

THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Was held in the Lawling Park Hall on Tuesday 15th March 2011 at 7.30pm

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

31 members of the public, D.Cllr Mrs Penny Channer. PC Sam Pateman.

1. Apologies

Cllr White.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 27th April 2010

Mrs P O'Brien proposed accepting the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2010, Mrs Rogers 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.

4. Essex Police

Cllr Alan Massenhove reported that in his role as the Council's Police Liaison Officer he collated local information and reported it to the police at the Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP) meetings. The NAP meetings cover all of the Dengie. The information received by the police at these meetings enables them to focus activity and efforts to specific areas. Anti-social behaviour and speeding are the main issues in Mayland. Cllr Massenhove has noted an increase in parental control and some of the youths have been removed from the known troublemakers by their parents. The situation is not perfect; we need to give the police as much information as possible.

Residents responded to Cllr Massenhove's report with advice as to what to do with the youths. No parent can be behind their children 24/7. We need to be tougher.

PC Sam Pateman reported on a new scheme that will take effect from 1st April. This scheme involves disbursement orders. He explained that if a group of youths were seen by police as likely to cause trouble they will be given a disbursement order and told to leave the area and not to return for 12 hours or they will be arrested. Maps of the area will be posted around the village and in the press.

Residents asked why we could not give ASBOs. PC Pateman explained that there was not enough convictions for ASBO's to be enforced. Why can we not have officers on foot? PC Pateman responded. The rural location and the need to respond to the police radio make this difficult but walking the beat is achieved when possible.

A resident mentioned speeding on the corner of The Drive and Imperial Avenue. Last year ECC Highways carried out two speed surveys. Again the information, details of the cars involved in racing in the village must be passed to the police. PC Pateman assured residents that their names and addresses would remain confidential.

Speed bumps and width restrictions were discussed briefly.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Massenhove and PC Pateman for their reports.

5. Maldon District Councillor

District Councillor Mrs Penny Channer reported on Maldon District Council's (MDC) budget. A report was included in the latest edition of the courier. In these challenging

times efficiency savings were needed, services remained the priority of the district council. MDC consulted with parish councils and as many residents as possible holding public meetings all through the district to find out what was important. D.Cllr Mrs Channer thanked all those who took part in the consultation process.

D.Cllr Mrs Channer reported that MDC were aware of the anti-social behaviour problems in Mayland and that Owen Thom Youth Participation and Development Officer organised a BBQ and football tournament during the summer. The police, parish councillors and Maldon District councillors attended. Unfortunately a small group of youths remained isolated from the well received and supported event. There are a lot of good youths in Mayland.

A Resident asked why the street cleaning vehicle visited Mayland the day before the refuse collection vehicles? D.Cllr Mrs Channer will investigate but advised that it may not be possible to change the current days until the new contracts are awarded in 2012. It was noted that residents can contact Chris Quilter in the refuse department at Maldon District Council.

The Chairman thanked D.Cllr Mrs Channer.

6. Chairman's Report

Cllr Robinson reported on her second year as Chairman of the Parish Council. She started by thanking her fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their hard work and dedication. All the Councillors are volunteers, and many of them spend a lot of their own time on parish work. The main Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month and the Lawling Park Committee on the third Tuesday of the month. Both meetings are at 7.30pm, are open to the public, and are held here in the Lawling Park Hall. We also have a monthly Finance Committee; a Personnel Committee meets on an ad-hoc basis when there are any staffing issues to discuss.

The main project of the year has been the extension to the Lawling Park Hall. As you will hear from Cllr Spires' report, work is now substantially complete on the extension, with fantastic new changing and shower rooms for players using our sports facilities. Almost £42,000 was obtained from grants from CIF, Fowler Smith & Jones, Essex Environment Trust and Maldon District Council. A loan for £30,000 at a low interest rate from the Public Works Loan Board and the remainder from Parish funds.

Apart from this important project, funding constraints have meant that we have not been able to carry out any other major new projects this year, and unfortunately 2011/12 will be no different.

Although there is money in the budget for installing CCTV, Councillors commissioned a report from Essex Police on security around the Lawling Park area, which seems to be the area most affected by vandalism. A number of measures that were recommended have now been implemented, such as removing scrubland and hedges, and using anti-climb paint. Work on removing the old portable building and moving the storage containers will be complete soon. A meeting to discuss the needs of a CCTV was held today, we are now ready to invite companies to tender.

Otherwise the money we raise from the Council Tax is spent mainly on grass cutting, street lights, insurance and keeping our assets in good order. We also pay for extra grass cutting around the village to supplement the County Council's twice yearly programme.

We expect the cost of vandalism to be more than £4000 in this current year. If it hadn't been for this vandalism element, we would have been able to freeze our precept this year.

Working with partners

We have good working relationships with Maldon District Council and Essex County Council, and we are pleased that our District Councillors often attend our meetings. This is particularly useful to receive updates about what is happening at MDC, and for the parish Council to raise local issues with Maldon District Council. If you don't know who your district councillors are, for Mayland they are Cllr Penny Channer and

Cllr David Horner; and for Maylandsea they are Cllr Anthony Cussen and Cllr Bob Boyce. All their details are on Maldon District Council's website.

We are very concerned about the unsuitable behaviour of a small number of young people in the village, and have been in close contact with the Police to try to find solutions to the problems.

It is really useful for the Police to hear about all incidences of anti-social behaviour, however small, so they can build up a clear picture of the nature of the problem. The Maldon District Community Safety partnership has produced an incident log so that people who are affected by anti-social behaviour can record incidents and report them on a regular basis. Incidents can be recorded, say weekly or monthly, and then forwarded to Leanne Hinton at Maldon District Council, so that an accurate picture can be recorded to see if there are any specific locations, time of day, or other things that can be targeted to help solve the problems. We have a supply of the forms here. If anyone is interested, please collect one at the end of the meeting.

We have continued to work closely with Essex Police and the Essex Youth Service, to tackle the antisocial behaviour of some of our younger residents. We would like especially to thank the Essex Youth Service and the Community Safety Partnership for arranging football and boxing sessions which have proved very popular.

We are in regular contact with Essex County Council highways department, and are constantly trying to get improvements made to potholes, parking problems, speeding and other issues that parishioners raise with us. Some actions are taken, such as the double yellow lines, but it is often an uphill struggle getting things done, particularly small repairs.

The speed tables in The Drive have been causing some concern to nearby residents, who are suffering from vibration in their homes and excessive noise from vehicles bumping up and down the ramps. Essex County Council is investigating the problems, and the parish council is keeping up the pressure, with the residents concerned, to solve these problems. We are hoping to have a meeting with ECC highways to discuss this problem.

Planning applications

The Parish Council looks at all the planning applications which affect the parish, but it does not have the power to decide the outcome. We discuss them at Parish Council meetings and then we submit our 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, and also larger proposals outside the parish, but which might have effects on our village – on the local roads for example – such as the wind farms. We have given our views on over 30 planning applications in the past year.

Localism and the Big Society

There has been a lot of discussion recently about the Big Society, and Localism. The Parish Council is still working out what this means for local issues, while the details of the Localism Bill go through Parliament.

New powers for local communities will include local referendums; neighbourhood development plans to allow new homes and businesses; community rights to build, for example, affordable homes. If you are interested in more details, you can download a 20 page summary in plain English on the Department for Communities and Local Government website. I can pass the link on to anyone who is interested.

Elections

Don't forget that local elections will be held on May 5th. You will be able to vote for your representatives on Mayland Parish Council, and Maldon District Council. If you are not registered to vote, sign up NOW - contact Maldon District Council's election office on 01621 875880. The closing date for registering is 14th April

Maybe voting is not enough and you'd like to get more involved. Anyone can stand as a parish councillor, and effectively all 9 seats are up for election. It is up to individual councillors here whether they nominate themselves for another term of office. If you are interested, contact the district council's election office for more information on how to stand for election, or our parish clerk for more information on what the role involves.

Thanks

I have a few thank yous to make.

Firstly to all my fellow Councillors, who give up their time to support the village and work on behalf of parishioners to bring issues forward for discussion.

I would like to thank our Parish Clerk Jenny Rackham, who does a difficult job, and keeps us all in line with the rules and regulations, advises on ways of taking issues forwards, and very successfully applies for grant funding to support our work.

I would also like to thank our groundsman Dennis Hawkes, who can be seen around the Lawling Park in all weathers keeping the playing pitches, tennis courts, and field in good order.

Thanks also to Terry Blowers who has been keeping the Bakersfield area tidy, strimming and all of our heavy work. to Carole Serjeant who cleans the Lawling Park Hall and carries out litterpicking. Carole has been unwell recently but we are pleased to hear that she is getting better.

And finally thanks to you, the parishioners, for supporting the Council and taking an interest in your village.

Don't forget to visit our website for more information including council agendas and minutes, annual reviews, and village photographs: www.essexinfo.net/mayland-parish-council

I would also add that there are two weeks to go until the close of our Photographic Competition, Mayland in Winter. There is a great prize of a digital photo frame, donated by the Mayland Bowls Club – so get snapping!

7. Lawling Park Committee Report

The Lawling Park Committee (LPC) organise the maintenance and upkeep of existing facilities within the budgetary constraints allowed as well as working to a longer term improvement plan to provide further park facilities for all users. This year unforeseen costs for damage to the Park's facilities have caused improvement plans to be delayed.

Bakersfield carpark has suffered a demolished lighting standard and entrance gate.

Other areas of the park also suffered damage.

Phase 2 of the permanent changing room and toilet facilities will be completed this Spring. The new brick built extension to Lawling Park Hall houses, two 16 place shower/changing rooms, one 3 place officials shower/changing room, a disabled access compliant ramp and WC, a ladies WC and a Gents WC. The toilet facilities will be open to visitors to the park during match or organised games/events. The existing Portacabin facility has been removed and the two steel lockup containers will be relocated by April. Site reinstatement will complete the area. We have been very lucky to had help from the community pay back scheme (free of charge). They have cleared our woodland and ditch.

Sports

Football is the major field user. Over 100 youths play and train on a Sunday. Flooding of the field has been a problem this winter.

Cricket and tennis courts are also available. The skatepark is well used. The youths would like us to extend the skate park to include a spine and a half pipe.

Indoor bowls make good use of the Lawling Park Hall meeting twice a week.
Boxing. Maldon District Council has been running a pilot scheme in the Lawling Park Hall, one hour a week for 6 weeks. If possible the Lawling Park Committee would like to extend the scheme and develop the club. Thank you to Cllr Lund for his help with this scheme. Extra help is needed.
Cllr Spires thanked all member of the Lawling Park Committee.

8. Open to the Public

The registered questions were answered first.

I am concerned about the parking problems in the Parish car park which services the school and the Lawling Park Hall. The Council has painted yellow hatchings at the front of the car park which i have seen a lot of people ignore. Some drivers are parking in front of the gate for the school also the gates for the Emergency Vehicle access.

There have been some accidents and near misses some involving school children. As much as Mr Rudman sends letters home from school he has no authority to deal with this. I would like to know what the Parish Council is going to do before a child is run over or killed.

It was reported that the entrance and the first 16 bays were leased to the school. We will add this item to the next Parish Council meeting for further discussion to try and find a solution.

When will we get CCTV and why the delay?

We had a security evaluation carried out by Crime Reduction Officer. Most of his recommendations have been completed. We will be inviting tenders shortly.

When will the footpath to the Lawling Park Hall be finished it is a disgrace you should close the hall. This question was answered by the bowls committee. They assess the condition of the path and advise their members. If they want to continue to use the hall then the individual members make their own choice.

Question 1.

Do the Members of the Parish Council support the demands of those residents affected by the humps, that Essex County Council complies with its own Speed Management Strategy which on pages 27 & 28 states:-

.....that both the Project Manager and Designer should, amongst other things, consider the following.....

monitoring and evaluating whether the scheme has had the intended effect at no detriment to other users of the highway, especially bus operators, or to local residents or businesses.

*Please note, ...no detriment..... to local residents..... it does not state a degree of detriment, or detriment within certain levels (of noise or vibration) it states **no detriment***

Question 2.

Will the Parish Council please expedite the decision it made at its meeting on 13th July 2010 to request and hold a site meeting with Andy Vale, the Highways Engineer.

I have a letter from Jackie Roerig of ECC dated 14th July 2010 advising a meeting would be arranged as soon as possible after Mr Vale returned from annual leave on 26th July 2010. A further letter from her dated 6th October again promised a meeting once further information was available. It is now mid-March 2011 and I think you will agree the lengthy delay is totally unacceptable.

The Parish Council has been requesting a meeting each month. ECC Highways wanted to wait until all the results of the surveys were available. We have three dates from ECC Highways for a meeting. All three of the dates were suitable. We will invite the school and the pre-school to send a representative to the meeting. The questions above and others can be discussed at the meeting.

Why are not all clubs treated the same?

All users of the hall pay fees. The football club use the facilities at the moment as we have removed both the portacabins which they pay for within their fees.

Why can we not have the boxes that run along the side of the hall removed?

The boxes can be used for storage by other users. We do not have funding for everything. It is difficult to arrange the hall for the bowls club. We have to work with what we have. We obtain grants for specific work that is on the long term plan. We will add this to the Lawling Park Committee meeting for further discussion.

The bowls club will be willing to do the work. Perhaps we could improve the seating in the interim.

The Reverend Michael Ryan gave a short speech thanking the Parish Council for contributing to the maintenance of the churchyard and would appreciate it if you could continue to do so. This is a Mayland facility used by many. We are unable to give our full attention to the churchyard in the way that we would wish. We are doing our best.

Street signs being moved around. We cannot screw into posts that have electricity cables in them.

Bottle bank at Mayland Mill needs attention. The Chairman reported that we were aware of the problem and has contacted MDC.

Gateways to the village are dirty. Who is responsible for cleaning them?
ECC highways.

9. Closing Remarks

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.30pm