



LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON: Wednesday 9th January 2019
AT: School Farm Cottage, Little Maplestead

Present: Cllr Alton, Cllr Bates, Cllr Crudgington, Cllr Holloway
In the Chair: Cllr Piper
Also Present: Dist Cllr J O'Reilly-Cicconi for items 1 through 5 inclusive
Clerk: Mrs Ann Harris

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of 7th November 2018 were approved as a correct record of events.

Proposed: Cllr Crudgington **Seconded:** Cllr Holloway

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. County/District Matters

Dist Cllr O'Reilly-Cicconi outlined the current status of the district's Town and Local planning policies and recommended that the Parish Council should review the status of this on a regular basis. He also advised the Council that he will stand down from Braintree District Council at the time of the next election and that therefore he expects this to be the final Little Maplestead Parish Council meeting that he will attend. The Councillors thanked him warmly for his assistance during his term of office.

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

- 5.1 **Defibrillators and VETS Scheme - BP:** Cllr Piper reported that there will be another training session at School Farm Cottage on 24th January. It is intended that the Key Code number and also the VETS phone number will be posted by each of the two defibrillators.
- 5.2 **Footpaths - GH:** Cllr Holloway reported that she had requested a replacement footpath sign to be sited by Gages Farm.
- 5.3 **Highways - GH:** Cllr Holloway has reported a number of potholes to Essex Highways for action. Dist Cllr O'Reilly-Cicconi suggested that she could copy Cllr David Finch on these matters.
- 5.4 **Mobile Phone Mast - DA:** Cllr Alton reported that he has had further contact with James Wood, surveyor from Lambert Smith Hampton (acting for ECC), confirming that he would be pleased to discuss the issue of the covenant on the land transfer once there are firm proposals to consider regarding the siting of a mobile phone mast. Cllr Piper asked Cllr Alton to report to the next Parish Council Meeting on the results of discussions with mobile phone companies, to provide detailed plans including, if possible, the financial advantages to the Parish Council and also to recommend the next steps to be taken to progress this matter.
- 5.5 **Parish Room - TB:** There was a general discussion about the Parochial Church Council's proposals for a Parish Room, to be sited in the vicinity of the Little Maplestead Church. Concern was expressed as to the design of the planned room and also the building materials proposed to be used. It was agreed that there should be further discussion and consideration at the next Parish Council meeting, scheduled for Wednesday 13th March 2019.



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- 5.6 **Playing Field: Picnic table delivery and report to BDC - Clerk:** The Clerk reported that a grant of £4,111 has been awarded by the Community Initiative Fund and that, whilst very welcome, this amount is considerably less than that applied for to cover work needed to be undertaken in the playing field. Cllr Crudgington and the Clerk will meet to discuss how this grant could be applied and will report back to the next Parish Council meeting.
- 5.7 **Sudbury Road Land - DA:** This is a potential site for the mobile phone mast subject to the removal of the covenant. This is also dependent on the outcome of discussions with mobile phone companies. Cllr Alton to advise at the next Parish Council Meeting; see earlier point 5.4
- 5.8 **UEA Parish Orchard Survey - TB:** Cllr Bates reported that further investigation work was needed to be undertaken probably in the spring.
- 5.9 **Village Gate/Sign - BP:** Cllr Piper will make a proposal to the next Council meeting either to continue to assess cost and advisability or to remove item from the Agenda.
- 5.10 **Village Pump - GH:** No further action; this item will be removed from the Agenda
- 5.11 **Planning - Clerk:** Cllr Crudgington will co-ordinate Councillors' responses to future planning proposals as and when circulated by the Clerk.
- 5.12 **Assignment of Councillor Responsibilities:** The assignment of Councillors' responsibilities as indicated in the above list was agreed by the meeting.
6. **Public Forum**
No members of the public were present.
7. **Business Items**
- 7.1 **Draft Budget 2019/20:** The Clerk submitted a first draft of next year's budget, indicating anticipated expenditure of £6,887.36. The Councillors discussed various budget items and it was agreed that the Clerk would submit a second draft for further consideration at the next meeting.
- 7.2 **Precept 2019/20:** After full consideration of all sources of Council income and Reserves (information already circulated to the meeting) a precept of £3,778 was agreed which represents increase of 9.75% over last year's figure.
Proposed: Cllr Piper **Seconded:** Cllr Crudgington
8. **Clerk's Report**
- 8.1 **Banking Arrangements:** The paperwork to add Cllr Bates as an Authorised Signatory will be requested from Lloyds Bank.
- 8.2 **Tesco Bags of Help:** Awaiting the final outcome of this grant application.
- 8.3 **Community Initiative Fund:** See item 5.6 above
- 8.4 **Counsellor's Community Grant**
2018 Grant: Cllr Crudgington suggested that this grant (£375) could be used to fund a new gate for the Playing field.
Proposed: Cllr Crudgington **Seconded:** Cllr Piper
9. **Financial Report**
- 9.1 **Bank Balances**
As at 3rd January 2019 the balance of funds held at Lloyds bank, following Receipts and Payments noted below, is **£10,790.78**
- 9.2 **Ratification of Payments since 31st October**
13th December: Cheque for £724.80 to J. Doe for second annual verge cut
17th December: BACs payment of £911.28 to British Recycled Plastics for Picnic Table



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9.3 Notification of Receipts since 11th September 2018

Nil

10. Planning

10.1 Applications Received:

18/01887/FUL & 18/01888/LBC: Gallants Farm: Demolition of outbuildings and erection of rear extension to farmhouse (copies of notification e-mailed to Councillors)

10.2 Application Decisions:

None

11. Correspondence

None

12. Items for Next Agenda

Note that no decisions can be lawfully made under this item: LGA 1972 Section 12 10(2) (b) states that business must be specified, so Councillors cannot lawfully raise matters for decision.

13. 2019 Parish Council Meeting Dates

- The **Annual Parish Meeting** and the **Annual Parish Council Meetings** will both take place in May 2019 on dates to be decided.

14. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 13th March 2019 at 7.30pm at School Farm Cottage

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN) DATE: