

Present: Cllrs Bell, Clare, Goldie, Hawes, Lowther, Page, Rogers, St Joseph

In the Chair: Cllr Plater - Chairman

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Also Present: District Councillor Stephens
2 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Chambers and Ferneyhough.

There were also apologies for absence from District Councillor Thompson.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Goldie disclosed interests as follows:

- Personal and prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 11, relocation of the toilets at Woodup Pool, as one of the suggested locations for the toilets is on Marina Land, which Cllr Goldie owns.

3. Public Forum

A resident asked whether conservatories with a closed-in roof required planning permission.

The Chairman advised that he understood that it was lawful if it was within the size of permitted development or had been there for over ten years. However, he suggested that the resident seek clarification from Maldon District Council.

4. County Councillors and District Councillors

There was no new information from District Councillor Stephens.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1st November 2022

Resolved: the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st November 2022 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed Goldie, Seconded Cllr Hawes. Unanimously agreed.

The Chairman signed the Minutes.

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications received from Maldon District Council.

6.2 Planning Decisions

HOUSE/MAL/22/00928 – 11 Mell Road – Approved

TCA/MAL/22/00995 - 51 East Street – Approved

6.3 Planning Appeals – None received

6.4 Planning Appeal Decisions – None received

6.5 Tree Preservation Orders for information – None received

7. Climate Change

7.1 Climate Change

The Chairman reported that Tollesbury Climate Partnership (TCP) held an event the previous Friday to celebrate their first year. There were between 50-60 people who attended the event.

Cllr Clare reported that he had attended an Essex County Council Climate Change Conference, and Tollesbury is recognised as being very active and at the forefront in Essex. Cllr Clare advised that other parishes are requesting the help of TCP to set up groups in their parishes.

Councillors acknowledged the fantastic work of TCP. Tollesbury is very lucky to have a very enthusiastic and skilled team.

7.2 The Queen's Green Canopy "Tree of Trees" Tree Gifting

7.2.1 Notification from Tollesbury Climate Partnership that they have been chosen as one of the recipients of a tree from The Tree of Trees Living Sculpture that stood outside Buckingham Palace in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was received and noted.

The Chairman reported three hundred and fifty trees were used for the Tree of Trees Living Sculpture. Eight trees were given to Essex, one of which was gifted to Tollesbury.

7.2.2 Councillors, via email, had agreed for the tree to be planted at the Recreation Ground. Cllr St Joseph advised that as the tree is a small hazel, TCP felt it would be better to plant the tree at the Cemetery as it would be less likely to be damaged.

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to grant permission for the tree gifted from the Tree of Trees Living Sculpture project to be planted at the Cemetery on 3rd December 2022 at 1.00 pm.

Cllr Clare advised that the Lord Lieutenant could not attend the planting event, but Julie Fosh, Deputy Lieutenant, agreed to participate.

Cllr St Joseph reported that representatives from all youth groups would put an emblem on the tree.

7.3 Essex Wildlife Trust

The information on the Essex Wildlife Trust project was received and noted, and Councillors agreed to sign up for the project.

Action: Clerk to sign-up on behalf of the Parish Council.

8. Cemetery Contract

The Clerk reported that eight Contractors had requested a copy of the work specification for the Cemetery contract. One only contractor had submitted a quote which was D W Maintenance.

Resolved: agreed to appoint D W Maintenance as the Contractor for Tollesbury Cemetery at £6,700 per annum. The contract would run from 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2025. Proposed Cllr Clare, seconded Cllr Lowther. Unanimously agreed.

DW Maintenance currently has the contract for the Cemetery, and Councillors were extremely happy with their high standard of work.

9. Allotments

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to accept the quotation (estimate no 1088) from Bonz Cairey for work at the Allotments totalling £1,710.00.

10. Electricity Charges

The notifications from Bulb (Pavilion) and Npower (streetlights) that the energy prices will decrease under the Government Energy Bill Relief Scheme were received and noted.

The charges for the supply of electricity to the Pavilion (Bulb) are as follows:

	Until 30 th September 2022	Price from 1 st October 2022	Energy Bill Relief Scheme Discount
Electricity day unit rate	68.849p	30.359p	38.490p
Electricity night unit rate	39.586p	17.455p	22.131p

The reduced charges for the streetlights (Npower) are to be confirmed. Since 2021, the cost of electricity for the streetlights has significantly increased

Average Monthly Charge 2021/22	Average Monthly Charge April – September 2022	Monthly Charge as per October 2022 Invoice
£71.50	£291.00	£378.25

In accordance with the declaration disclosed, Cllr Goldie left the meeting.

11. Relocation of Toilets – Woodup Pool

Councillors discussed the three options as agreed at the last meeting.

- 1) Leave the toilets where they are
- 2) On adjacent Marina Land
- 3) On Parish Council land near the fence of the Marina

After a lengthy discussion, Councillors agreed on the following:

- Options 2 and 3 are not feasible. The Parish Council would not be comfortable spending public money to relocate in these areas as it would also mean entering into a further agreement with the Marina for access.
- The Parish Council to progress option 1 – leave the toilets where they are.
- The Parish Council is open to negotiations with Frost and Drake to resolve the access issues.

Action: Cllr Clare and the Clerk to meet with the landowner to progress.

Cllr Goldie returned to the meeting.

12. Administration

Kissing Gate – The Clerk reported that the work to the kissing gate at the footpath near the sewerage works had been completed. She had received several positive comments from residents.

13. Community Concerns

Cllr Lowther reported:

- It has been brought to his attention that there is a blocked drain near the junction of Mell Road/Crescent Road. He had advised the resident to report the issue to Essex County Council via their online reporting tool.

Cllr Clare reported:

- Unfortunately, there had been some minor damage to the bird hide. A resident has kindly agreed to carry out the repairs, and Essex Wildlife Trust will supply the materials.

14. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Resolved: Due to the confidential personnel and contractual nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting would be closed to the press and the public.

The Clerk left the meeting.

15. Employment Matters

Councillors carried out an annual review for the Clerk – (confidential report 02-22/23).

16. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Resolved: to open the meeting to the press and public

The Clerk returned to the meeting.

17. Dates of the Next Meetings

Tuesday 6th December 2022 - Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm – Pavilion

Wednesday 7th December 2022 – Finance Committee – 7.30 pm – Pavilion

Tuesday 20th December 2022 - Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm – Pavilion

Tuesday 10th January 2023 - Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm – Pavilion

Tuesday 17th January 2023 - Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm – Pavilion

Tuesday 17th January 2023 – Environment & Amenity Committee – Following Full Council Meeting – Pavilion

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.59 pm.

Signed.....

Date