



LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH MAY 2026 AT 7.00PM AT THE ROUND CHURCH, LITTLE MAPLESTEAD

Attended by: Cllr Helen Went, Cllr Tony Crudginton, Cllr Claire Mullineaux

1. **Apologies received from Cllr Geraldine Holloway**
2. **Chair re-elected: Cllr Helen Went. Proposed and seconded by Cllr's Crudginton and Mullineaux**
3. **Vice - Chair re-elected: Cllr Tony Crudginton. Proposed and seconded by Cllr's Went & Mullineaux**
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** Councillors agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17th March 2026 are a true & accurate account of the proceedings of the meeting.
5. **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. Cllr Mullineaux declared interest for planning application received for The Grove, Gestingthorpe Rd.
6. **County Matters: ECC/Local Highways/Braintree - future:- consider self-funded road proposal**
7. **District Matters: Local Plan -** Cllr Crudginton reported on exhibition of 18th March.
8. **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. No public in attendance. **Cllr Went raised concerns regarding parking on grass verge on A131 at School Rd junction. Letter to be sent to residents advising of hazard to sightline for vehicles exiting School Rd. (Clerk)**
9. **Councillors' Reports:**
 - 9.1 **Playing Field:-**
 - 9.1a Equipment Update (TC) Consider new willows for gaps in the autumn to fill gaps leaving dead whips in place for support and weaving.
 - 9.1b Inspections - annual inspection due this month PlaySafety Ltd, Rospa.
 - 9.2 **Highways:-** Potholes, Hedgerows, Signage. Discussed. Loose 40mph Church Rd. Big potholes by Wooderton's reported - no action yet taken. Cone in place.
 - 9.3 **Financial:-**
 - 9.3a Consider Bridging Software for Accounts & VAT:- Money Manager / Absolute Accounting (Clerk)
 - 9.3a Investigate Lloyds bank accounting software. (Clerk)
 - 9.3b HW is now set up as a FULL signatory
 - 9.3c 2026 Precept - First payment received April 2026 £4,793. Total Precept 2026 £9585
 - 9.4 Consider savings/deposit account for interest on residual funds.
- 9.4 **New Parish Councillor:-** Clerk to advise of official notification to BDC. Awaiting response.
- 9.5 **Web & Social Sites:-** consider moving to Free hosting ref: email received 18/11/25 (Clerk)
Consider updating and replacing existing web site.
- 9.6 **Defibrillator:-** (TC) reports that existing residents are currently continuing with routine checks.
- 9.7 **Street Cleaning Agreement -** signed and agreed with BDC for 2026
 - 9.7a discussed responsibilities for litter picking / bin emptying / fly tipping
 - Inaccessible path along A131 from Little India - hedgerows cut. TC to check footpath.
- 9.8 **Community Insurance -** Value of play equipment increased by £20k to £58k as agreed at the previous PCM
- 9.9 **Community Events -** Dog Show 13th September 2026. Save the date issued for Parish Magazine.
- 9.10 **Essex Village of the Year -** raised for information by Clerk. No further action.
- 9.11 **Noticeboard -** Cllr Crudginton raised concerns for the longevity of the Parish Noticeboard stating that the back of the board may need to be replaced. Clerk to ask Gary Kent of Gt Maplestead to look and advise.

10. Parishioner Correspondence: None received.

11. Planning Consultations: Received planning application re: The Grove, Gestingthorpe Rd. 26/00942/HH
Planning application for side/rear extension including canopy over rear door. No objections raised.

12. Financial Report:

10.1 Bank Balance: £13,745.81

10.1.i Payments: MD Landscapes £156 Lloyds Bank Service Charge March £4.25
J&M Payroll Services £144 J&M Payroll Clerk Salary £1277.19

10.3 Receipts: Braintree District Council Precept £4,793.00

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

Tues 14th July,

Tues 15th Sept,

Tues 17th Nov

14. 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

Thursday 14th May 2026