

## LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Little Maplestead Parish Council held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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)
- Minutes of the previous meeting: The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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

## 7. Finance;

- 7.1 2021/2022 LMPC Spending Plan. Draft Plan submitted by the Clerk approved Proposed by Cllr Piper Seconded by Cllr Crudgington
- 7.2 2021/2022 Precept: LMPC's requirement of a precept of £5,645 has been advised to BDC
- 8. Progress Updates and Councillors' (initials indicated) Reports:
- 8.1 Collins Road Land: Awaiting response from ECC Legal Services concerning the encroachment on land owned by ECC. **GH**
- 8.2 Playing Field Footpath Repair now completed TC
- 8.3 Playing Field Tree Maintenance will be undertaken in April TC
- 8.4 Sudbury Road Land: Cllr Alton will put forward a proposal for the next LMPC meeting to consider concerning the development of this land. **DA** (Held over to next PCM due to Cllr Alton's absence from this meeting). Agreed that Jan Stobart, Community Engagement Officer would be invited to the next LMPC meeting. The Parish Clerk will arrange.
- 8.5 VETS:Cllr Piper reported that he intends to arrange a refresher training sessionas and when COVID-19 restrictions allow. **BP**
- 8.6 Welcome Pack: Awaiting comments from Councillors; also need an introduction piece from the Chairman. Item now held over until next PCM due to Cllr Bates' absence **TB/BP**
- 8.7 County Broadband: Noted that the project is scheduled to go live in March 2021.
- 8.8 Flooding in School Road: An update is expected 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 a map of footpaths in Little Maplestead on the LMPC Web site but this does not indicate who owns the land and is therefore responsible for their 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 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021 the balance of funds held at Lloyds Bank was £11,466.
- 10.2 Receipts since 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021: Nil
- 10.3 Payments since 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021: £150.00 to Web site consultant Steve Harris.
- 11. Planning: No submissions for consideration by the Council.
- 12. 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.

 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021. On this date the meetings will be The Annual Parish Meeting to be followed by The Annual Parish Council Meeting. Details for both will be issued in due course

SIGNED: DATE:

CLLR BILL PIPER: CHAIRMAN

The Clerk, Mrs Ann Harris The Forge, Lucking Street, Great Maplestead, Essex CO9 2RE Telephone 01787 462 818 littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com