

TOLLESHUNT MAJOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 10.2.2026 in St Nicholas Hall Tolleshunt Major

PRESENT: Chair – Councillor K Neath
Vice Chair – Councillor A Taylor
Councillors M Coster, C Norris and M Thompson (Ward Member)
Parish clerk – V Banyard
No members of the public were present.

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.

5005.25 To receive apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest in the Meeting's agenda items.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Dye and T Parrott.
No Declarations of Interest were made.

5006.25 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13.1.2026.

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

5007.25 To consider co-option to fill the remaining vacancy on the Council.

To date there has been no further interest in the above vacancy.

5008.25 Planning

Planning decisions from Maldon District Council – The following was noted:

25/01005/HOUSE 2 Paget Gardens Beckingham Street Tolleshunt Major	Proposed single storey rear extension	Approved 20.1.2026
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Latest planning applications – The following was considered:

26/00004/HOUSE	Paget House Beckingham Street Tolleshunt Major	Alterations to existing garage to create habitable rooms including cladding to front and rear elevations. It was RESOLVED to make no comment on this application.
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Enforcement To receive any updates or responses from Maldon District Council and to note the current position. There was nothing to report.

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

5009.25 To receive the report of the Staffing committee – clerk's appraisal and salary review.

Councillors received and approved the committee's report on the clerk's pay and targets for the forthcoming year.

5010.25 Finance

The updated accounts spreadsheet, budget v expenditure report, bank statement and bank reconciliation for February were received and approved.

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

1.	£ 312.40	V Banyard	Clerk's salary, office allowance and expenses Feb
2.	£ 72.33	HMRC	Clerk's tax Feb

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

Any further updates on the move to internet banking – authorisation for Councillor Mrs Dye. This has still not been put in place and Councillor Neath will contact the bank.

To consider the appointment of the internal auditor of the accounts for the year 2025-2026. The clerk has been unable to contact the previous auditor but will continue trying. In the meantime other local Parish Councils will be asked if they can provide any help on finding a new internal auditor.

5011.25 To consider any issues concerning the playing field and play area – including:

Play area - Report on any further work/repairs which have taken place, and provision of a new bench. The two new signs for the play area gates have now been put up.

Tree works – dead oak tree. To report on the date when the felling of the oak tree will take place. Due to the recent bad weather this has had to be postponed until conditions improve.

Update on Essex Wildlife Trust Rangers – carrying out of minor works on the trees/bushes in the playing field. This has been arranged and a date is awaited.

Any other issues concerning the playing field. Councillor Mr Coster reported that there is a small increase in the cost of the replacement bench. He is also looking into the cost of a concrete base for the bench.

5012.25 To consider any Highways issues

Repair or works issues To consider any new matters raised and any further responses from Councillor Mark Durham concerning highways issues in the parish. There is nothing to report.

Public rights of way. To receive any reports. A new signpost has been obtained for one of the bridleways.

Speed Indicator Device (SID). To receive an update on the installation of the SID. Although the grant has been approved it has not yet been paid into the Parish Council's account.

Fly tipping in Brickhouse Road – No progress has yet been made. It will be discussed again at the March meeting.

Closure of Beckingham Street - works by Gigaclear from 0800 on 3.2.2026 to 1800 on 16.2.2026. Work is progressing, with the road being closed in small sections. There is some concern that the closure is forcing vehicles onto side roads with damage being caused to the road edges. Due to the weather and the various recent diversion the roads are now in a very poor state.

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

5013.25 To review and approve the draft Internal Financial Controls Policy and the draft Risk Assessment policy. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the above policies as presented with some minor alterations.

5014.25 To consider a suggestion that an educational session is held for councillors and clerk on the operation of the Parish Council website. It was **RESOLVED** that this would be helpful. Councillor Neath will arrange a date.

5015.25 Devolution of Local Government – It is expected that a decision on the various models put forward for the new Essex Council will be known in March,

5016.25 To note any other issues or information which may be raised – including:

Major News – It was **RESOLVED** that current and new planning applications and details of road closures should be included in the Major News.

A query from a resident about the last change in the parish boundaries was discussed. It is known that the present boundary was in existence in 1974 and probably many years before then.

5017.25 To consider other items for information or for inclusion in future agendas. It was noted that the PCC is to increase the hall hire fees. The Parish Council agreed to this increase but will suggest that smaller regular increases would be better in future, and quarterly payments would be more convenient.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 8.10 pm.

The above Minutes were approved at the meeting dated 10.3.2026 – Minute ref: 5019.25