



LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at
Meadowside, Gestingthorpe Rd, Little Maplestead CO9 2SJ at 7pm

1. **Apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr P Schwier (meeting elsewhere), Cllr G Holloway.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** Councillors agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th November 2025 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:**
5. **District Matters:**
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. Public enquiry received by private message after tonight's meeting ref: Water Tower Planning & Caravan
7. **Councillors' Reports:**
 - 7.1 **Playing Field:-**
 - 7.1a Equipment Update (TC) - no issues to report. Being well used.
 - 7.1b Inspections - update on email proper clarification for inspection of existing equipment (HW). (Clerk) to contact ROSPA re: change of equipment impact on cost. Do they offer a 3 or 5 year contract. (HW) clarify zip wire impact on cost from Sovereign
 - 7.1c CIF Report has been finalised (Clerk).
 - 7.2 **Highways:-** Potholes, Hedgerows, Signage, Speed Survey.
 - 7.2a Vegetation overgrown at entrance/exit to 'travellers site' - update on report to council (GH) the overgrown vegetation on Byeway, Lt.Maplestead 20, has been reported and is being dealt with by Highways,
 - 7.2b School Rd hedges obscuring 40mph sign - sign is now visible, hedge has been cut around the speed sign. The sign advising of playground warning triangle is still obscured. Email (Clerk) Speak to landowner responsible for clearing signs opposite Maplestead kennels. (HW)
 - 7.2c Nightingale House on corner of Cock Rd - letter advising of hedges to be cut (Clerk)
 - 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 checked settings in bank.
 - 7.3c 2026 Precept precedent to set an increase at 1.5% to allow for unforeseen increases in costs. Clerk to provide itemised predicted spend for 2026 versus actual spend 2025.
 - 7.4 **New Parish Councillor:-** co-option proposed during this meeting. Clerk to make enquiries. Welcome to Jane Pullinger. Proposed by Cllr Crudginton. Seconded by Chair Cllr Went. No objections. Clerk to make enquiries on official notification to BDC.
 - 7.5 **Web & Social Sites:-** consider moving to Free hosting ref: email received 18/11/25 (Clerk) Consider updating and replacing existing web site.

The Clerk, Mrs Paula Sillett
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7.6 **Defibrillator:-** (TC) investigate maintenance procedure. Email received 09/01/26

8. Parishioner Correspondence:

Received after the meeting ref: Water Tower Planning. Email to LMPC.

9. Planning Consultations: No new consultations.

APPLICATION NO : 25/02298/HH Application GRANTED & 25/02318/LBC Application GRANTED
DESCRIPTION : Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of single storey side extension, replacement window and installation of sports court. LOCATION : Leppingwell's School Road Little Maplestead Essex CO9 2RY. Parish Council discussed:- No objections raised. Concerns discussed about the definition of a 'sports' court. **Applications GRANTED**

APPLICATION NO : 25/02434/FUL DESCRIPTION : Conversion to a residential dwelling. Little Maplestead Water Tower Cock Road Little Maplestead Essex. Parish Council discussed:- No objections raised. **Application REFUSED.** Reason 1:- visually intrusive & incongruous form of development that is out of keeping with the character & appearance of the rural street scene. The proposal is contrary to Policies SP7, LPP47 and LPP52 of the Adopted Local Plan and the aims of the National Planning Policy Framework. Reason 2:- The proposed development, by virtue of its design, materials and fenestration, would cause harm to the setting of nearby listed buildings. Furthermore, the proposal would fail to preserve or enhance the significance of these heritage assets and would introduce visual contrast that erodes their rustic character, with no public benefits to outweigh the harm caused. The development is therefore contrary to Policies SP7, LPP47 and LPP57 of the Adopted Local Plan and Paragraphs 215 and 219 of the National Planning Policy Framework

10. Financial Report:

10.1 Bank Balance: £10,547.00

10.1.i **Payments:** J&M Payroll £1,277.19 (Clerk wages) Lloyds Service Charge £4.25
 J Doe (verge cutting) £606.00 PKF Littlejohn LLP £48.00 (external auditor)

10.3 **Receipts:**

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

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

12. Items for next Meeting Agenda – Parishioner Correspondence re: Water Tower/Caravan

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:

Mrs H Went - Chair

Tuesday 16th March 2026

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