



## LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Little Maplestead Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.00pm at School Farm Cottage.

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

1. **Apologies and reasons for absence:** None
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and also Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 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 reported that it is estimated that the plan to replace LED lighting across Essex will save £39 million over 25 years. He also reported that there has been a 96% success rate in the collection of Council Tax. It is now planned to spend £0.75 million on Essex Tourism and in this connection the Clerk was asked to approach Visit Essex to promote Little Maplestead. Cllr Schwier confirmed that there is some discussion about relocating or even closing-down Essex County Hall.
5. **District Matters:** Cllr Schwier noted that Section 2 of the local plan is now fully agreed and will be reviewed again in 5 years' time. He also reported that he newly appointed Chief Executive of Braintree District Council is Dan Gascoigne, the Braintree Street markets are doing well and that new, brightly coloured recycling bins are to be introduced on main roads. 116,000 new affordable homes have recently been built with a further 417,000 planned for the near future. There was then a discussion about the future of Halstead hospital and the Chairman agreed to contact the local MP, James Cleverly about this, suggesting that it should be considered for development as a doctors' surgery
6. **Councillors' Responsibilities:** This list, which was circulated to Councillors by the Clerk, has now been agreed by the Council and posted on the LMPC web site.
7. **Councillors Reports:**
  - 7.1 **Footpaths GH/HW:** The Chairman again requested the development of a map of the footpaths in Little Maplestead to establish ownership of the land and therefore the responsibility for upkeep. He asked that Cllrs Holloway and Went should present an initial review of the feasibility of this to the next LMPC meeting.
  - 7.2 **A131/Collins Road junction GH:** The Chairman will write to Cllr Schwier to request a response to the Clerk's letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to the Head of Essex Highways regarding the Council's concern about this.

**7.3 Parish Room/Village Hall Fund BP:** It was agreed that this fund would not be used to help finance the proposed Parish Room unless and until there is clarification of how the Parish Room is to be used.

**Proposed:** Cllr Went                      **Seconded:** Cllr Alton                      **Agreed:** Unanimously

**7.4 County Broadband BP:** Cllr Piper will contact County Broadband about the conditions attached to the offer of one free connection for Little Maplestead.

**7.5 Risk Assessment TC:** The Clerk and Cllr Crudgington have undertaken this, and no risks have been noted.

**7.6 Additional Equipment for the Playing Field HW:** Cllr Went will undertake a review of what is available and appropriate and will report back to the next meeting.

**7.7 Additional Tree for the Playing Field TC:** Cllr Crudgington will report to the next Parish Council meeting on whether one of the trees which he owns could be passed over to the Council to be placed in the Playing Field. The Council also agreed to consider developing a plan to level the opening to the Playing Field and Cllr Crudgington requested assistance from the Council members in undertaking this and any other Playing Field requirements.

**7.8 Sudbury Road Land:** The Chairman and Cllr Alton asked the Clerk to confirm to Oswick's the Council's acceptance of their proposal to undertake a pre-planning review.

**7.9 Police Our Parish:** The date of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September has been agreed and Cllr Piper will contact the police to make arrangements.

**7.10 Playground Inspection:** The fee payable to inspector David Bracey of £102 was approved after the meeting by the Chairman and the Clerk. The Inspection will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

## **8. Clerk's Report:**

**8.1 Ear-Marked Reserves:** Statement issued to Councillors by email dated 8<sup>th</sup> July agreed.

**Proposed:** Cllr Piper                      **Seconded:** Cllr Crudgington                      **Agreed:** Unanimously

**8.2 Policies and Procedures:** The Clerk confirmed that this now includes the conditions relating to the GDPR and is now posted on the web site with the other LMPC Policies and Procedures.

## **9. Financial Report:**

### **9.1 Bank Balance:**

As at 6<sup>th</sup> Jul 2022 the balance of LMPC funds held at Lloyds Bank, following the Receipts and Payments noted below was **£7,957.23**

### **9.2 Payments since 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022:**

9<sup>th</sup> May: £300 to the Noticeboard Company for the Jubilee information board

10<sup>th</sup> May: £312 to MDL for Grass Cutting

10<sup>th</sup> May: £361.7 to the Public Art Company balance payment for Jubilee board

24<sup>th</sup> May: £120 to Community Heartbeat re the Defib equipment

24<sup>th</sup> May: £378.45 Gallagher LMPC Insurance brokers

24<sup>th</sup> May: £120 to J&M re Payroll Services

8<sup>th</sup> Jun: £349 to Black Barn Computers for re-conditioned laptop for Clerk

14<sup>th</sup> Jun: £90 to Heelis and Lodge re LMPC Annual Audit

14<sup>th</sup> Jun: £312 to MDL for Grass Cutting

23<sup>rd</sup> Jun: £1,296.86 by Cheque to Bill Piper re Jubilee Expenses

6<sup>th</sup> Jul: £156 to Community Heartbeat for new battery for Defib

6<sup>th</sup> Jul: £312 to MDL for Grass Cutting

6<sup>th</sup> Jul: £150 to The Public Art Co for 2 framed print copies of Jubilee Boar

**9.3 Receipts since 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022:**

- 30<sup>th</sup> May: £847.56 from BDC for Street Cleaning
- 31<sup>st</sup> May: £70 from Grain Ltd (a refund for damage to the Jubilee Board)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Jun: £550.67 2021/22 VAT refund from HMRC

**10. 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.

The following items will be on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting:

- i. Speeding in the Village, which may the subject of discussion at the "Police Our Parish" meeting to be scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> September (minute number 7.9 above refers).
- ii. Autumn Verge and A131 cuts: Cllr Holloway to advise on dates and costs.
- iii. Confirmation of Parish Council Meeting dates until end of 2022/23 period:
  - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January
  - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March
  - Meeting dates for 2023/24 to be tabled at next Parish Council Meeting

**11. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7pm at School Farm Cottage**

SIGNED: .....

DATE: .....

**CHAIRMAN: BILL PIPER**