



LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Tuesday 17th March 2026

at Meadowside, Gestingthorpe Rd, Little Maplestead CO9 2SJ at 7pm

1. **Apologies and reasons for absence: apologies received - Jane Pullinger**
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** Councillors agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13th January 2026 are a true and accurate account of the proceedings of this meeting.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Councillors are advised to declare the existence and nature of any 'Disclosable Pecuniary', 'Other Pecuniary' or 'Non-Pecuniary' interests relating to items on the Agenda.
4. **County Matters: ECC/Local Highways/Braintree - future:- consider self-funded road**
5. **District Matters: Local Plan** - discussed emails received. Cllr Crudgington to attend exhibition 18th March.
6. **Public Forum:** For discussion of items on the Agenda and matters of mutual interest, maximum time of 15 minutes/3 minutes per contribution, or at the Chairman's discretion. Members of the Public who wish to raise any matter at this meeting or would like to participate in the Public Forum are invited to contact the Clerk by e-mail or phone.
7. **Councillors' Reports:**
 - 7.1 **Playing Field:-**
 - 7.1a Equipment Update (TC) Consider new willows for gaps and general maintenance including trees.
 - 7.1b Inspections - decision to stay with PlaySafety Ltd, Rospa, for annual inspection scheduled May 2026.
 - 7.2 **Highways:-** Potholes, Hedgerows, Signage.
Big potholes by Wooderton's to be reported - Cllr Mullineaux
 - 7.3 **Financial:-**
 - 7.3a Consider Bridging Software for Accounts & VAT:- Money Manager / Absolute Accounting (Clerk)
 - 7.3a Investigate Lloyds bank accounting software. (Clerk)
 - 7.3b HW to investigate restriction on authorising payments. (Clerk - HW needs to be full signatory).
 - 7.3c 2026 Precept - presented itemised predicted spend for 2026 versus actual spend 2025. (Clerk)
 - 7.4 **New Parish Councillor:-** Clerk to advise of official notification to BDC. Awaiting response.
 - 7.5 **Web & Social Sites:-** consider moving to Free hosting ref: email received 18/11/25 (Clerk)
Consider updating and replacing existing web site.
 - 7.6 **Defibrillator:-** (TC) reports that existing residents are currently continuing with routine checks.
 - 7.7 **Street Cleaning Agreement** - signed and agreed with BDC for 2026
 - 7.7a discussed responsibilities for litter picking / bin emptying / fly tippingNotify BDC of inaccessible path along A131 from Little India (Clerk)
 - 7.8 **Local Plan** - discussed emails received (Clerk)
 - 7.9 **Safeguarding** - discussed responsibility (Clerk).
 - 8 **Community Insurance** - Pre Renewal Questionnaire (Clerk) Add value of new play equipment £20k.

The Clerk, Mrs Paula Sillett

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8. Parishioner Correspondence:

Ref: Water Tower Planning. Email to LMPC.

This matter was discussed and it was agreed that as the Parish Council had no objection to the planning application, which was refused by BDC, it is felt that the Parish Council have no powers regarding the current way in which the land is being used. Whilst the Parish Council expressed and understood concerns regarding the visual impact and condition of the site it was felt that any individuals concerned should write in the first instance to the Planning Enforcement Office or Cllr Schwier raising concerns about whether the site has an open storage planning application.

9. Planning Consultations: No new consultations.**10. Financial Report:**

10.1	Bank Balance:	£10,538.50
10.1.i	Payments:	Service charge Jan 2026 £4.25 Service charge Feb 2026 £4.25
10.3	Receipts:	£0

11. The Little Maplestead Parish Council 2026 meeting dates: -

Tues 12th May - APCM, Tues 14th July, Tues 15th Sept, Tues 17th Nov

12. Items for next Meeting Agenda

Note: LGA 1972 Section 12 10(2) (b) states that all business for decision at the meeting must be specified in advance and Councillors cannot lawfully raise any other matter for decision.

Signed: *P.A. Sillett*

Mrs P.A. Sillett
Clerk to the Council

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Signed:
Mrs H Went
Chair

Tuesday 12th May 2026