



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held in the Lawling Park Hall
on Tuesday 18th April 2023
at 7.00 pm

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

Clerk: Mrs L Whitefield

In attendance: D/Cllr Penny Channer
6 Residents

1 Apologies for Absence
None

2 Minutes of the Previous Annual Assembly Meeting
Cllr Oatham proposed accepting the minutes from the meeting held on 19th April 2022. Cllr Haywood 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.

4 Chairman's Annual Report – Cllr Linda Haywood
Another year has passed as Chair of the Parish Council. I would like to thank all the Councillors for supporting and helping me.

I would also like to thank the councillors for their continued personal and voluntary commitment and contribution in support of the residents and Parish of Mayland. Three of our councillors have chosen to stand down from their roles, Bob Harding, Nigel Todd and Richard Smith and we would like to thank them for their hard work. We have two new councillors joining us, Jo Loke and Debbie Down and we appreciate their interest in joining the council.

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 Annual Precept for 2023/24 is £102,254, an increase of just 2%. Band D for the village of Mayland is £68.51.

The hall is open and getting a lot more use. A regular coffee morning is held on Tuesdays which older residents are welcome to attend, Youth Club, Messy play session, Parties and Village events.

Looking at our park this last year it is definitely as Councillor Spires says "The Jewel in our Crown". We have added more new equipment. The nest swing and table tennis table have been installed and are very popular with the youngsters. We are in the process of updating our Tennis courts. The front court is now open all the time and it is lovely to see everyone in there

using the new basketball hoops. A sensory garden has been started on The Bakersfield walkway and The Queens Platinum Jubilee bench has been placed there. We held our Jubilee celebrations and a Classic Car show in our park last year. Both were well attended by the residents.

Our groundsmen and contractors have kept the park looking at its best and we won three awards this year from the Essex Playing Field Association. One being first place for the best kept park in Essex in our category. It is a pleasure to walk around and see adults and young people enjoying the facilities in the park. We have our next ten year plan in place so that we can organise the projects we would like to achieve and some of these have already been started.

I would like to thank our team of dedicated volunteers who continue to litter pick and help trim back and tidy areas around our village whenever it is needed.

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: 2022/23 will be remembered first and foremost for the cost-of-living crisis that the country has faced. The Council has been impacted by the increased costs, which put pressure on the council budget and will also impact on future years.

The council had to continue to prioritise its resources, work in partnership where possible and invest time and effort in areas that fulfilled core services.

In March 2022, the council published its Commercial Strategy. This strategy and commercial thinking are vital to generate income from the Council's assets. The key aim from this strategy is to "Be more commercial in the Council's approach across all viable activities".

The Council's new corporate plan puts Quality of Life at the heart of everything the council does. The six priorities for the Council will be:

- Supporting our communities
- Enhancing and connecting our place
- Helping the economy to thrive
- Smarter finances
- A greener future
- Provide good quality services

The Council is committed to running a local authority that puts residents first, is a great place to work, providing quality services whilst working in partnership to support communities. To deliver this plan, the Council will build on good practice and continue to:

- Focus on the needs of our residents
- Make best use of resources
- Adopt modern and efficient ways of working
- Be digitally efficient
- Deliver commercial projects and be commercially focused
- Strengthen our partnership working to benefit the district
- Strive to be modern and innovative
- Champion the Council's Core values as they set its culture and behaviours and support the welfare of its Staff and councillors

- As a smaller local authority in the county, we will lobby for infrastructure and state our case
- Bid for funding
- Be more visible and promote the good work we do

In March 2022, the launch and first meeting of the new 'One Maldon District' Group took place. Residents' health and wellbeing is influenced by a range of factors, including access to housing, employment, education, exercise and living in a safe community. One Maldon District, a partnership, brings together key strategic partners across the district, encompassing the public, private and voluntary sectors with agencies such as the police, NHS, schools, and MDC, alongside businesses and voluntary groups looking at how, collectively, they can improve the health and wellbeing of the district.

A Council priority was work on funding bids and investment plans in respect of Levelling Up and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. All funding successfully secured for the District is going to help bring forward exciting projects that achieve outcomes for our people, place, and communities.

The Council's Climate Action Strategy, Our Home, Our Future continues to deliver activities against its pledges and officers worked with Essex County Council to develop a transport strategy. The new Climate Action Officer started with the authority at the end of August and the officer is engaging with communities and other bodies to enable further positive change.

The District is open again for tourism and inward investment, both of which were impacted by the pandemic, The Council must ensure it helps to promote the District and will be doing this through working with partners at Essex County Council.

The Splash .Park opened again in the summer of 2022. An events and concessions strategy will likely be produced this autumn as a lot of time and effort goes into event planning in the district.

This year there have been great strides in developing improved online access to the authority's services and support. The new Customer Engagement Strategy takes an equality led approach to ensure that all members of the community have a route to contacting us and accessing our services that is appropriate to them and their needs.

The Local Development Plan Review is still taking place within the council.

The Council has engaged in opportunities to support climate action, recover and boost our economy, build the capacity and resilience of our communities.

The Council's budget was developed that protects services, whilst also seeking savings and efficiencies. Some of the savings included:

- Increased income from council assets
- Increased income from recycling
- A reduction in staffing numbers where efficiencies have been realised

The Council tax increase agreed by Council was well below inflation and equates to an additional 12p a week/£6.36 a year for a Band D property.

6 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 Lawling Park

Committee has drafted the next 10 year plan for Lawling Park. Work has started on some of the projects.

Lawling Park Facilities next 10 Year Plan 2022 to 2032 updates:

1. Sensory Garden along Bakersfield path for Queen's Platinum celebrations. Work has already started on this project. Plants will be added later in the season.
2. Basketball nets and stands x 2. These have been funded by the Mayland Youth Club and have been installed.
3. Tennis Court Refurbishment – the surface is in the process of being refurbished with new nets.
4. Fencing to be replaced around the Tennis Courts. This has already been completed.
5. Table Tennis Table – This has already been installed in the park
6. Dog training enclosed area – a poll will take place asking residents what they want
7. Wood chipper or Park maintenance – Price and spec to be researched
8. Toilet Block in the park – investigate plan to attach to south side of Lawling Hall adjacent to existing toilets. Cllr Spires to look further into this project
9. Small children's Playground to be refurbished – Proposed extension for pirate ship
10. More disabled equipment - further research see 15
11. Skate Park Extension – plan for 2 years ahead
12. Remote control area near BMX track – Paul to investigate
13. Update spec for BMX track – see MDC park department for details
14. Ground level trampoline – obtain prices and spec
15. Running Track – annual grass marked or ash felt?

Order of installation is dependent on costs, available grants and research for inclusion in future years budgeted expenditure.

Planned events for this year in Lawling Park include:

Kings Coronation Celebration
Classic Car/Vehicle show

7 Neighbourhood Plan Committee – Cllr Peter Spires

May I begin by extending my thanks to the Neighbourhood Committee for meeting as normal post Covid and for 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.

Good news! Maldon District Council has responded positively in general to the draft NDP and will come back with formal comments. Once received MPC and Troy Planning will review and make any necessary amendments. The SEA (Strategic Environment Assessment) and HRA (Habitat Regulations Assessment) screening opinion is now out to consultation. MDC has said neither is required, but we need to see whether the statutory consultees do agree with this or not. To help kick start this we have asked MDC to provide us a list of all the consultees that will need to be notified of the Regulation 14 Consultation.

Preparation can then begin for the formal 6 week consultation period (Reg. 14) which will be after MDC's response and any local elections. We can meanwhile begin to prepare material i.e. (posters/letters/survey/format etc), location and dates for any events.

8 Orchard Management Committee – Cllr Paul Chandler

This year we have had a meeting with Glen from Essex County Council about the ditches. We have been told they have been moved and they need to be made wider and cleaned out. We cannot pipe the ditch.

We have been in talks with Geoff Wood and he has confirmed in writing that he is not going to sell us the extra eight foot of land which we originally wanted.

We have put in for planning permission to change the use from an orchard to a nature reserve. Unfortunately, this was turned down, and at this moment in time we have not discussed this further.

We applied for a TPO on the trees which was granted.

We have had a meeting with someone from the council about the trees and discussed what we can cut down and clear back to make the pathways clearer.

9 Public Questions

Q. Where is the Orchard?

A. At the end of North Drive with the entrance beside the last house. It is not accessible to the public at this time as it has a barrier up to stop anyone entering.

Q. I would like to know what the council is going to do about parking and speeding within the villages. Other villages have preventatives we have nothing. I have witnessed cars driving on the pavement and using it as a car lane as road is too busy. Cars parked up on kerbs so pedestrians cannot use pathways and kerbs getting broken due to the larger vehicles parking on kerbs. Imperial Road is so long it needs speed humps. It warrants these as it has a church, doctors and shops. Surely the MPC should be putting in measures in place for the safety of the villagers, not waiting for an accident to happen. Villagers want to see these measures in place. How are the MPC going to tackle this ?

A. We have tried to bring in options to help with the parking and the speeding traffic.

1. A petition was signed to install a pedestrian crossing outside the school. The result of the survey conducted by ECC suggested that the speed of the traffic was too slow to install one,

2. We sent a request to the Local highways panel for bollards to be fitted outside the doctors opposite the school and by the bus stop outside your house but as Nigel will know we were turned down on this as well.

3. We have set up a community speedwatch program with volunteers from the village standing at designated places to monitor speeds. Nigel is one of the volunteers. Unfortunately the organiser is not having much response from those that volunteered and so this is not happening as often as we first thought.

4. We employed Engagement officers to monitor the school and outside the shops but all they had the power to do was to move vehicles on and therefore was not that effective.

5. We have asked Highways to remark the bus lane as we know this area is congested and hard for buses to stop with all the cars parked outside the shops. To date they have still not done this. We can only chase.

6. Unfortunately cars are permitted to park 2 wheels on the pavement and there is nothing that can be done about this.

As you can see the PC have tried to do what they can to help with the issues you are suggesting but we can only do so much. We are not in a position to install speed humps and it seems any suggestion we make to ECC gets turned down.

Q. Why are the street lights in the village not being changed?

A. We can only assume it is taking longer to change them as they are being upgraded to LED lamps but we have passed on all those that have been reported to us.

10. Close – Cllr Haywood thanked everyone for attending

Meeting closed at 19.48