



LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of Little Maplestead Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at Meadowside, Gestingthorpe Rd, Little Maplestead CO9 2SJ

Attendees: Cllr Crudginton (acting Chair), Cllr Holloway, Cllr Mullineaux, Cllr Pullinger, Clerk P. Sillett
One member of the public: Sally Gifford

1. **Apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr Robins – full council, Cllr Went - funeral
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** All Councillors present agreed that the minutes of the annual Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 and the extra ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 are a true and accurate account of the proceedings of these meetings. **To be signed by Cllr Went.**
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. **None declared.**
4. **County Matters: ECC/Local Highways/Braintree. No reports received.**
5. **District Matters: No reports received.**
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. **Time was given to discuss concerns raised by Sally Gifford regarding excessive lorry movements. This discussion had been notified and agreed prior to the meeting.**
7. **Councillors' Reports:**
 - 7.1 **Lorry Movements:-** residents enquiry received regarding excessive lorry movements into Little Maplestead, noise and light disturbance during the night. Discussion was held outlining the Parish Council's understanding of why there are lorry movements into and out of Little Maplestead delivering to Andrew Notts farm. This was outlined by Cllr Crudginton who had consulted with a representative of Steve Lumley Contractors currently working with an agreed arrangement at the farm. Ms Gifford reported that on one night 50 lorry movements had passed her property heading into the village. Concerns were raised about late-night noise and light pollution as well as eroding road boundaries, impact on water quality as Anglian Water blame heavy loads on corrosion of pipes laid underground, and intermittent internet again due to lorries driving over internet cabling laid under the road. **Clerk to forward Ms Gifford's email to district and county councillors Schwier and Robins. Cllr Holloway to investigate Operating Licenses in place and date of expiry.**
 - 7.2 **Dog Show** preparations:- discussion was held asking when did the date for the dog show get agreed by the Council. Cllr Crudginton advised that he is not available on the 13th. **Clerk** to check with Chair on whether to go ahead or reschedule. **Update:** as all bookings have been made dog show to go ahead on 13th as planned. Planning meeting for Dog Show to be scheduled and advised. **Chair & Clerk.**
 - 7.3 **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, annual inspection completed May 2026. Report to be shared and discussed at this meeting. Annual inspection report circulated prior to the meeting and discussed. Key outcomes:- **Clerk** to email zip wire installation regarding report observation:- *Standard Compliance Finding - It is considered that the runway will have insufficient ground clearance under seat. Task: Modify to give a minimum 350 mm clearance under load. Seat and chain is set at 2.38 m and could be reduced. Refer to manufacturer*
 - 7.4 **Highways:-** Potholes, Hedgerows, Signage. **Cllr Pullinger** reported that she is able to provide the findings of the speed strips used on A131 near Cock Corner. To be emailed to the Parish Council.

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7.5 Financial:-

7.3a Internal Audit – to discuss all points raised as needing attention on the internal audit received. **Clerk** requested that more time be given for Clerk to study the findings of the audit and determine action needed. **Clerk** to email EALC requesting training support for Governance.

7.3b Consider Bridging Software for Accounts & VAT:- Money Manager/Absolute Accounting (Clerk)

7.3c Investigate Lloyds bank accounting software. (Clerk)

7.3d **HW** to investigate restriction on authorising payments.

7.6 **New Parish Councillor:-** Clerk to advise of official notification to BDC. Awaiting response.

7.7 **Web & Social Sites:-** consider moving to Free hosting ref: email received 18/11/25 (Clerk)
Consider updating and replacing existing web site.

7.8 **Defibrillator:-** replacement of batteries. Cllrs agreed that batteries should be replaced by Parish Council for both defibrillators. **Clerk** to proceed with purchase.

8. Parishioner Correspondence:

Ref: Email received regarding intrusive excessive movement of lorries in Little Maplestead – see item 7.1

Ref: Email also received regarding planned rally in 2027. Cllr Crudginton discussed his understanding of the planned proceedings and showed a programme for a similar event being held in Clacton. Event being organised by Hedtec of Sible Hedingham. Clerk to reply to email stating that procedures will be in place to allow residents access and to contact Wayne at Hedtec for more information.

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

10.1 Bank Balance: £12,439.54

10.1.i **Payments:** MD Landscapes £156
Gallagher Insurance £573.76
Service charge June 2026 £4.25
Service charge April 2026 £4.25

H Heelis – internal audit £190
ROSPA Play Safety - £128.40
Service charge May 2026 £4.25

10.3 **Receipts:** £899.18 BDC Street Cleaning Agreement

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

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: PASillett

Mrs P.A. Sillett

Clerk to the Council

Tuesday 21st July 2026

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