

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PURLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL,  
HELD IN THE WELLS PAVILION, HOWE GREEN ROAD,  
ON FRIDAY, 8th MARCH 2019, AT 7.00 P.M.**

Members present: Mr. N. Arthur (Chairman), Mr. S. Bardwell, Mr. B. Oliver, Mr. S. Potter, Mr. G. Rayner and Mr. G. Strathern.

Also in attendance: Mrs. Jane Potter (Clerk).

Two members of the public attended the public session prior to the start of the meeting.

The meeting was attended by one member of the public.

**1/03/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr. C. Ash who was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior personal commitment and from Mr. John Archer and Miss Sue White (District Council Ward Members) and Mrs. Penny Channer (County Council Ward Member) who also had prior commitments.

**2/03/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS (Localism Act 2011)**

There were no new declarations of interest made, nor were there any applications for dispensations from the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

**3/03/19 THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PURLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2019** having been circulated to all Members, were approved, and then signed by the Chairman.

**4/03/19 TO DISCUSS ANY MATTERS OF INFORMATION ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES:**

**4.1/03/19 Clerk:** The Clerk did not have any matters arising from the February 2019 meeting to report to Members.

**4.2/03/18 Members’:** Members did not have any matters arising from the February meeting to discuss.

## **5/03/19 PLANNING MATTERS**

**5.1/03/19 Decisions taken between meetings:** Members noted that the Parish Council had not made any recommendations on planning applications between meetings.

**5.2/03/19 Current applications:** FUL/MAL/19/0154 Erection of building for oyster purification and ancillary aquaculture storage. Birchwood Farm, Birchwood Road, Cock Clarks.

The Parish Council **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.**

HOUSE/MAL/19/00118 & LBC/MAL/19/0119 Demolition of porch and garden shed and new single storey garden room. Mill House, Mill Lane.

The Parish Council **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.**

FUL/MAL/19/00213 Section 73A application for a single storey extension to the existing garage and conversion of the existing garage to create an annexe. Little Paddock, Chelmsford Road.

The Parish Council **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.**

LDP/MAL/19/00212 Claim for Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed removal of unauthorised works

to Little Paddock, Chelmsford Road.

The Parish Council agreed to respond to this application with no comment.

HOUSE/MAL/19/00215 Existing roof removed & new roof of the same pitch installed higher than the existing. New dormer windows & obscure glazed roof windows. All to allow for new First Floor containing 2 Bedrooms. New single storey porch extension to front of property. Goose Patch, Pump Lane.

The Parish Council **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.**

FUL/MAL/19/00241 Proposed new two-storey four bedroom dwelling house on existing vacant plot with detached garage/car port. Land Adjacent Syringa, Chimney Lane.

The Parish Council **RECOMMENDED REFUSAL** on the following grounds:

1 The proposed dwelling due to its size and scale would be overly dominant in the rural street scene, contrary to Policy H4 of the Maldon District Local Development Plan 2014-2029

2 Such a large property, if permitted, remote from community services and essential support facilities and inaccessible by a range of transport would represent an unsustainable form of development. As such the proposal was contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework's 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' and Policies S1 and S8 of the Local Development Plan.

3 Constituting overdevelopment of the site, the proposed dwelling was also contrary to the principles of good design enshrined in the Maldon District Design Guide (Supplementary planning document.)

FUL/MAL/19/00183 Erection of agricultural storage building and associated hardstanding. Land at Old Whitmans Farm, Hackmans Lane.

The Parish Council **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.**

FUL/MAL/19/00184 Erection of agricultural storage building. Land at Old Whitmans Farm, Hackmans Lane.

The Parish Council **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.**

AGR/MAL/19/00272 Prior notification for an agricultural shed for general agricultural storage. Lower Barn Farm, Roundbush Road.

The Parish Council **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL**.

Having already declared an interest in Lower Barn Farm, Mr. Potter played no part in determining the Parish Council's recommendation on the above application.

**5.3/03/19 Notification of appeals:** Members noted that the Parish Council had not been notified of any new appeals or appeal decisions between meetings.

**5.4/03/19 Maldon District Council planning decisions:** Members noted that Maldon District Council had **APPROVED** the following planning application:

◆ HOUSE/MAL/18/01495 Replacement detached garage. Little Wood Place, Fambridge Road.

**5.5/03/19 To respond to The District Council's Draft List of Heritage Assets in Purleigh:** Members noted that Maldon District Council had consulted the Parish Council on the Draft Local List of Heritage Assets for the parish of Purleigh, a copy of which had been circulated between meetings. Draft Local Lists for the parishes of Althorne, Cold Norton, North Fambridge, Purleigh and Stow Maries had been approved for public consultation by Maldon District Council's Planning and Licensing Committee on the 24th January 2019 and the owners of the buildings on the draft list had been written to and the lists published on the District Council's website.

Members noted that according to Tim Howson (Conservation Officer, MDC) Maldon District contained over a thousand nationally listed buildings, which were protected by law. It had also been recognised that there were many historic buildings which, although they may not meet the criteria for national listing, possessed local value because of their architectural and historic interest. The District Council was therefore developing Lists of Local Heritage Assets to identify and celebrate these locally important buildings in each parish. Unlike nationally listed buildings however, inclusion on a Local List did not itself bring any additional consent requirements over and above the existing criteria for planning permission. It did mean though, that a building's heritage significance would be a material consideration in the planning process.

Mr. Howson had asked the Parish Council to comment on the Draft Local List for Purleigh by Monday, 11th March 2019.

It was agreed to write to Mr. Howson, thanking him for his initiative and hard work in producing this valuable and informative document, which if adopted by the Local Planning Authority as a material consideration in the planning process could only, it appeared, have a beneficial effect on future development in the parish.

**5.6/03/19 Other planning matters:** *LDE/MAL/19/00023 Claim for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of the land as residential garden. Land south of Cox Leighs, Hackmans Lane:* Members noted that this application had been withdrawn.

## **6/03/19 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

**6.1/03/19 To respond to Essex County Council's consultation on the evening and Sunday local Bus Service:** Members were reminded that this item had been deferred from the January and February 2019 meetings (Minutes 11/01/19 & 6.3/02/19) to give Members more time to consider the consultation paper (which had been circulated between meetings.)

Members noted that the Bus Service Consultation had three main topics:

*Evenings and Sunday services:* In the short term the proposals for services to the Dengie area investigated the viability of the late evening 31 service from Chelmsford at 10.15 p.m. on Monday to Fridays as well as the Sunday early and late 33 services to Broomfield. The general proposals for services outside the Dengie were that Essex County Council would continue to fund bus services departing before 10.00 p.m. on Mondays to Friday and after 11.00 p.m. on Saturdays. The Sunday services proposal was to support services between 8.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. having a frequency not below 2 hours. Services commencing the route within these limits would complete their full journeys. Essex County Council would also consider funding services outside these times if demand existed and funding was available. There were also questions about how the proposed changes would impact on individuals.

*Type of services:* Members noted that the consultation contained a section for opinions about the County Council funding services using smaller buses

and increasing coverage by Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) as a means of increasing efficiency, and

*Devolution:* There was also a section for opinions about Essex County Council devolving authority and funding to local councils, communities and bus user groups etc. to provide local services.

It was agreed not to reply to this consultation, as Members believed individual users of the bus service in the parish would be better placed to respond constructively.

**6.2/03/19 Improvements to the verge in The Street, opposite The Bell Public House:** It was agreed to leave this matter in abeyance pending completion of the proposed temporary car park for The Bell Public House adjacent to the verge.

**6.3/03/19 Re-submission of proposals for parking restrictions in The Street in the vicinity of The Bell Public House:** Members noted that the Parish Council had not received an updated proposal for the introduction of parking restrictions (yellow lines) in The Street from affected residents, in time for Members' consideration at the meeting.

**6.4/03/19 To consider proposals for the creation of a pedestrian footpath in Church Hill:** A resident of The Street, Purleigh, who was present at the meeting, updated Members on the progress they had made to date to try to persuade the authorities to re-examine this issue since the County Council had carried out a feasibility study and consultation on the matter in April 2014. They hoped that if the issue was investigated again, the proposal for the creation of a pedestrian footpath in Church Hill would have the Parish Council's support.

**6.5/03/19 Other highway matters:** *Overgrown roadside hedge between Norwood Cottage and Sunnyside, Cold Norton Road:* Members noted that Essex County Council had responded to the Parish Council's request that it asked the landowner to cut back their hedge, thereby removing its encroachment onto the pedestrian footway.

The County Council advised that it had investigated and risk-assessed this issue and had concluded that it was not as serious as many other issues it was aware of, so wouldn't be taking any further action. This did not mean that the Parish Council's report was not important however and the location

would be regularly monitored through future scheduled inspections and action may be undertaken in the future if there was significant deterioration.

It was agreed to ask Penny Channer (County Council Ward Member) to pursue this matter further on the Parish Council's behalf.

*Temporary road closure, Walton Hall Lane:* Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 - Section 14(1): Temporary Traffic Regulation Order of Walton Hall Lane, Purleigh.

Members noted that a temporary closure of Walton Hall Lane was due to commence on 20th March 2019 for 6 days. The closure was required for the safety of the public and workforce while Essex & Suffolk Water laid new service connections in the carriageway and verge and reinstated them.

*Creation of a new vehicular access, north of Beekeepers Cottage, Fambridge Road (B1010):* It was agreed to write to Essex County Council and Maldon District Council advising them of the creation of a new vehicular access onto Fambridge Road to the north of, and adjacent to, Beekeepers Cottage (CM9 6NJ) apparently without the benefit of planning permission which was required for creating new accesses onto classified roads.

## **7/03/19 PLAYING FIELD AND OPEN SPACES**

**7.1/03/19 Children's Play Area:** Members noted that Mr. Ash had advised the Clerk before the meeting that he had carried out his usual inspections of the Children's Play Area and that all items of play equipment therein appeared to be in a satisfactory condition, although the grass could do with cutting.

Members noted that the annual independent inspection of the play area would take place in April 2019.

**7.2/03/19 To consider quotations for the repair of the chain traverse and swinging steps:** Members noted that on 14th February 2019, Mr. Ash, Mr. Potter and the Clerk had met with Paul McHenry from Playquip, the manufacturer of the piece of trim trail which required repair. He had subsequently supplied the following quotation for Members' consideration:

' ... One of the logs on the log traverse had significant decay and required replacement also another log required the bottom chain link to be straightened.

To undertake the above repair with a new log and attach the chains: **£485.00**

If required, Playquip could replace all four logs on the chain traverse as mentioned during the meeting.

To undertake the replacement of all four logs on the chain traverse: **£1,075.00**

(The above price was possible as Playquip would be on site so could offer a reduced price for the replacement of all four logs if required). ...'

Mr. Ash had obtained an alternative quotation from Rustic Garden Furniture Ltd as follows:

To supply and fit 4 x Logs on the tyre traverse **£300.00**

Or, To supply and replace 1 x Log on the tyre traverse **£150.00**

It was agreed to accept Rustic Garden Furniture Ltd's quotation for the repair of all four logs at a cost of £300.00.

Members noted that the annual independent inspection of the play area would take place in April 2019.

**7.3/03/2019 Renewal of the wooden stakes at the front of The Common, Farther Howe Green:** Members noted that Andrew Macmorland was not able to install the new Chestnut stakes at the front of The Common.

It was therefore agreed that Mr. Strathern would carry out the work required assisted by the Chairman, Mr. Bardwell and Mr. Potter.

**7.4/03/19 Other Playing field and open space matters:** *Letter of thanks:* Members noted that the Chairman of Purleigh Croquet Club had written to the Parish Council on behalf of all members of the Croquet Club thanking Purleigh Parish Council for supporting it with a grant of £500 to help with the cost of bringing the lawns back to an acceptable standard so that members of the club could once more enjoy playing. The club invited Members to come and join it anytime to try the game, or just for a cup of coffee.

The letter was placed in the circulation folder for Members' information.

*Notice board, Howe Green Road:* Members noted that the lock had broken. The Chairman kindly agreed to investigate with a view to repairing or replacing the lock.

*Purleigh Cricket Club:* Members noted that a letter had been received from Purleigh Cricket Club which informed the Parish Council that the club had applied for a grant of £1,000 to the England & Wales Cricket Board for the acquisition of a Barbeque and gazebo type shelter to aid social events, and for items of kitchen equipment to modernise the pavilion kitchen facilities. The club hoped that the Parish Council would support its application (which had already been submitted due to tight deadlines) and would agree, as previously, to insure the items purchased, if the grant application was successful.

The Club also advised Members that it would be running a children's cricket taster day on 8th June 2019 before its home game which reflected the theme of the England & Wales Cricket Board funding. The Cricket Club hoped to work with the Purleigh Community Fund (PCF) to help ensure that lots of children attended the event.

Members noted that the Cricket Club's grant application to the ECB had been broken down as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cheapest Quotation (£)</b>
Gas barbeque	158.99
Barbeque cover	15.99
Husky fridge	129.99

Barbeque utensils	13.99
EZ-UP Speed Shelter 8ft x 12ft frame, 3 x sidewalls & delivery	804.00
Triple pot slow cooker/ buffet server	64.95
Saucepans	25.19
Frying pans	24.99
Knife set	33.00
Chopping boards	22.99
Coffee machine	31.98
8 piece cooking utensil set	14.99
4 slice toaster	27.00
Total value of planned purchases	<b>1,366.05</b>
Total to the nearest pound	1,366.00
PPFA donation	250.00
Club funding from fundraising	116.00
Remaining grant from ECB scheme	<b>1,000.00</b>

The Parish Council raised some concerns about how and where the new kitchen equipment would be stored. It was agreed to discuss the matter further with the Cricket Club depending on the outcome of its grant application.

Members noted that the Cricket Club had also raised some concerns about the design of the proposed new playground, some elements of which appeared as if they might get very close to the cricket boundary in an area where the ball could often travel quickly and in the air. The Club was also concerned about access to the area during installation, which would need careful management to avoid damaging the surface of the outfield.

Members noted that in response to the concerns raised by Purleigh Cricket Club, the Purleigh Community Fund (PCF) had explained that their on-line posts had shown the initial designs for the new playground not detailed plans. The Group thought it might be good to involve the cricket club when the playground designer came to create the detailed designs, or to make sure that the club could see detailed drawings to ensure there were no issues before works commenced.

The Parish Council agreed that any new design would have to be fully risk assessed and its impact upon the croquet lawns and cricket outfield carefully considered. The Parish Council would however have to have the final say on any proposals, as it was responsible for the playing field, all play equipment therein and its insurance liability.

*Rubbish on the playing field:* It was agreed to write to Mrs. Dilworth, thanking her profusely for clearing up ten bags of rubbish which had been dumped on the playing field together with a considerable amount of dog mess, none of which was part of her duties. The Chairman also agreed to take her some flowers as a mark of the Parish Council's appreciation.

## **8/03/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**8.1/03/19 To receive a report of receipts:** Members received a report of the following receipts:

POPHA Pavilion hire 2018/2019			£65.00
National Lottery (Main Grants)	Grant towards the refurbishment of the Children's Play Area		£9,380.00
PPFA	Pavilion hire 2018/19		£156.00
Whist Drive	Pavilion hire to 31st March 2019		£156.00
Barclays Bank Plc	Interest:		
	Business Premium Account	£12.98	
	Historic Buildings Fund	£5.87	
	Miss Pawsey's Legacy	£3.63	
			£22.48
			<b>£9,779.48</b>

**8.2/03/19 To approve payment of accounts between meetings:**

Members noted that there had not been any payments made between Parish Council meetings.

**8.3/03/19 To approve payment of accounts to hand and transfers between bank accounts:**

Mrs. Jane Potter	Salary –February 2019	£1,269.00	
	Plus room allowance	£400.00	
	Plus use of personal word processing		
	Equipment (Min 10.2/12/18)	£300.00	
			£1,969.00
	Less tax	£181.40	
	and National Insurance	£152.04	
	Pension contributions	£73.60	
		£407.04	
		= £1,561.96	
	Plus		
	Expenses 2018/19 (Min 10.2/12/18)	£1,239.00	
			£2,800.96
	H.M. Revenue & Customs Tax	£181.40	
	National Insurance (employees)	£152.04	
	National insurance (employers)	£174.85	
			£508.29

Essex Pensions Fund	Employee contributions (5.8% pensionable pay)	£73.60	
	Employer contributions (19.2% pensionable pay)	£243.65	
	Administration charge (8% employee contributions)	£5.89	
			£323.14
Mrs. R. Dilworth	Pavilion cleaning –February 2019		
	20 hours @ £8.00 per hour		£160.00
RBS Invoice Finance Ltd	Photocopying	£14.80	
	VAT	£2.96	
			£17.76
Purleigh Village Hall	Hall hire (17.11.18 re: Shop meeting)		£20.00
Mrs. J. Potter	Petty cash reimbursement:		
	Postage		£12.88
Maldon District Council	Community Protection Team Services	£239.04	
	VAT	£47.81	
			£286.85
			<b>£4,129.88</b>

**Transfers:** Members noted and approved the following bank transfers:

1. On 18th February 2019 the sum of £9,380.00 had been transferred from the Community Current Account (40731080) into the Capital Projects Fund

(30567361) being a grant from the National Lottery towards the refurbishment of the Children's Play Area.

2. On 18th February 2019 the sum of £10,00.00 had been transferred from the Business Premium Account (80731099) into the Capital Projects Fund (30567361) being a grant from Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) towards the refurbishment of the Children's Play Area.

These transfers ensured that the grants could easily be identified in the council's accounts and removed both grants (which were earmarked) from the general fund.

**Bank reconciliation as at 28th February 2019:** A bank reconciliation for the period 1st April 2018 to 28th February 2019 was carried out by Mr. Rayner and approved by the Parish Council as follows:

**Statement of Accounts:**

Receipts:	£96,707.51	Barclays Bank Plc:	
Expenditure	£36,776.46	Current account	£7,027.37
		Business Premium Account	£17,406.04
		Historic Buildings Fund	£28,167.74
		Legacy	£7,279.90
		Petty Cash	£50.00
	<hr/>		
	<b>£59,931.05</b>		<b>£59,931.05</b>

**9/03/19 CORRESPONDENCE**

**Genesis**

*Ultrafast rural broadband rollout announced in the villages of Dengie Peninsula:* Members noted that County Broadband, a specialist rural broadband provider based in East Anglia, had announced hundreds of homes and businesses in the villages of Dengie Peninsula would soon be able to access some of the country's fastest internet speeds as part of its latest rollout plan of ultrafast fibre broadband.

Many rural communities in Essex still suffered from 'broadband black spots' due to old copper-wire infrastructures dating back to the Victorian era. According to Genesis, research also showed that two thirds of customers were unaware that some 'fibre services' arrived through standard copper telephone lines, significantly affecting speeds, reliability, and future upgrades.

County Broadband's high-tech 'Fibre-To-The-Premises' (FTTP) network aimed to deliver ultrafast internet speeds of up to 1,000 megabits per second (Mbps) directly into some of the most difficult to reach homes and offices, more than 20 times faster than the UK average.

Villages in the Dengie Peninsula that stood to benefit from the company's roll-out included: Althorne, Bicknacre, Bradwell-on-sea, Hazeleigh, Langford, Maldon, Mayland, Mundon, Purleigh, St Lawrence, Utling, Woodham Mortimer and Woodham Walter.

Once connected, users should be able to download HD films in seconds, take full advantage of online streaming services, including on-demand TV, and allow fast, uninterrupted internet access.

The new ultrafast service was set to rollout in villages and parishes in Essex during the year. Residents and businesses were being urged to attend public meetings being organised by County Broadband to find out more details and to sign up.

Members noted that over the coming weeks, senior representatives from County Broadband would be explaining their rollout plans, and the services which would be available to the community, and would be answering any questions local residents and businesses may have.

It was noted that a meeting would take place to discuss this in Purleigh Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 11th March 2019. Mr. Strathern and Mr. Oliver agreed to try to attend.

### **Essex County Council**

*Ward Member's Report:* Members noted that Penny Channer had forwarded the Parish Council an annual report on the work of Essex County Council for Members' information. Her report had been put in the circulation folder for Members' information.

### **Maldon District Council**

*Crouch Valley Festival of Food and Drink:* Members noted that in March the District Council would be announcing the creation of the Crouch Valley Festival of Food and Drink 2019 in partnership with the Crouch Valley wine producers and part funded by the Magnox socio economic fund.

The Festival would take place on the 20th and 21st July 2019 in the Riverside Park, Burnham-on-Crouch and the District Council really hoped Members would want to support it.

The two day event would celebrate the very best food and drink from the local area, with live music and entertainment, activities and competitions etc. and aimed to raise the profile of local food and drink producers, support future business growth, gastro tourism and the appreciation of local food and drink. It would be a free to enter event focused on the growing prominence of the Crouch Valley wine producers, award winning breweries and the amazing range of quality food producers based in the local area.

With plenty of parking available in the park and easy access to the Burnham-on-Crouch Train Station and its connections to London, the District Council planned to market the event throughout Essex and in London and thousands of residents and visitors were anticipated over the weekend.

### **10/03/19 POINTS OF INFORMATION**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m.