Then there was a very useful session on Emergency - an apt reminder that we do need to dust off our plans and we will get the presentation slides in the minute pack. The planning side this time was a presentation from MDC's principal Conservation and Heritage Officer – it's easy to forget just what a wealth of heritage buildings there are in the District. The highways session was lively as everyone has questions. We also had a brief presentation from Cllr Mike Eldred, Chair of EALC with an update on their training programme where more events are going to be evenings and not all be held in Dunmow. Last, but not least, our Clerk, Kevin Money will be leaving us at the end of April. He has been with us since 2018 and has been an invaluable support to us all.

**041/2025 Essex County Councillor Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp No report was supplied**

**042/2025 District Councillor/s Report – Cllr Linda Haywood No report was supplied**

**043/2025 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 asked about having more buses in the area. Cllr J. Pollock informed the resident it is not Parish Council responsibility but belongs to Essex County Council

Signed

*M. Gibson*

M. Gibson – Chair of SLPC

23<sup>rd</sup>. April 2025

**044/2025 Representative Reports****a) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils – Any update since last meeting**

No further updates or meetings have been held

**b) Greening of the village – Cllr R. Millett any update since last meeting** No report was given**c) Skatepark update – Cllrs M. Lear / J. Cobb**

Awaiting a response from a company to build the skate park. This is an ongoing issue

**045/2025 Funding application**

A grant of £19,500 has been received from Community Fund for the climbing wall. Cllr J. Pollock is co-ordinating

**046/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response**

No planning applications have been submitted

**047/2025 Planning Appeal made affecting St. Lawrence**

**21/00637/LDP** - Waterside Country Park Limited Waterside Country Park Main Road CM0 7LY

Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/X/22/3298784

Proposal: Claim for lawful development certificate for a proposed use of land for the stationing of static caravans for the purpose of human habitation throughout the year.

Decision Level: Delegated - **APPEAL DISMISSED – 20.03.2025**

**APPLICATION FOR FULL AWARD OF COSTS MADE BY LPA REFUSED – 20.03.25**

**048/2025 Finance****a.** To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. March 2025

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

**b.** To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/2026

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/2026

**c.** To approve the payment of Accounts for March 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish

Council financial requirements **All Agreed**

**d.** To add an additional bank signatory

Cllrs J. Cobb and M. Lear agreed to become bank signatories

**049/2025 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village**

At Main Road by Church Lane

**050/2025 Items for Next Agenda**

Update on Clerk vacancy

**051/2025 Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>. April 2025**

Remainder of 2025 meetings **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**

**052/2025 Closure of the Meeting**

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

The Chair then closed the meeting at 7.25pm and thanked everyone for attending.