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Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on **Monday 23rd January 2023 at 7.30pm** at Plantation Hall, Colchester Road Heybridge CM9 4AL at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT**

**In the Chair:**  Richard Perry

**Councillors:**  John Harrison

Miriam Lewis

Carey Martin

**Apologies**: Cllr Trevor Cable District Cllr Spenceley

Cllr Diane Gibson District Cllr Edwards

Cllr Ashley Jones County Councillor Durham

Cllr Salisbury

Cllr Alam

**District Cllrs:**  Anne Beale

**Absent:**

**Members of Public:** 1 Mr S Wright

**Officers:** Amanda Hilton Clerk

The meeting stared at 7.30pm and it was noted the meeting was being recorded.

**22/270 Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all those that attended the Christmas Drinks reception on 2nd December, it was a great evening, well attended and a chance for the parish council to meet with partners and hirers. It was great to see our veterans in attendance.

The Chairman thanked those that helped at the Chairmans Christmas lunch held on Sunday 11th December and gave special thanks to Andy Ambrose from Arrow Dart for providing transport for those guests that required it and thanks was given to Cllr Lewis for making the dessert. The Chairman read out a letter of thanks received from D Guest, who volunteered as the cook for the luncheon club and had hung up her chef whites to enjoy retirement.

The Chairman confirmed that he had stepped in to cook for the 30 club members whilst a replacement cook is sourced. This helps ensure a club of vital importance can continue. The Chairman thanked Cllr Martin for cutting the costs of the shopping.

The Chairman reminded members the date of the next Community Cosy Day is due to be held on 24th January 2023 and the next Litter Pick is due to be held on Sunday 26th February 2023.

**22/271 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Cable, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Jones, Cllr Salisbury, Cllr Alam, District Cllr Edwards, District Cllr Spenceley, County Cllr Durham.

**22/272 Minutes**

1. Members considered approving the Minutes Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 21st November 2022. It was **RESOLVED** the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21st November 2022 be approved and confirmed.
2. Members considered approving the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 5th December 2022. It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th December 2022 be approved and confirmed.
3. The draft minutes of the Environment and Facilities Committee held on Monday 19th December 2022 were received.
4. The draft minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 5th January 2023 were received.
5. The draft minutes of the Events Committee held on Monday 16th January 2023 were received.

**22/273 Interests**

None

**22/274 Public Participation**

The Chairman invited Mr S Wright to address members. Mr Wright

raised the issue of denied access to the sea wall from Wharf Road.

Mr Wright also raised the issue with the footpaths along the sea wall being overgrown and not being wheelchair accessible. A lengthy discussion was held as this matter has been on ongoing item for the council. It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would write to the residents of Wharf Road. Cllr Lewis and the Chairman offered to accompany Mr Wright on a walk so he could show them the issues. The Clerk recommend G Dyer patrol the area and report back to members on his finding. District Cllr Beale confirmed she would circulate information to the Clerk on ownership of the footpath at Wharf Road. The Clerk to add this matter to the Agenda for the next meeting of the Environment and Facilities Committee due to be held on Monday 30th January 2023.

**22/275 Reports**

1. There was no report from Cllr Durham.
2. Members received report from District Cllr Edwards and District Cllr Spenceley.

Report as received.

Firstly, please accept our apologies for tonight. Not much to report regarding Heybridge this time but a few updates to note.

**PLANNING APPLICATION 22/00983 ADV**

As previously advised we called this in as we felt any application referring to the NHGS should be heard at either the Central Area Committee or the District Planning Committee as it refers to a strategic site and therefore should not be delegated to officers. It was discussed at the Central Area Committee meeting on Wednesday 16th November and approved .

**NHGS COMMUNITY LIAISON PANEL**

The NHGS Community Liaison Panel continues to receive queries from residents and answered. The next Panel meeting with the developers is scheduled for Thursday 26th January. It is worth noting here that the Panel did receive emails with regard to the large attenuation pond on the site close to the roadworks on Broad Street Green Road. The pond had filled up to some depth over the Christmas break and residents were concerned at the lack of safety signage and life belts, etc. As this was considered an urgent issue, this was reported by Panel members to the site managers immediately and the pond has subsequently been drained and filled following an inspection by the developer’s health and safety team.

**SHARPES MEADOW**

As you may know the fence dividing the Sharpes Meadow estate and Heywood Way has been partly removed by Persimmon. There is no further update at present although the ownership of the land on the Heywood Way side is in dispute and until that is resolved no further progress can me made in terms of a footpath over the ditch and into Heywood Way. Residents of Sharpes Meadow have now complained to MDC’s Enforcement Team with regard to the current state of the access due the impact of the wet weather and the lack of a path. **PLANNING APPLICATION 22/00523**

This application for the Bellway 262 dwellings (Phase 2) was discussed for the second time at the District Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 1st December and as the developers had addressed the issue of the three-storey flats, members approved the reserved matters.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS SURGERY**

The last District Councillors surgery was held on Saturday 3rd December at the café at Bentall’s. Nothing untoward to report, though this was attended by Dan Doherty, of the local NHS Integrated Care Board, who discussed plans for NHS/GP services on the NHGS. As has now been widely publicised, the intention is for Longfield and Blackwater surgeries to run the new GP facilities that are planned for the NHGS.

**POT HOLES** We have notified ECC ( Highways) of a number of pot holes in Heybridge as have the Parish Council, so hopefully between us, we will get at least some repaired.

**NHGS PANEL / ANGLIAN WATER**

The NHGS Panel has arranged a meeting today with Anglian Water to discuss concerns residents have in regards to the strategic plan for foul water drainage. If we have further information today we will let you know otherwise we will keep you updated.

**AREA PLANNING COMMITTEES**

Members may be aware that at December’s District Council meeting it was proposed to remove the three Area Planning Committes, Central Area (covering Maldon & Heybridge), North West and South East, and have just one Planning Committee consisting of 9 members. Needless to say members voted against this proposal, one of the main reasons was that it could mean that Councillors from other areas in the District could decide on applications in Heybridge and therefore would have no local knowledge. The three Area Committees will stay, at least for the time being. Large and Strategic applications will remain covered by the District Planning Committee consisting of all 31 Councillors.

**SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING TRIAL**

To note that MDC will be participating in the collection of Soft Plastics (Plastic bags and wrappings) trial in certain areas of the District from January 2023 with further expansion of the scheme expected in October 2023. Those addresses in Heybridge which have received a leaflet should be involved in the trial and more information will follow in due course.

**OTHER ISSUES**

Other issues mentioned in our previous reports such as the Oak Tree in Langford Road and Street lights in Holloway Road, are still being investigated. With regard to Holloway Road, it has transpired that Cadent severed three underground cables and may have caused damage to some sewers during the laying of gas pipes last Spring. Combined with the issue where pipes were laid over the underground flood alleviation culvert in the road, rather than under as specified by the Environment Agency, we have asked that Essex Highways carry out a full investigation of damage to the road as a matter of some urgency. We have been informed by Cllr Lee Scott that this matter is now being investigated.

**HEYBRIDGE AND MALDON CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

The second meeting of the group took place in the meeting room at Plantation Hall on January 11th. It was well attended and is now progressing towards deciding on registration status and forming a committee – activities which should be finalised at the next meeting on February 2nd.

**22/276 Committee Updates**

1. No report was received from the Chairman of the Planning Committee
2. Members received a report from the Chairman of the Events Committee. Report as received.

The Christmas Drinks reception was well attended, and it was good to be able to greet some of the hirers and partners. The catering was purchased from Morrisons and seemed to go down well. The Chairman of the events committee gave thanks to the Clerk and staff for all their help.

The Chairmans Christmas Lunch, was well supported and I would like to see more people at the next one, so perhaps we need to look at how the event is advertised. Those guests that did attend gave great feedback. Thanks to Andy Ambrose at arrows for the transport, Cllr Martin and Cllr Perry for cooking and to Cllr Lewis for providing the dessert. Thanks also to those volunteers who helped on the day. Due to Purdah, the committee had agreed to hold only one event in February which will be a quiz night. The Clerk has emailed you all with the details and it would be great to have as many tables as the hall can allow. The committee decided not to hold any further events due to the purdah period.

1. Members received a report from the Chairman of the Environment and Facilities Committee who confirmed the committee continued to work to the aims of Heybridge Helping Hand. Cllr Lewis confirmed the Talking Newspaper had circulated their first newspaper since lockdown and those residents across the district that had received a copy are thrilled. The Chairman confirmed matters with regards to the extension continue to progress.

**22/277 Community Engagement Officer Report**

1. Members received a report from Gary Dyer.

Report as received.

I have been carrying out daily patrols of the parish, communicating with our residents, offering advice, signposting to events and organisations.

I regularly liaise with our partners i.e., Essex Police, The Tri-Services Officer, CVS, NHGS, Countryside Developments, Youth Services Group, Reach out for Mental health.

My work will continue with the youth of the parish, Tea and toast will resume in the hope we can transform that into to a youth club.

Our community events will continue to grow, our community cosy days are attended by some of partners and are proving to be popular.

I am in the process of liaising with London Hearts community liaison officer who have offered funding for additional defibrillators for our parish, I had suggested the possibility of carrying one in the van along with a bleed kit for emergency use. I am liaising with the men’s shed network in the hope of setting up a permanent shed in Heybridge in conjunction with the Andy’s Man Club charity.

A meeting has been set up with Heybridge primary school to discuss the parking issues around the school and Rowan Drive.

Members discussed the cost of the defibrillator for the parish council vehicle, and it was **RESOLVED** to go ahead and place the order.

**22/278 Clerks Report.**

1. Members considered a request from Firepit Wood Pizza to hire the carpark once a week/fortnight between 5pm and 9pm. Members considered the request. Cllr Lewis PROPOSED not to support this request due to the impact it may have upon the existing Heybridge Street Businesses. SECONDED by the Chairman. It was **RESOLVED** not to support this request due to the impact it may have upon the existing Heybridge Street Businesses.
2. Members considered working with Maldon Carnival Association. The Clerk reminded members that the association hire Plantation Hall and its facilities and that the association is a registered charity. A lengthy discussion was held, and it was **RESOLVED** to defer this item until the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday 20th February 2023.
3. Members received a report from the Clerk with regards to Purdah period. The Clerk reminded members that she must not give any political support to any candidate or any party and that all election queries must be directed to the Election Officer at MDC.

Members noted the Kings Coronation plans had been announced for the 6th May 2023 and considered holding a Coronation Big Lunch on Sunday 7th May 2023. It was **RESOLVED** to hold a Coronation Big Lunch on 7th May 2023 and for the Clerk to add this item on to the Agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday 20th February 2023.

**22/279 Financial matters**

1. Members received updated statement of accounts for January 2023.
2. Members received the bank reconciliation for December 2022 It was noted the balance of the bank account was £329,958.27 on 23rd January 2023.
3. Members received schedule of payments including invoices and accounts for payments dated 9th January 2023. Members considered schedule of payments for 23rd January 2023. The Chairman PROPOSED to approve payments. SECONDED by Cllr Lewis. It was **RESOLVED** to approve payments. Appendix 1a.

**22/280 Local Issues**

1. Members were asked to circulate any matters for inclusion on the Agenda for the next meeting of the parish council due to be held on Monday 20th February 2023 to the Clerk.

**22/281 Correspondence**

1. The Clerk updated members on correspondence received and actions to be taken were noted.

**22/282 Future Meetings**

a) The next meeting of the Environment and Facilities Committee will be held on Monday 30th January 2023 at 7.30pm.

b) The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on Monday 6th February 2023 at 7.30pm.

c) The next meeting of the Events Committee will be held on Monday 13th February 2023 at 7.30pm

d) The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 20th February 2023 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed.