



LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Little Maplestead Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7.00pm at School Farm Cottage.

Present: Cllr Crudgington, Cllr Piper, Cllr Went
In the Chair: Cllr Piper
Apologies: Cllr Holloway
Clerk: Mrs Ann Harris
Members of the Public: None

1. **Apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr Holloway: unwell.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th November 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate account of proceedings.
Proposed: Cllr Crudgington **Seconded:** Cllr Went **Agreed:** Unanimously
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
4. **County Matters:** Cllr Schwier drew the Council's attention to the latest County report available at www.essex.gov.uk Additionally he described a new grant (entitled the Rural Prosperity Fund) which is expected to be open for applications in February 2023. NE Essex has been granted £670,000 which qualifying groups can apply for on a "First Come, First Served Basis" for grants from £10,000 to £50,000 without the need to raise match funding.
5. **District Matters:** Cllr Schwier drew the Council's attention to the latest District report on www.braintree.gov.uk He also mentioned a possible increase in the Council Tax of 3.5%, 2% of which would be ring-fenced for child and adult social care.
6. **Public Forum:** No members of the public attended the Council meeting
7. **Clerk's Report:**
 - 7.1: **2023/4 LMPC Budget:** The Clerk had already sent to Councillors copies of the 2023/4 proposed budget and explanatory notes, now submitted for approval by the Council.
Proposed: Cllr Piper **Seconded:** Cllr Crudgington **Approved:** Unanimously
 - 7.2: **2023/4 Precept Submission:** On the basis of the 2023/4 budget, plus the finance expected to be available to be carried forward to the 2023/4 financial year, the Council agreed a precept of £7,630 would be required to cover all the planned budget items plus a Reserve for the year of £3,000 total.
Proposed: Cllr Crudgington **Seconded:** Cllr Went **Agreed:** Unanimously
The Chairman and the Clerk then signed the Parish Council Precept document, indicating this amount, for return to BDC.
8. **Councillor Reports:**
 - 8.1 **Additional Equipment for Playing Field: HW.** For discussion at the next Parish Council Meeting (scheduled for 21st March 2023).
 - 8.2 **Casual Vacancy:** Noted that there are no applicants to fill this vacancy.
 - 8.3 **Footpath Map: HW.** For discussion at the next Parish Council Meeting when hopefully Cllr Holloway will be available to join the discussion.

- 8.4 Local Highways:** Cllr Schwier confirmed he had passed the two LHP requests for passing on to Essex Highways and would now chase for a response.
- 8.5 National Grid Temporary Haul Road: BP** The Chairman will contact The National Grid for a response to his letter.
- 8.6 Sudbury Road Land TC/GH:** It was agreed that the Clerk would confirm to Oswicks that LMPC now wished to proceed with the pre-application to be submitted to BDC. It was noted that David Alton had requested a Planning Statement from Oswicks which had not as yet been provided to the Council.
- 8.7 Village Defibs BP:** The Chairman will arrange for the back packs issued to the VETS team to be updated. The Council approved a cost of up to £100 for this purpose to be charged to the 2023/4 Reserves (see item 7.1 above).
- 8.8 The Village Crest: BP.** This will be considered in due course as part of the enhancements to the Playing Field.
- 8.9 Coronation Celebrations: BP.** The Chairman will make an appeal through the February Parish Magazine for ideas and volunteers from local residents.

9. Planning Consultations:

There were no Planning Consultations for consideration at this meeting.

10. Financial Report:

10.1 Bank Balance: On 30th November: £7,822.29

10.2 Payments since 4th October:

- 11th Oct £144.00 J Doe: Verge Cutting
- 11th Oct £312.00 MD Landscapes: Grass Cutting
- 10th Nov £40.00 AB Catering: Supplies for Jubilee party
- 10th Nov £312.00 MD Landscapes: Grass Cutting
- 30th Nov £53.99 Parish Clerk Re Expenses
- 30th Nov £1,265.13 J&M Payroll re Clerk Salary Oct to Dec inc.

10.3 Receipts since 4th October:

Nil

- 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 matter for decision.

12. The remaining 2023 provisional dates are as follows:

- 21st March 2023
- (NB: Parish Council Election: Thursday 4th May)
- 16th May 2023 (APM and APCM)
- 18th July 2023
- 19th September 2023
- 21st November 2023

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 7pm at School Farm Cottage

SIGNED:

DATE:

CHAIRMAN: BILL PIPER

The Clerk, Mrs Ann Harris
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