

**Those present:**

Cllr Hawes (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Bell  
Cllr Clare  
Cllr Ferneyhough  
Cllr Gilbert  
Cllr Goldie  
Cllr Inwood  
Cllr Page  
Cllr Rogers  
Cllr St Joseph  
Michelle Curtis (Parish Clerk/RFO)  
District Councillor Stephens  
3 members of the public

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Plater and District Councillor Thompson.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Gilbert declared a personal interest concerning agenda item 12, Funding Request from Tollesbury Creative Group.

**3. Public Forum**

The Clerk advised that there were no requests from residents to address the Parish Council.

**4. County Councillor and District Councillors**

The report from Cllr Stephens was received and noted.

Cllr Stephens presented her report and reported the following:

- The Local Highways Panel had been relaunched, and she had been advised that there was no money for Tollesbury in the current financial year. Cllr Stephens would be discussing this further with Cllr Durham
- The village entry sign and 30mph had been reinstated, although the sign is broken. Cllr Stephens advised that she would be raising this with Cllr Durham.  
It was reported that the speed limit signage as you exit the village has faded.  
**Action:** Clerk to report to Essex County Council.
- 20mph sign outside the school - Cllr Stephens advised that she had been informed that a competition was held at the school to design a poster/sign to be added onto the bottom of the 20mph sign. The competition has been judged, and a design has been selected. Cllr Stephens stated that she felt it was an opportunity missed to publicise the new 20mph speed limit.  
**Action:** Clerk to ask the school if she could have a copy of the winning design to publish on the Parish Council's social media.
- Waste and Refuse Collections – Cllr Stephens advised that Maldon District Council (MDC) has announced that there will be changes to the waste/refuse

days. With effect from 23rd July 2024, the waste for Tollesbury will be collected on a Tuesday rather than a Friday.

- Hedingham/Bus Service – A meeting is being arranged for all parties, including Lewis & Scott, Hedingham Buses, MDC, Essex County Council, and the Parish Council. The meeting will be held to discuss the possibility of 1) providing a waiting area for the buses on the access road to the sewerage works and 2) providing additional services in the village.

Cllr Clare stressed the importance of consulting with the village.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Cllr Durham regarding a representative from ECC attending the meeting.

## 5. Minutes

**Resolved:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Page, seconded Cllr Bell. Unanimously agreed by those who attended.

The Vice-Chair signed the Minutes.

## 6. Finance

### 6.1 Monthly Financial Report

The Financial Reports as of the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 were presented to the Council (Appendix A).

Councillors received the following monthly financial reports:

**Bank Reconciliation** – The closing balance of £127,693.65

**Expenditure to date** – Budget £132,720 - Actual to date £14,352

**Income to date** – Budget £132,720 (including Precept £118,257) actual to date £69,126

**Earmarked Funds** – Closing balance £24,932.07 - Net movement £10,505

The Clerk reported:

- £59,128.50 received from Maldon District Council (MDC) for the first instalment of the precept. As the payment from MDC was late, a further payment of £82.21 was received for the interest.

The Vice-Chair and Cllr Clare signed the Reports.

### 6.2 Payments

The items for payment totalling £9,454.91 were presented for approval (Appendix B).

**Resolved:** Unanimously agreed to approve the payment schedule, including online payments.

## 7. Recreation Ground

### 7.1 Monthly Inspection Report

The Monthly Inspection Report dated 29/05/24 was received. It was noted that the repairs to the skate park had been completed.

### 7.2 Quotation - Skate Park Painting

To be deferred to the next meeting.

**Action:** Clerk to obtain additional quotations.

## **8. Environment & Amenity (Allotments, Burial Ground, Hasler Green, Woodrolfe Green, Streetlight, Dog/Litter Bins, Highways, Footpaths)**

### **8.1 Draft Minutes**

The draft minutes of the Environment & Amenity Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were received and noted.

Cllr Clare reported that the streetlight at Mell Road/Wycke Lane junction was staying on.

The Clerk advised that this streetlight had been reported to Essex County Council.

**Action:** Clerk to raise with Cllr Durham.

### **8.2 Quotation – Woodrolfe Green**

**Resolved:** Unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from Bonz Cairey Ltd for £330 + VAT for repairs to the car park at Woodrolfe Green.

**Action:** Clerk to request that Bonz re-concrete some of the leaning wooden bollards.

## **9. Woodrolfe Hard**

The letter from residents requesting that the Parish Council reconsider their decision to increase the fees at Woodrolfe Hard was received and noted.

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Clare, who is on the Finance and Policy Committee, advised that when setting the fee, Councillors considered the cost pressures being faced by everyone in these challenging times. Those factors and the upkeep costs and practical issues at The Hard and elsewhere across the Parish were uppermost in mind when setting the fee at a level that we have judged to be fair to all ratepayers in Tollesbury. We carried out a thorough review of all the services and amenities we provide. We did so against a backdrop of rising costs, not least for energy and for the provision of essential services by commercial contractors. Increases in licences and fees have become inevitable to keep the Tollesbury Parish component of the Maldon Council Tax as low as possible.

The Finance and Policy Committee prepared the budget and the fees for 2024/25, which were presented to the Full Council and were approved.

On behalf of the Finance and Policy Committee, Cllr Clare had prepared a draft response (Appendix C) to the residents, which had been circulated to the Full Council for consideration.

Councillors unanimously agreed with the draft response, and the Clerk was instructed to send the letter.

The correspondence will be taken into account by the Finance and Policy Committee when setting the budget and fees for 2025/26.

A resident left the meeting.

## **10. Woodup Pool**

### **10.1 Verbal Update**

The Vice-Chair, who is also the Chair of the Woodup Pool Committee, reported the following:

- The pool has been looking good since the recent working party.

- A period is being entered when the tides are not very high, and the empty/fill schedule will be tweaked to get the best fill of the pool possible. The pool may not be filled as high as would be liked.
- It is likely that the pool will be flushed this week.

## 10.2 Quotation – Litter Bin

**Resolved:** Unanimously agreed to the expenditure of £350 towards purchasing a replacement litter bin.

## 11. Maldon District Council – New Road Naming

**Resolved:** Unanimously agreed to support the proposal from MDC to name the Saltmarsh Development (62 New Road) Osborne Place.

## 12. Funding Request

The request from Tollesbury Creative Group for funding towards the Tollesbury Arts Trail Event to be held on 28th September 2024 was received and noted.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Cllr Durham, who advised that he has some funds available in his Locality Fund budget.

**Action:** Clerk to suggest to the Tollesbury Creative Group that they apply to Cllr Durham.

**Action:** Clerk to suggest to the group that they also consider exploring local sponsorship of their event.

**Action:** Cllr Stephens to also see if any funding opportunities are available at MDC.

## 13. Crimestoppers

**Resolved:** Unanimously agreed to support the Crimestoppers initiative in Tollesbury. The campaign would raise awareness of the service.

Cllr Gilbert will work with Cllr Stephens to liaise with Crimestoppers and their poster/leaflet campaign.

## 14. Police Reports

The Police Reports (confidential) were received and noted.

## 15. Maldon District Council Community Engagement Team (formerly the Community Protection Officers - CPOs)

The report for April 2024 was received and noted.

## 16. Administration

RCCE Essex Village of the Year and Rural Community Awards 2024 – The Clerk confirmed that the nomination forms have been submitted to the RCCE.

## 17. Community Matters

Cllr Bell reported:

- Some drains in East Street are still blocked. This is a long-term outstanding issue.

**Action:** Clerk to raise with Cllr Durham

Cllr Gilbert reported:

- At the 'Meet Your Councillor' session held on the previous Saturday, a resident reported that there is a large pipe which can be seen in the ditch

running through the Lewis & Scott site and under the road. The pipe was encased in concrete, which has now been removed.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Lewis & Scott to request information as to whether everything is as should be with the pipe as observed by a resident.

Cllr Clare reported:

- Unveiling of the plaque and D-Day Celebrations - On Thursday, 6th June 2024, at 8.45pm, the plaque marking the Coronation of His Majesty the King will be unveiled by Tollesbury Youth Club. Members of the Royal British Legion will also be in attendance. Parish Councillors are all welcome to attend. Those present will then move onto St Mary's Churchyard at 9.00pm for the service, proclamation and wreath laying. At 9.15pm, the beacon will be lit to coincide with commemoration across Britain and at the British Normandy Memorial in Normandy.

## **18. Dates of the Next Meetings**

Full Council Meetings

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – 7.30pm – Pavilion

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 - 7.30pm – Pavilion

Committee Meetings

Woodrolfe Hard Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – 7pm in the Pavilion

Woodup Pool Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – 6pm at Woodup Pool

Environment & Amenity Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – 7pm in the Pavilion

Finance & Policy Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 7pm in the Pavilion

The Vice-Chair closed the meeting at 8.48pm.

Date: 02/06/2024

Tollesbury Parish Council Current Year

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Time: 10:17

**Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/05/2024  
for Cashbook 1 - Tollesbury Bank Accounts**

User: MICHELLE

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Current Account 1	31/05/2024		58,924.74
Deposit Account	31/05/2024		507.83
Coop Current Account 2	31/05/2024		193.92
Petty Cash	31/05/2024		2.59
Unity Current Account	31/05/2024		16,715.53
Unity Instant Access Saver Acc	31/05/2024		51,274.04
			<u>127,618.65</u>
<b><u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u></b>		<b><u>Amount</u></b>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			127,618.65
<b><u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u></b>			
26/05/2024 FP		75.00	
			<u>75.00</u>
			127,693.65
		<b>Balance per Cash Book is :-</b>	<b>127,693.65</b>
		<b>Difference is :-</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Signatory 1:**

Name ..... Signed ..... Date .....

**Signatory 2:**

Name ..... Signed ..... Date .....

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<u>Account</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Net Transfers</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
320 EMR Amenities	1,521.60	-795.00	726.60
322 EMR Recreation Ground	2,480.71	4,000.00	6,480.71
323 EMR Community Support/Minor Pr	1,298.00	1,300.00	2,598.00
324 EMR Woodup Pool	4,014.79	3,000.00	7,014.79
325 EMR Pavillion Project	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
327 EMR Neighbourhood Plan	2,309.01	2,000.00	4,309.01
329 EMR Woodrolfe Hard	1,552.96		1,552.96
333 Tollesbury Harbour Project	250.00		250.00
	<u>14,427.07</u>	<u>10,505.00</u>	<u>24,932.07</u>

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/05/2024

## Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>100 Wages</u>							
Wages :- Indirect Expenditure	8,473	62,403	53,930	0	53,930	13.6%	0
Net Expenditure	(8,473)	(62,403)	(53,930)				
<u>110 Administration</u>							
1076 Precept	59,129	118,257	59,129			50.0%	
1080 Bank Interest Received	4	250	246			1.6%	
1160 Other Income	82	0	(82)			0.0%	
1200 Grants Received	0	2,950	2,950			0.0%	
Administration :- Income	59,215	121,457	62,242			48.8%	0
4100 Audit Fees	0	750	750		750	0.0%	
4110 Bank Charges	0	100	100		100	0.0%	
4120 Insurance	0	4,087	4,087		4,087	0.0%	
4130 Miscellaneous	5	300	295		295	1.6%	
4140 Office Allowance	267	1,600	1,333		1,333	16.7%	
4150 Photocopier	274	700	426		426	39.1%	
4160 Postage	0	40	40		40	0.0%	
4170 Stationery	3	60	57		57	5.1%	
4180 Subscriptions	1,288	2,500	1,212		1,212	51.5%	
4190 Telephone	92	600	508		508	15.3%	
4200 Training	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4210 Website	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	0.0%	
Administration :- Indirect Expenditure	1,928	12,237	10,309	0	10,309	15.8%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	57,287	109,220	51,933				
<u>120 Amenities</u>							
1100 Allotments Income	0	1,333	1,333			0.0%	
Amenities :- Income	0	1,333	1,333			0.0%	0
4130 Miscellaneous	239	750	512		512	31.8%	
4250 Allotments	0	750	750		750	0.0%	
4260 Hasler Green	33	400	367		367	8.3%	

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/05/2024

## Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
4270 Rangers	0	1,650	1,650		1,650	0.0%	
4280 Woodrolfe Green	56	670	614		614	8.3%	
4420 Maintenance	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	0.0%	
Amenities :- Indirect Expenditure	328	5,220	4,892	0	4,892	6.3%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(328)	(3,887)	(3,559)				
<u>130 Cemetery</u>							
1110 Fees	7,560	5,155	(2,405)			146.7%	
Cemetery :- Income	7,560	5,155	(2,405)			146.7%	0
4130 Miscellaneous	0	100	100		100	0.0%	
4310 Contract	583	6,700	6,117		6,117	8.7%	
4330 Water/Sewage Rate	158	150	(8)		(8)	105.2%	
4340 Rates	94	450	356		356	21.0%	
Cemetery :- Indirect Expenditure	836	7,400	6,564	0	6,564	11.3%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	6,724	(2,245)	(8,969)				
<u>140 Pavilion</u>							
1120 Hire Charge	70	75	5			93.3%	
Pavilion :- Income	70	75	5			93.3%	0
4330 Water/Sewage Rate	0	350	350		350	0.0%	
4400 Cleaning Items	26	60	34		34	43.8%	
4410 Electricity	115	1,500	1,385		1,385	7.7%	
4420 Maintenance	0	300	300		300	0.0%	
Pavilion :- Indirect Expenditure	141	2,210	2,069	0	2,069	6.4%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(71)	(2,135)	(2,064)				
<u>150 Projects</u>							
4500 Amenities	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	0.0%	2,295
4520 Pavilion Project	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	0.0%	
4530 Recreation Ground	0	4,000	4,000		4,000	0.0%	
4540 Woodup Pool	0	3,000	3,000		3,000	0.0%	
4560 Neighbourhood Plan	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4610 Unallocated Sum	0	1,300	1,300		1,300	0.0%	
Projects :- Indirect Expenditure	0	12,800	12,800	0	12,800	0.0%	2,295
Net Expenditure	0	(12,800)	(12,800)				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	2,295						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	2,295						

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/05/2024

## Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>160 Rec Ground</u>							
1130 Pitch Fees	469	3,000	2,531			15.6%	
Rec Ground :- Income	<u>469</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>2,531</u>			15.6%	<u>0</u>
4310 Contract	800	9,585	8,785		8,785	8.4%	
4420 Maintenance	0	3,500	3,500		3,500	0.0%	
4710 Pitch	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
Rec Ground :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>800</u>	<u>13,585</u>	<u>12,785</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12,785</u>	5.9%	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(331)</u>	<u>(10,585)</u>	<u>(10,254)</u>				
<u>180 Street Light</u>							
4410 Electricity	735	4,000	3,265		3,265	18.4%	
4420 Maintenance	105	1,000	895		895	10.5%	
Street Light :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>839</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>4,161</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,161</u>	16.8%	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>(839)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(4,161)</u>				
<u>190 Woodrolfe Hard</u>							
1110 Fees	1,813	1,700	(113)			106.6%	
Woodrolfe Hard :- Income	<u>1,813</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>(113)</u>			106.6%	<u>0</u>
4130 Miscellaneous	0	350	350		350	0.0%	
4730 Rent	0	585	585		585	0.0%	
Woodrolfe Hard :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>935</u>	<u>935</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>935</u>	0.0%	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>1,813</u>	<u>765</u>	<u>(1,048)</u>				
<u>200 Woodup</u>							
4270 Rangers	0	440	440		440	0.0%	
4310 Contract	23	270	248		248	8.3%	
4420 Maintenance	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	0.0%	
4700 Toilet	520	2,250	1,730		1,730	23.1%	
4760 Litter Collection	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4770 Water Testing	0	400	400		400	0.0%	
Woodup :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>543</u>	<u>5,360</u>	<u>4,818</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,818</u>	10.1%	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>(543)</u>	<u>(5,360)</u>	<u>(4,818)</u>				
<u>210 S137 Expenditure</u>							
4800 Donations	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	0.0%	
S137 Expenditure :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,500</u>	0.0%	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,500)</u>	<u>(1,500)</u>				

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/05/2024

## Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>220 Other</u>							
4850 Agency Services	465	3,720	3,255		3,255	12.5%	
4860 Advertising	0	350	350		350	0.0%	
Other :- Indirect Expenditure	465	4,070	3,605	0	3,605	11.4%	0
Net Expenditure	<u>(465)</u>	<u>(4,070)</u>	<u>(3,605)</u>				
Grand Totals:- Income	69,126	132,720	63,594			52.1%	
Expenditure	14,352	132,720	118,368	0	118,368	10.8%	
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>54,774</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(54,774)</u>				
plus Transfer from EMR	2,295						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>57,069</u>						

**TOLLESBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL**

**June 2024**

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Invoice No/Ref	Expenditure Detail	Amount
<b>CO-OPERATIVE BANK - CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>					
31.05.24	D/D	Utility Warehouse	197395311	Parish Phone	£55.16
01.06.24	D/D	Maldon District Council		Non-Domestic Rates - Cemetery	£48.00
15.06.24	D/D	A & J Lighting Solutions	38323	Monthly maintenance	£67.92
<b>CO-OPERATIVE ACCOUNT - ACCOUNT No. 2</b>					
11.05.24	D/C	B&M		Cleaning supplies	£13.24
13.05.24	D/C	Imperative Traing Ltd (Defib Shop)		Battery Defib - Fire Station	£286.20
14.05.24	D/C	Morrisons		Refreshments Meeting with MDC	£4.80
15.05.24	D/C	Adobe	IEE202405552334	Adobe Monthly Subscription	£16.64
24.05.24	D/C	Staines & Bright		Cleaning supplies	£18.29
<b>UNITY TRUST BANK - CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>					
04.06.24		Wages		Staff Wages	£3,134.38
	Online	HMRC		Tax & NI - May 24	£1,157.52
	Online	Essex Pension Fund		Employee and Employer Contributions - June	£955.15
	Online	D W Maintenance	2573	Cemetery Contract	£558.33
			2574	Grounds Maintenance	£912.08
	Online	Viking Skips	1824	Civic Amenity Skip	£186.00
			1841	Civic Amenity Skip	£186.00
	Online	Neil Foakes	802	Repairs to fence Woodrolfe Green	£50.00
			803	Repairs to soffits & fascia boards - Store Shed	£140.00
	Online	Bonz Cairey Ltd	5120	Repairs to pot holes - Car Park Recreation Ground	£216.00
			5121	Clearnce of rubbish - Allotments	£132.00
			5125	Install King Charles II Plaque on Pavilion	£30.00
	Online	Wave	13598071	Water and Sewerage - Pavilion	£153.99
	Online	Wave	13598336	Water - Allotments	£73.61
	Online	The Centre	PH2410	Hall Hire - Annual Assembly	£42.00
	Online	Phelan Barker	INV-4844	Website - 6 Month Maintenance	£210.00
	Online	Maurice Howard		Internal Audit 2023/24	£300.00
	Online	Gamart Engineerig	241484	Repairs to skate park	£406.80
	Online	Clover Electrical Services Ltd	9655	Install new defib cabinet - Fire Station	£100.80
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>£9,454.91</b>

<b>Payment Breakdown</b>	
Tollesbury Current Account	£171.08
Tollesbury A/c No. 2 Debit Card	£339.17
Unity Trust Bank	£8,944.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£9,454.91</b>



Our ref: TPC/809-24/MC  
Date: 5th June 2024

Dear Rob,

Thank you for your communication about the licence fee for keeping a dinghy on The Hard.

You have raised an important matter. However, the Parish Council cannot comment on the costs of services provided elsewhere. Each authority needs to gauge the value it places on specific amenities for the public and consider whether the sums charged are realistic and fair. In that context, we believe that 20p a day to keep a boat on The Hard for a year represents excellent value for money.

When setting the fee, Councillors considered the cost pressures being faced by everyone in these challenging times. Those factors and the upkeep costs and practical issues at The Hard and elsewhere across the Parish were uppermost in mind when setting the fee at a level that we have judged to be fair to all ratepayers in Tollesbury.

We undertook a thorough review of all the services and amenities we provide. We did so against a backdrop of rising costs, not least for energy and for the provision of essential services by commercial contractors. Increases in licences and fees have become inevitable, to keep the Tollesbury Parish component of the Maldon Council Tax as low as possible.

For example, we have had to increase fees for allotments, burial plots and football teams. In our judgement, it is right and fair that users of the waterfront contribute too. For the time being, there are no plans to charge users to launch and recover craft using The Hard, but we firmly believe that those who wish to keep a boat there year-round should pay their way.

Safety has a priority, as you will readily agree. We cover the costs of signage – including speed limit signs on the waterfront and warnings to help to draw attention to the risks of accidental interaction between boaters and swimmers.

Incidentally, all of us fully endorse your priority to encouraging younger users to get afloat. We are aware of the excellent support being given to them by members of Tollesbury Sailing Club, where dinghies and craft can be kept safely. Indeed, it is pleasing to see so many adults and young people using The Hard to launch and recover their boats, at no cost whatsoever.

Meanwhile, to assist in keeping moored craft clear of the launching area, we have procured a new mooring buoy for The Hard. At Woodup Pool we have managed to



**TOLLESBURY**  
PARISH  
COUNCIL

obtain sponsorship for new lifebuoys, but the Parish Council must pay for water testing, seasonal lavatories, waste collection and the re-provision of clean sand.

As you rightly acknowledge, it is important to deter the use of The Hard as a dumping ground for damaged and unusable craft. Aside from the loss of revenue, neglected boats obstruct The Hard – especially in onshore winds – and reduce the available space for launching and recovering dinghies and boards.

We gratefully acknowledge the important support of volunteers (some of whom are co-signatories of your email) in managing the clearance of several derelict hulls in the past months. Were it not for their generous contributions in kind, the Parish Council would have had to employ a contractor to do the work, and we would have had to pass on the cost of that in the form of an even higher annual charge.

Members of the all-volunteer Hard Committee (Parish Councillors and others who step forward) have also continued the work that has been undertaken by them over the past few years, aimed at improving the dinghy mooring facilities and extending the space available for launching and recovering craft. Councillors are extremely grateful to you and your co-signatories for your expression of willingness to continue to lend a hand on these and other practical tasks as and when the need arises.

In sum, the decision to increase the annual fee for parking a dinghy was not taken lightly. Considering your representation, we have reviewed the position and remain confident that the option for people to keep a dinghy on The Hard is a unique benefit and that the licence fee represents strong value for money.

Your correspondence will be taken into account by the Finance and Policy Committee when setting the budget for 2025/26.

Thank you for writing. Please convey this reply to those who co-signed your letter, together with the warm gratitude of the Parish Council.

Yours sincerely

*M. Curtis*

Michelle Curtis  
Clerk to the Council

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