



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 23rd. July 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

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

104/2025 Apologies for Absence were received from MDC Cllr L. Haywood

105/2025 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda
Cllr J. Pollock declared an interest in item 113/2025

106/2025 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th. June 2025 **All Agreed**

107/2025 Chair's report and any update since last meeting

There are now two plans published regarding Local Government reorganisation. The first one is for 5 unitary councils – where Maldon would be combined with Chelmsford and Brentwood and the second is for 3 unitary councils with Maldon being combined with Chelmsford, Brentwood, Epping Forest and Harlow. The consultation is live – and views would be useful. It is difficult to know what the pros and cons for our rural area would be! The Environment Agency have confirmed that the sea wall in the vicinity of Breezy Point has been added to the work schedule for the winter months.

108/2025 Essex County Councillor Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp No report was given

109/2025 District Councillor Report – Cllr Linda Haywood No report was given

110/2025 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda

A total maximum time of 15 minutes is allowed for all public participation sessions
Speeding in village still continue. A resident asked if the speed limit can be reduced to 20mph.
The Clerk to ask for a TruCam visit for a monthly visit also Parking enforcements in the village
Any resident interested in becoming a First Responder to contact the Parish Council. Free training for CPR will be arranged.

111/2025 Post Office petition – update from Cllr R. Millett

The situation is very much on going and in delicate discussions.
By trying the polite route first, it has taken an awful lot of time and patience.
I am going to step back now and enjoy a holiday in Thailand with our far-flung family, swimming with grandchildren, pigs and elephants
If there is not any further positive progress, on my return I will go to plan A and be more demanding.
The area team know they made unforgivable mistakes, so I do remain positive

112/2025 Representative Reports

a) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils – Cllr G. Minish any update since last meeting
Meeting on 9th. July was cancelled. No further date arranged

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

Jubilee Wood - Trees For. Life

It's been a real battle with the dry spell so the recent rain has been most welcome. The clay ground cracked badly and some whips suffered as a result. We've lost about 16% of the whips which is a shame but considered normal given the weather. We have spare whips for replacement in the autumn. The small watering team has been busy filling the cracks. Some more mulch was collected and more is coming soon, this improves the clay soil, conserves water and if thick enough reduces weeding.

The fruit trees look well and will need pruning soon to encourage a formative early shaping. The long grass among the trees and mulch has increased the biodiversity with many varieties of moths, ladybirds, spiders and caterpillars seen. Public verbal engagement at the trees is very positive. Especially the young ones from Diddydots doing tree watering, collecting berries and running through the long grass. With a shortage of

Signed

M. Gibson – Chair of SLPC

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waterers in the dry spell the soft fruit bushes were suffering but a soaker hose has now been installed which allows water efficient drip watering overnight.

Future wishes for Jubilee Wood include

- some rainwater collection for which budget has been sought,
- also received budget will allow better individual tree protection and perhaps small log piles for more biodiversity gain.
- Underplanting of the fruit trees could potentially increase edible yield and diversity but would need more work initially until established.
- Adding bought worms under the mulch in autumn from a local supplier will help improve the clay soil at the trees
- Inclusion of attractive bug hotels among the trees would increase diversity, pest control and tree health.

Beyond the Trees

The recently launched Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) encourages Council districts to evaluate every tiny available piece of land, eg jubilee field, road borders, car park, river edges, banks etc and see what can be done easily to enhance biodiversity.

A village education program could potentially encourage wildlife and biodiversity in gardens, such as mini ponds, pollinator patches and log piles. Also to encourage avoidance where possible of harmful pesticides, herbicides etc. Other things mentioned at the LNRS were the many benefits of compact bins, home rain water collection and bad leaky sheds which spiders etc love !!

An LNRS speaker also asked councils to consider including in budgets some cost of man hours for a nature friendly gardener in the village to sensitively manage wild spaces, eg sewing of red poppies which are always.

At long last we have the funding to have the explanation boards made and installed, next to the planting. They will look smart and explain to children as well as everyone enjoying Jubilee Field, how this planting will in time transform into a very special mini-Woodland

c) Skatepark update – Cllrs M. Lear / J. Cobb any update since last meeting

No response on grant contacts. If a joint approach is made to construction companies, then the works should be started ASAP. If required then SLPC to take monies from reserves to get the project completed.

d) Climbing wall – update from Cllr J. Pollock any update since last meeting

Spoke to the company who stated that they have put back all construction works until after the school holidays.

e) Assets in village update – Cllr M. Gibson any update since last meeting

The Clerk to chase the play inspection company for a report.

113/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

25/00581/HOUSE - Moors End Moorhen Avenue St Lawrence Southminster

Demolition of five existing outbuildings and replacement with one Cart Lodge and one Garage.

Re-surface existing driveway and extension of driveway to serve new cart lodge and garage.

RESOLVED: St. Lawrence Parish Council requests refusal of the application due to overdevelopment and the Arboriculture report recommending refusal given that there is evidence of significant woody vegetation in the immediate area. Also, no impact assessment has been received. The height of the buildings are of concern to the Parish Council.

114/2025 Planning Decisions made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence

25/00544/AGR - Land Rear Of Scarletts And St Lawrence Drive St Lawrence Essex

Prior approval application for erection of an agricultural store building. **REFUSE**

115/2025 Finance

- a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. June 2025

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. June 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 July 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish

Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

- d. Unity Trust Bank signatories

- e. External Auditors Report and Certificate 2024/25 circulated to Councillors

116/2025 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village No reported

117/2025 Items for Next Agenda

Cracks in the pavement: Dog Fouling on the recreation ground: 2026 meeting dates:

118/2025 Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th. September 2025 at 7pm

Remainder of 2025 meetings 22.10.25: 26.11.25: 17.12.25

119/2025 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Councillors to Resolve that by virtue of the provisions of Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded during discussion of the following business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Cllr M. Gibson proposed to exclude the public and press. Cllr G. Minish seconded. **All Agreed**

120/2025 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8pm and thanked everyone for attending.

DRAFT