

TOLLESHUNT MAJOR PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY REMOTE MEETING OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD ON 2.2.2021

PRESENT:

Chair – Councillor T Payne
Vice Chair – Councillor T Deer
Councillors M Coster, K Neath and A Taylor
The parish clerk V Banyard
No members of the public were in attendance.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting- Public session.

To allow members of the public to ask or answer questions or give evidence or information on matters relevant to the business of the Council.
No issues were raised.

4345.20 To receive apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest in the Meeting's agenda items

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Wood and the Ward Member Councillor M Thompson.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

4346.20 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary remote Meeting held on 5.1.2021.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above Minutes.

4347.20 To receive information on items included in the above Minutes.

No issues were raised.

4348.20 To consider arrangements for the filling of the vacancy on the Council by co-option.

To date no interest has been shown in the above vacancy. It was agreed that Councillor Mr Payne should approach possible candidates, and the post will again be mentioned on Facebook and in the village newsletter.

4349.20 Planning

a) The following planning decisions by Maldon District Council were noted:

HOUSE/MAL/ 20/00992	Lyncroft Bakers Lane Tolleshunt Major	Proposed extension to roof and insertion of roof lights to facilitate a loft conversion and rear single storey extension Approved
FUL/MAL/20/01013	Willows Brick House Road Tolleshunt Major	Proposed alterations to existing kennels and replacement with two log cabins and the erection of replacement kennels Approved It was reported that the big skip outside the property has now been removed and details of the Noise Management Plan are awaited.

b) Latest planning applications – the following were considered:

20/01334/HOUSE	Dudley House Tudwick Road Tolleshunt Major	Single storey rear extensions, three dormer windows to northern roof slope and new vehicular access and garage. It was RESOLVED to support this application
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20/01297/MLA	Field View Cottage Tolleshunt D'Arcy Road Tolleshunt Major	<p>Application for a modification to Section 106 legal agreement executed under planning application FUL/MAL/07/00706</p> <p><u>Amended by the submission of additional information</u> – modification to the legal agreement to allow occupation of one person for up to eleven and a half months.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to object as before. A period of eleven and a half months occupation would make this very close to fully residential.</p>
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- c) Enforcement issues. To note that Maldon District Council has commenced a case for a breach of condition at the farm shop at the junction of Braxted Park Road and Maldon Road Tolleshunt Major (20/00038/BC). It was noted that the container has now been removed, but the Parish Council remains concerned at the amount of new signage at the site.
- To receive any updates concerning the application from Stigs for an HGV licence and waste management site at Wicks Manor Farm Witham Road Tolleshunt Major. Nothing further has been heard from either the Traffic Commissioner or Maldon District Council concerning this issue.
- Enforcement issues at the Essex Barn Wicks Manor Farm. This is ongoing but nothing further has been heard.

4350.20 Finance

- a) Councillors received the financial report and bank reconciliation for February.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the following expenditure:

1.	£ 206.00	Miss V Banyard	Clerk's salary and allowance Feb
2.	£ 47.00	HMRC	Clerk's tax Feb
3.	£ 3.80	Miss V Banyard	Clerk's expenses – Internet (new rate)
4.	£ 102.60	Maldon District Council	Trucam services Oct – Dec 2020
5.	£ 183.34	Mr A Payne	Christmas tree and lights for tree on Beckingham Common
6.	£ 50.00	Mr A Payne	Thank you flowers for litter picking residents
7.	£ 88.26	Mr A Payne	Litter grabbers x 4

- c) Update on invoicing by Maldon District Council for playing field maintenance. It has been agreed that the yearly invoice should be £1,535.34, with invoices for Q1, Q2 and Q3 at £383.83 per quarter with the Q4 invoice to be issued in March. However, no invoices have been received to date. Councillor Mr Payne will contact Maldon District Council and ask for the invoices to be sent out by the end of February at the latest in order that they can be paid in the current financial year.

4351.20 To consider action to be taken following an insurance claim from the owners of The Old School House Tolleshunt D'Arcy Road alleging that cracks in the walls of the property are due to oak trees in the control of the Parish Council.

This matter is now in the hands of the Parish Council's insurers. Neither of the two oak trees mentioned in the claim has a Tree Preservation Order.

4352.20 To receive a report on any matters concerning the Covid-19 pandemic

It was reported that the helpline is still in place for those who need it.

4353.20 To consider any issues concerning the playing field and play area – including:

- a) Play area. It was **RESOLVED** that a notice is put up advising members of the public that the outdoor gym equipment should not be used during the current lockdown. The play area remains open.

Areas of rust and repainting of the play equipment have not yet been dealt with due to lockdown and the inclement weather. The Council will now try to obtain some quotes so that the work can be done during March or April.

- b) Progress report on the application for grant funding – new equipment for the play area and field. The application for a grant of £15,000 has now been put in. The next stage will be for the funders to meet with the Parish Council to discuss what work is intended. It was agreed that as the Parish Council has good reserves it could purchase replacement swings before any grant is awarded. Councillors Mr Coster and Mr Payne will explore options for this work and bring prices to the March meeting of the Council.
- c) The resurfacing of the car park – update. Councillor Mr Deer has obtained a price for the use of gravel to resurface the car park. Following a discussion as to the best materials to use Councillor Mr Deer undertook to investigate other options.
- d) Any other issues concerning the playing field. The Council has received a Freedom of Information request as to its policy on the use of drones in the playing field. The Parish Council does not allow drones to be flown from or to the playing field and it was agreed that Councillor Neath would carry out some research and produce a draft policy on this issue to be discussed at the March meeting.

4354.20 To consider any Highways issues

- a) Trucam report. Only one patrol was held in December and no captures were made.
- b) Update on resumption of Community Speedwatch. There was nothing to report.
- c) Local Highways Panel Scheme. Application for a walkable verge from the playing field car park to St Nicholas Hall – any updates. Councillor Durham (ECC) had been asked to provide a progress report on this scheme but nothing has been heard to date.
- d) Any other issues concerning Highways or public rights of way.
Speed cameras. Councillor Neath has carried out some research on speed cameras but a Speed Indicator Device (SID) might be a better option as portable ones are available which can be moved to different locations in the village, and they can also gather data about speeding vehicles. Running costs and siting of the SID all need consideration, and Councillor Neath undertook to carry out further research.

Rights of way: Footpath 12 from Sawyers Road to Witham Road has been inspected by the County Council and action agreed. However there has been a surge in reports about footpath problems due to more people walking in lockdown, so there will be some delay in carrying out any remedial work.

It was noted that a walker had recently been attacked by loose dogs on a footpath across New Farm in Beckingham Street, and the matter is now in the hands of the police and Essex County Council enforcement.

Some residents continue to do sterling work in picking up litter around the village. It was suggested that an annual or biannual litter picking weekend and barbecue could be held once Covid restrictions are lifted, and this could be supported by the Parish Council.

4355.20 To receive a report from the staffing committee re the clerk's appraisal.

Whilst the staffing committee presented their report to the Parish Council the clerk left the meeting. On her return the Council **RESOLVED** to raise her salary to LCP point 8, with arrangements made for backdating pay.

4356.20 To note any other issues which may be raised.

No issues were raised.

4357.20 To set the date and frequency of future meetings.

The next remote meeting of the Council will be held on 2.3.2021

4358.20 To consider other items for information or for inclusion on future agendas

At the March meeting the Council will appoint the internal auditor of the accounts for the year ending 31.3.2021.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 9.27 pm.

The above Minutes were approved at the Council's remote meeting held on 2.3.2021 and recorded as Minute Reference 4360.20