

Present: Cllrs Chambers, Cole, Lankester, Lowther, Nixon, St Joseph

In the Chair: Cllr Plater

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Bell and Legg

There were also apologies for absence from District Councillor Thompson.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Nixon disclosed interests as follows:

- Personal interest in respect of Agenda item 7.1.3 – Tree Survey, as he has a personal relationship with the owner of Landscape of Change, who has submitted a quotation for the work.

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 21st January 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st January 2020 be approved as a true record of the Meeting subject to the following changes:

Item 9.5.1 paragraph 2 to be changed to:

The Chairman presented an update on the allocation of land.

Item 12.1 additional sentence to be included:

Bulb get their electricity from green energy.

Proposed Cllr Nixon, seconded Cllr Lowther. Unanimously agreed.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

6. Finance

6,1 Monthly Financial Report

The Financial Report was presented to the Council.

Councillors received the following monthly financial reports:

Bank Reconciliation – Closing balance of £81,268.46 as at 31st January 2020.

Expenditure to date – Budget £91,701 – Actual to date £96,169

Income to date – Budget £91,701 (including Precept £82,681) – Actual to date £94,757

Earmarked Funds – Closing Balance £29,315.50 – Net movement -£8,743.31

The Chairman signed the Report.

6.2 To approve Payments

Payments

The items for payment totalling £7,126.60 were presented for approval (Appendix A).

Resolved: to approve payments and make online payments.

7. Planning

Applications are circulated to all Councillors with the agenda, for study ahead of the meeting. Planning documents are also available for everyone to view on Maldon District Council's website and at MDC's offices.

– **Applications:**

There were no planning applications.

– **Appeals:**

There were no planning appeals.

– **Planning Decisions:**

HOUSE/MAL/19/01224 – 73 North Road - **Approved**

FUL/MAL/19/00805 - RSPB Old Hall Marshes Old Hall Lane - **Approved**

FUL/MAL/19/00828 - Playing Field At Tollesbury County Primary School East Street - **Approved**

– **Planning Appeal Decisions:**

There were no planning decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate.

– **Tree Preservation Orders:**

None received.

8. Committees

8.1 Recreation Ground Committee

8.1.1 Update from the Recreation Ground Committee

The Clerk reported she had arranged for the new play equipment to be added to the insurance policy.

8.1.2 Monthly Inspection Report

The Monthly Inspection Report dated 02/02/2020 was received. There were no issues to report.

8.1.3 Tree Survey

The Clerk reported following the last meeting she had requested another quotation but had not received it.

Action: Chairman to chase up quotation.

Resolved: if no additional quotation was obtained by Friday 24th January 2020, to accept the quotation from Landscape of Change for £1,150. Unanimously agreed.

8.2 Environment & Amenity Committee

8.2.1 Update from the Environment & Amenity Committee

Cllr Nixon advised that he had spoken with Tollesbury School regarding the wildflower meadow in the Cemetery. It had also been suggested that the Parish Council talk to the Scouts and the Brownies.

The Clerk reported that she had met the new Cemetery Contractor earlier that day. The new Contractor advised that they did not require the use of the shed.

Action: Clerk to offer the shed free of charge to residents.

Action: Once shed has been removed, notify Maldon District Council so that it can be removed from the Non-Domestic Rates listing.

Cllr Nixon advised that there was an Environment & Amenity Committee Meeting following the Council Meeting.

8.3 Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee

8.3.1 Update from the Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee

Committee Meeting still to be rescheduled.

The Clerk advised a Hard Wash Down was being organised and would advertise once a date had been confirmed.

8.4 Woodup Pool

8.4.1 Update from the Woodup Pool Committee

Cllr Nixon suggested that the water level in the pool is left as low as possible to prevent algae build-up.

Action: Cllr Lowther to speak to Andrew Eastham, Fellowship Afloat.

8.4.2 Safety Check Reports

The Safety Check Reports were received.

Action: Cllr Lowther to remove the black bin bags near the BBQ.

8.5 Neighbourhood Plan

8.5.1 A meeting with Leonie Alpin, Maldon District Council, has been arranged for 11th February 2020.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

9. Consultation

Essex County Council – Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation.

Action: Clerk to respond as follows:

- It is difficult for the Parish Council to be brought in at this late stage. Especially as we are not even listed under partnership working whereas 'local clubs and societies' are.
- Had we been included we would have shared our local knowledge which would have shown you that 'aerial disturbance (page 38) was not the only form of disturbance present in the parish.
- On page 44 (also p102 A10.5) we feel that the discussion of mitigation options is rather limited and your concentration on Maldon should possibly be reviewed. Has not the District Council established Tollesbury as an access hub for the estuary?
- On page 52 under Habitat Creation, your comment that artificial islands 'may' fit in the SMP. From our experience, having the largest artificial island in the Blackwater in the Parish, they do fit in with the SMP so we suggest the word 'may' is removed.
- It is of concern to the PC that the governance of this whole project is still being discussed (p68) with no reference to any feedback from local sources of information. This project is apparently to run until 2038. Might there not be some value to some two-way communication and representation with Parish Councils to ensure that the project remains fit for purpose?

10. 'The Hangout' - Youth Group

Cllr Chambers reported that it is hoped 'The Hangout' will be open by the end of February.

Copies of documentation i.e. insurance, policies will be circulated to Councillors for the next meeting.

'The Hangout' will be run on a Thursday evening for 14-18-year-olds. 'The Hangout' is a Community Partnership with Maldon District Council and the Essex County Council Youth

Services. Speakers will be invited to attend 'The Hangout' to give talks on various issues including drugs and knife crime.

Action: Clerk to notify the Parish Councils insurers that the Pavilion will be used for 'The Hangout' youth group.

11. Climate Change/Sea Level Rise

Cllr Lankester gave an overview of the Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Conference he had attended in January 2020.

A copy of Marine Climate Change Impact Report Card 2020 had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr Lankester stated he was concerned about sea-level rise and asked whether we declare a Climate Change emergency.

As previously agreed, the Climate Change Committee will be discussed at the Parish Council Meeting in March.

12. Police/Community Protection Officers (CPOs)

Police

No new information to report.

13. Administration

Website – The Clerk reminded Councillors that James from Phelan Barker would be presenting the first visual stage of the new website the following evening.

14. Community Concerns – Information Exchange/Next Agenda Items

Cllr Nixon reported:

- Now that the Play Equipment Project was complete, it would be a nice idea to publish a Thank You to all those who donated and supported the project.

Action: Clerk to publish a notice in the Parish Magazine, Website and Social Media.

- The Taylor Trust Charity had met the previous day. Members are currently working on establishing the boundaries and registering the land.

Cllr Lankester reported:

- He was concerned regarding the recent stabbing in Writtle and wondered whether Tollesbury should be concerned.

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council is unable to do anything about this, as it is a public issue across society.

The Clerk reported the Schools are trying to educate children regarding knife crime.

Cllr Chambers advised issues like knife crime will be addressed at 'The Hangout' youth group.

15. Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 18th February 2020 – Planning Meeting (If Required) (7.30 pm)

Tuesday 3rd March 2020 – Full Council Meeting - (7.30 pm)

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.46 pm.

Signed.....

Date