

MINUTES

Minutes of Annual General Meeting with Ordinary Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council.
Held at 7.00pm using Virtual technology hosted by Zoom.

Tuesday 4th May 2021

Present:

Cllr. James Rushton (Chairman)
Cllr. John Brown
Cllr. James Bunn
Cllr. Jenny Hughes
Cllr. Joanna Symons
Cllr. John Tompkins
Cllr. Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)
District Councillor Mark Durham
District Councillor Karl Jarvis (Present from 7.00-7.45pm)
County Councillor Penny Channer (Present from 7.00-8.10pm)
District Councillor Wendy Stamp (Leader of MDC) (Present from 7.00-9.30pm)
Michael Johnson, Maldon District Council Enforcement Team (Present from 7.10-8.20pm)
Vikki Bowles, Maldon District Council Enforcement Team (Present from 7.10-8.10pm)

Public: 6 (2 present throughout the meeting, 4 left the meeting after the Enforcement discussion)

2496. Welcome Cllr. Rushton welcomed those present to the meeting.

2497. Election of Chairman Nominations were invited for the position of Chairman. Councillor John Tompkins Proposed and Councillor Peter Warren Seconded Councillor James Rushton. There were no further nominations. All Councillors voted in agreement and Councillor James Rushton was duly elected to the position of Chairman.

2498. Declarations of Acceptance of Office All councillors were asked to electronically sign the forms which will then be counter signed by the Parish Clerk as proper officer of the council.

2499. Apologies For Absence None

2500. Election of Vice-Chairman Nominations were invited for the position of Vice Chairman. Councillor John Tompkins Proposed and Councillor James Bunn Seconded Councillor John Brown. There were no further nominations. All Councillors voted in agreement and Councillor John Brown was duly elected to the position of Vice Chairman

2501. Register of Members Interests Councillors were reminded to complete disclosed interests on the Maldon District Council on-line form if they have not already done so. Clerk reminded councillors that this should be updated whenever Councillors have an update at any time of the year but needs updating at least on an annual basis (usually in May) in order to confirm that all details are up to date.

2502. Disclosure of Interests/Consideration of Dispensations To disclose the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, other Pecuniary Interests or Non-Pecuniary Interests relating to items of business on the agenda having regard to paragraphs 6-10 inclusive of the Code of Conduct for Members. (Members are reminded they are also required to disclose any such interests as soon as they become aware should the need arise throughout the meeting).

As previously reported re: Warren Estate, Cllr. James Rushton has declared a non-pecuniary interest as his wife is a member at Warren Active and Cllr. Joanna Symons has declared non-pecuniary interest in the Warren Estate as she is a member at Warren Active. There were no other interests declared.

Dispensation 2019-2023 – It was confirmed by a unanimous vote that the dispensation will remain in place until May 2023.

2503. Enforcement Discussion and Update with Michael Johnson, Lead Specialist Development Management, Service Delivery Directorate, Maldon District Council and Vikki Bowles, Senior Caseworker, Enforcement, Maldon District Council.

The following is a summary of the discussions which took place during the meeting.

Councillor Rushton welcomed Mr Johnson and Ms Bowles and began by summarising the Parish Council's views and concerns regarding Enforcement generally and at the Warren Lodges.

- There is considerable frustration that we see and hear things within the village environment regarding Planning Conditions at the Warren Lodges and yet the Parish Council does not have the power to investigate this anecdotal evidence, we have to rely on MDC. We are looking for as much transparency as possible.
- Cllr. Rushton gave an example of a typical overheard conversation when a gentleman detailed that he was living at the Warren Lodges. This is the type of issue which has been concerning us for many years and we don't feel these concerns have been addressed by MDC.
- The Parish Council has sent a list of questions that we are interested in learning about.
- Generally, the Parish Council is also interested in the systems which are in place to check that planning conditions are adhered to; what evidence is required from a 3rd party to instigate an investigation; and what resources are available to Enforcement and whether there has been an increase in funding?
- The Planning conditions at The Warren Lodges which are questioned were read out.

Michael Johnson acknowledged that there are a lot of points with the Parish Council has raised. He has recently begun to work within the Enforcement Team and is now giving them more direct support. He wasn't involved historically with the Warren Lodges cases and is now trying to get up to speed with the Planning history. There is a lot to interpret, and this will be part of the continuing investigation. He noted that he can comment on the general planning matters and his colleague Vikki Bowles will comment on specific cases.

Vikki Bowles explained where we are with the Warren Lodges cases at the moment.

- Previously there was a team of 2 ½ officers and even with a team that size they couldn't proactively check planning conditions in general. They do not have the time or resources to do this. But they have proactively checked all the caravan sites in the Dengie every year. Visiting every site at the time they are scheduled to be closed (January at Warren Lodges). However, due to the restructure in 2019 and COVID in 2020 this didn't happen.
- At these visits, the register was checked and then from that information random lodges were checked to make sure that addresses provided were bona fide.
- The Warren Estate does provide the register.
- MDC do not check every lodge as they do not have time or resources. They do not check council tax regularly, but that department does raise with Enforcement if they receive an application.
- The Parish Council has also raised concerns when these matters are noted by the Clerk on the property list and electoral roll. This evidence then starts an investigation.
- MDC do communicate with the Warren Estate Management who provide information that is requested.
- They require proof of main residence e.g. from NHS, driving licence etc, once this is proved that is all that can be done and the case is closed. This has been done on a number of lodges.
- Warren Lodges Estate pay non-domestic rates for the site and so the individual lodges do not pay council tax because they are holiday homes.
- They do not have the time or resources to make more investigative checks. They cannot suppose things, they have to get facts which can ultimately be used in a prosecution. It is very limited what facts they can get to prove a breach of condition notice.
- There is currently one lodge under investigation who are now registered with the housing department and are waiting for housing to come up. But with lockdown they could not ask them to leave the lodges as they would have been homeless.

The meeting was then opened for Councillor questions and comments.

Cllr. comment: Can you comment on resources for the future.

Mr Johnson: Now have 2 officers with case load of about 600 cases. Each officer has 200 cases each which have increased during lockdown as they were unable to carry out visits. Particularly with complicated investigations such as at the Warren Lodges, cases stymied. The argument was made for more resources as they do not have sufficient personnel to deal with historic and complex cases. A new Enforcement Policy has been developed to streamline the steps involved. This document has now been finalised and should be on website later this week, this was supported by Members. £72k is the figure that is considered necessary, but this is not the amount that we have as this has not yet been identified for the team. Later in 2021 the budget will be looked at but currently this is not available. At this stage he does not have any certainty with resources. The Council has other priorities and for the time being the Enforcement Team are one of the casualties.

Cllr. Comment: Is the process of applying conditions fit for purpose because evidently, they are not being monitored in any way that allows them to be fool proof.

Cllr. Comment: The condition regarding sheds etc. This is a tangible thing that could be investigated. If this is regularly and consistently applied to the site this would make it less attractive for people to use as homes. This could also provide more evidence about why those people are there.

Mr Johnson: This has been brought to their attention and agrees that there are some clear breaches of the conditions. This does not necessarily mean it is unacceptable, but a process should be followed to make that evaluation. They will approach those residences and state that they should submit an application for those structures. If this is not forthcoming, then enforcement action could be taken.

Cllr. Comment: Enforcement has been a bane of contention for several years. The inadequacy of the formation of the planning conditions in the first case, followed by the lack of enforcement is making a complete mockery of the T&C Planning Act and the NPPF. As Parish Councillors we have a responsibility to our residents, and we are inundated with a number of cases where residents have disregarded the planning laws because they see that no action is being taken. These points have been made with District Councillors over the years. We don't get detailed information, yet Parish Councillors are under the same code of conduct as District Councillors. Lost confidence of the MDC Planning and their enforcement. Suggests MDC needs to build confidence. The Warren is just one example. There are several others within the parish and there is no transparency.

Mr Johnson: Points noted. He would like this to be the beginning of a process in which we can have some engagement, this is the reason he has attended the meeting. He is the person that the Parish Council can contact. He wants things to work as best as they can with the resources they have. He is prepared to attend meetings regularly in order to have a useful dialogue. The Enforcement Policy is a first step to address systems to make best use of the resources they have. Accountability is through him.

Cllr. Comment: Thanked Mr Johnson for offer to attend meetings and the Parish Council will certainly take him up on this. Once the Enforcement Policy is released this may be a good opportunity to question further.

Regarding the sheds etc it would seem that The Warren Estate itself is not being helpful. Is there no onus on The Warren that the conditions are adhered to?

Mr Johnson: There is no legal onus. It is for the council to chase this up.

District Cllr. Comment: Clearly some cases are more investigative including desk research which could be done. This is an issue right across the district with caravan and lodge parks. Regarding sheds, he understands that the lodge owners only have a licence over their curtilage of 1m around each lodge.

There are other enforcement cases in the village including a recent case where building work is being carried out with what appears blatant breaches including gates and fences above height. This could

be very easily and quickly resolved by an officer attending the site as there appears to be numerous breaches. Appreciate difficulties of Enforcement team but there are some cases that are causing real distress to householders and a prompt visit by an officer could alleviate some of these problems.

Ms Bowles: Confirmed that they have visited this site.

Cllr. Comment: Concerned that Planning conditions appear in general terms to be unenforceable and are therefore unfit for purpose and inappropriate. We need future applications to have planning conditions to be thought about in detail at the time that consent is given so that they are enforceable. The Enforcement team should participate in this to help draw up conditions. We are in the unfortunate position that we will be unable to resolve a lot of these issues so in future these points should be considered differently at time of application.

Mr Johnson: He notes the point made. He has read some of the conditions with interest and they can be open to interpretation. There have been some appeal decisions (at an alternative location) regarding occupancy where the appellant said a number of the conditions were unreasonable and didn't meet the test and they were successful in getting conditions removed particularly with regards to registering arrivals at the site etc. This does therefore question whether they could be successful with similar conditions at the Warren. These are some of the issues that he is looking into.

Regarding the 10-year and 4-year rule. It is the 10-year rule that applies because the alleged breaches are of Planning Conditions. The 4-year rule is not relevant because there is a condition regarding occupation.

Cllr. Comment: Thanked Mr Johnson and Ms Bowles for attending. We will take Mr Johnson up on offer to attend future meetings. We look forward to viewing the new policy.

Mr Johnson: Acknowledged that there are several other points raised by the Parish Council which he does want to address over time.

2504. Public Forum

Member of the Public 1 & 2: Ask a question of Mr Johnson, the planning permission is granted to the park owners, are they not responsible as they do receive an annual licence from MDC.

Mr Johnson: When enforcement action is pursued, where they are multiple interests, they will pursue all persons who have an interest in the land. So whatever communication is sent this is sent to individual lodges is also sent to the site owner.

Member of the Public 3: Thank you for attending which has been very useful. Issue he finds is that there is a lack of information. He is left in the dark as to what the council are doing. Can you clarify how the process might become more transparent so that comfort can be taken that action is being taken.

Mr Johnson: He is aware of this site and a full and thorough investigation at the site will be looked into. There are some clear breaches and they can start to approach the owner. If a planning application is submitted this needs to be duly considered. They wouldn't write to a complainant to say that they are going to visit the site. They would only write to acknowledge the complaint and then not again until the case has progressed.

Member of the Public 3: There should be more information given to the complainant as the case progresses.

Member of the Public 4: Would like to understand - if lodge owners are using as their main home, don't they have to pay council tax? All these people are in the village and yet they are not paying towards the upkeep of the village through council tax.

Mr Johnson: They can't pay council tax because they are holiday homes. These are not properties that MDC can get this kind of contribution.

2506. To adopt the Maldon District Council Local Code of Conduct

Cllr. John Tompkins noted that if the Parish Council is required to comply to this Code of Conduct why can't we be treated the same way as District Councillors?

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council needs to sign up to a Code of Conduct and in 2016 it was agreed that the best one to sign up to is the local District Council Code. This also connects with the Monitoring Officer at MDC. There is currently a new Code of Conduct being developed and the Parish Council will consider an alternative for the future.

Cllr. Peter Warren proposed and Cllr. John Brown seconded that Maldon District Council Local Code of Conduct (as revised 7th April 2016), be adopted. All councillors in agreement.

2507. Reviews & Adoptions

2507.1 The Clerk had highlighted to councillors the minor changes that had been made. Cllr. James Bunn proposed and Cllr. John Brown seconded that the following policies, procedures and protocols be adopted. All councillors in agreement.

- (a) Standing Orders
- (b) Council's complaints procedure
- (c) Equal Opportunities Policy
- (d) Media Policy
- (e) Staff Appraisal Policy & Staffing Committee & Staffing Sub Committee Terms of Reference.
- (f) Council's Freedom of Information procedure.
- (g) Inventory of land and assets.
- (h) Financial Regulations & Annual Investment Strategy & Financial Risk Assessment
- (i) Direct Debits and regular payments
- (j) Community Engagement Strategy
- (k) Risk Management Policy
- (l) Action Plan
- (m) Business Continuity Plan
- (n) Data Breach Process / Data Protection Policy
- (o) GDPR Privacy Notice and Policies
- (p) Annual Contributions to Local Organisations and Grants Policy
- (q) Safeguarding Policy
- (r) Grievance Policy
- (s) Neighbour Consultations Policy
- (t) Virtual Meeting Protocols

2507.2 To consider the following policies which are subject to further review.

- (a) Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover. Awaiting quotations. Clerk will keep councillors updated.
- (b) Risk Assessments – Clerk to arrange for these to be updated regularly.
- (c) Setting the dates, times & place of ordinary meetings of the full council for the year ahead. To be confirmed.
- (d) Tree Policy - Clerk and Cllr. Warren will review. There will also be a more formal reporting method for the bi-annual checks.
- (e) Councillor's consent to email service – Councillors to confirm that the existing consent list is up to date and confirm arrangements
- (f) Emergency Plan – to be reviewed

2507.3 Cllr. John Tompkins proposed and Cllr. Joanna Symons seconded that the following are appointed to Working Parties and as representatives on Committees and as Councillors with special responsibilities. All councillors in agreement.

- (a) Bell Meadow Playground Working Party: Cllr. Joanna Symons (Chairman) Cllr. John Tompkins, Jacky Bannerman, Graham Bannerman, Pam Seear, Nigel Cornwell, Bob Jones, Carolyn Filmer.
- (b) Woodham Walter Primary School Governing Body: Cllr. Joanna Symons

- (c) Woodham Walter Allotment Association: Cllr. James Rushton
- (d) Bell Meadow Village Association: Cllr. Jenny Hughes
- (e) Village Design Statement: Cllr. John Tompkins and Mr David Beattie
- (f) Footpaths Officer – Cllr. Peter Warren
- (g) Tree Officer – Cllr. Peter Warren
- (h) Broadband – Cllr. John Brown
- (i) Defibrillator – Cllr. John Tompkins

2508. To approve the minutes of Virtual Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th April 2021.

Cllr. John Tompkins proposed and Cllr. John Brown seconded that the minutes be approved, all in agreement.

2509. Matters Arising Matters arising are contained within the Agenda. There were no other matters arising.

2510. Planning – APPLICATIONS

2510.1 It was noted that subsequently to the agenda being set, two planning applications had been received. 21/00261/FUL at Land at Oak Farm, Oak Farm Road and 21/00422/HOUSE at Grove Manor, Herbage Park Road. It was agreed that these applications will be responded to under powers delegated to the Clerk who will liaise with Councillors accordingly.

2511. Planning – DECISIONS

2511.1 No decisions had been received.

2512. Other Planning Matters

2512.1 Enforcement – To advise on any updates. (See minute ref: 2503)

2512.2 Model Design Code – Cllr. Tompkins full report had been shared with Councillors and recommends that given the report, combined with experience of other recent planning issues, there is merit in considering reconvening or forming a new VDS Committee. The remit would be to integrate recent planning application experience and emerging legislation into the VDS enabling it to be maintained as current, become more of a design handbook and become more useful in the pallet of tools available to the Council and the LPA when dealing with planning applications.

Councillors agreed with Cllr. Tompkins recommendations. Cllr. Tompkins will speak to David Beattie to begin the process of re-establishing a VDS committee. It was agreed that the community should be consulted with any changes during the process. It was also noted that there is likely to be further changes to the Planning System and this will also need to be incorporated.

2513. Reports Of the County/District Councillor's

It was noted that Cllr. Channer and Cllr. Jarvis had both submitted written reports. There is currently a pre-election period and so there was no further discussion.

2514. Financial Matters

2514.1 Summary of Accounts to date

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
12-Apr-21	Balance			44687.34
26-Apr-21	MDC Precept	24035.00		68722.34
04-May-21	Transferred from Community Account	1500.00		70222.34

Community Account

12-Apr-21	Balance			549.14
26-Apr-21	Donation - Playground	2000.00		2549.14
30-Apr-21	Grant (Essex Community Foundation-Playground)	2500.00		5049.14
04-May-21	Transfer to Business Reserve		1500.00	3549.14
04-May-21	May Debits		2826.96	722.18

2514.2 Review of Bank Statements and Account sheets. Councillor Brown confirmed that he had reviewed the Bank and Credit Card Statements and Account sheets for March and found them to be reconciled correctly.

2514.3 End of Financial Year – works are being completed for the Audit. The Chairman confirmed that he had reviewed the 2020-21 Accounts File and found no irregularities or inconsistencies.

2515. Payments The payments as listed in the payment schedule were approved. The Clerk will set up the payments and these will then be authorised by a signatory.

Ref:	Payee	Method	Gross	VAT	Net
2515.1	E-on (Estimate)	DD	31.73	1.51	30.22
2515.2	A&J Lighting Solutions	DD	25.20	4.20	21.00
2515.3	Mrs J Bannerman (Salary & Allowance)	BACS	624.00	0.00	624.00
2515.4*	Barclaycard (Ring Central, Zoom, PO, MSFT365, TSOHost)	DD	306.83	47.85	261.38
2515.5	MDC - Community Engagement Team	BACS	205.20	34.20	171.00
2515.6	Skippers Ground Maintenance (Await Invoice)	BACS	360.00	60.00	300.00
2515.7	Annual Grant: Woodham Walter Women's Club	BACS	210.00	0.00	210.00
2515.8	Annual Grant: Woodham Walter Village Hall	BACS	281.00	0.00	281.00
2515.9	Annual Grant: Essex Wildlife Trust	BACS	275.00	0.00	275.00
2515.10	Insurance (Await confirmation/invoice Estimate)	BACS	400.00	0.00	400.00
2515.11	EALC (Training - Safeguarding) (Await invoice)	BACS	108.00	18.00	90.00

*2515.4 Barclaycard payments:

29 Mar 21	RingCentral	187.06
2 April 21	Zoom	14.39
13 Apr 21	Post Office (Stamps)	19.77
16 Apr 21	Microsoft 365 (Business)	11.28
17 Apr 21	TSOHost	74.33
TOTAL	(incl. £47.85 VAT)	261.38

2516. Other Council Matters

2516.1 Clerks Update.

- i. Regular village emails continue to be sent by the Clerk with relevant updates for residents. Information is also put on the website on a regular basis. These emails will continue. There are now 165 on the village email list.
- ii. Road map information from Government is regularly reviewed and included in village emails.
- iii. Parish Clerk's Forum – Clerk had provided a written report on the information from the meeting.
- iv. Dropbox now transferred into OneDrive. Cllr. Brown had clarified that OneDrive for Business is not compatible with OneDrive Personal and this could be the reason for the teething problems. Cllr. Brown will do further research with the Clerk and Councillors. The difference in costs between the two accounts is significant and a comparison of the different options will be considered. As all Councillors personally have Microsoft packages the best method looks to be the OneDrive Personal account.

2516.2 Community Engagement Team (CET) – to note March report and April report awaited.

Parish / Town Council	Month	Total Number of Hours
Woodham Walter	Mar-21	3.5
Number of Tru Cam Patrols	Hours Spent on Tru Cam	Number of Offenders
5	2.5	7
PCNs Issued	FPNs Dog Fouling	FPNs Litter Fouling
0	0	0
ASB Issues		VMO (Vehicle Moved On)
0		1
Any Other Details		

2516.3 Woodham Walter Common – Clerk has requested an up-to-date Tree Survey, the bank details for the Annual Grant and an update on the progress of the agreement.

2516.4 Dates of Meetings – It was noted that the High Court decision regarding virtual meetings had confirmed that after 6th May, Councils are required to meet face to face. The decision confirmed that it is up to Parliament to change Legislation and that meetings should be physical. Various considerations as to the venues and dates of meetings were discussed including the possibility of meeting at the Village Hall or the Church. There are concerns that cleaning requirements could be onerous. The Clerk has asked if there is any possibility that the VH Caretaker could set out the room and provide the cleaning. Discussion regarding whether the Health & Safety concerns could outweigh the law regarding meeting face to face it was advised that any decisions taken in a virtual meeting would be unlawful. A Risk Assessment will be completed. The Chairman will liaise with Councillors regarding a consultation. Emergency Powers was not considered the best option because this removes the democratic process and openness. The date was set for the next meeting for Tuesday 8th June at 7pm. The public will need to pre-register if they wish to attend.

2516.5 Annual Parish Meeting & Report – Councillors noted the draft minutes. The following matters arising were noted from the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 19th April 2021:

- Request for further Defib Training was forwarded onto the coordinator.
- Canal/Litter questions and queries are on-going
- Post Box o/s Church – this has been chased up and a response is awaited.
- Friends Membership Form – this has been requested and is awaited
- Hoe Mill Bridge – the Clerk will request an update from Highways

2516.6 Little Baddow Annual Parish Meeting – Cllr. Brown was unable to access the live stream and awaits the Minutes.

2516.7 Party Tents – Storage considerations on-going.

2516.8 MDC Website and Contacting – Cllr. Bunn commented on recent interactions with MDC. He had found that there was no telephone number available on the MDC website. The only way to contact MDC is through registering for an on-line account and making an electronic report. This is considered to be entirely inappropriate for parishioners. MDC's contact details should be forthcoming on their website and there should be a way for people to make telephone contact. Even when Cllr. Bunn found the telephone number, he was told that he could not make a report by telephone.

There are a number of issues that people may not wish or be able to do via a website and it is unacceptable that this is the only method of communicating with the District Council. Cllr. Bunn will take this further through Cllr. Durham, Cllr. Jarvis and Cllr. Channer. The Parish Council agreed that this was unacceptable and supported Cllr. Bunn.

2517. Highways & Infrastructure

- 2517.1 Faded 30mph sign on The Street – works being scheduled.
- 2517.2 Curling Tye/Blue Mill Flooding – on-going.
- 2517.3 Little Baddow Road crack – on-going.
- 2517.4 Common Lane – Street sign missing. Reported to MDC. Await replacement.
- 2517.5 Village Hedges – Herbage Park Road and Rectory Road hedges were cut including the hedge between Mead Pastures and Village Hall and the path has been cleared. This work had been done by the Highway Rangers.
- 2517.6 Holly Tree on boundary of Rectory Road/Mead Pastures junction. Clerk liaising.
- 2517.7 Parking adjacent to Queen Victoria/Tadpoles. The landlord had made contact to say that they are very concerned about safety at the junction. They are happy to allow their carpark to be used at pick up/drop off times and that they would support the idea of having double yellow lines at this junction. It was agreed that this area continues to be very dangerous and the Clerk will again look at how this could be achieved. It was noted that last time this was investigated it was refused on grounds of cost.

2518. Local Issues

- 2518.1 Bell Meadow a) Football Goals – ongoing. Cllr. Bunn reported that he awaits the welder. The anchors are out of stock. b) Water Trees, Councillors are reminded to water the trees. c) DofE Volunteer – no applications to date. d) Rotten gate catch post – Skippers have replaced. e) Trees/Hedges have been delivered and a team of volunteers will plant. Cllr. Durham has installed some fence posts and wires to deter pedestrians from using the hedge gap. f) Councillors are reminded to update excel document now in OneDrive and report any issues to the Parish Clerk.
- 2518.2 Footpaths Report. Cllr. Warren did not have any matters to report.
- 2518.3 School Report. Cllr. Symons has a Governors meeting later in the week.
- 2518.4 Litter – Fly Tip along Stivvy's Road, Manor Road, Hop Garden Lane and West Bowers reported and promptly cleared by MDC.
- 2518.5 Dog Bin and Litter Bin Requests – on-going.
- 2518.6 New Playground Report. Await Planning decision – this is expected in the next week. Assuming that it is approved, the orders will then be placed with Caloo and Danbury Fencing. It was noted that a generous donation had been received from a local family. Successful application with Essex Community Foundation and £1500 received from Middlewick Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund and £1000 from Crix Chraitable Fund. We now have full funding for the playground and the landscaping works. Any excess funds will be ringfenced into Playground Maintenance Pot.
- 2518.7 Memorial Garden Signage – on going. Chairman will investigate options.
- 2518.8 Crime Reports/Neighbourhood Watch Report. None to date.
- 2518.9 Hoe Mill/Canal – On-going
- 2518.10 Broadband – Cllr Brown reported that he had a meeting with County Broadband to discuss their plans. They were amenable to the Parish Council having a say on where they put any street furniture. They will not be putting any cabinets in the village, there will be 10 new poles around the village. The most controversial location is an additional pole on the green at Rectory Road, but this is going to be revised. He expects to receive further details. Cllr. Bunn raised concerns that we should be aware that we may not then get BT Hyperfast in the village. The Parish council has no way of stopping County Broadband installing their system. It was agreed that there should be a Parish Council viewpoint on this regardless of whether we can do anything about this. We should not actively support this unless it is considered that we would be serving the best interests of the Parishioners. Openreach offers a choice of ISP and County Broadband is fixed to them. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- 2518.11 Stolen Post Box. Await response from Royal Mail. Update requested.

2519. Correspondence – Various items in the OneDrive.

- 2519.1 It was noted that Priti Patel MP had responded to our points raised regarding Enforcement and Grants for Parish Councils for Covid Expenditure.

2520. Points of Information

None

2521. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:

Next scheduled date of Ordinary Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 8th June at 7pm. Parish Clerk to monitor developments and guidelines as they are issued.

Signed *James Rushton*

Meeting ended at 9.50pm

Dated 08-06-2021