

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Little Maplestead Parish Council held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.30pm at: School Farm Cottage, Little Maplestead

Present: Cllr Bates, Cllr Crudgington, Cllr Holloway, Cllr Piper

In the Chair: Cllr Piper

Clerk: Mrs Ann Harris

Also Present: Cllr Steven Harris from Great Maplestead Parish Council re Agenda

item number 6

Members of the Public: None.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence: Cllr Alton was absent from the meeting for reasons of a prior work commitment.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate account of the proceedings of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Crudgington Seconded: Cllr Bates

- 3. Declarations of Interest: None.
- 4. County and District Matters: No reports to the Meeting from either County or District.
- 5. Police Matters:

PC 3655 Craig Wheeler Essex Police Braintree Community Policing team, accompanied by Trainee Isam Mashhood, attended the meeting to report on current policing activity and plans for the Halstead and rural area. Patrolling rural areas, including night time patrols, is deemed to be a priority and this is aided by the increasing police staffing levels. PC Wheeler stressed that he and his team are particularly keen to attend community events in order to talk to local residents and have already attended some fetes and meetings at schools, churches and care homes in the Halstead local area. He concluded by saying that the police need the members of the public to share information with them about any suspicious activity. Cllr Piper thanked Craig Wheeler and Isam Mashhood for taking time to attend the Council meeting.

## 6. Mobile Phone Mast:

Cllr Piper reported that he recently attended a meeting of the Pebmarsh Parish Council at which the following matters were discussed. The Government's policy of nationwide installation of Smart meters by 2050 necessitates extending the mobile phone coverage to met this objective. It is understood that land surveyors have already made local inspections and have plans for a mobile phone mast in Great Maplestead, meaning that there will be no siting of a mast in Little Maplestead and therefore nothing for the Council to pursue with regard to the Council owned land. The Council agreed that these plans must be monitored closely and locally.

In order to do this ClIr Piper reported that, at the Pebmarsh Parish Council meeting, it was proposed to set up a committee of representatives from local villages including Little Maplestead, Great Maplestead, Pebmarsh and Colne Engaine, under the chairmanship of Mr Dave Ballard from the Pebmarsh PC. Mr Steven Harris will be the representative from Great Maplestead PC and will report back to the next GMPC on these plans.

Proposed: Cllr Piper Seconded: Cllr Crudgington Agreed: Unanaminously

- 7. Village Welcome Pack.
  - This will be considered when the EALC have issued their draft proposal to Parish Councils.
- 8. BDC Corporate Strategy:
  - Noted that the Consultation end Friday  $2^{nd}$  August 2019. Item to be removed from next LMPC meeting Agenda.
- 9. Progress Updates and Councillors' Reports:
- 9.1 **VETS Scheme**: Cllr Piper reported that he had tested the phone arrangements and everything worked as planned
- 9.2 Footpaths: The Council agreed that Cllr Holloway should advise resident Jenny Bishop (who had complained about the verge mowing around her property) that "traffic sight lines always takes priority over nature"
  - **Proposed**: Cllr Crudgington **Seconded**: Cllr Bates **Approved**: Unananimously Further Cllr Holloway will advise the Clerk of problem footways in Little Maplestead that should be brought to the attention of EEC (David Finch request) by the end of the month.
- 9.5 **Parish Room:** The decision from Braintree Planning Department regarding this planning application should be made known shortly. (Noted that the "Determination date is 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019)
- 9.6 **Playing Field:** Cllr Crugington reported that the Play Area Inspector, whose report has just been received, suggests that a Tree Surgeon should be asked to check out the tree branches that overhang the play area. Cllr Piper thanked Cllr Crudgington and Cllr Bates for their efforts in installing the two picnic benches.
- 9.7 Sudbury Road Land: Nothing to report; see item 6 above.
- 9.8 Village Gate/Sign: Cllr Piper will obtain quotes for this for inclusion in the CIF application (see item 11.2 below).
- 10. Public Forum
  - No members of the public were present
- 11. Clerk's Report
- 11.1 Updated 2019/20 Budget/Spend mailed to Councillors for Approval.
  - Proposed: Cllr Piper Seconded: Cllr Crudgington Approved: Unanimously
- 11.2 **Grants:** The Clerk requested the Council's approval to submit this application to the EALC for enhancments to the Playing Field. The full grant request is expected to be in the region of £9,000 (to be confirmed at the next PCM once all quotes have been received).
  - Proposed: Cllr Piper Seconded: Cllr Crudgington. Agreed: Unanimously
- 11.3 Winter Salt requirements: The Clerk was asked to order the minimum amount which will be delivered to and stored by Cllr Piper at School Farm Cottage.

- 11.5 **Post-Election housekeeping check:** Councillors' Acceptance of Office forms, Expenses Claim and Register of Interests. Cllrs are asked to complete all forms and send their Register of Interests to the Clerk who will ensure that they reach BDC soonest.
- 12. 2019/20 Proposed Parish Council Meeting Dates:
  Wednesdays: 18<sup>th</sup> September, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 18<sup>th</sup> March,
- 13. Financial Report
- 13.1 Bank Balances

As at  $8^{th}$  July 2019 the balance of funds held at Lloyds Bank, following Receipts and Payments noted below, is £11,882.66

13.2 Ratification of Payments made since 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019

28th May: £71.57: Mrs Ann Harris, Clerk, Approved Expenses

28th May: £60.00: Community Heartbeat re Defib

28th May: £50.00: Roger Humphries: Internal Auditor

28th May: £337.75: Stackhouse Poland: Parish Council Insurance

28th May: £50.00 Neighbourhood Watch Donation

4th Jun: £468.00: MD Landscapes re Church and Playing Field Grass Cutting

26th Jun: £900: David Shreeve re bases for playing field benches

3 Jul: £39.92: Cllr Bates re Approved Expenses.

13.3 Notification of Receipts since 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019

17<sup>th</sup> May: £800.13: BDC re Verge Cutting 6<sup>th</sup> Jun: £1,443.33: HMRC VAT Refund

1st July: £1,295.07: ECC re Street Cleaning

- 14. Planning
- 14.1 Applications Received:

St John the Baptist Church Parish Room: 19/00867/FUL.

Status pending: Determination date 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019

14.2 Application Decisions:

None.

15. Correspondence:

E-mail Correspondence dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July between Cllr Holloway and Parishioner Ms Jenny Bishop re Verges – already copied to Councillors for their information. This was discussed and agreed as minuted under item number 9.2 above.

- 16. Items for next Meeting Agenda:
- 16.1 Invoice from BDC re 2<sup>nd</sup> May Local Election: £60.29 "Returning Officer Fee".
- 16.2 Endorsement of "Reserves Policy" to be circulated to Council with next meeting Agenda.
- 17. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 18th September 2019 at School Farm Cottage.

SIGNED:
CLLR BILL PIPER: CHAIRMAN
DATE: