

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at the Pavilion on 11th March 2025 at 8pm

Present:

Councillor D Collins, (Chairman), Councillor C Knapman (Vice Chairman), Councillor M Davis, Councillor L Holt, Councillor E Miles, Cllr R Siddal, and the Clerk. Mike Eldridge Chairman from the EALC, Danielle Frost RCCE and 5 members of the public.

24/94 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received as all councillors were present.

RESOLVED: that the apologies for absence be accepted.

24/95 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 28th January 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24/96 Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that they are required to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests or Non-Pecuniary Interests which they know they might have in terms of business on the agenda. They were also reminded that they will need to repeat their declarations at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if required under the Code of Conduct which took effect in July 2022. Further they were reminded that unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

There were no interests declared.

24/97 Maldon District/County Councillor Update

District Councillor R Siddall was unable to attend the meeting

Changed meetings to accommodate

Long standing planning issue on Lea Lane, progressed, extended from 1 static caravan to 8 and building a large building with no planning permission. MDC just progressing enforcement. As of last week two enforcement notices served; planning contravention notice, no building and temporary stop on structure being built. Must respond in 21 days to PCN. Finally MDC are doing what they should. Slow long process, two months. Owners dealing with planning consultant.

The update was noted,

24/98 Sole Managing Trustee Status of the Pavilion

Charity sits as one body custodian trustees hold title. This bit of land and the other bit of land 1946 deed. Charity did vest in the official custodian is the Charity Commission. Council would become sole managing trustee.

Charity commission see councils as becoming SMT is last resort as there is a conflict of interest. Although you keep separate, eg separate meetings, separate bank accounts, when sitting as a sole trustee make best decisions for charity even though you know background. Can be quite difficult if there is a strong trustee. Best meet just before. Meetings closed to public and press. Could welcome people in if they are interested. Don't publish minutes or agenda. Follow similar process for financial control. Additional work. Decide who is going to be responsible. If Clerk pay from council or pay from charity. Consider there are man hours to allocate. Council would need to meet to confirm the council is willing. Have a public meeting to ask more trustees to come forward. This has been done. Charity commission want to see that done within the last 6 months. Needed as removing power from the public, the corporate body becomes the trustee. Hold public meeting, agree to move forward, prepare resolution as part of charity's act, upload to charity commission website. Process of transference to go after that eg change bank accounts, insurance etc, Then require governing document to remove clauses re election of trustee. Then upload to charity commission, The amendment will sit with the original governing documents. DF has transposed docs into Word. Then we move down the process provided council is willing. If refuse the dissolution clause would come into play. Value property and land funds given to like minded charity. Complicated process managed by the charity commission.

PMC must hold another public meeting, removing power to elect from the people. PMC hold this meeting. DF can support at a cost.

Give notice of meeting – hold meeting. Perhaps happening in May.

Neither bits of land have not been registered with the Land Registry. If staying with the same ownership no a barrier. DF to confirm.

DF will send quote for support service. Will also send the notice template and fill in dates.

Accounts over £25k need to undergo an audit, complete an annual return and complete a Trustee Annual Report

Different legislation Charity Law/Charity Act.

Would need a working committee, who will take on the work of the charity.

24/99 Public Participation Session

A member of the public enquired speed cameras to be on next meeting

A member of the public requested

RESOLVED: that the

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24/99 Planning

The Council considered the following planning application:

24/98/1 25/00115/VAR – Variation of conditions 1 and 2 on approved planning permission HOUSE/MAL/22/00427 (Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of a single storey rear extension) at Jasmine Cottage, Bung Row, Great Braxted.

RESOLVED: that the Council have **no objections** to this planning application.

Decisions made by Maldon District Council were noted on the below planning application:

24/98/2 24/00904/HOUSE single storey side and front extension with addition of porch and alterations to fenestration including bay window at Shrub Hill Farm, Maldon Road Tiptree. **APPROVED**

24/100 Environment

24/99/1 Rabbit Damage Caused on the Field

Councillors discussed the impact of rabbit damage on the field and agreed to.

A member of the public advised the state of the field is very poor and dangerous with rabbit holes.

Problem with wire fencing where rabbits hide, the fence needs replacing in areas. Rabbits are now within the fence, hiding in brambles and gorse. Wire needs replacing. MOP suggested if the council would fund some there are grants available from Cricket organisations.

RESOLVED That the council will source quotes to update fencing for rabbit proof fencing. A MOP will support with showing contractors the area.

RESOLVED that the council will investigate grant funding.

24/99/2 Community Engagement Service Contract

The Council considered a report highlighting the current service level agreement with Maldon Town Council to provide 2 hours/month of Trucam patrols, and noted the increase in cost was inline with the 2025/26 budget allocation.

RESOLVED: that the Council will continue with the service for a further 12 months.

24/101 Finance

The following accounts for payment were agreed:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Supplier</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Net</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>
24/01/2025	ID Mobile	January mobile phone bill	5.00	1.00	6.00
31/01/2025	Roger Clark	Gates and fencing on the field	710.00	-	710.00
07/02/2025	Maldon District Council	Trucam patrols Oct-Dec 2024	233.59	46.72	280.31
21/02/2025	Screwfix (Cllr Knapman	Adhesive and screws for pavilion battery cage	62.25	12.46	74.71

24/02/2025	ID Mobile	February mobile phone bill	5.00	1.00	6.00
24/02/2025	EALC	Co-Option, Casual Vacancy and Election Course	80.00	16.00	96.00
28/02/2025	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge - Jan 2025	6.00	-	6.00
28/02/2025	Mrs L Townend	February salary	262.00	-	262.00
28/02/2025	HMRC	February HMRC costs	65.40	-	65.40
03/03/2025	JPS Online	Printed sign	64.50	12.90	77.40
		TOTAL:	£1,493.74	£90.08	£ 1,583.82

RESOLVED: that the payments listed above be approved for payment.

24/102 VE Day 80

The Council discussed and considered how the Parish will commemorate this occasion on the 8th May 2025.

Cllr Miles to explore grants from MDC

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May, combined grand pavilion opening, send invitations.

Cllr Knapman will investigate a hog roast.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council

24/103 Updates

The Chairman provided an update to Members on the Openreach/Wi Fi connection to the Pavilion.

Find contacts from Openreach and send to Sarah who will apply for a telephone line not a phone number. The PMC

RESOLVED: that the clerk will send the contact details from Openreach to Sarah Mann.

24/104 General Announcements

Councillor x

The Clerk distributed a copy of Cllr Durham's update which included information about devolution plans.

The update was noted.

Children's Easter Head Hunt came last year to use the field and if a success the PC could provide a small grant of £60 for the purchase of easter eggs.

RESOLVED: that the council will offer a grant of £60 toward the Village Easter Egg Hunt.

Mandy Chapman won the hero dog at Crufts. PC will recognise

24/105 EALC Award

Cllr Mike Eldridge Cllr Collins achieved award. 10 k pcs in the county average 10 councillors. Our Chairman won Councillor of the Year. EALC overjoyed for Richard for the work done on the pavilion, and great for volunteers running the pavilion and the residents.

As an association that's what we encourage. As a county we have the overseeing body NALC, direct contact with Govt, then county associations. Last year EALC was county association of the year. Pride ourselves have 296 parish councils are members. There to help support councillors and clerks with Members enquiries on all sorts playgrounds, graveyards, etc. Councillor training, catch up training, chair training, encourage all to do this. Like to go out. Local Council Award Scheme only 500 have any kind of award. Is worth doing. Encourage you to do it

Devolution spoke Angela Rayner's civil servant. Essex one of 9 chosen to be fast tracked. Gov was looking for an area of deprivation, different types of areas. We filled the criteria due to Thurrock debts and all. Southend will rejoin. 700 councillors will be replaced by 300 councillors. Money saving aspect each CEO £100k salary, looking at 3 unitary area Braintree, Colchester, Tendring and Chelmsford, Maldon, Brentwood and Uttlesford, Epping, Harlow, Southend Thurrock Basildon.

1.6m people want 500k in each unitary. Borders may change slightly.

Sitting above the unitary will be a Mayor, Roger Hurst has put himself forward. Then a strategic board will have the great and good of ECC. They will direct finance, health and social care, highways. How this feeds to unitary is unknown.

ELAC has replied to consultation documents and are supportive. Decisions will be reached quicker.

Adult skills a massive problem. Parish and Town Sector will remain but suspect tweaks. PCs may be given lots of things. May rely on PCs more for local planning knowledge.

Expect the Mayor will sit in Chelmsford.

24/106 Items To Be Included on the Next Agenda

- Sole Trustee Status of the Pavilion
- Speed camera
- Local Council Award Scheme
- Scrub along verge
- Quotes for fencing
- Phone line update

RESOLVED: that the above agenda items be added to the next agenda.

24/108 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday the 13th May 2025 which will include the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 8.00pm.

24/109 Chairman Closed the Meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:37

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cllr R Collins
Chairman