



Minutes
of the Annual Assembly of
MAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL
held in the Lawling Park Hall
on Tuesday 19th April 2016
at 7.39 p.m.

Present: Cllr Evans (Chairman) Cllr Massenhove
 Cllr Duncan Cllr Oatham
 Cllr Hawkes Cllr Spires
 Cllr Gibson

Clerk: Mrs J Massenhove

In attendance: D Cllr Michael Helm
 Mr B Chapman, MDC Park Ranger
 Mr K Wright, Community First Responder
 Ms L Kuchnir, Community First Responder
 Ms S Kuchnir, Community First Responder
 9 residents

D Cllr Mrs Penny Channer sent her apologies.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Pettitt.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Cllr Hawkes proposed accepting the minutes from the meeting held on 26th May 2015. Cllr Gibson 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.

The Chairman then said that she would like to bring forward an element of the Public Discussion, and invited the Community First Responders to talk about the defibrillator which is to be installed on an outside wall of the Lawling Park Hall.

Ms L Kushnir thanked the council for purchasing the equipment and said that, once it has been received, they would like to visit again to give a more detailed demonstration and training in its use.

Mr Wright explained that, on dialling '999', the caller would be given a code with which the defibrillator box can be unlocked. The device then talks the user through the process, step by step, and can be operated by individuals who have not received training in its use. The defibrillator can save a life as it gives additional time until the ambulance arrives. It is hoped that the unit will be received around the end of June or beginning of July.

The Chairman stated that a training session will be arranged and that it will be advertised to try to encourage a good range of people to attend, hopefully including regular hall users such as the youth club leaders and members of the football club.

The First Responders are volunteers trained by the ambulance service and are looking for new members.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman thanked her fellow councillors and the parish clerk for their continued commitment and hard work in support of our parish council and residents. The councillors are

all volunteers who give up their own time to attend council meetings and also in many other ways.

This year our annual general budget remains the same as 2015. However, due to Maldon District Council's financial resources being under significant strain due to reduced funding from central government, no council tax support has been awarded to parishes. For us in Mayland this means a council tax increase on band D properties from £52.55 to £55.05 - just under 4.8%.

Plans have been agreed on improvements and refurbishment of the Lawling Park Hall and play areas in the park. These will be funded by the monies received by the council via a S106 agreement which expressly stated the purpose for which it could be used. There is a time limit for use of this funding. A proposal has also been agreed to plan a picnic and garden area to be situated in the park for all age groups to enjoy.

During the last year, instances of reported vandalism have been negligible. The employment of the Park Rangers, who work across all parish land and the village, continues to be a successful scheme.

It is a pleasure to report that, during 2015, a small group of enthusiastic residents formed a youth club for children of our village to enjoy. This has proved to be extremely successful and is now regularly attended by in excess of forty young people. The youth club was formed under the guidance of Maldon District Council who provided training for the youth leaders at its inception.

The state of the sea wall continues to be vigorously monitored and all concerns raised by both the parish council and local residents brought to the attention of the Environment Agency.

The Parish Council continues its commitment in ensuring that, as far as possible, all future local housing developments will fall within the overall village plan that is currently being developed by the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. Surveys have been circulated to each household, businesses and landowners during the previous year and are being evaluated. The results will form an essential component of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council remains committed to working with the residents of our village to maintain the beauty of the riverside aspect and green spaces for us all to enjoy.

5. Essex Police

As Police Liaison councillor for Mayland Parish Council, Cllr Massenhove reported on police matters. He stated that there is in fact little to report as less than 100 incidents relating to Mayland were reported to the police in the whole of the last year.

However, increasing demands are being made on police time due to reductions in the overall numbers of officers. Various amalgamations are taking place and our local police cover will operate out of Chelmsford in the near future.

6. Maldon District Council

D Cllr Michael Helm, a former Mayland resident and current Mayland Ward councillor, gave a report regarding Maldon District Council.

Local Government has been hit harder financially than virtually any other part of the public sector. The job of managing the Council's finances has been more difficult than anyone within the Authority can remember and yet we still have a budget that was agreed in February 2016 which can deliver over £600k of savings, with minimal impact to frontline services.

We continue to work closely with other Essex authorities as the discussions around devolution in the county develop and further benefits from collaborative working emerge. We agreed that we will also work with EDF Energy to maximise the socio-economic benefits of the development of a new nuclear power station at Bradwell.

Successes and achievements during 2015/16 include:

- court case successes, including a benefit claimant case involving almost £49,000 in false claims,
- targets for collection of Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates being met,
- targets for processing benefit applications being exceeded,

- securing of additional fraud and compliance resources,
- provision of emergency service to anyone sleeping rough in the District,
- successes of joint working between Environmental Health, Planning Enforcement, Development Control, Council Tax and Housing,
- success in Anglia in Bloom, to which the Parks Team contributed,
- successful launch of the Dog Watch scheme,
- a successful bid to Government with respect to Coastal Community Teams
- successful completion of the procurement phase of the new waste contract,
- completion of £2m investment in the Dengie Hundred and Blackwater Leisure Centres,
- Maldon Shed (a mental health and social inclusion project) is going from strength to strength and
- the Inspector's report on the Local Development Plan was successfully challenged.

Events in the district over the past year included: -

- Summer Get Active Programme, with 153 attendees,
- Walking Football Programme, with over 600 attendees over the summer,
- successful VE and Armed Forces Day's events,
- the largest Classic Car Show to date held on Promenade Park and which was combined with live music and dance and a vintage fair,
- Carters Steam Fair, which returned to Maldon for the second year,
- Crucial Crew, in which over 600 year 6 pupils participated, held at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome in September 2015,
- the 2015 Saltmarsh 75 event, in which over 200 competitors and 35 volunteer support staff took part,
- open air cinemas held at Prom Park
- a successful junior Park Run trial held in the summer leading to a regular event being funded through Health and Wellbeing and
- a successful tourism event which took place recently at the Blackwater Sailing Club and at which the new 'Visit Maldon' website was showcased.

7. **Park Rangers**

Park Ranger, Mr Chapman spoke of the Park Watch scheme which now has thirty members. Several fixed penalty notices have been issued in Mayland, for dog fouling and for car parking outside the school. Three new members of the Park Rangers' team are currently being trained. The Rangers welcome any information from residents and will adjust their patrol times if required to follow up on information received.

Residents and councillors discussed parking and dog fouling issues. Cllr Oatham asked if information regarding penalty notices could be fed back so that people will know that action against offenders is pursued.

It was noted that over the past few years, teenagers in the village have been a good group.

Mr Chapman left the meeting at 8.44 p.m.

8. **Lawling Park Committee**

Cllr Peter Spires, Chairman of the Lawling Park Committee, reported on the committee which is responsible for the maintenance of existing, and development of new, park facilities. Villagers' opinion has been sought on a number of facility proposals via the Parish Plan Survey. This year will see repairs to surface cracks in footpaths, pathways and Bakersfield car park. Last year's tree planting to the southern and western Bakersfield boundaries will be monitored in view of the very wet winter which has left many parts of the park waterlogged.

The surface water levels were already being investigated by Essex County Council's Watercourse Engineer Lee Sencier in March 2015, in which eight areas were visited. Progress is slow being geared to available ECC funding.

Mayland Village Football Club is the major field user, subject to the pitches being available during the wetter months. Football Managers are still looking for more youngsters to join their teams.

During the summer a cricket set is available for hire. The tennis courts, one of which has a marked netball pitch, are also available for hire by the hour. The floodlights are by pre-pay meter card at £1.00 each; these are available from the Clerk.

Sadly, the boxing club has moved to another venue after several unsuccessful funding attempts for a boxing ring extension to LPH. The hall continues to be used by Deb's Fitness Tuesday and Friday 10.00-11.00am, Stay and Play (mother and baby group) 1st and 3rd Thursday morning of the month and the youth club every Thursday evening.

Modifications are planned to the hall. These include extending the kitchen, replacing the adjacent WC's with cafe style bench seat tables (the changing room corridor WC's will be available to all hall users), removal of existing storage space and conversion to a stage area, new storage space by means of a small extension, removal of the hall storage boxes and laying of a new floor covering. A project manager is currently being sought in order that all contractors involved will be carefully monitored.

9. Neighbourhood Plan Committee

Cllr Peter Spires, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, reported on the stages involved in the development of the neighbourhood plan.

- *Where are we in the process?*
During the course of last year, surveys have been issued, returns analysed and evidence collated to help in the preparation of a Draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- *What happens next?*
The Committee prepares a Draft Mayland Neighbourhood Plan (NP)
A Pre-submission draft is submitted to Maldon District Council (MDC) for appraisal
The draft is revised to account for MDC's appraisal and Mayland residents' comments
The final format NP is submitted to MDC
- *MDC is then responsible for arranging the following:*
Publication of Mayland's NP
Appointment of an examiner
Submission of the NP for examination
Publication of the examiner's report
Publication of a pre-referendum report
Referendum - Mayland Parish residents vote. The NP is accepted if more than 50% of those voting say 'yes'.

Cllr Spires noted that MDC's LDP has yet to be approved and Mayland's NP cannot be approved until this has happened.

The Chairman highlighted how hard Cllr Spires works on the NP, undertaking the bulk of the work with only a very small committee to support him. She thanked him on behalf of the parish council.

10. Public Discussion

The Chairman stated how sorry she was at the news of the sad passing away of Kevin Eardley, a former councillor who had much involvement with the building of the hall. Thoughts go out to his family.

The Chairman then invited residents to ask questions or express their views on matters of their own choice.

Q. What is being done at the nature reserve? It has been neglected for many years, some work has been carried out, but it appears to be unfinished.

A. The parish council is aware that a lot of work needs to be done at the nature reserve and steps are being taken to manage it. The area cut back previously is to be sprayed with herbicide to reduce regrowth of the russian vine and a further area is to be cut. Quotations are currently being sought for an arboriculturist to inspect the trees at the nature reserve and advise on work to be carried out.

Q. Are activities recently carried out at the orchard site at Nipsells Chase permitted?

A. This has been reported to Maldon District Council and is now in their hands. We have no further information at present.

Q. What is happening about signage at Nipsells Chase to inform drivers of the Restricted Byway restrictions?

A. The parish council has approached Essex Highways about this and we are advised that the enquiry has been forwarded to the Public Rights of Way inspector for the area. We now await their response.

A resident added that a very small sign has recently been placed, but that it is not easily visible to users of the route.

The Chairman reminded residents of the parish council website which is frequently updated with council information.

11. Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.