



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>. July 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chairman), C. Thorne (Vice-Chairman), A. Gardner, R. Millett, MDC Cllr P. Channer and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were 4 members of the public present.

**109/2022 Chairman's welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and started by saying before starting the meeting may I ask you all to stand to observe a minute's silence in tribute to Elaine Hill who died so tragically last Thursday. A minute's silence then took place. Elaine had lived in the village for some 15 years and was Clerk to the Parish Council between 2012 and 2018. She was an active member of WI, serving as President at one stage. She belonged to the social club and the craft club and was a trustee of the village hall. As I am sure you are aware her husband, Robert, died last Autumn after a long battle with cancer. Our thoughts go to her family at this sad time.

**110/2022 Apologies for Absence** were received from MDC Cllr M. Helm and Cllr D. Bonich

**111/2022 Declaration of Interest**

To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda Cllr M. Gibson declared a non-registerable interest in any item relating to the Village Hall and 118/2022 (22/00364)

Cllr A. Gardner declared a non-registerable interest in 118/2022 (22/00760).

Cllr C. Thorne declared a non-registerable interest in 118/2022 (22/00819).

**112/2022 Minutes**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup>. June 2022

**All Agreed**

**113/2022 Co-Option**

**Councillors are requested to receive written application for the office of Parish Councillor and co-opt candidate to fill the vacancy**

The Candidate having completed a short application form and confirmed his eligibility for the position of Councillor within the statutory rules (Local Government Act 1972 section 79). Forms having been returned to the Parish Clerk by the prescribed deadline 20<sup>th</sup>. July 2022.

Cllr M. Gibson proposed co-opting Mr. John Pollock as Councillor of St. Lawrence Parish Council.

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

Mr. John Pollock then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, E Consent form and Register of Interest form. He then took his seat as a Parish Councillor.

**114/2022 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting**

You are all aware of the tragic start to the week with the fire on Mountview Crescent and its consequences. The neighbours did everything they possibly could before the Fire Service arrived to try to help quite likely at no little risk to themselves. I have written formally to the Fire Service thanking them on behalf of the community for everything they did last week. Since then, Les Davies, the Tri-Service Rural Community Officer, has stepped up efforts to make residents fully aware of fire safety. There was a major sweep of the village on Tuesday which included members of the Fire Service including a visit from a fire appliance. We have received a letter of condolence from Cllr Penny Channer, Leader of Maldon District Council and one of our local District Councillors. This will be posted on the village notice boards.

On Wednesday 20 July I attended the first meeting for some two years of the Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils. This can be a very useful forum for exchanging views and information and there was a lot of discussion regarding the Local Development Plan Review regarding concerns over the 5-year

Signed

*M Gibson*

M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

28<sup>th</sup>. September 2022

Housing Land Supply with applications around for large numbers of units on sites that are not regarded as suitable locally. The issue always goes back to the lack of infrastructure – everything from roads, water, drainage, schools, medical facilities, public transport and of course employment. This is likely to be an ongoing issue.

DEFRA have (finally) approved Natural England's proposals for the coastal path between Burnham and Maldon and it technically came into force on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Unfortunately, the communication regarding this went astray so we only found out via DHGPC. I have a query on one of the maps but the route of the path is as we expected from the paperwork of 2017.

We are saddened to announce that Councillor Liz Roberts has resigned from the Parish. She has considerable family issues now and felt that she simply couldn't continue. Our thanks go to her for all the work she has done for the Parish over the years.

### **115/2022 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**

**Following item 115/2022 there is no more public participation in the Council meeting**

- Plans for the 3 events are still continuing well
- Cinema night on 02.09.22
- Boot sale stalls take up was good
- Bouncy Castle is going ahead on the recreation ground
- A good response from residents after the Fire Service went around homes in St. Lawrence
- Resident Association to supply the Clerk with their constitution and insurance
- Dog fouling is still prevalent on the recreation ground
- Could a portable toilet be looked at for the village?

### **116/2022 Essex County Councillors Report – ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp**

Ofsted revisit finds Essex has made sufficient progress in improving SEND services

*Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission have published their final report detailing the significant progress that Essex has made to address the areas of weakness previously identified in its SEND service offer.*

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) have published their final report following a revisit to Essex Education, Health and Care SEND services.

The report confirms that Essex is making sufficient progress to address the areas of weakness previously identified and that ongoing external monitoring is no longer required.

The revisit, which took place between 17 and 19 May 2022, follows a previous inspection between 30 September and 4 October 2019.

Children, young people, parents and carers had an opportunity to share their views about SEND services in Essex during both visits, either via a meeting, phone call or online survey. These were considered as part of the evaluation and helped to inform the final report.

Key highlights from the report include:

Better partnership working between health and education organisations, as well as increased oversight of joint SEND commissioning arrangements.

Improvements in the accurate identification of SEND for children and young people.

Progress made in the co-production of Education Health and Care plans across health, social care and education.

Cllr Tony Ball, ECC's Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability, said: "Ensuring that every child and young person in Essex can thrive remains at the heart of everything we do in Essex. We have made great strides to improve the areas of weakness previously identified and I am proud that this has been recognised.

"This does not mean we will become complacent; we will continue to work hard to maintain and build on our progress. Thank you to all of the teams and partners who work so tirelessly to support children and their families in Essex."

The full report is available [here](#).

### **117/2022 District Councillor/s Report – MDC Cllr Penny Channer / MDC Cllr Michael Helm**

- Public Space Protection Order - Dog Control. The order comes into force on 18<sup>th</sup>. July 2022 for a period of 3 years until 18<sup>th</sup>. July 2025. This notice is on website, Facebook and noticeboards

Signed



M. Gibson – Chairman of SLPC

28<sup>th</sup>. September 2022

Cllr P. Channer said on behalf of myself and Cllr M. Helm that we express our sincere condolences in respect of the tragic fire that occurred recently in Mountview Crescent which tragically claimed the life of resident, Elaine Hill.

We appreciate that the village is still in shock. Elaine was a loved active member of the St Lawrence community. She served as the St Lawrence Parish Clerk for a period of time and was a past President of the St Lawrence Bay Women's' Institute (WI). I knew Elaine and had contact with her over various matters when she was the Parish Clerk.

Our sincere sympathies and thoughts are with her family, friends, and the community. St Lawrence Community will pull together in the face of this tragedy and we thank all those neighbours that tried to do what they could before the Fire Service arrived and realise how traumatic it must have been for all involved.

Cllr P. Channer July report can be found at <https://stlawrencepc.co.uk/agendas-%26-minutes>

## 118/2022 Planning Application/s

**22/00760/FUL** - Land Rear Of Scarletts And St Lawrence Drive St Lawrence  
Construction of an agricultural hay and machinery storage building.

**RESOLVED: SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION**

**22/00364/FUL** - Stone Sailing Club Tinnocks Lane St Lawrence Essex  
Balcony extension over existing roof.

**RESOLVED: SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION**

**22/00819/LDP** - 514 Moorhen Avenue St Lawrence Southminster Essex  
Claim for lawful development certificate for proposed loft conversion with associated rear dormer and side extension.

**RESOLVED: SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION**

Councillors agreed to a Zoom meeting for Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. August 2022 at 10am for future application/s

## 119/2022 Decision/s made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence

**FUL/MAL/21/00996** - Plots 90 And 92 Riverton Drive St Lawrence Essex  
Replacement of dwelling with pair of semi-detached houses. **REFUSE**

**LDP/MAL/22/00644** - 514 Moorhen Avenue St Lawrence Essex CM0 7LU  
Proposed loft conversion with associated rear dormer and side extension in accordance with Permitted Development. **REFUSE**

## 120/2022 Appeal/s made affecting St. Lawrence

No appeals have been made affecting St. Lawrence

## 121/2022 Representative Reports

**a) Greening of the village** – To receive a written report from Cllr C. Thorne  
Considering 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. I am Meeting a representative of the WI next week to discuss their proposed tree planting for the Jubilee Field.

**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.

**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. **The main area of concern is the 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.

**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.

**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.

**Basketball equipment:** We will seek out Estimates for new equipment and installation as soon as possible and will put this forward for discussion and approval.

**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 Hal. 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 Porta cabin; it houses a fuse board and meter that serves the Village Hall and Porta cabin. 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 Gardiner. Key Holders: Marian Gibson. Chris Thorne

**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.

**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.

**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.

**River Viewing Shelter:** this will require re painting in the near future.

**Dog Bins:** It is understood that the 2 new bins have been delivered but I am not sure as to whether their installation is arranged? We have now clarified their positioning and have overcome an objection raised by a resident; Mr & Mrs Fell, of the Spinnaker's, Seaway and have also received the agreement on its siting by the residents of the Salting's 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.

**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 have to closely look into for future replacement/renewal. Four have 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.

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

**Goal Posts:** These are in a reasonable state of repair.

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

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

**Village Sign adjacent to Bradwell road:**

**SLPC display Notice board (opposite Stone Pub):**

**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.

**c) Update on Parish Newsletter** – To receive a written report from Cllr E. Roberts No report was given. Councillors discussed the way forward on the Parish newsletter. The Clerk recommended that this edition is placed on hold as most residents look at Facebook and the Website. However, a printed leaflet should be placed in the village shop to keep those residents who do not use Facebook etc informed of what is going on in the village.

#### **122/2022 Finance**

- a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30<sup>th</sup>. June 2022  
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30<sup>th</sup>. June 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 July 2022 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**
- d. To agree a Zoom meeting for Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. August 2022 at 10am to authorise August 2022 payments. **All Agreed**

#### **123/2022 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village**

No defective lights have been reported to the Parish Clerk

#### **124/2022 Items for Next Agenda**

#### **125/2022 Next meeting will be held on 28<sup>th</sup>. September 2022 at 7pm in the village hall**

No Full Council meeting in August (Zoom meeting on **15.08.22** at 10am to agree August payments and any Planning Application/s): 26.10.22: 23.11.22: 14.12.22

#### **126/2022 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.

#### **127/2022 Staffing Matters**

Councillors received an update from the Parish Clerk

#### **128/2022 Closure of the Meeting**

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.15pm and thanked everyone for attending.