



LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Little Maplestead Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 7.30pm in The Round Church.

Present: Cllr Crudgington, Cllr Holloway, Cllr Piper. Cllr Alton, Cllr Bates
C Cllr Schweir

Absent: None

In the Chair: Cllr Holloway for Agenda Items 1 and 2. Thereafter Cllr Piper

Clerk: Mrs Ann Harris

Members of the Public: Six.

- 1. Election of Chairman:** Cllr Piper was unanimously elected Chairman
- 2. Election of Vice-Chairman:** Cllr Crudgington was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman
- 3. Apologies and reasons for absence:** N/A
- 4. Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th March 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate account of proceedings.
Proposed: Cllr Alton Seconded: Cllr Holloway
- 5. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 6. District Matters:** Cllr Schweir reported that the Horizon 120 project is going well as is are the plans to develop the High Streets of both Witham and Halstead both for in person shopping and "Click and Collect".
- 7. County Matters:** The Chairman congratulated Cllr Schweir on his election to Essex County Council in the recent elections.

CCllr Schwier reported that the Essex County Council turnover in the last financial year was £2billion. He also referred to the Council's objective to be Carbon Neutral as soon as possible. The new leader of the Council, replacing Cllr Finch who has retired, is Kevin Bentley. The three objectives for the Council are Renewal (post Covid Recovery) Ambition (to be Carbon Neutral) and Equality. CCllr Schweir referred briefly to Essex Highways reporting that in the County there are 5,000 miles of network roads, 4,000 miles of public footpaths and trails and 120,000 street lights to service. There is a recent increased usage of all roads by HGVs heading for the County's ports the airports.

CCllr Schweir then left the meeting.

- 8. Policies and Procedures:**
Councillors confirmed acceptance of the undermentioned Policies and Procedures for the 2021/22 period of office (available for review on the LMPC Web site):
 - Standing Orders
 - Complaints Procedure
 - Publication Policy
 - Risk Assessment
 - Code of Conduct
 - Unauthorised Encampment Policy

9. Confirmation of Councillors' responsibilities:

It was agreed that discussion of this item would be deferred to the next Parish Council Meeting.

10. Progress Updates and Councillors' (initials indicated) Reports

- 10.1 Mobile Phone Mast **BP**: The Chairman proposed that this item should now be discussed in open forum. He explained that the Parish Council had received a "Pre-Planning Consultation" notice from Telefónica indicating their plan to erect a 25 metre lattice communications mast on High Field which is close to the Grade 2 listed house of Mr and Mrs Maxted Page. This notice invited a response from the Council and therefore comments were invited from the public attending this meeting. The Chairman stressed that in the event that the majority of parishioners may wish to oppose this move it would be sensible to consider other sites that could be suggested. Whilst the need for improved mobile communications was acknowledged, as was a Government requirement to press ahead with the expansion in the number of Smart meters, the real issue is the siting of the mast itself and the views of the members of the public who took part in the forum were fairly evenly divided. However, a list was made available to the meeting in which it was noted that 9 out of 10 people who communicated their views by email to the Parish Clerk were opposed to the siting. It was agreed that the Clerk, on behalf on the Council, would write to Galliford Try, agents for Telefónica, indicating all this and drawing the Agent's attention to the land on the A131 which is owned by the Council.
- 10.2 A131 Land **DA**: As above.
- 10.3 Village Picnic **BP**: Agreed to defer for at least 12 months
- 10.4 Footpaths **GH**: Cllr Holloway is dealing direct with parishioner Andrew Knott regarding the re-instatement of the footpath on his land that appears to have been moved during building work.
- 10.5 Highways **GH**: It was agreed that investigation into the infill taking place on the land opposite Little India is needed. Regarding the routing of HGVs to and from Catley Cross Cllr Holloway reported that ECC has said that there is no way of ensuring that HGVs do not use the Collins Road exit onto to A131 even though the visibility is poor.
- 10.6 Parish Room **BP**: For information only since this is not an LMPC project: all the approvals required have been obtained and now the funding is in progress.
- 10.7 Playing Field: Information Board and Adult Gym Trail **BP/TC/TB**: To be discussed in more detail at the next Parish Council meeting.
- 10.8 Play Ground Risk Assessment Review **TC**: the playground will be independently inspected in July and Cllr Crudgington will report back to the Council.
- 10.9 LMPC Facebook page: Now set up by Councillor Bates
- 10.10 Community Engagement Opportunity: No action to be taken.
- 10.11 Braintree Association of Local Councils: No action to be taken.
- 10.12 Parishioner correspondence: **Mr P Grocott**--Speeding on School Road, **Mr G Smith**--Re-routing HGV traffic, **Ms K Pain**--Land opposite Little India.

11. Public Forum:

As recorded in Minute number 10.1

12. Clerk's Report

- 12.1 Internal Audit and 2020/21 AGAR: Documents signed by the Chairman and will be posted on the LMPC Web site and the Notice Board from 9th June for the 30 working days review period.

