

Present: Cllrs Bell, Crees, Goody, Lankester, Lowther, Nixon, O'Donnell, Slodzik

In the Chair: Cllr Plater

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies of absence from Cllrs Chambers, Cole and Slodzik.

There were also apologies of absence from District Councillors Bamford, St Joseph and Thompson.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

3. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

4. District Councillors

There were no District Councillors present.

5. Minutes of the Meetings held on 4th December 2018

Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th December 2018 be approved as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Nixon, seconded Cllr Lankester. Unanimously agreed.

The minutes were signed by the Chairman

6. Finance

a) Minutes Finance Committee

The Chairman presented the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 5th December 2018.

A summary of the budget had been distributed to members (appendix A).

The Chairman advised that the proposed budget was a decrease of £788.10 compared to 2018/19, which equates to -0.94% and a decrease of £2.21 per household (based on a Band D property).

The fees for 2019/20 were reviewed and fees were increase as follows:

Foot Pitch Hire – increase of £5 per match for the adult teams and £1 increase per match for junior teams. The Woodrolfe Hard (dinghy launching) would increase to £47.50 (inclusive of VAT). The allotments fees to increase as follows £30.00 for a full plot and £20.00 for half a plot. The Cemetery fees would increase (80% of Maldon District Councils fees).

b) Precept 2019/20

Resolved: to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee and set the precept for 2019/20 at £82,680.90. Proposed Cllr Lowther, seconded Cllr Goody. Unanimously agreed.

c) Payments

The items for payment totalling £26,618.72 were presented for approval (Appendix B).

The Clerk reported that £12,245 had been received from Essex County Council – Community Initiatives Fund for the new play equipment, safety surfacing and removal of toddler slide.

Resolved: to approve payments and make online payments.

7. Planning Application and Decisions

Applications:

- FUL/MAL/18/01395 PP-07261246
The Habitat Improvement Project at RSPB Old Hall Marshes has been designed to improve and restore the habitat condition of the marshes for a wide range of internationally important wintering wildfowl and locally important breeding waders and other species. To do this we will create 7,200 square metres of new scrapes (seasonally flooded wetland features), create 3 new islands approximately 120 square metres in size, excavate 610 metres of new footdrains, re-profile 1035 metres of existing footdrain, create 500 metres of bunds across a semi-improved grassland field, and repair and renovate 12 historical but degraded crossing points found in the ancient marshes. Full details can be found in the supporting documents. There is no change of use associated with this proposal, the site will be managed in the same way and for the same purpose after the proposed habitat improvements.
Old Hall Marshes Old Hall Lane Tollesbury Essex
Resolved: to recommend approval of the application. Unanimously agreed.

Appeals:

- There were no planning appeals.

Planning decisions made by Maldon District Council:

- FUL/MAL/18/01170 - 10A Wycke Lane – Approved
- HOUSE/MAL/18/01183 – 39 Thurstable Road – Approved
- LBC/MAL/18/01233 – Monk House, 115 Mell Road – Approved

The Clerk reported the following planning application had been withdrawn:

- TCA/MAL/18/-135 – 24 West Street

Planning decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate:

- None received.

8. Recreation Ground Monthly Inspection Report

The Monthly Inspection Report dated 16/12/18 was received. There were no issues to report.

9. Woodup Pool

The Monthly Inspection Report dated 5/12/18 was received. There were no issues to report.

10. Tollesbury Youth Project

Cllr Chambers was not present at the meeting to provide an update.

The Clerk advised that Cllr Chambers was putting together the paperwork for the Youth Project which would be circulated to Councillors in due course.

11. Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust – Tolfish Hump

Resolved: to renew the Licence Agreement for Tolfish Hump for 2018. Unanimously agreed.

The Chairman signed the Licence Agreement on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Chairman explained that as part of the proposed Gabion Project, it has been suggested that the Licence for Tolfish Hump is extended, as a yearly Licence may not be suitable. FACT is meeting with the Trustees in January and Andrew Eastham will raise the Licence term.

Cllr Crees suggested that the Trustees may wish to consider gifting the small area of land which will be for the access ramp.

Action: Chairman to discuss with Andrew Eastham – FACT.

12. Old Hall Marsh/Tollesbury Wick Marsh

Cllr Lankester had produced a document which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Lankester explained that the current Shoreline Management Plan for the Essex coast indicates that Old Hall Marsh and Tollesbury Wick Marsh are candidates for managed realignment in 2055 (Essex Historic Grazing Marsh Project – Feb 2014). This will in effect mean an area of the sea from West Mersea to the boundary of Mell Farm will result. Initially the remnant of the sea defence embankment will continue to provide shelter but as the seawall erodes away Tollesbury's maritime assets will be fully exposed to the North Sea, which, in effect, would render them unsustainable. Given the current predictions of sea-level rise (Managing the coast in a Changing Clime – Oct 2018) including melting of the Antarctic ice shelf it seems likely this will be brought forward a decade or so.

Councillors agreed that Old Hall Marsh and Tollesbury Wick Marsh were important village assets and expressed support for the concerns raised by Cllr Lankester.

Action: Cllr Lankester to draft a letter to the Environment Agency be presented at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to invite Kieran Alexander, RSPB, along to the next meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the issue further.

13. Police

The police reports were received and noted.

14. Administration

West Street – The Clerk reported she had received an email from Jon Simmons, Essex County Council, who has requested a Local Highways Panel application is submitted for the speeding issue in West Street. To quantify any speeding, Essex County Council would need to carry out an automatic traffic count to gather speed/volume data in West Street.

Action: Clerk to request that the speed survey is carried out 10 metres from the Cemetery gate coming into the village.

Action: Clerk to contact Cllr Durham to request his support with the Local Highways Panel application.

Advertising Parish Magazine

Resolved: to advertise the Pavilion in the Parish Magazine for 2019. The cost for the A6 black and white advertisement would be £65.

Fire and Rescue Plan

Action: Councillors to submit comments to the Clerk by Friday 4th January 2019 to respond to the consultation.

15. Community Concerns

Cllr Crees reported:

- Harbour Wall – As there had been no updated, this needed chasing up.
Action: Clerk to contact Cllr Durham.

Cllr Nixon reported:

- Cemetery – The edging between the path and grassed area needs tidying up again.
Action: Clerk to speak to Contractor.

16. Date of the next Meeting

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be held on:

Tuesday 15th January 2019 – Woodup Pool Committee

Tuesday 15th January 2019 – Full Council Meeting

Thursday 17th January 2019 – Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee

The Chairman wished Councillor a Merry Christmas and thanked them for their hard work throughout the year.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....