

TOLLESHUNT MAJOR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 14.1.2025 in St Nicholas Hall Tolleshunt Major

PRESENT: Chair – Councillor T Deer
 Vice Chair – Councillor K Neath
 Councillors M Coster, A Dye and A Taylor
 V Banyard (parish clerk)
 Two members of the public.

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.

Two residents expressed their interest in finding out about Parish Council meetings.

4865.24 To receive apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest in the Meeting’s agenda items.

There were no apologies for absence and no Declarations of Interest.

4866.24 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10.12.2024.

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

4867.24 To consider possible co-option to fill the two vacancies on the Council caused by the resignations of Councillors N Burrell and J Sutton.

No interest has been shown to date in the above vacancies.

4868.24 Planning

Planning decisions from Maldon District Council – None received to date.

Latest planning applications – None received to date.

Enforcement issues. To receive any updates:

It was noted that Maldon District Council has opened a case on Santolina Witham Road – ENF 670452824. Little Totham, Tolleshunt Knights and Tolleshunt Major Parish Councils have now all agreed to use the Freedom of Information request form to ask Maldon District Council for regular updates on planning enforcement issues. Each Council will take it in turns to send the form on a monthly basis, Little Totham going first.

Meeting with Pritit Patel MP on planning issues in the village. To receive any updates and consider any action to be taken. Nothing further has been heard from Ms Patel. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that a request is made to attend one of the MP’s local surgeries in order to move this matter forward. The Parish Council is anxious to obtain a solution to the Highways and Planning issues discussed with Ms Patel on her visit to the village in February 2024.

To consider any other planning issues. No other issues were raised.

4869.24 Finance

The financial report, bank statement and bank reconciliation for January were received and approved.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the following expenditure:

1.	£	294.23	V Banyard	Clerk’s salary and office allowance January
2.	£	69.05	HMRC	Clerk’s tax January
3.	£	25.23	V Banyard	Clerk’s expenses January – internet
4.	£	150.00	A & R Hospitality Ltd	Village Christmas tree
5.	£	637.68	Maldon District Council	Grounds maintenance Q3 Oct – Dec 2024

The list of payments above has been examined by the Council’s Responsible Financial Officer, verified and certified against invoices where present.

Update on the move to internet banking. The clerk advised that Barclays will shortly be sending her a card reader and PIN in order that she can put payments onto the Council's account.

4870.24 To set the budget for the year 2025-2026 and to discuss reserves to be held by the Council. Various issues were discussed before the budget was approved and adopted by the Council.

4871.24 To set the precept for the year 2025 -2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to set the precept for the above year at £13,500.

4872.24 To consider any issues concerning the playing field and play area – including:

Proposed path from the playing field car park to St Nicholas Hall – update. Work on the path is due to go ahead next week.

Playing field grounds maintenance contract for 2025-2026. A quote has been received from Maldon District Council but it was **RESOLVED** that other quotes should also be obtained. The specification for the grounds maintenance work will first be sent to Councillors and then discussed at the February meeting. Any other issues concerning the playing field. Some low hanging branches in the playing field will be dealt with.

4873.24 To consider any Highways issues

Highways issues raised with Priti Patel MP – to consider further action to move this forward. See above – Minute 4868.24.

Public rights of way. To receive any reports.

Councillor Taylor reported that the first part of FP 14 has still not been reinstated across the final headland ploughing strip around the field. It was wet at harvest time due to a possible irrigation leak, and no further action has been taken by the landowner.

Speed Indicator Device (SID). To receive an update. Councillor Neath met with the relevant officer from Maldon District Council and the latter will now put in a bid for grant funding for the SID on behalf of the Parish Council.

Report on Highways issues proposed to Councillor Durham (ECC). Update. It appears that much of the requested work has not been carried out. Councillor Durham will be asked to find out when these works will be done.

Any other issues concerning Highways. No other issues were raised.

4874.24 To appoint members of the Parish Council Staffing Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the committee members should be Councillors M Coster, K Neath and A Taylor. A meeting will now be arranged with the clerk to carry out the yearly appraisal.

4875.24 To note any other issues or information which may be raised – including:

Items for the Parish Council corner in the Major News. A monthly report of the Council's activities (similar to that included on the website and in the Maldon Standard) will be included in the News, and any other items can be sent to Councillor Coster.

4876.24 To consider other items for information or for inclusion in future agendas.

Councillors were invited to think of any items which could be included in the Chair's Report to be given at the Annual Parish Assembly in April.

It was reported that the defibrillator at The Bell is now fully registered with the Ambulance network.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 8.25 pm.

The above Minutes were approved at the meeting dated 11.2.2025 and recorded as Minute Reference 4878.24.