# 

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on **Monday 21st November 2022 at 7.30pm** at Plantation Hall, Colchester Road Heybridge CM9 4AL at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT**

**In the Chair:**  Richard Perry

**Councillors:**  John Harrison Mark Salisbury

Miriam Lewis Zimrul Alam

Carey Martin

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

Cllr Diane Gibson District Cllr Edwards

Cllr Ashley Jones County Councillor Durham

**District Cllrs:**  Anne Beale

**Absent:** 0

**Members of Public:** 0

**Officers:** Amanda Hilton Clerk

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

**22/230 Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and gave a special welcome to Gary Dyer, the Parish Councils new Community Engagement Officer.

The Chairman thanked all those that attended Remembrance Parade, with a special mention to Revd Jordan Palmer, Paul Foster and the Veterans that attended, The Rotary Club of Heybridge Blackwater for their assistance with the road closure and allowing use of their PA equipment. The Chairman thanked Cllr Lewis for her reading of The Inquisitive Mind of a Child which was really fitting with service. The Chairman thanks Mr and Mrs Childs for offering to do the refreshments.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for all her hard work behind the scenes and on the day to ensure the event runs smoothly.

The Chairman confirmed the first Cosy Community Day was to be held on Tuesday 29th, 10am to 4:00pm which would be a chance for residents to meet Gary, access the community wardrobe and receive a free cosy bag which contains a blanket, cuppa soup, hot chocolate, and warm socks. Refreshments and soup would be served.

The Chairman reminded members his Christmas Drinks Reception would be held on 2nd December 2022 at 8.00pm, which is a chance to meet and mingle with hirers, partners and community groups.

The Chairman confirmed the Christmas Lunch would be held on 11th December and the Clerk would keep members informed of the plans.

The Chairman welcomed members of Maldon Croquet Club to the meting who would be giving a brief presentation to members. The Chairman PROPOSED to alter the order of the agenda to bring this matter forward.

**22/230 Apologies**

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

**22/231 Minutes**

1. Members considered approving the Minutes Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17th October 2022. It was **RESOLVED** the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 17th October 2022 be amended, approved and confirmed.
2. The draft minutes of the Environment and Facilities Committee held on Monday 24th October 2022 were received.
3. The draft minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 7th November 2022 were received.
4. The draft minutes of the Events Committee held on Monday 14th November 2022 were received.
5. Members received the Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th October 2022.

**22/232 Interests**

Cllr Lewis declared a Non-Pecuniary interest in Agenda item 8c.

**22/233 Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

The Chairman PROPOSED to move Agenda Item 8c to be heard first. It was **RESOLVED** to hear this item first.

**22/234 To consider request from Maldon Croquet Club**

**To hire King George V Field.**

Cllr Lewis declared an interest only in the fact she belongs to the club.

Members received a presentation from members of the croquet club with regards to a proposal to hire King George V Field. The club thanked the Clerk for braving the weather to meet with them to discuss the layout required of the field. The club confirmed it belonged to the East Anglian Federation and was looking for a new temporary premises to meet 4 times a week along with roll up sessions, initially for 2 years. The club confirmed they fully understood King George V Field is a public recreational ground. Cllr Lewis gave a brief report.

A general discussion was held with the Croquet Club and questions from members were addressed.

The Chairman thanked the Croquet Club for attending the meeting.

Members considered costs involved including hire of the field and facilities. The Clerk to action and report at the next meeting of the Environment and Facilities Committee due to be held on the 19th December 2022.

Cllr Lewis PROPOSED to agree in principle the hire of King George V Field and its facilities to Maldon Croquet Club.

SECONDED by Cllr Salisbury.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree in principle hire of King George V Field and its facilities to Maldon Croquet Club.

**22/235 Reports**

1. Members noted report received from County Cllr Durham previously circulated.
2. Members received report from District Cllr Edwards and District Cllr Spenceley.

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**

We called this one in as we feel any application referring to the NHGS should be heard at either Central Area or District Planning 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, though with the condition that the previous permission was removed, to prevent the potential appearance of an additional sign.

**NHGS COMMUNITY LIAISON PANEL**

The NHGS Community Liaison Panel had it’s third meeting with Countryside last Thursday 10th November. It was attended by the four Heybridge district councillors as well the Clerk of the Parish Council. A number of issues were discussed including:

-problems with the sinking of the new temporary road surface at Maypole Road. On this one the developers are calling the contractors back.

-floodlight failure at Maypole Road, which is now being addressed by the developers.

-the likely build out rate (we were told this is expected to be at around 150 homes per year) and that it is expected that the development will be completed within around 10 years.

-when the relief road will be opened. We were told that this will be opened in stages beginning next spring and is likely to be fully opened by early in 2024.

-the expectation of retail facilities in the community hub. We were informed that there is a plan to have some shops (likely two) with at least one convenience store.

**PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ISSUES AT SHARPES MEADOW**

The situation here is ongoing and we have pressed for action with regard to safety improvements for pedestrians using Broad Street Green Road. WE should be able to update you further on this situation in due course.

**DITCHES UPDATE**

The Holloway Road ditch has been cleared (during the past week) by the Environment Agency, though it has transpired that the EA has not cleared silt from the bottom as recommended by ECC officers following a visit earlier this year. In addition, the Langford ditch is not on the EA’s maintenance schedule for this autumn. This matter is being pursued by Cllr Mark Durham in his role as county councillor and we expect a further update in due course.

**STREET LIGHTING IN HOLLOWAY ROAD**

ECC has reported, following investigations of the failure of the above between the junction of Crescent Road and Maypole Road, that the connection is ‘dead’, most likely due to damage caused by Cadent when laying gas pipes along the road in April. We are continuing to call for action to reinstate the lights on this busy stretch of road and understand that how to do that is currently being investigated by ECC.

**HEYBRIDGE CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

The inaugural meeting of the above will take place at Plantation Hall on Wednesday, 30th November at 7pm for 7.30pm start. The parish clerk has been given a flyer for this event.

**SHARPES MEADOW**

We continue to receive complaints from residents of Sharpes Meadow about the lack of a safe walking route to school and to the rest of Heybridge. There is no further update at present as it is in the hands of officers and Highways but of course we will continue to push for a resolution.

**PLANNING APPLICATION 22/00523**

This application for 262 dwellings (Phase 2) was discussed at the District Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 27th October in some detail and although recommended for approval by officers, members were unhappy with a three story block of flats which would have been situated overlooking Broad Street Green near the new roundabout. In terms of the street view it would have been out of place.

Members asked if the developers could reconsider the location of the flats within the development itself rather than on the edge. It was therefore deferred to a later meeting.

We were pleased to see and hear from the developer at that meeting, that they had listened to the Parish Council’s comments and have given consideration regarding the fenestration.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS’ SURGERY**

The next District Councillors surgery will be held on Saturday 3rd December at the café at Bentall.

**OTHER ISSUES**

Other issues mentioned in our previous reports such as the Oak Tree in Langford Road is still being investigated.

1. The final Community Engagement Team Report was received following termination of contract. The SLA hours were short by 3 and half hours and only one TRUCAM Patrol had been carried out resulting in 2 offenders.

The Clerk confirmed all keys had been returned and the final invoice had been paid.

Cllr Alam left the meeting at 8.20pm.

**22/236 Committee Updates**

1. No report was received from the Chairman of the Planning Committee
2. No report was received from the Chairman of the Events Committee
3. 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 grants had been applied for to continue the delivery of food bags. Cllr Lewis suggested the council should issue regular press releases to confirm how proactive the council is.

**22/237 Clerks Report.**

1. Members considered adopting the Civility and Respect Pledge (previously deferred at the meeting held on Monday 17th October 2022) It was **RESOLVED** that whilst members roundly support the pledge, they didn’t see the required for separate additional sets of sanctions for councillors.
2. Members considered correspondence received from Essex and Support Water with regards to the new Layer to Langford pipeline (previously circulated to members on Friday 11th November) and considered any actions to be taken. It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would circulate any updates.

**22/238 Financial matters**

1. Members received updated statement of accounts for October 2022.
2. Members received the bank reconciliation for November 2022 It was noted the balance of the bank account was £384,702.86 on 21st November 2022.
3. Members received schedule of payments including invoices and accounts for payments dated 7th November 2022. Members considered schedule of payments for 21st November 2022. The Chairman PROPOSED to approve payments. SECONDED by Cllr Lewis. It was **RESOLVED** to approve payments. Appendix 1a.
4. Members considered Draft Budget for 2023/2024. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Draft Budget for 2023/2024.
5. Members considered to set the Budget for 2023/2024.It was **RESOLVED** to set the Budget for 2023/2024.
6. Members considered the Precept request for 2023/2024. Cllr Lewis PROPOSED to set the Precept at £204,000. SECONDED by the Chairman. It was **RESOLVED** to set the Precept request for 2023/2024 at £204,000.
7. Members considered a donation request from Heybridge Brownies. Cllr Lewis PROPOSED to donate £250.00 and the Chairman to match fund. SECONDED by the Chairman. It was **RESOLVED** to donate £250.00 and Chairman to match fund.
8. Members noted £300.00 donation received from Rotary Club of Heybridge Blackwater and a donation of £200.00 from M Edwards towards Heybridge Helping Hand.

**22/239 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 23rd January 2023 to the Clerk.

**22/240 Correspondence**

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

**22/241 Future Meetings**

1. The next meeting of the Environment and Facilities Committee will be held on Monday 19th December 2022 at 7.30pm.
2. The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on Monday 5th December 2022 at 7.30pm.
3. The next meeting of the Events Committee will be held on Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.30pm

d) The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 23rd January 2023 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed.