



LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Little Maplestead Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 7.30pm by Zoom

Present: Cllr Crudgington, Cllr Holloway, Cllr Piper.
D Cllr Schweir
C Cllr Finch For Item 4

Absent: Cllr Alton, Cllr Bates.

In the Chair: Cllr Piper

Clerk: Mrs Ann Harris

Members of the Public: None.

- 1. Apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr Alton & Cllr Bates (no reasons given by either)
- 2. Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate account of proceedings.
Proposed: Cllr Crudgington Seconded: Cllr Holloway
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 4. County Matters:** Cllr Finch reported to the meeting that Essex County Council is judged to be among the top ten most efficient Councils in the country. In 2021/2022 there will be a zero rate of increase in the Council tax and a 1.50% increase in the Social Care precept. 90% of the schools in the county are judged to be good or outstanding. The rollout of the COVID Test and Trace and also the Vaccination programme are both going well. ECC has put aside £1m to help with action on domestic abuse and mental health issues. The Council will also establish an education task force to help accelerate learning by children who have spent long periods out of school; the ECC has donated 5,000 laptops for use by schools and has also increased funding to the County's police services by £500,000. In terms of transport links ECC is providing £318m to facilitate the A120/A133 connection, a further £218m for a railway station and carpark in Chelmsford and £90m for a Chelmsford by pass. Essex is on target to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 supported by, among other initiatives more cycleways and tree planting. Cllr Finch reported that overall there is significant economic development going on in the County.

On a personal note C Cllr Finch advised that, after 20 years of service, he is not standing for re-election as a County Councillor in the May 2021 elections. Cllr Piper thanked Cllr Finch for all his help and advice and offered the Parish Council's good wishes for his future.
- 5. District Matters:** D Cllr Schwier reported that the NHS appeared to be coping well with the demands of COVID in the Braintree area. On the subject of the Local Plan he advised the Council that 14,320 new homes are to be built in the district by 2033, that is an average of 716 new homes a year. £35m will be made available to support new businesses in the district. The draft Climate Change strategy for the district is now agreed and now goes out to Parish Councils and other communities for a six week consultation period.
- 6. Clerk's Report:**
Open Spaces Plan: Awaiting advice from BDC on next steps to securing Section 106 funds to install an adult gym trail and also an information board in the Playing Field

