

THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
Was held at the Lawling Park Hall on
Tuesday 27th April 2010 at 7.30pm
DRAFT

PRESENT:	Cllr Robinson Chairman Cllr Evans Cllr Hawkes Cllr Houghton	Cllr Spires Cllr Oatham Cllr White Mrs J Rackham (Clerk)
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25 members of the public, D.Cllr Mrs Penny Channer. PC Sam Pateman.

1. Apologies

Cllr Massenhove & Cllr Lund.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 28th April 2009

Mrs Angus proposed accepting the minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2009, Mrs Roe seconded the proposal, all in favour, the minutes were signed and dated as a true record.

3. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Robinson welcomed all the residents, D.Cllr Mrs Channer and PC Sam Pateman to the meeting; Each Cllr introduced themselves and said which committee they served on and why they joined the council.

4. Essex Police

PC Sam Pateman introduced himself to everyone. He has been in the area five years but has recently been appointed as the beat officer for Southminster section which covers Mayland, Steeple, St. Lawrence, Tillingham, Bradwell and Southminster. This month 30 crimes have been reported so far and 16 of those crimes have been solved which is a detection rate of 53%. The number of calls regarding anti-social behaviour is less than last year as are the calls reporting crimes. There has been a spate of burglaries in the area and PC Pateman advised residents to keep their cars and houses locked and to put the keys away and not leave them on view. He advised residents that they are welcome to attend Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP) meetings. The venue for the next meeting has yet to be booked. Ten acceptable behaviour orders are being served on youngsters in the village. 1 has been served and 9 more will be completed shortly.

Residents raised the following issues.

- Why is there a lack of police walking around Mayland? The area is spread out but the police who include the two PCSOs have been concentrating on the areas of Mayland where there have been reported incidents.
- Speeding in The Drive as it continues into Imperial Avenue. A speed trap would be welcomed. A speed trap was placed in Steeple Road last weekend and was successful.
- Photographic evidence. Is it useful? Yes.
- Can we contact the local police at the weekends? PC Pateman suggests residents should call Chelmsford and they will contact the local police in Southminster. Details of whom and where to phone will be printed in the Mayland Mayl.
- How quick is your response time? It depends on the crime.
- Can the police give feedback once a call has been dealt with? Yes this is a new policy since the 1st April.

Could we set up a Neighbourhood Speed Watch? We tried to do this previously but we could not get any volunteers. We will invite a member of ECC Highways team to a meeting to discuss speeding issues.

The Chairman thanked PC Pateman for coming to the meeting.

5. Chairman's Report

Cllr Robinson explained that this was her first year as Chairman and thanked her fellow Councillors for their support. We have recently welcomed two new Councillors and have a full complement of nine.

Cllr Robinson included a slide presentation of Mayland/Maylandsea.

Although we do what we can with our proportion of the Council Tax, grant money received in the last year has helped us to make a big difference. We created the missing link at the end of the footpath behind Bakersfield with a Community Initiatives Fund grant of £2,500; so far we have received £26,080 from Maldon District Council's Parish Project Fund for the access ramp at the Lawling Park Hall and the first phase of the extension to the hall; and the Parish Plan Group has £2,080 towards producing and circulating a parish questionnaire which you will receive shortly. A further £16,745 has been awarded for the Lawling Park Hall extension.

Working with partners

We have good working relationships with Maldon District Council and Essex County Council, and we are happy to welcome our District Councillors to our meetings. The two way contact helps us to gain advice from others, and to lobby for action on behalf of our parishioners.

We have also been working closely with Essex Police over the last few months, particularly concerning the behaviour of some of our younger residents. Thanks also to the Essex Youth Service, who have been visiting the village regularly with the Youth Bus and arranging evening football sessions, which have proved very popular.

Village environment

Last summer we ran a photographic competition, attracting a number of excellent photos capturing parish scenes. Congratulations to the winner Mrs Angela Tickner - all the photos are on the Parish Council Website.

A successful tree planting day was held in February where trees donated by Andrew Haining founder of eforest.com and TWIG were planted by Parish Councillors, villagers, and members of TWIG and the Greenlight Trust. We received a donation of more than 200 trees and hedging plants.

Parish Council representatives have been involved at early stages of consultation on the Essex Shoreline Management Plan, being developed by the Environment Agency (EA). The plan shows how the EA will deal with predicted changes in sea level, and where it will protect areas of sea wall to prevent any future flooding. The plan is still out for consultation so you can still comment until 18th June 2010.

Traffic & Parking

Following many representations from parishioners, the Parish Council met the Essex Highway Authority to discuss speeding and poor parking in residential streets. As a result, the new speed tables in The Drive and double yellow lines in some key areas have been completed. Although these measures might make the village feel more urban, they were felt necessary to overcome safety concerns of residents. The large signs and rumble strips at bends in the Dengie were erected by ECC Highways. The Parish Council does not have any control over this matter.

Planning applications

The Parish Council is consulted by Maldon District Council on planning applications and submits comments which Maldon District Council considers before making its decisions. These applications include those within the parish, such as extensions and the occasional new house, but also larger proposals such as the wind farms.

The Parish Council also commented on the Government's consultation on the suitability of the former Bradwell airfield to house a new nuclear power station. Planning applications are easy to find on Maldon District Council's website, and everyone can have their say: www.maldon.gov.uk

Budget

In this year's budget we have included new provision for installing CCTV for the Lawling Park Hall, repairs to the skate park, and for running the Lawling Park Hall itself, although hire fees contribute a large proportion towards those costs.

Residents raised the following issues.

- Following the construction of the speed reducing platforms in The Drive Katonia Avenue was strewn with left over lumps of tarmac and pot holes.
- Can we have better lighting in the car park? This will be considered.
- Katonia Avenue residents can hear the cars in the car park being driven by young drivers practising donuts.
- The village lights go out at night, can we help? ECC. Control some of the lights in the village and these are extinguished at night. We do not have any control over these. We would like to see some of the savings made by ECC spent in this village. The Parish Council owned street lights remain lit.

6. Lawling Park Committee Report.

Cllr Spires (Chairman of the LPC) reported.

The Lawling Park Committee (LPC) cover maintenance and upkeep of existing facilities as well as working to a longer term improvement plan to provide further park facilities for all users.

This year the emphasis is on the provision of permanent changing room and public WC facilities. The new brick built extension to Lawling Park Hall will house, two 16 place shower/changing rooms, one 3 place officials shower/changing room, a disabled WC complete with access ramp, a ladies WC and a Gents WC. The Toilet facilities will be open to the public during match or organised games/events. Phase one, now under construction, will see a lockable building shell. Phase two will be the fitting out and commissioning once funding is in place. The existing Portacabin facilities will be removed and the two steel lockup containers relocated adjacent to Maylandsea Community Primary School western boundary.

This will leave a clear view of the installation of a CCTV mast and equipment. It is sad that we have to divert funds to this cause, but the costs of vandalism over the last five years now equate to the CCTV costs. Improved lighting to Katonia Car Park will follow in future plans.

Our tree programme continued this year with 150 trees, 200 conservation hedge mix and 200 variety hedge whips planted this February. If allowed to mature it will form a wind break to the park perimeters. I say "if", as over 200 of the 500 planted last year have since been uprooted.

Sports—Football continues to be the major field user and team managers are looking for more youngsters to join their teams, details from the Clerk Jenny Rackham. A cricket set is available for hire; see our grounds man Dennis Hawkes. The tennis

courts are also available for hire by the hour, one of which has a marked netball pitch. Sadly we report Mayland Tennis Club is closing this April because of dwindling membership and rising costs. The BMX course continues to be used, with most of the skills being practised on the Skate Park, which will benefit from some Surface/ramp interface levels being addressed this year in a maintenance programme. Mayland Carpet Bowls club has a strong following and meets twice weekly in the Lawling Park hall, details from Dennis Hawkes

Residents raised the following issues.

- There is no safety swing for babies at Bakersfield Play Park. We will consider this at a future meeting of the LPC.
- CCTV excellent idea. We need another camera at Bakersfield.
- The picnic bench is used to smash the football wall. Could it be bolted down? We did investigate this previously but will do so again.
- The litter bin at the gate to Katonia Avenue car park has disappeared. We can ask MDC to replace the bin.

The following general questions and remarks were raised.

- The daffodils at the junction of Nipsells Chase have been cut too early. Our grass cutter cuts all the areas on the same day. To leave this area could cause a problem for drivers trying to turn right out of Nipsells Chase.
- The neighbourhood speed watch would be a good deterrent.
- Grass cutting has become a problem at the church yard due to items being left there and fly tipping. This is a matter for the Diocese and it is not within the jurisdiction of the Parish Council. It was suggested that fly tipping should be reported to Maldon District Council's refuse section.

The Chairman thanked all the residents, D.Cllr Mrs Penny Channer and PC Pateman for coming to the meeting. She thanked all the Councillors, the Clerk Jenny Rackham, Dennis Hawkes, Carol Serjeant and Terry Blowers for all their hard work.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm