

Present: Cllrs Bell, Crees, Nixon, O' Donnell, C. Slodzik, S. Slodzik and Witney

In the Chair: Cllr Plater

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also present: District Councillors Bamford and St Joseph
Joanna Ludlow – Flood Assets Officer, Essex County Council

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies of absence from Byatt, Goody and Symes.

There were also apologies of absence from District Councillor Thompson.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared.

3. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

4. District Councillors

There was no information to report.

5. Where Does the Water Go? Project

Joanna Ludlow, Flood Assets Officer, gave an overview of the responsibilities of the Flood Water Management Team. Joanna explained that the Where Does the Water Go? Project gives the opportunity to identify and map critical ordinary water courses (ditches, culverts etc) and their landowners, as well as educate the community about their riparian responsibilities. This information will assist with the understanding of the local drainage system as well as increase community engagement and where necessary the fire service can assist their volunteer watercourse clearance programme.

The surveys are carried out by volunteers (between 6-10) to collect pieces of data i.e. location, condition and dimensions. The surveys are carried out in the autumn with training provided to the volunteers in September.

Joanna confirmed that the scope was from the centre of the village outward and not the parish boundary.

Cllr Nixon advised there are a number of issues at the bottom end of the village and any flash floods, the watercourses do not cope. Cllr Nixon advised all details of the issues in the village had been forwarded to Shirley Hall, Maldon District Council.

Joanna agreed to contact Shirley Hall at Maldon District Council.

Cllr Nixon reported there are issues with the land to the rear of Tollesbury Sewerage Plant, as part of the ditch is owned by Anglian Water.

Joanna agreed to look into this further and report back to the Parish Clerk.

Joanna advised to progress with the project, the next stage would be to advertise for volunteers.

Action: to be included on the next agenda for further discussion by the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Joanna for attending the meeting to explain the project. Joanna left the meeting.

6. Minutes of the Meetings held on 6th June 2017

Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th June 2017 be approved as a true account of the proceedings of the meeting subject to the following change:

Item 4 to read:

Cllr St Joseph reported the following:

- Kyds.org.uk based in Tiptree are looking for new members.
- Improvements to the A12 – a formal announcement will be made next month but it appears that the A12 access southbound through Kelvedon will be improved.
- The Parish Council's uncertainties regarding Bradwell have been flagged at Maldon District Council and will be taken on board.

The minutes were signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Nixon, seconded Cllr S Slodzik.

7. Finance

Payments and Sign Cheques

The items for payment totalling £11,266.82 were presented for approval (Appendix A).

The Clerk reported:

- The second phase of the streetlight upgrade was complete. Ten streetlights had been upgraded to the new LED units costing £3,500 plus VAT.
- The new accounts package had been installed and the training had been completed which cost £768.90 + VAT.

Resolved: to approve payments.

8. Woodrolfe Hard/Tollesbury Harbour Project

a) Launching Fees – Mr Frost

The Chairman reported that Mr Frost was now working with Fellowship Afloat (FACT) and will be managing the moorings for FACT.

Resolved: to charge Mr Frost £200 for the launching fees. If Mr Frost no longer wishes to use the Hard for launching a fee of £100 will be charged for the time he has used the Hard.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting between Cllr Nixon, herself and Mr Frost.

b) Dredging/Tollesbury Harbour Project

The Chairman explained Cllr St Joseph had been in discussion with Bradwell Marina who have some new dredging kit and would be happy to demonstrate its effectiveness on a small area free of charge.

Cllr St Joseph advised that to keep the channel open, permission requirements would be minimal.

The Chairman stated a further meeting would be arranged with all the stakeholders and the dredging would be discussed.

The Chairman stated it would be an opportunity to gather vital information.

The Parish Council agreed they would like to pursue the option of dredging further.

Cllr Bell provided the Chairman a draft paper on the project which could be included in the Woodup Pool Event Project.

Action: Chairman to finalise information to be included in the event programme.

9. Maldon District Council

The Service Level Agreement for the work with the Maldon District Council Community Protection Team between April 2017 – March 2018 was received. The agreement was signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Bell advised that there would be another Service Level Agreement for the additional work that will be carried out at Woodup Pool during the school holiday period.

10. Passenger Transport

Cllr Bell attended the Passenger Transport meeting held on 12th June 2017. Cllr Bell had prepared a document giving an overview of the meeting which had been distributed to members.

Heddinghams had been awarded the contract for the bus service for the next three years but Cllr Bell expressed concern that either party could give 3 months' notice to terminate the contract at any time. Whilst this will be unlikely according to Heddinghams, it was not seen as being very helpful.

Cllr Bell stated that he felt it was important to develop a relationship with Heddinghams.

Cllr Bell suggested that a 'bus user group' was formed to give a good representation of the views of the village. Such a group could include a representative from the Youth Council and the group would also engage with Heddinghams and Essex County Council.

Action: Cllr Bell to put together a proposal of how the 'bus user group' could be set-up for consideration by the Parish Council at a future meeting.

11. British Telecom

The contract to adopt the two telephone kiosks; outside 95 Mell Road and outside the Hope Inn was received.

Action: Clerk to contact British Telecom to seek clarification on the following:

- Will the telephone kiosks be charged business rates?
- What will the cost be to disconnect the electricity supply to the kiosk?
- Would the Parish Council be able to re-site the kiosk if they wish?

Action: to be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

12. RSPB

The pre-application information on the Hydrology Project at RSPB Old Hall Marshes was received and noted.

Kieren Alexander, Site Manager, had invited Councillors a guided walk around the reserve.

Action: Clerk to arrange a site visit.

13. Police

Cllr S Slodzik reported that there had been a reduction in the numbers of Specials but an increase in full-time Police Officers.

14. Planning

Applications:

- COUPA/MAL/17/00598

Notification for prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for associated operation development.

Barn at Great Downs Farm, Station Road – Mr D Lai

Resolved: to recommend refusal of the application on the following grounds:

- As it is believed that the building has not been used for agricultural use as at 31st March 2015 and this does not meet the criteria for this application.

Appeals: None received.

Decisions made by Maldon District Council: None received.

There were no appeal decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate.

15. Administration

Tollesfest – The Tollesfest organisers would like permission to hold a Tollesfest event at the Recreation Ground on 14th July 2018. Members granted permission for the Recreation Ground to be used for the Tollesfest event in 2018 on the same grounds as previous years.

Bus Shelter – The Clerk advised she was in the process of organising a meeting w/e 3rd July 2017 to discuss the proposal to redesign the bus shelter area should members wish to attend.

16. Community Concerns

Cllr Nixon asked if there was an update on Tollesbury Sailing Club.

Action: Chairman to write to Tollesbury Sailing Club to request the overdue fees are paid.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee.

Cllr O'Donnell reported:

- There is overgrown vegetation at the Accountants on the corner of East Street/New Road. The practice had been approached and had advised this would be cleared w/c 5th June 2017, but this has not been done.

Action: Clerk to write to Accountants to request that the overgrown vegetation is cut bank.

Action: Clerk to bring to the attention of Essex County Council Highways.

Cllr Crees reported:

- There had been a number of vehicles parking along the fencing near the hard the previous weekend making it difficult to launch boats without the risk of damaging the cars. Cllr Cress suggested additional signage was put up.

Cllr Crees left the meeting at 9.20pm.

Cllr Bell reported:

- There had been issues regarding parking and litter down by the pool area.
Litter – The bins are currently being collected 3 times per week by Appletons. Appletons are only contracted to empty the bin, not take rubbish outside the bin. Due to the weather, there had been an increase of visitors to the pool and the bins could not cope of the amount of rubbish that is being generated. There are signs displayed requesting that people take their litter home, but this does not seem to happen.

The Clerk had obtained a quotation from Green Recycling in Maldon who can supply an 1100L bin (approx. 12-14 bags of rubbish) with a collection once a week for £12.99 per week. There would be a delivery charge of the bin of £25 and a collection charge of £25 (at the end of the use).

Resolved: to accept the quotation from Green Recycling providing they are happy to move the bin from the beach area to their collection vehicle.

Cllr Bell explained that once the new bin is in place, the rubbish/litter situation can be monitored but it might be necessary to pay someone to collect the rubbish at the weekend to put in the bin or set-up a volunteer 'Friends of the Pool' group.

Action: Members to take photographs of the litter and forward to the Clerk to build up a log.

Parking – Cllr Bell suggested that the Parish Council ask the Rangers whether the current signage in place for no parking is adequate. The Rangers will be carrying out a patrol and will be able to issue for fines for anyone parking illegally.

The Chairman reported:

- The increase in visitors was also having an effect on FACT as there are a number of children who are entering their land jumping in the creeks. FACT is concerned as this is dangerous as there could be hidden objects in the mud.

17. Date of the next Meeting

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

Tuesday 4th July 2017 – Full Council Meeting – 8.00pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.37pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....