

LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Little Maplestead Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th January 2020 at 7.30pm by Zoom

Present:	Cllr Alton, Cllr Bates, Cllr Crudgington, Cllr Holloway, Cllr Piper, D Cllr Schweir
	C Cllr Finch For Item 4
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Absent:	None
In the Chair:	Cllr Piper
Clerk:	Mrs Ann Harris
Members of the Public:	None.

- 1. Apologies and reasons for absence: None
- Minutes of the previous meeting: The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th August were agreed as a true and accurate account of the proceedings of this meeting.
 Proposed: Cllr Crudgington
 Seconded: Cllr Alton
- 3. Declarations of Interest: None
- 4. County Matters: Cllr Finch reported on the significant rise in the level of COVID 19 infections in Essex although there has been a recent, slow, decline in numbers which raises the expectation that the current Lockdown is working. It is anticipated that the current Lockdown will continue into February. Cllr Finch reported that there have so far been 50,000 redundancies in Essex and 70,000 employees are on Furlough. Regarding the ECC Council Tax, the aim is for a zero percentage rise to be agreed at the ECC meeting on 23rdFebruary for the 2021/2022 year. This this will be the lowest rise in Council Tax in the region. It is anticipated that the Social Care Precept for the year will increase by 1.5%.
- 5. District Matters: D Cllr Schwier reported that COVID 19 tests are now available at Witham Football Club ground to anyone who wants one even if they have no symptoms. Also information relating to COVID19 may be accessed through the Braintree District Council Face Book page as well as the BDC website. It is also possible to access some Zoom training for Councillor development particularly in relation to the use of Zoom for meetings etc. Cllr Schweir reported that he still has some funds in the Council Community Grants Scheme that Councils may apply for. Regarding the Local Plan he reported that a proposal for 716 new houses in the Braintree District has been agreed by Planning. The BDC budget will be agreed at the February meeting and the increase is expected to be in the range of 1.99% to £4.95. Cllr Schweir went on to say that everyone who needs to be aware of the drainage and sewage problems in School Road were now involved. The BDC Environmental Department know that supplemental pipe work is required. ECC should report back to LMPC on this matter.

6. Clerk's Report:

- 6.1 Finger post on School Road: ECC has inspected but advised it is not a priority for them to repair.
- 6.2 Open Spaces Plan: It was agreed that the Clerk will advise BDC of three additional items for the Little Maplestead section of the 2021 Plan. These are repair and maintenance of the Playing Field footpath, a Parish Information Board for the Playing field and an adult gym trail also for the Playing Field

7. Finance;

- 7.1 2021/2022 LMPC Spending Plan. The Clerk submitted a draft plan for comment. This was agreed subject to the deletion of the two donations shown in the draft.. The Clerk will issue an updated plan to the Councillors to reflect this.
- 7.2 2021/2022 Precept: LMPC's requirement has to be advised to BDC by the end of January. By a majority decision, in order to replenish Reserves and to avoid operating at a budget deficit, the Council decided to require a precept of £5,645 which represents an increase of 30% on the 2020/2021 period.

8. Progress Updates and Councillors' (initials indicated) Reports:

- 8.1 Collins Road Land:Cllr Schweir said that ECC Legal Services will normally take action about encroachment on land that they own so the Chairman asked Cllr Holloway to write to ECC Legal Services on this issue copying Cllr Finch and also Essex Highways. **GH**
- 8.2 Playing Field Footpath Repair (£4,640 plus VAT) and Tree Maintenance (£300) expediture approved.**TC**
- 8.3 Sudbury Road Land: Cllr Alton will put forward a proposal for the next LMPC meeting to consider concerning the development of this land.**DA**
- 8.4 VETS:Cllr Piper reported that he intends to arrange a refresher training sessionas and when COVID19 restrictions allow. **BP**
- 8.5 Website: Increase in the amount of traffic noted.
- 8.6 Welcome Pack: Awaiting comments from Councillors; also need and introduction piece from the Chairman; deferred to nect LMPC meeting
- 8.7 County Broadband: Noted that the project is scheduled to go live in March 2021.
- 8.8 Flooding in School Road: Expecting an update on this matter by the time of the next LMPC meeting.
- 8.9 Verge Cutting: Cllr Schweir advised that it is expected that ECC will reduce the number of annual verge cuts to one, to take place in the late Spring. LMPC will do the same for 2021 and so Cllr Holloway will advise Johnathn Doe of this. **GH**
- 8.10 Footpath Map: There is map of footpaths in Little Maplestead on the LMPC Web site but this does not indicate who owns the land and therefore is responsible for the upkeep. For further discussion at the next Council meeting.
- 9 Public Forum: No members of the public were present.
- 10. Financial Report:
- 10.1 Bank Balance; As at 18th January 2021 the balance of funds held at Lloyds Bank was £11,616.40
- 10.2 There are no Receipts or Payments to report since the schedule issued to and approved by the Councillors along with the draft 2021/2022 spending plan.

11. Planning

The Chairman proposed that in future the Clerk will on behalf of the LMPC reply to every 11.1 planning application received from BDC indicating whether or not the Council has any objection to the proposal. Proposed: Cllr Piper

Seconded: Cllr Crudgington

DATE:

11.2 Applications Received:

- a. Application Number: 20/02189/HH & 20/02190/LBC Description: Extension to existing office and accommodation to provide anannexe for care of parents as well as office space. Location: School Farm, Gestingthorpe Road, Little Maplestead, EssexCO9 25N
- b. Application number: 20/02094/HH & 20/02095/LBC Description: Demolition of modern single-storey lean-to addition to barn. Location: Wooderton's Farm, Gestingthorpe Road, Little Maplestead, Essex CO9 25N

The Council has no objection to either of the above and the Clerk will reply to BDC accordingly.

12. Items for next Meeting Agenda

LGA 1972 Section 12 10(2) (b) states that Council business must be specified on the Meeting Agenda and therefore Councillors cannot lawfully raise any other matters for decision.

13. Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th March 2021 7.30pm. The Clerk will advise whether the meeting is to be held in person or by Zoom.

SIGNED:

CLLR BILL PIPER: CHAIRMAN

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