

Present: Cllrs Bell, Byatt, Crees, Nixon, C Slodzik, S Slodzik, Symes

In the Chair: Cllr Plater

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also present: District Councillors Heard and St Joseph

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Goody and O'Donnell.

There were also apologies for absence from District Councillor Thompson.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared.

3. Public Forum

Cllr Heard advised that he was in attendance as a member of the public rather than as a Councillor. He stated that as elected public citizens we have the privilege of selecting certain office holders and influencing local public policies. Being a Parish or Town Councillor, you demonstrate that you care about your community and at this level are not being driven by any particular political party. As local leaders I urge you to look slightly further and consider becoming an Independent Candidate for your area at the next District election, to more widely represent your local area as a District Councillor. You would have the opportunity to engage with other Independent Councillors to discuss any issues or concerns through our Independent group; we are not a party, nor will we seek to influence you or your policies, but you will be assured of their full support to demonstrate that you are not alone, and can work with others whatever their political alignment. The group is happy to meet collectively or individually to discuss good practice and common themes. They are seeking Independent candidates who best embody strong local principles to come forward to consider future participation in the political process.

4. District Councillors

Cllr St Joseph reported:

- He had attended a flood related meeting with the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Maldon District Council and Natural England. Tollesbury has better protection in terms of height in comparison to other areas in the District.
- He had also raised concern with Anglian Water regarding the overflowing from the sewerage plant during the summer.
- He would be attending a meeting with Natural England the following day to discuss planning issues.

5. Minutes of the Meetings held on 19th September 2017

Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th September 2017 be approved as a true account of the proceedings of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Nixon, seconded Cllr Byatt.

6. Finance

Monthly Financial Report

The Financial Reports were presented to the Council.

Councillors received the following monthly financial reports:

Bank Reconciliation – Closing balance of £94,883.46 as at 30th September 2017.

Expenditure to date – Budget £88,624 – Actual £51,191

Income to date – Budget £88,624 – Actual £96,222

Earmarked Funds – Closing Balance £26,200.09 – Net movement £10,067.43

Resolved: to approve the finance report. The Chairman signed the reports.

7. Committees

Recreation Ground

In the absence of Cllr Goody, Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee, Cllr Nixon presented the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2017.

8. Tollesbury Harbour Project

a) Update on the project

The Chairman advised at the end of August, a meeting was held with the various Stakeholders and Carol Reid, Consultant Ecologist, to discuss the Tollesbury Harbour Project.

At the meeting, data was available showing the depths of the creeks and the north and south channels. There were two sets of data; one from approx. 15 years ago and the other from 2016. The data indicates that the south channel has considerably silted up and shows the north channel has silted up at the entrance.

At the meeting it was recognised by the Stakeholders that if no dredging is carried out, there will be a serious problem.

The Chairman advised that Carol has worked on various other projects up and down the coastline. Carol would be able to produce a screening report which could be sent to the MMO. This would allow the MMO to view the information and decide whether an environmental assessment would be required for the dredging and reuse proposal.

b) Quotation for screening request

A quotation was received from Carol Reid to carry out a screening request for £1,920.00.

The Chairman advised that the Stakeholders (Tollesbury Marina, FACT, Fairways Committee and Tollesbury Sailing Club) had previously agreed to make a £300 contribution towards an aerial survey. As this survey was no longer required, it was suggested that the funds could be used towards the screening request.

Members felt that as any work being carried out would be of greater benefit to the marine community, the Stakeholders should make a higher contribution with the Parish Council contributing the outstanding balance.

Action: The Chairman to ask the Stakeholders if they would be willing to make a higher contribution to the screening request.

Action: Chairman to report back to the Woodrolfe Hard Committee to seek approval to use some of the funds from the Woodrolfe Hard Earmarked Fund towards the screening request.

It was noted that the quotation from Carol Reid only mentioned the south channel.

Action: Clerk to ask for confirmation that the screening report includes the end of the north channel.

Action: To be included on the next agenda for further discussion.

9. **Woodrolfe Hard**

Cllr Nixon advised that he had spoken to Bonz regarding the maintenance works to be carried out to the area between the harbour wall and the road. Bonz has advised that he does not think that Type 1 compacted would be suitable for the job. Bonz has suggested cementing the holes and adding shingle on the top.

Action: Cllr Byatt to look at alternative solutions.

10. **Woodup Pool**

Resolved: to accept the verbal quotation from Spooner Fencing for £195.00 to replace 5 fence posts at Woodup Pool.

11. **Police**

A response was received from Chief Inspector Ronnie Egan, following the letter sent to her regarding the recent incidents in Tollesbury involving a number of vehicles being scratched with a sharp instrument. Chief Inspector Egan advised that a house to house letter drop had been conducted appealing for witnesses and a CCTV scope was conducted with some business premises identified as having cameras. The footage from the CCTV had been checked but have provided no further information as to the identity of the suspects. The investigation is still open. Since these reports, there have been no further incidents in Tollesbury.

Action: Clerk to write to Chief Inspector Egan to thank her for her reply and request that the Parish Council are updated regarding the open investigation.

12. **Planning**

Applications:

- LBC/MAL/17/00987 PP-06341576 and FUL/MAL/17/00986 PP-06341576
Repairs and extension of former cartlodge to form single dwellinghouse and curtilage
Gorwell Hall Cartlodge, Tollesbury Road – Mr & Mrs Wyatt
Resolved: to recommend approval of the application.

Appeals – None received

Planning decisions from Maldon District Council – None received:

Appeal decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate:

- Appeal ref: APP/X1545/D/17/3180676 – Application ref: HOUSE/MAL/17/00469
Brecknell Cottage, 55 Mell Road – Appeal dismissed.

13. **Administration**

Woodup Pool – The water at the pool was tested on 27th September 2017 with all results coming back satisfactory.

Memorial Tree – Earlier in the year, the Parish Council had agreed that a memorial tree could be planted on land owned by the Parish Council. The proposed tree is a silver birch and following a meeting with Bonz earlier that day, it was suggested the tree could be planted on Woodrolfe Green, away from the existing trees.

Members were happy for a silver birch tree to be planted on Woodrolfe Green.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Bonz.

Hasler Green – The Clerk reported on 30th September 2017 some of the trees in Hasler Road had been cut back to ensure that they were not overhanging a resident's boundary. The resident stated that the height of the tree required reducing as leaves fall from the tree into their drainage system causing them having to maintain the drains.

Action: Clerk to write to resident to notify them that the work was carried by the Contactor as requested and no further works will be carried out.

Actions outstanding from the last meeting:

Recreation Ground – The Clerk confirmed the Litter Contractor had agreed to carry out weekly visual checks of the play equipment and complete the necessary documentation.

Tollesbury Youth Council – The Clerk reported a list of meeting dates of the Youth Council had been requested and she was waiting for the list to be sent through.

Audit – The additional audit day had been arranged for 12th December 2017.

Pavilion – Signing off building regulations.

Action: Chairman to contact Maldon District Council.

Highways – Cllr Bell had advised prior to the meeting that the verge opposite the Parish Rooms had now been cut back.

FACT – Cllr Bell advised that he has spoken to FACT regarding opening and closing the sluice gate once a month during the winter and was waiting for confirmation.

14. **Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items**

Cllr Nixon reported:

- That he had been approached by the owner of Tollesbury Café who was not happy that their business was not included on the Tollesbury Hub sign when there eating establishments were i.e. Marine, The Loft.

Cllr Bell reported:

- Considerations needs to be given to the winter patrols to be carried out by the Rangers. Members agreed the next patrols should be carried out in Station Road and the Recreation Ground.

Action: Clerk to arrange for the patrols to be carried out.

Cllr Byatt reported:

- Mr Butt had kindly cut back the hedges along Church Street. It has, however, identified three exits with no protection onto the highway and lots of litter.

Action: Exits to be discussed by the Recreation Ground Committee at their next meeting.

Action: Clerk to request that the Contractor collects the exposed litter.

15. **Date of the next Meeting**

Thursday 12th October 2017 – Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee (7.30pm)

Tuesday 17th October 2017 – Woodup Pool Committee (7.00pm)

Tuesday 17th October 2017 – Full Council Meeting (8.00pm)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.58pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....