

**Present:** Cllrs Bell, Byatt, Crees, Goody, O'Donnell, Symes and Witney

**In the Chair:** Cllr Plater

**Clerk:** Michelle Curtis

**Also present:** District Cllr Bamford

Adrian Rayner, Community Support Protection Officer – Maldon District Council

Vikki Chambers – Tollesbury Youth Council

Mrs S Carter, Mrs A Finlayson, Mr M Finlayson, Mr M Goddard, Mrs J Goddard, Mr J Heigham, Mr Lankester, Mr B Lawrence and Mr D Legerton

### 1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies of absence from Cllrs Nixon, C Slodzik and S Slodzik.

There were also apologies for absence from District Councillor St Joseph.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Goody declared interests as follows:

- personal interest in respect of agenda item 16, planning application HOUSE/MAL/17/00084, as he has a personal relationship with Mr and Mrs Goddard who are present to discuss the application.

Cllr O'Donnell

- personal and pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 16, planning application HOUSE/MAL/17/00084, as he has a personal relationship with the applicant and has also carried out work for the British Legion of which Mr Lawrence is a Committee member.

Cllr Witney declared an interest as follows:

- personal interest in respect of agenda item 16, planning application HOUSE/MAL/17/00084, as he has a personal relationship with Mrs Lawrence, the applicants wife.

### 3. Public Forum

Mr Goddard spoke in relation to planning application HOUSE/MAL/17/00084. Mr Goddard expressed concern that the proposal would prejudice Maldon District Council's requirements for the conservation area and would change the character of the area. There is also covenants attached to the houses in Churchacre and the proposed conversion of the garage to a dwelling would breach the covenant.

Mr Lawrence, the applicant for HOUSE/MAL/17/00084, advised that his parents who currently reside in Spain own the property. Mr Lawrence lives in the property with his family and the proposal would provide room for his parents to return to England.

The Chairman advised the covenant on the property is a civil issue and not a planning matter.

Mrs Finlayson reiterated the concerns regarding parking around the Parish Rooms/Church Street in her letter that has been submitted to the Parish Council. Mrs Finlayson explained that users of the facility do not use the car park of the Recreation Ground, which results in vehicles parking on Church Street congesting the area. In addition, if lighting was provided and left on, it would attract youth hanging around the car park area. Mrs Finlayson had made a number of suggestions in her correspondence that may help address the matter. Mrs Finlayson

suggested there was signage advising the Recreation ground car park was the responsibility of the Parish Council and a small working party was formed to deal with the issue.

Mrs Carter spoke in relation to the decision taken by the Parish Council that they may consider banning dogs from the Recreation Ground to address the issue of dog fouling. Mrs Carter stated that residents would need to be consulted regarding any ban and felt that the Parish Council were not making the correct decision and had done very little to address the issue. There were also issues with litter, drugs, broken glass and vandalism at the Recreation Ground that have not been addressed by the Parish Council.

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council has been dealing with the dog fouling issue for a number of years:

- Various poster campaigns with Tollesbury Primary School over the years.
- Fundraising events and submission of funding applications to provide a fence around the play area following complaints of dog fouling around the play equipment.
- Various complaints from residents including the football teams who have to clear the pitches before they can play their matches.
- A working partnership with the Rangers to carry out patrols of the village. Patrols cost approx. £30 per hour.
- A Contract is in place for the collection of litter on the Recreation Ground.
- Reports of drugs and vandalism are reported to the Police.

Cllr Crees added that the Parish Council need to balance the interests of the community and steps taken so far are part of a staged consultative process, which could potentially lead to a request to ban dogs from the Recreation ground if the situation does not improve.

#### **4. District Councillors**

Cllr Bamford reported the following:

- As a resident of Woodrolfe Road, it is felt that vehicles parking in the village this acts as a traffic calming measure.
- The Saltmarsh Hub, this could be linked up with the Heritage Trail. It is noted that the heritage signs need cleaning and updating and Cllr Bamford would be happy to help.
- There is a Community Safety Partnership who may be able to assist with the various issues that had been raised drugs, litter etc.

The Chairman advised Mr Heigham had provided information regarding the Heritage Trail.

#### **5. Minutes of the Meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 be approved as a true account of the proceedings of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Goody, seconded Cllr O'Donnell.

Mrs Carter left the meeting.

#### **6. Maldon District Council Community Protection Officers (Rangers)**

Adrian Rayner, from the Maldon District Council Community Protection Team (CPT) (formerly the Rangers) gave an overview of the work undertaken by the Rangers.

Adrian advised that overall the patrols were working well in Tollesbury but it is really important that the village get involved in the Park Watch Scheme and feed intelligence through to the team so patrols are more effective.

The CPT is working in partnership with Essex Police and will undergo training in March to use Trucam-Speeding equipment.

It was reported that a VW Campervan is parking in East Street causing an obstruction. This is an issue for Essex Police and not the CPT.

The District is in the process of applying for a blanket Public Space Protection Order for dog fouling, as dog fouling is an issue throughout the Maldon District.

The Chairman thanked Adrian for attending the meeting.

It was agreed to move to agenda item 11 next.

#### 11. Tollesbury Youth Council

Vikki Chambers gave an update on Tollesbury Youth Council.

The Council are aware of the various issues in the village including dog fouling and drug use/antisocial behaviour.

The Youth Council would like to:

- Arrange a speed awareness campaign and will be working with Tollesbury School to arrange a poster competition.
- Hold an "Ideas Festival" at the Recreation Ground that will provide an opportunity to engage with the young people in the community.
- Arrange a community meeting to discuss the ongoing issue with anti-social behaviour.
- Set-up a number of boxes to give young people an opportunity to report anti-social behaviour and criminal behaviour anonymously.
- The Youth Council will be bag packing in Tesco to raise some funds.

**Action:** Vikki Chambers to provide a proposal on how the Parish Council can further assist the Youth Council in their work.

Vikki thanked the Parish Council for their continued support.

#### 7. Parking Car Park/Recreation Ground

Members had a lengthy discussion regarding the issues with car parking in and around the Parish Rooms and Recreation Ground with various options considered to address the issue.

The main issues with parking in the area are when users of the Parish Rooms park outside the facility and also along Church Street.

**Resolved:** The Parish Council to pay for a light to be installed on the car park side of the Parish Rooms which could be operated by the hirers of the Parish Rooms. It is hoped this would encourage users to park in the car park of the Recreation Ground.

**Action:** Mr Heigham to obtain two quotations for a suitable light.

It was also suggested an A-board could be erected when events are held in the Parish Rooms to notify people that parking is available in the Recreation Ground car park.

**Action:** Mr Heigham to take the suggestion to the Parish Rooms Committee.

**Action:** Clerk to enquire who is responsible for the grass verge opposite the Parish Rooms, as it would provide additional room if it was cleared.

Cllr Symes reported that there were also parking issues at the bottleneck in East Street.

**Action:** Clerk to write to Essex County Council Highways department. Copy to be sent to Cllr Bass.

In the long term, the Chairman advised that parking would also be considered under the Neighbourhood Plan.

## 8. Finance

### Payments and Sign Cheques

The items for payment totalling £5,416.96 were presented for approval.

**Resolved:** to approve payments.

Cllr O'Donnell advised that it had been reported that the Co-operative Bank was up for sale.

**Action:** To monitor.

## 9. Committees

### Environment and Amenity Committee

#### a) Minutes 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Cllr Goody presented the minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

#### b) Streetlight Upgrade – Phase 2

**Resolved:** to upgrade the following streetlights:

Church Street – Outside No. 14

Church Street – Outside No. 44

Church Street – Outside Glebe House

Church Street – By the Recreation Ground

East Street – Opposite Church

East Street – Opposite No 40

West Street – Outside No. 57

West Street – Outside No. 39

West Street – Outside No. 13

Hall Road – Opposite No. 7

**Action:** Clerk to place order with A & J Lighting Solutions.

**Action:** Clerk to request lighting options to replace the streetlight on the bus shelter from A & J Lighting.

## 10. Local Government Pension Scheme

The 2016 Valuation and future rates were received and noted.

The employer contribution rates due as a % of salary will be as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 16.7%

1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 19.2%

1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – 21.7%

## 12. Woodrolfe Green

### a) Car Park

The Chairman reported that he had obtained a quotation for the works to the car park on Woodrolfe Green, which came in at £77,000.

This information has been submitted to Jack Ellum at Maldon District Council and the sum set aside for Tollesbury is about £5,000-£7,000.

It has been suggested that the funds set aside by Maldon District Council could be used to reposition the recycling facilities and level off the mound near the toilet block, which could create additional parking spaces.

The Chairman advised that it could be an option to discuss funding options with Magnox for the bigger project.

## **b) Saltmarsh Coast Hub – Information Board**

Members considered the options for the information board produced by Maldon District Council.

The preferred images from the selection provided by MDC for the information board are as follows:

Walking

The Sail Lofts

Saltmarsh

Wildlife

Tollesbury Marina

Amenity Pool (Cllr Bell to submit image to the Parish Clerk)

The Fellowship Afloat (suggest a new image)

Members would like the following to be included on the information board:

Link up with the Heritage Trail

Tollesbury Sailing Club

**Action:** Clerk to forward comments to Jack Ellum.

It was agreed to move to agenda item **16** next.

## **16. Planning**

Applications:

- HOUSE/MAL/17/00081

Single storey rear extension

5 The Chase – Mrs R Snow

**Resolved:** to recommend approval of the application

In accordance with the declaration declared, Cllr O'Donnell left the meeting.

- HOUSE/MAL/17/00084

Extension and garage conversion to form granny annex

Gransden, 1 Churchacre, Hall Road – Mr B Lawrence

**Resolved:** to recommend approval of the application

Cllr O'Donnell returned to the meeting.

Appeals:

- None received

The following decisions made by Maldon District Council were noted:

- FUL/MAL/16/01430 – Land West of Great Downs Farm, Station Road – Refused
- HOUSE/MAL/16/01319 – Fairwind, 14 Waterworks Road – Approved
- HOUSE/MAL/16/01382 – Danesmead, 43 Wycke Lane - Approved

There were no appeal decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate.

## **13. A12/A120 Consultation**

**Resolved:** to respond to the consultation as follows:

Our residents need good and safe access to the A12 in both directions particularly at the Rivenhall junction near Witham.

The A12 should really be upgraded to motorway standard given that the East of England is a leading economic region. The region is lacking in investment in infrastructure.

Users of the A120 would be better served if the road is straight through with slip off and on junctions to the existing 3 lanes A12 at Marks Tey without any impediments such as roundabouts and traffic stops. The upgrade is long overdue since the last upgrade from M11 to Braintree and therefore the upgrade should be progressed as a matter of priority.

#### 14. RSPB – Little Tern Project

The information was received and noted.

**Action:** Clerk to forward a copy of the agreed management plan to the new RSPB Representative.

#### 15. Police

The Clerk advised that Roger Hirst, The Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex has developed a local case for change in the way Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue service are governed.

There is a public consultation that closes on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

The Clerk advised the public consultation had been advertised.

#### 17. Correspondence

##### a) Mr T Foster – Dog Fouling

The letter was received and noted.

It was suggested that dog fouling be moved for discussion on one of the existing Committees. It was agreed that this would now come under the remit of the Recreation Ground Committee.

#### 18. Administration

Campervan – It has been reported that a VW Campervan is parked on East Street causing an obstruction and not complying with Highways Code Regulations 248 – 250.

**Action:** Clerk to write to the owner to request that the vehicle is moved.

Trends in Marine Activities – The Clerk advised Nicky Spurr, Coastal Officer, had advised that ABPMer have put out a call for information on past and possible future trends in marine activities in the South East (and other) Marine Plan Areas.

**Action:** Clerk to forward to Cllr Crees to respond.

Hasler Green – a request had been received to clean the paths around Hasler green. During the wet weather it has been a slip hazard to walk in the area due to the leaves.

**Action:** the Clerk agreed to sweep the area.

#### 19. Community Concerns

Cllr Bell reported:

- Sluice Gate – he had met with Gary Frost to discuss the seaward side safety grill, which was in need of urgent repair. The work has been completed and will cost approx. £150.
- Woodrolfe Hard – the pool will now be emptied and filled to assist with flushing out the works that are currently being undertaken on Woodrolfe Hard.

The Chairman reported:

- Mersea Harbour Protection Trust (MHPT) – as a Trustee, the Chairman had a meeting of the (MHPT) on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017.  
The MHPT applied to the MMO for a licence for the surcharge and it is hoped this will conclude in approx. 6 months.  
John Brown has contacted the Harwich Haven, regarding the dredging and advised that the Chinese mainly owns the organisation. Due to Brexit the Chinese have had a moratorium to see if they are going to continue with the dredging.  
Alternative funding options to purchase the shingle are also being explored.  
A sounding test had also been carried out in terms of the channels in Mersea. The main channel is closing down and Hallyard Spitway is expanding (area for shallow water increasing). They will be re-buoysing Nass Beacon into Mersea.  
It was suggested that contact could be made with Roger Casper who carried out the sound testing, as he may be able to help Tollesbury with the issues regarding silting up.

**20. Date of the next Meeting**

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

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – Full Council Meeting – 8.00pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....