

TILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in Tillingham Village Hall
at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16 November 2010.

PRESENT: Cllrs Harvey, Bryant, Mee, Reeds, Sheppard, Hammond and Potten.
Members of the public: 11 members
Press: None
In attendance PC Pateman.

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Harvey

10/265 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

10/266 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was resolved to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2010. Proposed Cllr Mee seconded Cllr Reeds.

10/267 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

The Chairman reminded members to declare any 'personal' or 'personal and prejudicial' interests relating to items on the agenda.

Cllr Mee declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the public forum matter of affordable housing, being the landowner of the preferred site.

10/268 PUBLIC FORUM

Bollards outside of the Cap & Feathers Pub.

The landlord requested that concrete bollards be placed in the pavement to keep vehicles off the pavement on the corner of South Street/Vicarage Lane to protect pedestrians. Action: Agenda item in January 2011.

Street Light 9010 Mill Close

Mrs Way reported this was day burning. Action: Clerk to report it to maintenance contractors.

Willow Tree at Birch Garden

Mr Way asked why there was no consultation with the residents in the area concerning the felling of the tree and the planting of an oak tree. He suggested a silver birch would be appropriate?

Cllr Harvey explained:

- In August the tree suffered storm damage resulting in a very large fallen branch, which blocked the public footway and reached into a resident's garden. The Parish Council immediately instructed the clearance of the broken branch, which happened on the same day.
- In October the Parish Council became aware that there was another broken branch higher up in the tree. This was in a dangerous position and required fairly urgent action. The tree surgeon stated the tree would be unbalanced if this branch was just cut off and another branch lower down that also required attention. The tree was already leaning to the west and with those branches cut off the Parish Council felt the tree could have fallen over in a storm.
- The Parish Council are elected to make decisions on behalf of the village. Consultation is not possible over issues like this. Time and resources are not available. A decision had to be made at the October meeting, taking into consideration the facts about the tree, health and safety and insurance issues.

- The decision was to fell the tree as soon as possible, leaving the stump as a seat and to replace the tree with an oak tree which would require low maintenance in the future.
- The tree was felled and found to have 4/5 split branches.
- The stump could be treated – stump ground at an extra cost.
- The tree is a long way from any buildings and there is not expected to be any problems with the roots.
- The oak is due to be planted; it is a 12 foot tree and will be staked. Volunteers are requested to water it.
- A silver birch tree tends to be a short lived tree.
- Residents need to make themselves aware of the items that are discussed at Parish Council meetings by referring to the agenda posted on the notice board or the web site. When they attend a Parish Council meeting they will hear the facts, discussion and decision first hand before any newspaper reports.

Two letters had been received from members of the public.

Affordable Housing

Cllr Mee left the meeting

Members of the public requested that they be informed of the facts.

Cllr Harvey explained:

- There is pressure to provide affordable housing for local people.
- In March 2009 The Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) were invited to undertake an affordable housing needs survey. This survey was hand delivered to every household in Tillingham by Parish Councillors.
- The RCCE was responsible for analysis of the survey and production of the report.
- There was a 37% response rate to the survey.
- 66% of respondents were supportive of a small scheme of affordable housing for local people if the need was identified.
- 20 respondents had a need for affordable housing which led to a recommendation of a development of 10 homes.
- The Parish Council had to choose a housing association whose role is to deal with all matters relating to planning, grant funding, site purchase, occupancy etc. Flagship Housing Association was chosen as they had local offices in Chelmsford.
- The RCCE Housing Enabler Moira Groborz had attended some Parish Council Meetings and also Helen Shackleton from Flagship Housing Association.
- In December 2009 potential sites were identified in the village. The RCCE and Flagship Housing Association discussed the sites with the planners at MDC. It is the planning department at MDC who has indicated that the site to the east of Birch Road is the preferred site for the development.
- Factors taken into consideration in identifying a suitable site were the conservation area, abutting the development boundary, visibility, etc.
- Flagship Housing Association has commissioned an architect to prepare some initial sketch schemes for the site. An information event will be held in the New Year. This will be the time when the public must raise their questions.
- Cllr Harvey read the letter from the Flagship Housing Association dated 29 September 2010, and offered the public the opportunity to read the letter.
- Cllr Harvey stated that the Parish Council can only make a decision about the development when a planning application is received.
- If members of the Parish Council voice their decision before an application is received they will prejudice their position and be unable to vote when the planning application is received.
- Cllr Harvey stated members of the public should communicate amicably with the Parish Council.

Mr Miller was concerned at the size of the field for 10 houses.

Mr Gilder was concerned about the sewage problems on the estate and the inadequacy of the pumping station at Mill Road.

Three letters had been received from members of the public.

Cllr Mee returned to the meeting

Appeal Decision of the Manse, South Street, Tillingham.

Mr Way requested an update. The clerk did not have this information and suggested he could track the application on the MDC web site.

PC Pateman left the meeting

10/269 PLANNING.

Applications received from Maldon District Council.

A reminder to members that there is a trial period of a public speaking facility at the South Eastern Area Planning Committee Meetings of 2 minutes per individual. A set procedure must be followed.

To respond as a consultee:

ECC/MAL/10/00936

The Installation of 1.8m high timber trellis to the inside of the existing 900mm brick wall along South Street entrance(to east of site), the increase of existing 900mm high bow top gate to 1.8m in height to the South Street entrance. Installation of new 1.8m high weld mesh fencing (to match existing boundary fencing) and 3 new car parking spaces including one parking space for the disabled to the south west of the site.

St Nicholas Church of England Primary School, South Street, Tillingham.

Essex County Council

There are aspects of this application that the Parish Council were concerned about, which is the installation of 1.8m high timber trellis to the inside of the existing 900mm brick wall along South Street entrance and the increase of existing 900mm high bow top gate to 1.8m in height to the South Street entrance.

The Parish Council do understand the reasons for the trellis around the old part of the school but consider that this will give the appearance of a 'prison camp' in the middle of our village.

Secondly the trellis is likely to attract vandals and may become a huge maintenance issue to the school.

FUL/MAL/10/00930

To convert and extend into 2no dwellings and erect one bed dwelling

Peculiar Peoples Chapel, South Street, Tillingham

Bushby Contracts Ltd

Tillingham Parish Council supported this application.

Decisions advised by Maldon District Council:

For information only:

AGR/MAL/10/00865

Replacement grain store

Howe Farm Grange Road, Tillingham

Mr Oliver Mee, JD Mee & Son

Refused

This application did not constitute permitted development and therefore requires planning permission.

This application was refused by MDC Planners before the Parish Council was able to make a response within the statutory period. A letter of complaint had been sent to MDC.

Other Planning Matters:

There were no matters raised.

10/270 COMMUNITY LED PLANNING

There was no report available

10/271 FINANCE.

			£
STO	S Welham	Clerks Salary	332.80
STO	D Eves	Toilet caretaker	120.00
STO	A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	39.72
DDR	E-On	Street Light electricity supply	75.72
DDR	Essex & Suffolk	Toilet Block water	32.69
DDR	Essex & Suffolk	Allotments water	76.66
DDR	E-On	Toilet Block electric	12.50
101962	Essex Arb	Felling of willow tree	558.13
101963	JCP Insurance	Tractor Insurance	266.04
101964	EALC	New councillor pack	14.40
101965	K Lambert	Honorarium for cutting West Field	550.00
101966	DHGPC	Quiz entry	65.00
101967	AJ Wallis	Lagging of water pipes in Toilet block	65.00

Transfers

From Asset Reserve account to Community account	475.00
From Business Saver account to Community account	2000.00

Balances

Community Account (CA)	2905.96
Business Saver Account (BSA)	4003.29
Business Saver Account Asset Reserve	4775.92
Business Saver Project Account (Parish Plan)	<u>1946.26</u>
	<u>13631.43</u>

National Savings New Hall Reserve 27419.58

It was resolved that the payments be approved. Proposed Cllr Potten seconded Cllr Mee.

10/272 BUDGET FOR PARISH PRECEPT 2011/2012

It was resolved to agree the budget and set the Parish Precept at £24000. This was a unanimous decision.

10/273 NOTICES, MEETINGS AND TRAINING COURSES TO ATTEND

Neighbourhood Action Panel Meeting. At One Place, Southminster, 7.00pm on 17 November 2010. Cllr Harvey to attend.

EALC Meeting of the Parish and Town Councils in the Maldon District to be held on 24 November 2010 at 7.30pm at Plantation Hall, Heybridge. Cllr Harvey may attend.

Bradwell Local Community Liaison Council Meeting 8 December 2010 at 10.00am at Minerva Centre Mundon. Cllr Bryant to attend.

10/274 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

Southminster Parish Council 'Party in the Park' 31 October 2010. There had been good feedback and this event helped to reduce youth problems in the Dengie Hundred area.

Dengie Hundred Group Parish Council Quiz 10 November 2010. Cllr Harvey reported this had been a good event and Tillingham came second place.

Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils MDC Budgetary and Priority Spending meeting 15 November 2010. Cllr Harvey reported that MDC must reduce spending by £1.6m. Options were discussed.

EALC Election Day Training 3 November 2010. The clerk attended. An election toolkit is available from the EALC and this can be used to help promote the importance of Parish Council Elections. It was resolved to print 500 copies of each of three election toolkit leaflets to be distributed with the Parish Paper in December, January and February (subject to confirmation), at a cost of approximately £200. Proposed Cllr Harvey seconded Cllr Hammond.

10/275 THE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

There were no matters to raise.

10/276 THE WEST FIELD

The gang mowers will be serviced during December/January.

Cllr Bryant requested that consideration be given to resurfacing the stone area by the pavilion for the benefit of the Wednesday Club. This would have to be budgeted for in 2012/2013 precept.

Deed of Dedication: The clerk had obtained some feedback from four councils that had completed this procedure. Fields in Trust has launched the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. The aim is to protect 2012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities across the country by 2012 as a tribute to Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Further information was available from www.qe2fields.com and this was circulated to members.

Members requested more information and a speaker would be requested to attend a meeting in the New Year.

10/277 THE BEST KEPT PLAYING FIELD COMPETITION 2010 AWARDS.

Class 2 – Playing fields serving a population of less than 2500: **Runner Up**

Class 3 – Children's playground: **Gold Certificate of Merit**

Class 4 – Cricket ground: No award this year.

Class 7 - The best playing field project carried out during the year – Enhanced Multi Track (new ramp, seating and picnic table): **Winner of the Ralph Dreschfield Trophy and sponsorship by Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd – a voucher for £350.**

10/278 MARSH ROAD ALLOTMENTS

The quote for relaying the water pipe is awaited. Notice letters had been sent to the plot holders who will be affected by the relaying of the water pipe.

The annual rent demands had been issued.

10/279 THE BROOK ROAD PUMP

The pump had just been re painted by Mr Barrie Whitley. It was resolved to send a letter of thanks to Mr Whitley for looking after the pump and for providing the flower planters.

10/280 THE PUBLIC TOILET BLOCK

The water pipes had been lagged.

Cllr Mee reported he was still looking for a storage locker for the toilet block.

MDC had reported that the Broxap litter bin outside the toilet block had a damaged lock and had not been emptied. Cllr Sheppard agreed to investigate the problem.

The down pipe on the toilet block had been broken and Doug Eves would repair it.

It was agreed that a working party of councillors sweep the leaves up in the car park on Saturday morning 20 November, commencing at 7.30am in readiness for the green

waste lorry.

10/281 FELLED WILLOW TREE AND REPLACEMENT OAK TREE AT BIRCH GARDEN GREEN.

The willow tree was felled on 29 October 2010. The tree surgeon reported that it had four/five split branches. The replacement oak tree will be available for planting from 12 November.

10/282 HIGHWAYS

Matters to report to Highways were:

Potholes along the Dengie Straight.

Updates from Highways were:

The hedge at Tillingham Hall will be cut back to the boundary posts.

The awarded ECC CIF Highways grant work of extending the tarmac parking area in Vicarage Lane had now been completed.

Cllr Mee advised he would be obtaining rock salt and two bags would be stored in the tractor shed for emergency situations in the village.

Cllr Harvey reported that there had been an accumulation of leaves on the Square.

Team work by residents and Cllr Harvey had resulted in the pavements being swept clean and then sucked up by the road sweeper.

An acknowledgment had been received from the ECC flooding partnership. They are beginning to build up records of flooding in Essex, but state that their resources are limited.

10/283 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Cllr Harvey reported that the footbridge/crossing on Stow's farm had been repaired.

10/284 OIL SMELL IN VICARAGE LANE 1 NOVEMBER 2010.

Residents in Vicarage Lane had complained about a strong oil smell and the clerk had contacted the Environment Agency Reference 834987. They established there had been an oil tank leak at Kings Farm Meadow. Environment Agency are only concerned with the pollution of water courses and as the oil had been seen in the culvert of the ditch adjacent to Vicarage Lane allotments they had placed a small boom in the ditch and were monitoring the situation. On 8 November they advised the resident had ordered a tanker to clean the drains in Vicarage Lane.

10/285 WINDFARMS AND NUCLEAR POWER

Cllr Bryant reported the Bradwell Windfarm High Court Action is set for the 1 March 2011.

The cost of 8 nuclear plants is said to be £40billion.

10/286 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Mee suggested the roads on the Square should be closed during the Remembrance Service. Action: Agenda item in January.

Cllr Potten advised there will be a formal meeting in the Church on 26 November at 10.00am concerning the removal of the pews.

Cllr Bryant suggested the street lights on the West Field should be switched off at night. Action: Agenda item for January.

Cllr Harvey had been sent an Ernest Doe circular for machinery servicing.

A letter had been received from Mr Owen wishing to fill a parish council vacancy. His interest was noted.

Cllr Harvey advised the MDC Conservation and Design Awards ceremony would be held on 14 December 2010.

10/287 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MEETING ON 18 JANUARY 2011.

Items for the agenda must be notified to the clerk by Monday 11 January 2011.
Cllr Potten – yellow lines.

10/288 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

There will not be a normal monthly meeting in December. If any planning applications are received an extraordinary meeting may have to be called.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 18 January 2011 at 7.30pm in Tillingham Village Hall.

10/289 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.48pm

Sheila Welham

Clerk to the Council.