

TOLLESHUNT MAJOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 7.12.2021 in St Nicholas Hall Tolleshunt Major

Present: Chair – Councillor T Payne
 Councillors M Coster, K Neath and A Taylor
 V Banyard (parish clerk)
 One member of the public.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting- Public session.

To allow members of the public to ask or answer questions or give evidence or information on matters relevant to the business of the Council.
 No issues were raised.

4460.21 To receive apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest in the Meeting's agenda items

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Deer.
 No Declarations of Interest were made.

4461.21 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 2.11.2021.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above Minutes.

4462.21 To consider applications from candidates for the two vacancies on the Council and to make any co-options if required.

Councillors considered a letter of application from Julie Sutton, and it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Ms Sutton onto the Council. Councillor Sutton then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed as a member of the Council.

4463.21 Planning

a) Councillors received the following planning decisions from Maldon District Council:

DEMPA/MAL/21/01123 Longwyck Farm Joyces Chase Goldhanger	Prior notification for the demolition of farmhouse	Refused Date of decision: 22.11.2021
HOUSE/MAL/21/00985 14 Beckingham Street Tolleshunt Major	Proposed two storey side and rear extension. Part two storey, part single storey rear extension and new porch	Refused Date of decision: 30.11.2021

b) Latest planning applications – to comment on any planning applications received before the date of the meeting. The following were considered:

21/01194/HOUSE	Wayside Tolleshunt D'Arcy Road Tolleshunt Major	Two storey rear extension and a conservatory to the rear. It was RESOLVED to make no comment on this application.
21/00830/FUL	The Old Stables Parsonage Farm Witham Road Tolleshunt Major	Conversion of barn to dwelling house (following approval of 14/00897/COUPA – prior approval of the change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house – Amendments sought: 1) Change of internal layout, ground and first floor. 2) Change to elevations, alteration to windows position and size) It was RESOLVED to make no comment on this application.

c) Enforcement issues. The siting of an additional mobile home at Two Acres Bickleigh Lane is now being investigated by Maldon District Council

- d) To consider any other planning issues. No date has yet been given for the Appeal hearing for the extension to Beckingham Business Park.

4464.21 Finance

- a) The financial report and bank reconciliation for December were received.
b) It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the following expenditure:

1.	£	239.52	Miss V Banyard	Clerk's salary and office allowance December
2.	£	55.38	HMRC	Clerk's tax December
3.	£	5.07	Miss V Banyard	Clerk's expenses December – internet
4.	£	19,600.80	Playquip	Play equipment
5.	£	170.00	Mr T Payne	Christmas tree for Beckingham Green

4465.21 Update on tree works arising from insurance claims in Tolleshunt D'Arcy Road.

One tree at Oak House remains to be pruned, and this should be done in the next few weeks. A further tree at The Old School House will have one branch removed, and the remainder of the work will be carried out over the next year.

4466.21 To consider any issues concerning the playing field and play area – including:

- a) Play area – rust proofing and painting work. This is still ongoing due to weather problems.
b) To further consider the planting of trees in the playing field to replace the felled oaks. It was **RESOLVED** that it would be best to get a few larger trees rather than saplings, and these can be planted in the spring. Individuals and local businesses could be asked to sponsor a tree and this can be recorded with a plaque. Councillor Mr Coster will find out the cost of larger trees and this will be considered again at the Council's February meeting.
c) Any other issues concerning the playing field. Councillor Mr Payne reported that he had cleared up some broken glass in the playing field car park.
Appletons have been emptying the bins in the playing field regularly but have found that some people are leaving private domestic rubbish in the playing field.
Following the play area inspection this year, it was decided to leave the wooden ladder equipment in place for now, but to make a final decision at the March meeting. ROSPA will be asked to carry out an accompanied inspection in 2022.

4467.21 To consider any Highways issues

- a) Trucam report – no report was available.
b) Community Speedwatch report. No further patrols have been held recently. Councillor Mr Payne has asked for a permanent "Speedwatch Active Here" sign for the village.
c) To consider further information on speed cameras and Speed Indicator Devices. A form will be obtained to allow the Council to apply to purchase its own SID.
d) To consider a letter from a resident concerning lorry traffic from Beckingham Business Park. Councillors discussed a letter concerning reckless driving by a lorry in the area. It was felt that the main issue here is the size of lorries currently accessing Beckingham Business Park at all times of the day and night, and the importance of preventing any further increase in the amount of lorry traffic. Councillor Mr Coster will try to find out a list of the working hours of the various units in the Park, and any conditions attached to each unit.
e) To consider any issues on public rights of way. The damaged sign at the end of the footpath in Mill Lane has been reported and is due for repair. It was noted that Essex County Council has reduced the number of staff in its public rights of way department.
f) Proposal by Anglian Water to close Factory Hill Tiptree for a period of 4 weeks between November 2021 and February 2022 to allow works to improve the water network in Tiptree. Trial holes were due to be dug at the end of November but this has not yet been done.
g) Highways Rangers service – availability. It was reported that the Rangers can clean road signs and clear vegetation, but there are restrictions to what they can do. Councillors will look to see what work is needed and this will be discussed again at the next meeting.
h) Any other issues concerning Highways. It was noted that the recent bonfire party at The Bell went very well with good organisation.

4468.21 To consider the draft budget for the year 2022-2023.

Councillor Mr Payne presented the draft budget and this was discussed. Amongst the points raised were the following:

The Council needs to appoint a new internal auditor – Councillor Sutton to look into this.

The new play equipment needs to be insured – the clerk to contact the insurers to find out the cost of the additional premium.

The difficulty in obtaining invoices from Maldon District Council was discussed.

It was felt that there was no need for a budget for plant and flower schemes in the village, or for repair work to the bus shelter.

It was agreed to take the Speed Indicator Device out of the budget but to continue looking at obtaining one and to revisit this later. Funding could be obtained via the Local Highways Panel as a request for this has already been made.

A budget will be put aside for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Replacement trees in the playing field can be sponsored by individuals and local companies.

Bonz will be asked to quote for the last piece of tree work required under the insurance claim.

A budget will be put aside for the new notice board, as well as signage for the playing field.

The Council will set the precept at the January 2022 meeting.

4469.21 To further consider the purchase of a new Parish Council notice board and its possible relocation.

There was nothing further to report.

4470.21 To note any other issues which may be raised.

Councillor Neath gave out copies of a map showing all the houses in the village together with their names and numbers.

4471.20 To consider other items for information or for inclusion on future agendas.

There was nothing further to add.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 9.03 pm.

The above Minutes were approved at the meeting held on 4.1.2022 and recorded as Minute Reference 4473.21