



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held in the Lawling Park Hall
on Tuesday 19th April 2022
at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Haywood (Chairman) Cllr Chandler (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Bush Cllr Oatham
Cllr Todd Cllr Spires
Cllr Morris Cllr Harding

Clerk: Mrs L Whitefield

In attendance: D/Cllr Penny Channer
18 Residents
Nicola Syder, Senior Community Engagement Co-ordinator at Maldon District Council
Steven & Suzie Appleby S-Type Security

1 Apologies for Absence

None

2 Minutes of the Previous Annual Assembly Meeting

Cllr Spires proposed accepting the minutes from the meeting held on 8th June 2021. Cllr Oatham seconded this proposal. All in favour. The minutes were signed and dated as a true record.

3 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone in attendance.

She told everyone present that sadly Barry Edwards had just passed away. He was a dedicated councillor and a much respected man and had been a great asset to the Council.

4 Chairman's Annual Report – Cllr Linda Haywood

As we come to the end of my first year as Chair of the Parish Council, I would like to thank all the Councillors for supporting me as I have settled into this role.

I would like to thank the Councillors for their continued personal and voluntary commitment and contribution in support of the residents and Parish of Mayland.

I could not have done this without the help and guidance from our Parish Clerk, Linda Whitefield. She is a great asset to the Council and I'd like to thank her for all her continued hard work.

The hall is now open and starting to be used again. We have a monthly coffee morning for residents to meet their councillors and the Engagement officers and police officers. We hope that this will become more successful and be a valuable way for residents to ask questions.

A regular coffee morning has started on a Tuesday afternoon which older residents are welcome to attend.

The Annual Precept for 2022/23 is £100,249 which remains the same as last year. Band D for the village of Mayland is £67.11.

We have added a lot of new equipment in the park this year. A new slide and space climber have proved very popular with the youngsters and we have now added a replacement zip wire. We have also resurfaced areas under the roundabout and the swings. We have recently purchased 5 picnic benches which will be placed in the park ready for the summer. A nest swing will be installed later this month which can be used for abled and disabled children.

Our groundsmen and contractors have kept the park looking at its best and we have won 3 awards this year from the Essex Playing Field Association for the best kept park. We have recently had a tree survey done and a plan was produced. This will let us know what work needs doing in the park and which trees need attention. It is a pleasure to walk around and see adults and young people enjoying the facilities in the park. We are in the process of producing a 10 year plan so that we can organise what projects will take place next.

Our latest plaque placed on the memorial garden wall, was to commemorate Miriam Holden who did so much for The Maylands throughout her life.

I would like to thank our dedicated volunteers who litter pick weekly and help to trim back and tidy areas around our village whenever it is needed. Essex County Council supplied 20 tons of stones and over a week they resurfaced a long section of our seawall that needed doing. A hard job that has been appreciated by many of our regular walkers.

The Parish council continues to maintain its positive working relationships with both Maldon District Council and Essex County Council and we welcome the support of our district Councillors at our Parish Meetings.

The Parish council continues its commitment in working together with the residents of our village and we appreciate those who attend our Parish Meetings and contribute in any way to the upkeep of our village.

5 Maldon District Council

District Councillor Penny Channer gave a report about work achieved in the district:

- 2021/22 has been a challenging one for Maldon District Council. They have been impacted by Covid but despite this, much has been achieved.
- Assistance with the vaccination program by using Council offices
- Support for Local businesses, distributing well over £10 million of government funding
- Core services have been maintained despite shortage of drivers to collect waste and recycling.
- Delivered an environment health service whilst meeting increased challenges
- Adopted our primary action strategy to bring about positive change in the district and this strategy was praised by Essex County Council
- Local Development Plan is being reviewed. The deadline has passed but everyone was urged to respond to the survey.
- IT systems were not impacted by the cyber-attack in December 2021 and were short listed for work placed transformation award – future ways of working
- Jointly secured a local digital fund of £280,000 in Colchester and Tendring to develop a dynamic task allocation tool
- Developed and improved a new quality, diversity and inclusion policy to focus on how we can support and engage better in our communities
- In November, we launched “enough is enough” which was a campaign highlighting the recent increase in unacceptable behaviour towards our staff and members.
- Council tax was increased by £5 for a Band D resident which amounts to 42p per month.
- Government issuing £150 refund for those in Band A to D
- Will be looking at commercial activities to generate income due to the impact of Covid

6 Engagement Officers

Nicola Syder gave a report about work carried out by the Engagement officers:

- Team quite broad across the district
- Officers patrol the recreation ground, the sea wall, the shops, dog walking, parking.
- During the patrols, they try to engage with dog walkers, members of the public, and educate people about dog fouling, littering and parking by the school and in Bakersfield. They work alongside SEPP (South Eastern Parking Partnership) who are responsible for on street parking in the district. Can work together to see what can be improved and whether restrictions in place are working. The 3PR scheme is something to look into which SEPP runs with other schools where children encourage their parents to park sensibly.
- Gary oversees any anti-social behaviour which has been more active in the last 12 months. Can contact him if have any issues.
- PC Rosie Smith is a community police officer who wants to create hubs around the district for residents to ask questions.
- Officers are awaiting an accreditation which will provide certain powers to them. They can issue Fixed Penalty Notices, can confiscate alcohol and tobacco from under 16 years old and can deal with begging. They don't have the power to arrest so they try to engage and educate before going down that route.
- Speed enforcement patrols are an option, with another site being up and running soon in Mayland for patrolling.
- To have regular meetings with Clerks in area to engage and make sure that services provided are ones that are needed. Every parish is different.

7 S-Type Security Company

Steven Appleby gave a report about work carried out by the Security officers:

- There have been 30+ drug related incidents in the village
- Carry out mobile patrols at night – engage with kids, introduce themselves, be friendly, turn them around
- An increase in drug incidents coming from Hullbridge to Dengie areas
- Antisocial behaviour incidents dealt with like music playing loudly
- Rely on residents to ring them and they can go and deal with incident
- Getting their own accreditation – to have same powers as Engagement officers and can make citizens arrests.
- Have some of biggest track records with Essex Police for arrests
- Had to reduce hours the last 2 months so not as many patrols but often use undercover patrols to catch people. More effective.
- All officers have dash cams, body cams
- Young people now know who officers are and move on when approached
- Shops are better and not so many drug incidents, cars parking
- Number available on signs for residents to report

8 Lawling Park Committee – Cllr Peter Spires

May I begin by extending my thanks to the Lawling Park Committee for meeting virtually during Covid lockdown and now playing catch up in the running of Lawling Park.

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.

The current 10 year plan has come to an end having achieved the following:

- Pathways: Katonia car park to Bakersfield car park resurfaced with 5mm granite
- Bakersfield walk resurfaced with 8mm stone on bitumen bond
- Installation of a memorial wall, seating, flagpole and garden
- BMX course addition, the movement of earth and shaping
- Tree planting to Southern and Western boundaries, infill of gaps.

- Cleared existing western woodland brushwood to make a pathway through.
- Container relocated to behind school adjacent to Katonia car park
- Youth play area: New Cable slide including upgrade of safety surface, New high slide and safety surface, New Space climber and safety surface, Twin swings – upgrade of safety surface new seats and chains, beam swing – upgrade of safety surface and overhaul of timbers, Millennium roundabout – new bearings and safety surface.
- Children’s Play area – New swings for children up to 2 years old, New interaction game Sona Sutu, 3 x Picnic benches
- External all weather installation of Urbanix 8 piece gym apparatus and safety surface.
- Essex County Council funded a surface water level drainage scheme along the Eastern boundaries of the park and has helped reduce surface water.
- Refurbishment of Lawling Park Hall included an addition of changing rooms, showers, toilets, clerk’s office, stage, storage room, cupboards and kitchen. Booking has not yet returned to pre Covid levels. Interested users should contact the Clerk.

Project listing for the next 10 year plan is now under discussion. Your suggestions are welcome.

9 Neighbourhood Plan Committee – Cllr Peter Spires

May I begin by extending my thanks to the Neighbourhood Committee for meeting virtually during Covid and new members playing catch-up.

The Neighbourhood Plan is required to be compatible with both Central Government NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) and Maldon District’s approved LDP (Local Development Plan), which is currently under an update review to be completed by 2024.

Having collated evidence from many surveys, we have engaged Troy Planning to complete the final stages of our Neighbourhood Plan on our behalf. This may take us to 2024 as NP compliance is dependent upon MDC’s updated review.

Once the Neighbourhood Plan has been approved and added to the LDP, it informs planning law requirements which entitle a larger proportion (25%) of the Community Infrastructure Levy to the Parish when planning applications are approved and completed.

10 Orchard Management Committee – Cllr Nigel Todd

Since we purchased the orchard behind North Drive, we have had a meeting with the Tree preservation officer from Maldon District Council who helped us to decide the best way forward for the land.

He advised us to create an Orchard Management Committee and Cllr Chandler was voted to be the Chairman and Cllr Todd as the Vice-Chairman.

We are in the process of getting planning permission for change of use to a nature reserve and to allow us to trim back the brushwood to create footpaths and glades.

The entrance and ditch have been cleared by our village volunteers and it was suggested we put in a rise and fall pond which we have been awarded a grant for. Going forward we are aiming to make the entrance and some of the paths inside disabled friendly so it can be used by everyone.

11 Public Questions

- 1) Does Maldon District Council have a view of the comment made in the Tory conference in October 2021 about focusing on Brownfield land for housing instead of Greenfield and the 300,000 threshold that they put forward for house building being reduced?

District Councillor Penny Channer replied:

There was a planning white paper which came out for a planning reform which speaks about the 300,000 houses and the levelling up paper has now come out which talks about in the north more than the south.

Planning white paper – has read will be shelved. What might remain is the infrastructure levy. This is something that will deal with section 106 agreements and the CIL and then the planning aspects will be dealt with through the levelling up agenda. This agenda has spoken about people having the opportunities to have some say in planning applications within their own streets and to add greater merits to Neighbourhood planning.

Makes it difficult if there are not enough brownfield sites for all the housing that is required. There is a standard formula that is utilised by the government to work out what your housing needs are.

MDC are going to write to government to clarify about white paper/levelling up paper.

Cllr Spires stated that one of the principles in the Neighbourhood Plan for Mayland is that Brownfield land is used first. One site has been put forward.

Cllr Oatham commented that it hasn't been justified why we need so many houses. The government needs to give people more information. A lot of people don't want large housing estates. No infrastructure in place.

- 2) Jean Hawkes advised that there is an Almshouse available in Althorne for anyone in need. It has just been done up. It has one bedroom. If anyone knows of anyone that would benefit from this offer, to contact her.
- 3) What can be done about the roads and pavements in Mayland? There is a hole in the road in Wembley Avenue that is in need of repair. This has been reported several times to Highways but has still not been done. The pavement from the Trinity Doctors to Imperial Avenue is also bad. Advised to keep reporting these incidents but nothing more that the PC can do to move this along.
- 4) What is happening about the proposed building sites in the village? It seems to be a bit of a topic at the moment on Facebook and just wondered if you could let us know what the current standing is regarding it. Some of us are worried that we are going to lose our beautiful countryside views.

Cllr Spires replied - You will have seen Maldon District Council's update on call for land sites which is land offered by land owners.

If this land supports houses to be built it is marked as green, if it is not suitable it is marked in red.

On MDC's website there are sites dotted all around the village and this does look as though a lot of houses will be built. However just because the land is sited as green, this does not mean that the sites have planning permission.

Surveys have shown that people do not want large housing estates so the Neighbourhood plan is suggesting that 150 houses are built over a 15 year period and these will be pepper potted around the village rather than in one place. The disadvantage of this is that there is no money offered for infrastructure which the large estates would receive.

- 5) Bus problems discussed. Bus routes are being reduced as less demand for them. Only 2 buses a day. Shuttle to Althorne station has now been cancelled. Dengie Dart still running for hospital appointments.

- 6) **Close** – Cllr Haywood thanked everyone for attending

Meeting closed at 20.08