

THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

was held at the Henry Samuel Hall on Tuesday 28th April 2009 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr Short Chairman Cllr Robinson Cllr Hawkes Cllr Massenhove Cllr Evans	Cllr Spires Cllr Oatham Cllr Robinson Cllr Lund Mrs J Rackham (Clerk)
---	---

19 Members of the public, D.Cllr Mrs Penny Channer.

1. Apologies

Cllr Coker.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 29th April 2008

Mr Robinson proposed accepting the minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2008, Mr Stone seconded the proposal, all in favour, the minutes were signed and dated as a true record.

3. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Short welcomed all the residents to the meeting; Each Cllr introduced themselves and said which committee they served on and why they joined the council.

4. Chairman's Report

At the start of his report Cllr Short explained that he would stop from time to time during his report to take questions from the residents concerning the areas included in his report. Cllr Short included a slide presentation of Mayland/Maylandsea.

INTRODUCTION

Working together with Maldon District Council (MDC) and Essex County (ECC) Council, I am pleased to report another year of progress and development within the parish. The Parish Council is committed to the continual improvement of living conditions within the village. In these difficult times the proposed expenditure was looked at carefully and the increase in the precept kept to a minimum. As always the council endeavours to spend the Parish Precept wisely.

I am delighted to report that the Parish Council currently has its full complement of councillors with the recruitment of three new members during this year. The new councillors are Terry Coker, Jane Evans and Chris Lund and I know they are very keen to play an active part in new initiatives.

As always the size of the Parish Precept limits the work that the council is able to undertake but I would for the second year running like to recognize the work of the Parish Clerk who has raised £40,580 from the following grant applications:-

- £26,080 from MDC's Parish Fund for improvements to the Lawling Park Hall
- £7,100 from ECC's CIF (Highways) Initiative for improvements to the gateways at both entrances to Mayland on Steeple Road
- £2,500 from MDC's Community Initiative Fund for the extension to the Bakersfield pathway
- £4,900 from ECC's Bus Shelter Fund for the new bus shelter on Steeple Road

The total received from grant applications is 62% of the Parish Precept for 2008-09.

LAWLING PARK

This area of the parish continues to be the focus for a lot of developments again this year. These developments reflect the continued commitment of the Lawling Park Committee which continues to be enthusiastically chaired by Councillor Spires. There is a separate report detailing the work of this committee but I would particularly like to mention our success in the Essex Playing Fields Competition where we received joint first prize in the Best Project Completed category for the skateboard park. The younger members of our community were consulted at every stage of development and helped design the park with the contractor. We also were awarded a merit certificate for our playing fields.

A resident asked if the skateboard park was a success. The Chairman responded that it was still in constant use by youngsters from the village and surrounding areas. Parents have also responded positively to this popular addition to the park.

A new sign in The Drive points the way to the Lawling Park Hall. Plans to improve and extend Lawling Park Hall are well advanced and external funding from MDC has been gained from their Parish Project Fund for some of this work which will include disabled access, new fire doors and pathway. The extension will provide changing rooms and public toilets. ECC's CIF grant is also providing funding for the extension to the footpath in Bakersfield which is under construction.

A big thank you to residents and the Greenlight Trust who volunteered to plant 450 young trees in Lawling Park on 21st February 2009 as well as our primary school pupils who planted a further 50 with the assistance of the Greenlight Trust.

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

A resident asked why the street cleaning vehicle came on a Friday when the rubbish and recycling bins were emptied on a Thursday? Also the contractors who emptied the recycle bins left "non recyclable" items on the verge which makes the village look untidy could they not leave them in the boxes? Why can you not put household waste i.e. Vegetable peelings in the green waste bin? These services are provided by Maldon District Council and the questions were noted by D.Cllr Mrs Penny Channer.

The continual improvement of the visual appearance of the parish is a high priority. The appointment last summer of a part time ground worker has allowed us to improve a number of areas of the village. In addition the conscientious efforts of our grass cutting contractor and the work of a team of volunteers planting daffodils on Saturday 25th October 2008 both have had very positive impacts. We may in the future enter a "Best Kept Village" competition.

Litter remains an issue in some areas of the village although our litter contractor provides a very good service which helps to minimize this problem. The Parish Council continues to provide extra litter and dog bins and are currently considering measures contained in the Government's publication 'Stop the Drop'. We are considering new signage to highlight the need to put rubbish in the bins provided and to steer dog walkers onto the dog walk area and away from Lawling Playing Field where dogs are not allowed.

Low level vandalism continues to be a negative and costly element of village life and the Parish Council continues to work closely with the Police to deal with the anti social element responsible. Graffiti around the park has the tag ACM which has been spotted as far away as Chelmsford. The metal storage container on the park was broken into and two brush cutters were stolen. Our insurers insisted we improved the security of the container to allow us to have continued cover. This we have done.

A resident mentioned that the gates at Katonia car park are not always closed at the time stated on them. The Chairman explained that the gates are closed by volunteers who have been advised not to close the gates when cars are still in the car park and not to approach youngsters in those cars.

A resident living along the unmade section of Nipsells Chase reported that vehicles speed along this area. The police have been very helpful and one youngster is subject to a section 59 order which means if they receive further complaints the vehicle can be confiscated and crushed. Cllr Massenhove is the Police Liaison Officer he will arrange publication in the Mayland Mayl explaining how a section 59 order works.

Another resident complained about cars parking on the pavements throughout the village and especially in Imperial Avenue outside the shops. The Chairman explained that plans to paint yellow lines in strategic areas of the village are underway and residents in those areas will be consulted.

PLANNING

This regular agenda item continues to produce long debates both with local residents and within the council. Protecting the rural character of the village is a high priority. Commercial motives together with new Government legislation which allows higher density developments are both putting significant pressure on this priority of the Parish Council.

The opening of our new supermarket and the improvements at the garden centre has both been very welcome developments in the village.

A resident suggested that planning of commercial premises should include parking spaces. It was reported that consultation to provide a pavement next to the shops and parking bays in front of the pavement. All shop owners would have to agree and unfortunately this was not the case and the idea was abandoned. Again a plan to paint yellow lines in this area is in the consultation stage.

SEA WALL

The Parish Council continues to monitor the state of the sea wall. We have been in regular contact with the Environment Agency to discuss issues such as the plans for managed retreat and the condition of the sea wall close to Esplanade West. Cllr Spires reported that if the sea wall fails there is a 1 in 200 chance of a flood. The risk of flooding of Maylandsea is deemed low. Details of the Environments website are in the Annual Review. It was noted that the footpath through the boatyard is marked with yellow lines.

TRAFFIC/PARKING

Speeding in the village continues to be a concern for many residents. Highways are planning a raised platform at the school. Again consultation with residents has to take place before any final decision can be made. One resident complained about speeding vehicles at the junction of The Drive leading into Imperial Avenue. Cllr Massenhove will ask the police at the next NAP meeting if a speed camera could be set up in this area. The Parish Council regularly reviews with Essex Highways strategies for managing this problem. The improvements to the entrances to the village in Steeple Road will define the approach to the village. I am pleased to report for the increasing number of bus passengers that a new bus shelter has been provided on Steeple Road with the help of an ECC grant.

Pavements in Nipsells Chase were repaired in October 2008 and slurry sealed in December 2008. A widened footway from Nipsells Chase to the lay by near the village sign was also provided as part of the ECC Highway's improvement programme. We hope that other areas will be included in the coming year's programme. Please help to protect the village's pavements by not parking on them.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Clubs/groups in the village are experiencing mixed fortunes. Some such as the Carpet Bowls Club are growing and providing a valuable focus for residents whilst others such as the Tennis Club are struggling to attract new members which may put their future in danger. Please support our local groups as much as you can. Contact

details for all local clubs/groups can be found in the Mayland Mayl which continues to provide a valuable source of information to residents. A big thank you to all the volunteers who produce and deliver the Mayl each month.

The Parish Council website continues to grow and can be found on www.essexinfo.net/mayland-parish-council

Minutes of all the Parish Council meetings can be found on this website.

5. Lawling Park Committee Report

Cllr Peter Spires reported that during this coming year the LPC will arrive at the halfway mark of the council's ten year plan to improve the park's facilities for all users.

Already achieved include the Youth Shelter and path, Young Children's play area, connecting path between car parks, re-grading and seeding of earth mounds around new play area, Skate Park, litter bins, dog bins, tree planting and rough ground clearance.

These facilities are not inconsiderable given the costs of development; such a plan could never be financed by Mayland Parish Council alone without the greater proportion coming from the vigorous pursuit of finding and gaining available grants.

This year has added a further 500 tree/shrub whips (1mtr high) planted in a combined effort from Mayland Parishioners, Mayland Community Managed Woodland Trust, Tillingham Woodland Trust and Mayland Community Primary School children, who planted 50 of them. Again all grant funded by Essex County Council. New safety surfaces have been installed to the Cable Run, Twin Swings and Swing Beam. Works in hand for this spring include some replacement timbers to the Swing Beam, Cable Run platform and a new Bakersfield path extension with perimeter knee high single diagonal fencing around two sides of Bakersfield Car Park. Clearance undergrowth work will be continued by Essex Community Services to Bakersfield western boundary wood. This free service produced excellent results last year in clearing the land behind Mayland Community Primary School.

During the year Mayland Parish Council took over the ownership and running of the Scout Hall. Now renamed Lawling Park Hall it will enable the installation of new changing room facilities and public toilets by way of a 10mtr extension to the eastern elevation. Plans have been submitted for the project. A grant of £26,000 has already been obtained towards the installation of a Disabled Access ramp, DDA compliant pathway from Katonia car park to the ramp, metal fire doors and the proposed extension. More funding will be required to complete the project. The old Portacabin will be removed.

Football: Continues strongly up to under 17's every weekend during the season. The Bakersfield mini pitches are ready for use this year.

Tennis: The Tennis Club are looking for new members to join them. Tennis lessons for youngsters will start in the summer.

Cricket: A cricket set can be hired to our youth during the season.

BMX: The existing course is strimmed and cut to a schedule.

Future plans are to provide more pathways and seats, relocate storage containers, clear the ancient ditch of dead trees, brushwood and replant, provide two bridges over to match path routes and install new Katonia Entrance Gates.

Residents asked about hiring the facilities at the park. These include the cost of the tennis courts, Lawling Park Hall etc.; A full set of cricket equipment is also available for hire. Another resident asked if further lighting could be provided in the Katonia Road car park.

6. Open to the Public

All questions had been dealt with during both reports. The Parish Council will discuss issues raised at the May Parish Council meeting and action appropriately.

7. Closing Remarks

The Chairman thanked the following groups or individuals for supporting the work of the Parish Council:-

- The Police for their support in dealing with a range of issues in the village.
- Our District Councillors who continue to provide a very helpful source of help and advice.
- The members of the Parish Council who are a committed and hardworking group of volunteers.
- The Parish Clerk, Mrs Jenny Rackham, who deals very conscientiously with a wide range of tasks on a day by day basis.
- Dennis Hawkes and Carol Sergeant for their continued commitment to the work at Lawling Park ensuring that facilities are maintained to the highest possible standard.
- Terry Blowers, the groundworker, for helping to improve the village environment.
- And finally to all parishioners who have attended Parish Council meetings and given their views over local issues. Your contributions certainly help the Parish Council to make informed decisions.

Cllr Alan Massenhove thanked Cllr Short for his work on the council over the last 10 years and on behalf of all the council wished him well.

Mr Abernethy thanked all the council and the clerk for all their hard work.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.45pm