



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 28th. September 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chairman), C. Thorne (Vice-Chairman), A. Gardner, MDC Cllr P. Channer and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were 7 members of the public present.

129/2022 Chairman's welcome The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman informed the meeting of the resignation of Derek Bonich from the Council with immediate effect. She thanked him for all the work he did for the Council and the community.

130/2022 Apologies for Absence were received from MDC M. Helm, Cllrs R. Millett and J. Pollock

131/2022 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 any item relating to the village hall

132/2022 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th. July 2022.

All Agreed

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Planning meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th. August 2022. **All Agreed**

133/2022 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

The really significant event over the last couple of months needs no introduction. The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was an immeasurably sad event even if it was not totally unexpected given the news feed during the day. The majority of people could not remember a time when she was not the monarch. Her state funeral was an event we will not forget. Residents chose how to mark the day be it at home, with friends, the pub or in the Church Centre.

The ceremonial included the first time an Accession Council had been broadcast although the Proclamations of the succession of King Charles III were disseminated in time honoured fashion. Notice was short but I did attend the Proclamation at Maldon District Council on Sunday 11 September on behalf of the Parish Council.

Returning to the mundane items of everyday life the Parish Council notes the Car Boot Sale and the Open Air Cinema night arranged by the Residents Association.

The hedges have had their Autumn cut and we are talking to Garwood's about how best to manage them so they provide a barrier but at the same time allow visibility. There are a couple of places on the north side of the field where gaps need filling in.

We have been dealing with the installation of dog bins and sundry minor repairs around the parish. Cllr Thorne arranged for Playdale to visit the Field so we could assess possible improvements and replacements. All councillors were invited to attend. This was a very useful session where we were joined by Rachel Lipscombe from Diddydots and drew on her experience. We await Playdale's quotation as part of the planning and budgeting process as priorities are assessed and ranked. Other projects that have to be included in the planning process include the portacabin, CCTV and repainting the Viewing Platform at the end of Main Road. More detail on all of this is in his asset management report.

The RNLI retrieved an abandoned and largely submerged boat off St Lawrence and it was parked on the Sailing Club hard in the middle of September. This was reported to MDC, who are responsible for disposal of such items, and it was removed within the week. There is another abandoned boat in the bay area which I have reported. When I saw it at the weekend it was high and dry but whether it will remain there depends on the tide.

We have received the village supply of road salt for the winter. Currently it is in my garage. Can I suggest that we set up a system of "salt wardens" who have a store for use in their locality. The salt is in 25kg bags but if we could get small stocks around the village, it should be possible to get pavements and

Signed

M Gibson

26th. October 2022

M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

some roads treated easily. Maybe this is something that the Residents Association could take on to find volunteers to cover the village. The only road in the village that is gritted by the County Council is Main Road as it is a bus route.

We are sorry to announce that Cllr Derek Bonich has resigned from the Parish Council. Family commitments have meant that he has found it impossible to continue. We thank him for his service to the village and wish him well in the future.

134/2022 Representative Reports

a) Greening of the village – To receive a written report from Cllr C. Thorne

With the weather conditions i.e. Lack of Rain that we have been experiencing, I am truly amazed at the condition and colour of the plants that we have put in. This is in no small part due to the efforts of the team in maintenance and watering. On the point of watering, we have been limiting the amount we have done to allow the plants to put their roots down further into the ground. It seems to be paying off, fingers crossed. Also, the tree that was planted as part of the Queen Elizabeth's Green canopy seems to be holding its own, with the help of my wife's input.

b) Asset Management report – To receive a written update report from Cllr C. Thorne

This is a new description for items of equipment that comes under the control of SLPC, our aim is to record the conditions and state of repair for all Play equipment, Buildings, Fences, Signs, Green keeping and all associated items. It may take some time to compile and fully update this list of items so please bear with me on this. This list will be updated on a monthly basis as to the current state of condition, its required state, and its achieved state, so it may seem repetitive but it should give a fairly clear indication at each meeting of the level of condition obtained at that time.

1. **Play equipment:** The general state of condition is good but we do know that some repairs to the feet of the Toddlers Multiplay equipment are required. We are seeking an Estimate on this from Andy Lipscombe. A yearly safety audit, Ref: 1660725, dated 11-May-2022, has been undertaken by an external specialist; we are now in receipt of this report. This is a lengthy and thorough report as you are aware.

2. **Toddler Multiplay equipment.** The findings & recommendations contained in this report will be attended to in a stage by stage process as a matter of course. We have received an Estimate for replacement of this item from Sovereign Equipment, as contained on the separate sheet, and a further estimate is in the pipeline following a meeting we had with a representative from Playdale equipment on Tuesday the 20th of September. This meeting was attended by Marian Gibson, Rachel Lipscombe & Christopher Thorne.

3. **Play Area Gate:** Unfortunately, the wooden entrance gate has sustained some damage, upon visual inspection of relevant CCTV footage it was reasonably apparent that this damage was accidental & could have been caused by repeated and heavy action caused by the self-closing mechanism. The gate has now been temporarily repaired, but the closing device still needs rectifying. It may be prudent for the future to invest in a more robust type of gate, possibly metal. This existing gate may not meet the requirements for Disabled Access regulations, possibly removal of the Latch may temporarily solve these issues, your thoughts please?

4. **Jubilee Field:** As was stated at the last meeting, the Small lower entrance gate has been severely damaged which has resulted in its removal. We have now removed this entrance to the field and have closed up the old entrance and will replant the hedge. We have received an estimate on this work. This will also result in the main top entrance being under the eye of the CCTV unit which may be helpful on various matters. This work has now been carried out. This area has been boarded up for a second time by Cllr. John Pollock and Chris Millet.

5. **Basketball equipment:** We will seek out Estimates for new equipment and installation as soon as possible. These will be put forward for discussion and approval. One estimate obtained by John Pollock is attached and a further one is to come from Playdale but will be of a different configuration.

6. **Portacabin in Play area: It is in a poor state of repair in some aspects.** Steps to it and bases to the supporting feet being some of them. It has been suggested that this cabin is removed from site and sold, and items that are in it, mainly the CCTV unit put into the village Hall. I would recommend that a feasibility study is undertaken on this matter. Electrical Intake Cupboard: This is a purpose-built plastic cabinet sited at the rear of the Portacabin; it houses a fuse board and meter that serves the Village Hall and Portacabin. It is only supported on what appears to be softwood posts, these require inspection. Also, there is **NO Electrical** safety sign fitted to this cabinet. We are in the process of undertaking the inspection and feasibility study; this is being assisted by the input of Mr Jim Taylor, Mr Christopher Millet and Councillor Allan Gardner. This Inspection has now been carried out and collated into a report. This is currently being costed by two local contractors. We have received an estimate from A S Lipscombe.

Signed

M. Gibson

26th. October 2022

M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

Electrical and CCTV costings are still to be obtained. Regarding the possible removal of the Portacabin, could we please have some definite recommendations as to whom will remove it from site and to give a costing for this operation. If this is not resolved it does not seem in any point in going further forward with this. Key Holders: Marian Gibson. Chris Thorne, Rosemary Millet.

It was agreed to leave the portacabin in situ and be used for additional storage space.

It was agreed to refurbish the portacabin, in principle, subject to getting more quotations

7. Car park: The potholes have now been filled and levelled. The concrete apron that abuts the tarmac road is severely cracked and will require renewal. We have an estimate on their repair from Andy Lipscombe and have instructed him to carry out the works ASAP. This work has now been successfully undertaken and completed.

8. Signage: The Jubilee Field car park is still without a Sign. It is recommended that we progress the purchase and installation of a new sign as discussed, some time ago. Your thoughts on this matter please? I have spoken to the company that we have been in discussion with on the supply of the Graphics and display board, and they are still willing to carry out this work Free of charge! The Graphics for the sign will require amending due to the change in the CCTV regulations. You have received an updated layout, is this acceptable? Also, could we please place the Order for the Sign board case as per the last email, Option 3, frame in Black to match the railings, with a header panel to read St Lawrence Parish Council? Cost is £1194.85 plus VAT, plus installation cost, possibly £250.00. The Sign board itself is being supplied Free of Charge.

9. Hedges: These are all under control, but are getting quite leggy in some areas and may require an interim cut back. This work has now been carried out. The hedges have now had their Main cut and we have reduced the height of the hedge between the play area & Village Hall to help the operation of the CCTV unit. We are obtaining a costing on reducing the height of this hedge down to the level of the wire fence that is embedded in it, approximate height of 1m. This would enhance the operation of the existing CCTV system and give a greater sense of safety to those entering the field and play area.

Cllr A. Gardner proposed and Cllr M. Gibson seconded to accept the quotation of £250 +VAT to reduce the height of the hedge to 1m. All Agreed

10. River Viewing Shelter: This will require re painting soon. We have been in consultation with Dulux Trade, who have visited site and inspected the River Look Out and have provide us with a 2-part Specification for the repainting works. This can be used as the basis for contractors to price against & would give a level playing field for Costings.

11. Dog Bins: It is understood that the 2 new bins have been delivered but I am not sure as to whether there installation is arranged? We have now clarified their positioning and have overcome an objection raised by a resident in Seaway and have also received the agreement on its siting by the residents in Seaway. This agreement has been subsequently changed by a resident opposite the bin position now objecting. This item remains pending the agreement of residents in this locale. We have accepted an estimate for the siting of 1 number bin fronting the area of the Dairy store, abutting the main footpath. This siting has been agreed with the proprietor of the Store. The Dairy Store Bin has now been installed & has been registered with MDC.

12. CCTV Equipment: The equipment has now been serviced by HD Security and has been left in a working order. They have raised a query on the mast that supports the cameras that is placed in the corner of the play area. They have stated that the mast is not of the correct type for that situation, in that it is intended for an industrial type of storage yard. The mast can be easily climbed by vandals but there aren't any safe anchorage positions for ladders for maintenance. This is an area that we will have to closely look into for future replacement/renewal. Four of us have now received the Basic training for the operation and re play of the CCTV footage, these are: Derek Bonich, Marian Gibson, Rosemary Millet, Christopher Thorne. Key Holders: CCTV Room- Marian Gibson, Christopher Thorne.

CCTV Cabinet- Marian Gibson. Rosemary Millet, Christopher Thorne

13. Table Tennis Table (external by Water sports Club): This is in a sound condition.

14. Goal Posts: These are in a reasonable state of repair but are becoming loose

15. Field Gates to Jubilee field car park (lower section): These are in a reasonable state of repair.

16. Field gates main entrance to Jubilee Field: These are in reasonable state of repair.

17. Village Sign adjacent to Bradwell road: Is in sound condition.

18. SLPC display Notice board (opposite Stone Pub): Is in sound condition

19. SLPC display Notice board (by Dairy Stores): This requires repositioning. This is in hand. The estimate for this has been accepted and an instruction to proceed has been given, This work has now been carried out. The Residents Association have asked if they can use the remaining old support posts for a sign board of their own, this we have agreed to as long as the old posts don't remain insitu for too long.

20. New equipment for older children: During our last meeting with Playdale we raised the question as to what equipment in their opinion is suitable for older children and they have suggested the installation of Specialist Swing unit. Details and a costing will follow soon. A Zip wire has also been suggested by some, what are the feelings about this?

21. Disability Access: This is an area that I feel we will have to have a closer look at in the near future, especially the entrance gate to Jubilee Field.

22. Single bar play equipment: There is a section of the ground keeps on forming a pit, due to wear, the Play Inspection Report requires that it is rectified, we suggest Playdale Grasslok, and prices are attached.

23. Other items of note/concern: During one of our own inspections of the equipment in Jubilee field undertaken last month, it was discovered that due to the extremely dry weather the ground had shrunk to such an extent that several of the vertical pieces of play equipment were not being adequately supported. We issued an immediate works instruction to A S Lipscombe for the insertion of post crete and the ramming down of soil to help to rectify the problem. This was successfully carried out within a few days of notification.

Councillors discussed the purchase and installation of the Car park sign board
Cllr M. Gibson proposed and Cllr A. Gardner seconded to purchase the Car Park sign board for a total cost is £1194.85 plus VAT, plus installation cost, possibly £250.00. The Sign board itself is being supplied Free of Charge. **All Agreed**

c) Update on 3 new CCTV cameras – Councillors to discuss the quotation received of £2447.00p +VAT to purchase and instal 3 new CCTV cameras

After lengthy discussion it was agreed to defer this purchase of additional CCTV cameras to another meeting. At this point in time the case for additional cameras is unproven apart from safeguarding concerns. Cllr C. Thorne to liaise with the security company to get the existing cameras fit-for-purpose

d) Resident Association report – To receive a written report from Cllr J. Pollock
No report was submitted

135/2022 Parish Councillor vacancy - Co-Option update - Parish Clerk

The Clerk informed the meeting that SLPC, following the official notice from MDC being published and no election was called, the Council is now permitted to Co-Opt a resident onto the Council. All appropriate Co-Option notices have been posted on the notice boards, website and Facebook. The closing date for resident/s to register their interest in becoming a Councillor is 10am on 12th. October 2022. The Clerk is hopeful that a Co-Option will take place at the 26th. October meeting.

136/2022 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda

a) St. Lawrence Residents Association report from the Chairman of the RA.

A total maximum time of 20 minutes is allowed for all public participation sessions

The boot sale went well. The Queen's funeral event went well but was disappointed that the village hall was not available on the day.

Following item 136/2022 there is no more public participation in the Council meeting

137/2022 Essex County Councillors Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp

No report had been given to the Clerk

138/2022 District Councillor/s Report – MDC Cllr Penny Channer / MDC Cllr Michael Helm

MDC Cllr P. Channer left the meeting before this item but would send the Clerk a written report

139/2022 Planning Application/s

22/00921/FUL - Plots 90 And 92 Riverton Drive St Lawrence Essex

Redevelopment to provide two detached houses

RESOLVED: SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION but if MDC are mindful to grant this planning application, then St. Lawrence Parish Council would request that 3 conditions are placed on the application.

- a) The delivery vehicles should be kept to a minimum and to be parked off the narrow road:
- b) MDC takes into account Article 4 direction – Preserving Grass verges:
- c) Flood risk floor levels are to be addressed

140/2022 Decision/s made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence

Councillors noted the planning decisions made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence

FUL/MAL/22/00364 - Stone Sailing Club Tinnocks Lane St Lawrence Essex

Balcony extension over existing roof. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

FUL/MAL/22/00760 - Land Rear Of Scarletts And St Lawrence Drive St Lawrence Essex

Construction of an agricultural hay and machinery storage building. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

LDP/MAL/22/00819 - 514 Moorhen Avenue St Lawrence Southminster Essex

Claim for lawful development certificate for proposed loft conversion with associated rear dormer and side extension. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

HOUSE/MAL/22/00797 - 1 The Plovers St Lawrence Essex CM0 7PE

Single storey rear extension and side porch. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

HOUSE/MAL/22/00847 - Colonsay Seaview Parade St Lawrence Essex

Single storey front extension and the addition of first floor rear Juliet balconies. **REFUSE**

141/2022 Appeal/s made affecting St. Lawrence

Councillors noted the submitted Appeal affecting St. Lawrence

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78

The Gnomes 91 Main Road St Lawrence Essex

Demolition of existing chalet and garage and the erection of 3 detached dwellings, detached garages with associated parking and landscaping. Application Ref: 21/01223/FUL PP-10397942

Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/22/3303331 Appeal Start Date: 26 August 2022. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against MDC decision to refuse to grant planning permission. The appeal will be determined on the basis of written representations.

142/2022 Finance

- a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. August 2022

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. August 2022

- b. To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2022/23

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2022/23

- c. To approve the payment of Accounts for August and September 2022 and to agree a transfer of

funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

143/2022 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village

No defective streetlights have been reported to the Clerk

144/2022 Councillors to discuss and agree suggested 2023 meeting dates

25.01.23: 22.02.23: 22.03.23: 26.04.23: 24.05.23: 28.06.23: 26.07.23: 27.09.23: 25.10.23: 22.11.23: 13.12.23. **Councillors agreed to the 2023 meeting dates of the Council**

145/2022 Items for Next Agenda**146/2022 Next meeting will be held on 26th. October 2022 at 7pm in the village hall**

23.11.22: 14.12.22

147/2022 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.30pm and thanked everyone for attending.