

MDC are working with Essex County Council and Clinical Commissioners Group towards a new Community Hospital in Maldon.

A new contract will be offered in 2014 for the running of both the Blackwater Leisure facility and the Dengie 100 facility.

A new Local Development Plan is being written and further consultation on this proposed document will be sort this summer.

The Chairman thanked D.Cllr Mrs P Channer.

6. Chairman's Report

This has been my first year as chairman of the Parish Council and I would like to thank my fellow councillors and our Parish Clerk for their continued hard work, commitment and contribution to the work of the Parish Council. The councillors are all volunteers who willingly give up their own time to support this parish.

During 2012 we saw the retirement of Dennis Hawkes who, for nearly 20 years was employed as groundsman of Lawling Park. He's been missed by us all and on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank him for his service and commitment to the local community, we wish him the very best for his retirement.

The recent addition of two employees to work flexibly alongside Terry Blowers our existing groundsman as the need arises in both park and hall now ensures adequate staff coverage. I would like to thank Terry for keeping everything in order whilst we advertised for the two new employees.

Just a little about our Budget

We have through careful budgeting been able to maintain the annual allocated precept funding at the same level as 2011/12 resulting in no additional increase in the precept section of your Council Tax for local residents over the past two years.

The council continues its commitment to provide the highest possible services for the parish within its financial constraints. We have received a grant of £3215 towards the cost of upgrading and providing new paths in Lawling Park and we are committed to continuing with our programme of improvement.

The sum of £85,375 has been received via a Section 106 agreement which can be used for further improvements to the Village Hall and play areas in the park.

An upgraded financial accounts system has been acquired at a cost of £760 and a change in our insurance provider has resulted in a saving of around £2000.

A contribution of nearly £500 was made towards the purchase of commemorative coins alongside a donation from the school of £200 for all our local junior school children in celebration of The Queen's Jubilee which I was delighted to present to the children.

Village Environment

I'm very pleased to report that the investment in and installation of the new CCTV System has successfully resulted in a major reduction in the occurrences of vandalism to the play areas, skate park, hall and surrounding parklands as Cllr Massenhove has already reported.

The employment of Park Rangers for a small number of hours each month spent in the park and in the Bakersfield area will hopefully aid in the reduction of 'dog fouling' which has become problematic recently.

The Queen's Jubilee 'Picnic in the Park' held on June 4th 2012 was a great success; this event was attended and enjoyed by several hundred people. It was organised by

a group of Mayland/Maylandsea residents who must be congratulated on this achievement.

We have been encouraged by the increased usage of the Lawling Park Hall by local residents and also by the increasing numbers of young people involved in both the football and boxing clubs. And Cllr Spires will report more fully on this.

Just a little about Working with Partners and the Public

A questionnaire was recently circulated to each household asking for opinions on the future direction of our village, your lifestyle priorities and ways in which we can protect the local environment. This initiative was led by local residents on behalf of the Parish Council and the first stage has now been completed. The results will be published shortly and will support the development of a local parish plan.

We continue to maintain excellent working relationships with both Maldon District and Essex County Councils and are always pleased to welcome our District Councillors to our Parish meetings and we benefit greatly from their shared information and advice.

Planning is a regular item on our monthly agenda. The Parish Council is consulted each month by Maldon District Council on all local planning applications these are all strongly debated prior to submitting our comments to the District Council before decisions are considered by them.

All planning applications can be found on Maldon District Council's website: www.maldon.gov.uk

The Parish Council continues to work closely with Essex Police on all public matters relating to our community

And just to inform you. Repairs to the footpath on the seawall are due to take place this summer. This will result in the closure of the path from the boat yard at the bottom of Marine Parade to the path at the bottom of Nipsells Chase. An alternative route will be marked out at this time, and they will reopen the seawall path as soon as the work is completed.

And now we should be Looking Forward to the coming year.

After the great success of the 'Picnic in the Park' it is hoped that a 'Fete and Fun Day' will be held in July 2014 organised by a group of Mayland / Maylandsea residents. News and updates will be published regularly in the Mayland May!

Finally just a little advertisement now, as you know the Parish Council website can be found on www.essexinfo.net/mayland-parish-council. Agendas and minutes of all Parish Council meetings are available on the website. And for further information about the Parish Council or to book the Lawling Park Hall please contact our Clerk Jenny Rackham (on 01621 773557). You can obtain further details from the Clerk at the end of this meeting if you wish to do so.

As this is my first report to you our residents I have kept it fairly brief but hope that I have given you a highlighted overview of the main events which have occurred over the past 12 months.

The Chairman welcomed D. Cllr Mrs Penny Channer to the meeting and asked her to report on issues concerning residents of Mayland at Maldon District Council

For ease this will be minuted in its original place on the agenda.

7. Lawling Park Committee Report

The Lawling Park Committee (LPC) is responsible for the maintenance of existing and development of new Park facilities. Parishioners' opinion is being sought on a number of facility proposals via the Parish Plan Survey. This will give direction to future improvement plans. Grants are always sought as the major funding source in addition to the Precept allowance.

The permanent changing rooms and WC facilities are now completed and well used. The Park CCTV system has helped reduce nuisance damage, vandalism and incorrect use of facilities considerably. There is a strong call to further expand CCTV coverage.

Essex Community Services (free of charge) were in the process of reorganisation during the year and not able to offer the same service as before, which has halted the process of removing dead trees and undergrowth from the fields' perimeters and the east/west drainage ditch. I would like to thank ECS who have consistently contributed valuable work over the years in the upkeep of Lawling Park facilities and hope to see them again in the not too distant future.

Sports: Football is the major field user. Football Managers are looking for more youngsters to join their teams. During the summer a cricket set is available for hire. The tennis courts are also available for hire by the hour, one of which has a marked netball pitch. Court 1 floodlights are in the process of being overhauled this spring.

Mayland Amateur Boxing and Sports Development Club meet on a Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Lawling Park Hall. The club is going from strength to strength with some success in away matches. You can find them on Facebook. Details from Leon Jarrod.

Picnic in the Park: This event was organised by parishioners to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. It was a huge success and they have made a donation for a memorial park bench to be installed along Bakersfield Walk later this year. A big village fete is being planned for 2014.

The BMX course continues to be used, and the Skate Park ramp tarmac levels were adjusted. The request of a spine and half pipe remains on our agenda for future installation in the longer term.

Phone numbers of all activities can be found in the Mayland Mayl.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Spires.

8. Open to the Public

All the raised issues will be added to the PC agenda to enable actions to be taken.

Mrs Roe, Fly tipping in Cherry Alley is becoming a problem. This was brought to our attention last week and the Clerk has already contacted MDC regarding this problem.

Mr Abernethy. Good news about the vandalism but there has been a number of burglaries in the area, is this correct? Cllr Massenhove was unaware of this and will contact PC Sam Pateman for advice.

Mr Hines. Could we have a couple of bridges across the ditch so people can walk from one field to the other in Lawling Park? Lawling Park Committee will discuss this.

Mr Hines continued that we need signs for NO DOGS or people walking their dogs on the football pitches cannot be challenged. LPC are currently looking at signage.

Mr Robinson. We need to be more security aware. Perhaps the council could write an article about security for the Maylands Mayl?

Mrs Stevens. Dog bin at Nipsells/Seaview needs replacing. This was been reported

April 2012. D. Cllr Mrs Channer asked to be included in correspondence for this. Mr Robinson. Bigger buses are travelling along Wembley Avenue the roads are not made for this size of vehicle. Our transport representative will look into this and report back to the PC.

Cllr Peter Spires responded to Mr Hines request for bridges across the ditch. A pathway would be required to join up the bridges either side of them.

The Parish Plan. The most important problem highlighted in the Parish Plan Questionnaire was parking on the pavements. A display of all of the results will be shown in this hall on 1st June 9am to 12pm.

9. Closing Remarks

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9. 34pm