



LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Little Maplestead Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 7.00pm at School Farm Cottage

Present: Cllr Alton, Cllr Crudgington, Cllr Piper, Cllr Went, C/Cllr Schwier
Absent: Cllr Holloway
In the Chair: Cllr Piper
Clerk: Mrs Ann Harris
Members of the Public: None

- 1. Apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr Holloway: Illness
- 2. Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate account of proceedings.
Proposed: Cllr Crudgington **Seconded:** Cllr Went
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 4. County Matters:** C/Cllr Schwier reported that Essex County Council's budget proposals concentrate on families, communities, the economy and environment and also peg the proposed council tax increase to 4.5% which is below the current inflation rate. The agenda set out in *Everyone's Essex - the plan for Levelling Up the County* is at the heart of proposals, which also deal with rising demand for key services, particularly social care, as a result of the pandemic. Plans include investing £1.3 billion over the next four years on major infrastructure projects, such as new schools and large road improvements, a scaling up on previous years. Additionally, the Warm Homes Grant will continue for households and small businesses. C/Cllr Schwier also mentioned The Essex County Council Arts and Cultural Fund, will make available £1m over five years to support the creative sector and applications are invited to deliver projects that will help support and rejuvenate the Essex creative sector, as well as the county's towns and city high streets. Finally C/Cllr Schwier reported a plan to "engage" with farmers over Rights of Way throughout Essex.
- 5. District Matters:** D/Cllr Schwier reported the results of a recent survey which indicate that 80% of residents consider that the Council is doing a good job. The proposed budget increase is limited to 2.86% and the budget deficit will be reduced from £1.6 mill to £1.2 mill. BDC intends to trial the use of electric buses in certain areas with the objective of encouraging a greater use of public transport. D/Cllr Schwier noted the LMPC Councillors' expression of concern that two companies (County Broadband and Gigaclear) are both attempting to expand their service into the village which involves closing roads to lay cables and thereby much disruption.
- 6. Precept 2022/3:** Following a discussion of the alternatives distributed by the Clerk, the Council agreed unanimously to adopt a 5% increase in the precept.
Proposed: Cllr Piper **Seconded:** Cllr Crudgington
- 7. Budget 2022/23:** The Council adopted the budget prepared by the Clerk at £6,825.
Proposed: Cllr Piper **Seconded:** Cllr Crudgington

8. Councillors' (initials indicated) Reports:

- 8.1 Information Board: HW** Both Cllr Went and The Clerk reported some difficulty in contacting Sara Hayes who is commissioned to produce this for the Council. The Chairman asked for another report on progress to be submitted to the next Parish Council meeting.
- 8.2 Highways and Footpaths** - including the ECC Highways Devolution proposal **GH**: The Chairman again stated that he wanted to see the development of a map of the footpaths in Little Maplestead in order to establish ownership of the land and therefore the responsibility for upkeep. He asked that Cllrs Holloway, Alton and Went should meet to consider this and report back to the next LMPC Council meeting.
- 8.3 Cock Road Pot Holes: GH** Held over to next LMPC meeting.
- 8.4 A131/Collins Road junction: GH** The Chairman asked The Clerk to arrange a meeting with Cllr Holloway in order to prepare a letter to Essex Highways to express continuing concern at the lack of any action by them on this matter.
- 8.5 Sudbury Road Land: DA** Cllr Alton said that he considered that this land had potential for 2 or 3 residential properties and wanted to discuss this with Jan Stobart of the RCEE hopefully at the next LMPC meeting. Meanwhile the Chairman asked Cllr Alton to obtain a quotation from Oswicks for the cost of obtaining pre-planning approval from BDC to develop the site for this purpose and report at the next LMPC meeting.
- 8.6 Welcome Pack: HW** Completed and ready to be distributed to new residents.
- 8.7 County Broadband and Gigaclear: BP** D/Cllr already confirmed that both County Broadband and Gigaclear are allowed to develop plans and action to bring Hi-Speed Broadband to Little Maplestead.
- 8.8 Parish Footpath Map: HW** See item 8.2 above, which it is hoped would also cover the development of a map for general use
- 8.9 Playground Risk Assessment Review: TC** Cllr Crudgington reported that in certain parts of the footpath the newly laid tarmac is being disturbed by tree roots; he is looking at various actions to take and will report back to the next LMPC meeting.

9. Financial Report:

- 9.1 Bank Balance:** As at 11th January 2022 the balance of LMPC funds held at Lloyds Bank, following the Receipts and Payments noted below was **£11,244.24**.
- 9.2 Payments since 14th September 2021:**
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|--|---|
| 5 th Oct: MD Landscapes: £156.00 | 2 nd Nov: Public Art Co: £105.00 |
| 5 th Oct: J&M Payroll: £1,303.35 | 8 th Nov: John Doe: £120.00 |
| 15 th Oct: MD Landscapes: £156.00 | 4 th Jan 22: Steve Harris: £150.00 |
| 2 nd Nov: MD Landscapes: £288.00 | |
- 9.3 Receipts since 14th September 2021:**
- | |
|---------------------------------------|
| 30 th Sept: BDC: £2,822.00 |
| 18 th Nov: CCG: £500.00 |
| 11 th Jan: EALC: £1,500.00 |

10. Dates of Parish Council Meetings Scheduled for 2022:

- 15th March
- 17th May (this will be for the two Annual meetings)
- 19th July
- 20th September
- 15th November

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

The following items are scheduled for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting and will be specified in the meeting Agenda:

- Playing Field Notice Board
- Adult Gym Trail
- Risk Assessment: General Report
- Jubilee Celebrations Arrangements

- 12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 15th March 2022 7.00pm at School Farm Cottage**

SIGNED:

DATE:

CHAIRMAN: BILL PIPER