



Minutes
of the Annual Assembly of
MAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL
held in the Lawling Park Hall
on Tuesday 16TH May 2017
at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Evans (Chairman)	D Cllr Mrs Penny Channer
Cllr Duncan	D Cllr Michael Helm
Cllr Gibson	P Mackshea, MDC Community Protection Team
Cllr Massenhove	16 residents
Cllr Oatham	
Cllr Pettitt	

Clerk: Mrs J Massenhove

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Spires and Cllr Bush.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Cllr Duncan proposed accepting the minutes from the meeting held on 19th April 2016. Cllr Oatham seconded the proposal, all in favour. The minutes were signed and dated as a true record.

3. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone in attendance. Councillors, District Councillors and staff present introduced themselves and stated their roles and specific areas of interest.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman, having completed a productive fifth year as Chairman of the Parish Council, thanked her fellow Councillors for their continued personal and voluntary commitment and contribution in support of the residents and parish of Mayland. The Parish Councillors are all volunteers who willingly give up many hours of their own time to do this work, much of it outside Parish Council meetings, in particular in the maintenance of the Lawling Park Hall. The Chairman also thanked the Parish Clerk for her professional support and knowledge which she brings to the work of the Council.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the newly refurbished hall which had been part-funded under an S106 agreement. It was a stipulation of the Agreement that the funding should be used for the benefit of village residents, including play equipment in the park for children to enjoy. Interactive play equipment is soon to be installed. A decision was made to refurbish the Lawling Park Hall and build a small extension to be used as a community room. The S106 money which needed to be spent by June this year, or it would be lost, contributed considerably to this refurbishment and small extension.

The precept funding received from Maldon District Council had not been increased since 2011-12 therefore it has been necessary to increase the sum for this year significantly.

The Council, like all other employers, now has an obligation to provide a workplace pension and the cost of this will be approximately £3000 per annum.

Parish Council staff and volunteers, together with our contractor, have spent much time and effort in cutting back vegetation at both Bakersfield Walk and Gladwell Walk so that these areas can be kept in a much better state for residents to enjoy. Sadly some residents are still failing to pick up after their dogs, not only in the park areas but also on the sea wall and in other walkways.

Vandalism remains at a fairly low level and the continued employment of the Park Rangers, who work across all parish land, continues to be such a successful scheme.

The condition of the sea wall continues to be monitored vigorously and reported concerns are brought to the attention of the Environment Agency.

The Parish Council continues to maintain its positive working relationships with both Maldon District Council and Essex County Council and we welcome the attendance of our District Councillors at our Parish Council meetings

The Parish Council continues its commitment to working together with the residents of our village to maintain the beauty of its riverside aspect, its green spaces and the retention of its footpaths which will in future be embedded and encompassed within the overall Neighbourhood Plan for this village.

5. Maldon District Council

D Cllr Channer gave an overview of district matters from the past twelve months.

In June 2016, the waste system changed giving significant economic and recycling benefits. Maldon's recycling rate has improved and is now 58%; it is hoped this will reach 60%. Refuse vehicles are fitted with GPS and 360° cameras which help to address missed bins.

A priority has been the district's Local Development Plan which has required a great deal of time from members and officers. After initial examination in public, the original inspector found the Plan unsound due to matters regarding provision for travellers. The Secretary of State [for Communities and Local Government] subsequently 'called in' the Plan and, following further examination hearings, will declare whether it is found sound or not. The LDP needs to be in place to protect against certain types of developer.

In Mayland, developments have been refused and appeals successfully defended.

Superfast Broadband continues to be rolled out. The interactive map relating to this is now property specific.

Important consultations have included the Maldon and Heybridge Masterplan which involves Maldon's Town Centre, the riverfront, Promenade Park, the Causeway Business Area and the Heybridge Centre.

The Maldon District Design Guide has been produced.

A guide to Planning Decision Making has been produced to help parishes consider the material considerations for planning applications.

6. Park Rangers

Pat Mackshea, one of a team of ten Community Protection Officers (formerly known as Park Rangers) spoke of their responsibilities. These include enforcement relating to abandoned vehicles, littering, fly-tipping, stray dogs and anti-social behaviour and also carrying out river patrols. Parking enforcement is also carried out in partnership with South Essex Parking Partnership.

The Community Protection Officers focus their patrols where there are issues. An £80 fixed penalty notice had been issued for dog fouling at Bakersfield just today. Fixed penalty notices have been issued in Mayland parish previously for littering at Lawling Park and on the sea wall.

Reference was made to the recent spates of discarded nitrous oxide cylinders. Mr Mackshea advised that, unfortunately there is little that can be done about this 'legal high'. However, if residents witness drug incidents they should pass details such as a car registration numbers to the police.

The team has recently trained with Essex Police in the use of the Trucam camera, a video evidence device for detecting speeding drivers. They will be targeting roads that the police do not have the resources to focus on.

Much of what the Community Protection Team achieves relies on intelligence from residents.

7. Lawling Park Committee

In the absence of the Chairman of the Lawling Park Committee Cllr Peter Spires, the Chairman presented the Committee's report.

The Lawling Park Committee is responsible for the development and maintenance of facilities within the park area, the Lawling Park Hall and both car park areas.

This last year has seen repairs to the surface cracks in all its footpaths, pathways and Bakersfield Car Park. The new trees along the southern and western Bakersfield boundaries have been monitored carefully and, despite some losses, these are growing well.

Funding has been received from Essex County Council to rectify the surface water levels which have been problematic along the boundaries of the park. These drainage works have recently been completed, but for a few snagging issues.

Mayland Village Football Club continues to be the main field user subject to pitch availability during the wetter months. Tennis courts are available for hire, one of which has a marked netball court.

New picnic tables and benches were purchased and sited adjacent to the children's play area for all to use.

Funding has been agreed to create a garden area in the park during the coming year and the involvement of local residents in this exciting scheme would be beneficial to the village as a whole.

Lawling Park Hall has been used regularly by Deb's Fitness group on a twice weekly basis, a Stay and Play group has twice monthly sessions and the successful Maylands Youth Group, which brings a lot of happiness to the children and youths of the village, meets weekly on a Thursday evening. It is hoped that the newly refurbished hall with its new upgraded and extended kitchen, new flooring, seated café area and newly developed stage will encourage existing and attract new users to the hall.

The Park Watch and Dog Watch schemes have been created to encourage park users to assist in looking after the park areas. It is hoped that those of you who play and walk in the park would become our 'eyes and ears' in order to report occurrences of anti-social behaviour such as under-age drinking, drug taking and dealing, damage and graffiti, dog mess and broken glass. Reporting is in complete confidence and means that the Community Protection Team can arrange their patrols accordingly. We would like to encourage all members of the community to get involved

8. Neighbourhood Plan Committee

The Chairman presented the Neighbourhood Plan Committee's report on behalf of its Chairman, Cllr Spires.

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee meets on a monthly basis. During 2016 several meetings were held with land owners and also with both GP practices in the village and the school.

The Neighbourhood Plan is required to be compatible with the Maldon District's Local Development Plan and Councillors have met with representatives of MDC to discuss the progress of our village plan.

The Committee, led by Cllr Peter Spires, has been working on the Plan's vision statement and its supporting objectives which, when completed, will create a vision for the village over the next 15 years based on information taken from the original survey and consultation evidence gathered. It has been identified that we would need to consider the following: -

1. All housing and regeneration should first and foremost both benefit and be led by the community.
2. There should be better connectivity between the village waterfront and landscape.
3. Mayland needs better public space and a civic focus for the village.
4. A network of green space and routes through and around the village should be provided.
5. A strong rural and cultural heritage should be reinforced.
6. Mayland has a rich history and any strategies for the future should celebrate it.

Next steps are: -

- Creating a vision,
- determining the objectives required to achieve the vision and
- forming the objectives into policies.

Once the NP is in place, a larger proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy will become available to the parish, and the village will benefit if its requirements are incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan.

Updates will be published in the *Maylands Mayl*.

9. Public Discussion

The Chairman invited residents to ask questions or raise any issues: -

Q. The hall and field look good now, but can something be done about the entrances to the village?

A. At the moment, there is not a lot that can be done but, as part of the Neighbourhood Plan preparation, members have met with landowners and discussion has begun. The 'gateway' signs are an issue frequently raised at Parish Council meetings.

Several residents expressed a preference for short 'gates' at the village entrances.

Q. The PC was previously looking to provide one bench per year, is this still the case?

A. This will be considered.

Q. The pond is in a disgusting state – is the Parish Council going to do anything about it?

A. The pond is on private land. The PC cannot do anything; it has no power to spend public money on private land. When the houses around the pond were built, five or six properties shared responsibility for it, this was written into the deeds. As the original owners have moved away, this appears to have been 'lost'.

Q. Years ago, the PC did contribute, why was this taken away?

A. A contribution was made only towards public liability insurance.

Q. Whilst there is no guarantee, there is a group of people willing to help. However, they cannot just go to the pond and start work on it; the owners of the houses around the pond need to get together and decide what needs to be done.

A. Whilst there is no guarantee, the PC is able to provide certain grants. Those with responsibility for the pond may wish to apply. A grant form may be obtained from the Parish Clerk or can be found on the PC's website.

Q. What is being done about the Nature Reserve?

A. The decision to commission a Woodland Management Plan is being implemented. The ecologist undertaking this work carried out his initial site visit within the past week or so.

Q. Why has the pavement between Whitefield Court – which is sheltered accommodation – and the Mayland Green bus stop not been repaired?

A. This is a Highways matter and needs to be reported to them.

Q. What is being done about the restricted byway signage at Nipsells Chase? There is a need for a sign at each end of the way, visible to vehicles stating what the restriction is and what it means.

A. The Parish Clerk has contacted Highways about this on numerous occasions and explained the issues; D Cllr Channer has also followed it up on our behalf. However, Highways suggests that the residents themselves provide signage.

Q. What is a restricted byway?

A. Residents and their visitors have access, but otherwise a restricted byway allows right of way only if walking, on horseback or riding a bicycle.

Q. What storage is available to the Youth Club now that the hall has been refurbished?

A. This will be looked at by the Lawling Park Committee.

Q. Would it be possible to have double yellow lines at the Drake Avenue junction with The Drive? Cars are left there all day and make it dangerous turning out of Drake Avenue.

A. South Essex Parking Partnership would need to be approached. The support of a county councillor would be required; C Cllr Ron Pratt can be approached for this.

There followed general discussion of parking issues and enforcement, including: -

- Civil enforcement officers operate 9 – 5. The Community Protection Officers can operate outside of these times. If they are provided with times and other details, then they can help.
- Parking by the shops causes such difficulty to buses that it is reported some may refuse to take this route.
- Many cars park with two wheels on the pavement, leaving insufficient space to pass with a pram on the pavement.
- The DVLA has been clamping cars having no road tax. The Community Protection Team, on receiving a report of a nuisance vehicle, will automatically check for road tax.
- Parking problems are worsened when, rather than park on their own drives, people park on the road instead.
- It is felt that certain businesses operating from residential addresses compound issues with the additional need created for business vehicles and staff parking. It was noted that Maldon District Council has been approached for verification that running such businesses from a residential address is permitted.
- The need for signage in order for restrictions to be enforceable was noted.

A resident thanked everyone for the effort and hard work they put in.

10. Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, adding that she hoped at least some of the residents' concerns had been answered, and closed the meeting at 9.00 p.m.