

Stanford Rivers PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting: PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 10th November 2022

Time: 5.30pm

Too Hill Village Hall, Too Hill Road, Too Hill, Essex

PRESENT:

Councillors (4) Cllr Glover (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Jackman MBE, Cllr Saridja, Cllr Tallon

Also in Attendance (1) - Adriana Jones – Clerk

Members of the Public (7) ECC Cllr Jaymey Mclvor, PC Andy Cook, 3 representatives from the Environment Agency, 2 local residents

Members of the Press (1)

PRESENTATION BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REGARDING SHONKS MILL

Prior to the start of the meeting a presentation and update on current progress with the Shonks Mill Storage Area was provided by members of the Environment Agency. Copies of plans and maps were available for inspection and review. The main points from the session were as below:

- Brief summary of the project given, referencing purpose to control and alleviate flooding further along the Roding towards Woodford.
- EA continues to liaise with the landowners who may be affected by this project.
- A full planning application for the proposals is expected to be submitted fairly soon
- Possibility of the rebuild of at least two homes close to the storage area, and discussion taking place with the owners of said properties.
- Details of proposed diversion to public footpaths identified in the mapping and discussion taking place with ECC.
- EA representatives noted the issues experienced near to Bridge Farm and across the A113 by Traceys Farm in terms of flooding, and would take this information away with them.
- Further modelling is needed, however current modelling indicates that other than the two properties previously identified, no other properties are expected to be at risk as a result of the works.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman welcomed members of the public present. One resident asked if the Council would be taking any action on Sharps Green where there was evidence of a car driving over the green and causing tyre marks and churning the grass up. PC Cook who was present advised that he had been made aware of this by a local resident who lived close to the green, advising that she had video evidence including number plates to send to him. PC Cook was waiting for this and would look into this matter. The Chairman advised that it had happened previously, to which the Clerk advised she was only aware of only one instance in the past, although the resident stated he was aware it had happened on numerous occasions.

PC Cook provided an update on police matters, stating that this particular beat was somewhat of an oddity as it fell within a different area, however in terms of crime there had been one aggravated burglary that was well known, and one burglary in the village itself, and that these were really the only crime related matters for the Parish. There was no criminal damage, however there was some hare coursing and fly tipping. Cllr Saridja asked about car theft, to which PC Cook stated there were no reports, however a member of the public stated that was a theft of about £15,000 of equipment and couldn't understand why this wasn't listed. PC Cook stated that there had been some issues in neighbouring parishes, but not Stanford Rivers. The Clerk stated that this seemed to correlate with reports provided by Cllr Adams in that there was a lot going on in surrounding parishes, but not too much in this one. PC Cook advised that he had looked back over the last 11 months, and crime was very low in this Parish. The Clerk asked if PC Cook could try and have a regular presence on the A113 with the speed gun, and liaise directly with the CSW team regarding this. It was noted that the Too Hill CSW Team was active, with Cllr Tallon advising that there was a session roughly 4 weeks ago, however PC Cook advised he was not aware this was still an active group, and advised that if there was persistent speeding issues he would be happy to come along, using the CSW Gun and providing a presence of a police officer which would make a difference. Cllr Tallon asked if the group was confined by operating in the light at morning / evening, to which PC Cook advised CSW activities could not take place during the hours of darkness.

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Just prior to the meeting, the Chairman advised that the death of the Queen Elizabeth II was announced part way through the last Parish Council meeting, and as such he asked that a 1 minute period of silence was observed to mark this occasion.

P14.966 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Jackson and Cllr Hollington. Apologies had also been EFDC Cllr Brady. It was **NOTED** that Cllr Adams had been able to join via Zoom, however due to technical difficulties with internet access this was not possible, and as such his apologies should be noted.

P14.967 OTHER ABSENCES

None.

P14.968 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

P14.969 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th September 2022, and the Planning Committee meeting held on 13th October 2022, as attached to the agenda.

P14.970 SHONKS MILL / RIVER RODING PROJECT

Councillors briefly discussed the presentation that took place prior to the start of the meeting, noting the points that were raised. Councillors expressed their disappointment that there were not more members of the public who had attended despite it being advertised on social media.

P14.971 CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Members **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the Clerk as follows:

- EF Branch Meeting of EALC held 26th October, with a set of questions agreed to go to EF LCLC meeting 29th November. The Clerk expressed how vital it was that as many members of the Council attend the meeting on 29th November 7pm to ensure there was good representation and to show solitude amongst Councils that the current system of planning and communication methods at the District Council were unacceptable and causing problems for local residents. Using the LCLC to raise these issues was the correct medium. Cllr Mclvor confirmed that this was a concern across the district.
- EFDC Consultation on modifications to the Main Modifications of the Local Plan finishes on 9th December – the only allocation within this parish is for Stewarts Farm for an employment site.
- The Clerk has received a query from EALC regarding the legality of holding Planning Committee meetings via Zoom. The Clerk advised that it was unlawful to hold committee meetings via zoom, however having informal discussion meetings via Zoom was acceptable. At present there is no statutory concept of 'hybrid' in terms of parish council meetings. Meetings are either held in compliance with the law, or they are not. The current legal position is that all meetings (under the LGA, 1972) have to take place in-person and must be open to the public to attend in a physical sense. This also is relevant to any Councillor who may attend a Council or Committee meeting via Zoom, in that by law they are deemed to have not attended and their attendance cannot be counted. The Clerk advised that she has delegated power to respond to planning applications, but if the Council wished to continue with Committee meetings, they would need to be physically held in person. There was mixed feeling as to the best way to deal with such matters, however a final vote was taken on meeting in person every three weeks for a planning committee meeting, the result of which was as follows:

For: 2

Against: 2

The chairman having the casting vote, voting FOR the proposal.

It was therefore **AGREED** that any planning committee meeting must be in held in person, with all the required formalities that go with holding a Committee meeting.

- Clerk requested an update on UK Prosperity Funding for an ASHP for the Toot Hill Village Hall, and has been advised that despite an answer being due at the end of October, this has not happened.
- Essex County Council has this week launched a consultation inviting all county residents and businesses how to spend its 2023/24 budget. The consultation is now open, and a copy of the link was included within the agenda.
- The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex (PFCC), Roger Hirst, was seeking views on paying for policing and fire rescue services in Essex, as he sets the 2023/2024 budgets for the Services. The consultation closes on December 20th, and a copy of the link was included within the agenda.
- Details of the Ride London public events w/c 31/10 were placed on the Parish Councils social media pages, and emailed out to all parish contacts. Cllr Jackson had previously advised the Clerk that even though it had been reported that Ride London had not yet agreed the route, he had been told that it

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would include the A113. The next event would be held on 28th May 2023. The Chairman stated that he felt the Parish got enormous benefit from the last one, especially in terms of the potholes being filled, and that with enough notice people can plan their way around it. The Clerk stated that there was a difference dependent on what type of area you live in, for example there were many people in Epping and Ongar who were upset due to the disruption to businesses and access to shops, whereas in the more rural areas where there were no shops and business, the only disruption is road access. If it does happen, we should get some benefit from it, specifically road and pothole repairs. Cllr Mrs Jackman stated that Church Road was a death trap, especially around Hopp Gardens with patches missing in the middle of the road, awful wear, and potholes. Cllr McIvor confirmed he would take this matter up and report it. Cllr McIvor confirmed he had just dealt with the potholes near Blake Hall Station under the Member Potholes scheme, although it had not yet been fixed but this one had been forward to be fixed by himself. This was especially a concern for bike riders in this area. Cllr Saridja again raised the issue of creating a cycle lane along the A113.

- FOI request received regarding football and sports provision in the parish, to which the Clerk has responded.
- New Tree has been planted on Jubilee Green which will be used as the Christmas tree. The total cost was £2,808 inclusive of vat which included a 10% discount. Thanks were formally recorded for Mr Ellice, a local resident, who kindly agreed to water the tree every day for the first month. Confirmation had been received from supplier that watering was no longer needed.
- EFDC Financial concerns – Cabinet meeting of October identified that early analysis shows a significant gap of more than £4 million between income and expenditure next year. Higher costs are also contributing to a budget shortfall in the current year.
- Clerk has contacted Unity Trust Bank to complete its annual confirmation of eligibility for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) which compensates customers up to a maximum of £85,000 if a bank, building society or credit union has stopped trading or does not have enough assets to pay claims made against it.
- The Chairman and his wife will be attending the memorial services in North Weald Bassett for Remembrance Sunday. Arrangements will also be made to lay a wreath at St Margaret's Church. The Clerk had purchased the relevant wreaths, one of which she will give to the Chairman to lay at St Margaret's.
- Cllr Adams attending the 20s Plenty event in November.
- Reminder Budget and Precept will be discussed at the January meeting. Councillors asked to advise the Clerk of any items they want to be considered, including financial details.

P14.972 CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING STANFORD RIVERS 27th NOVEMBER 4PM

This year's festive carols event will take place at on Sunday 27th November 4pm on Jubilee Green, Little End. Arrangements have been made to erect the lights on the newly planted tree, together with singing of the Carols and Father Christmas. The Chairman agreed he would erect a notice on the Green, and Cllr Saridja and Cllr Jackson would hand deliver leaflets to all homes in the vicinity. Councillors authorised the expenditure for refreshments and Christmas treats for the event, and a £75 donation for Father Christmas attendance.

P14.973 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Cllr Adams had provided a brief update to the Clerk including a ford transit that was stolen two weeks ago, range rover last week, and both vehicles are thought to have been recovered. The Clerk stated that it was interesting as Cllr Adams received the same reports that PC Cook receives, albeit they were different. Last week a bicycle and copper cable was stolen, and there were similar reports from surrounding areas. Cllr Adams had advised that he had tried to get speederbot data from Toot Hill, however they only provide data for A roads and some B roads, so unfortunately this was not available.

P14.974 VEHICULAR SPEEDING AND SAFETY MATTERS IN THE PARISH

a) Community Speedwatch

No update.

b) Speederbot

Cllr Adams had now created a Speederbot account, active and generating data but further training is needed, so hopefully this would happen in the near future. Cllr Mrs Jackson asked if this Council really needed to carry on with this scheme, to which the Clerk advised that the data obtained was very useful for the Speedwatch team as it helps target when the team goes out. Cllr Adams had stated that he felt speedwatch should be much more active and target times with the police.

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c) Parking at Mill Lane, Triangle

The Clerk advised ECC Cllr Mclvor had stated he was happy to support a project to resolve the parking on this triangle, however expressed caution in that it could move the problem elsewhere. There are major parking problems in the Parish, none of which are the formal responsibility of the Parish Council, however this Council would do what it could to try and help with a solution. The Clerk continues to liaise with Cllr Tallon and EFDC regarding this matter.

d) Parking in the layby at Barnmead

The Clerk continues to liaise with Cllr Tallon and EFDC regarding this matter, and EFDC is currently liaising with its solicitors in order to try and establish who actually owns the layby. Cllr Tallon advised there were major issues with parking in this area. The Clerk stated that this Council needed to be cautious in that we don't want to resolve one problem and create another problem elsewhere.

e) Speed Camera Requirements

The Clerk confirmed she had asked ECC Cllr Mclvor about the process of obtaining a speed camera, the latest advice being received from ECC is that the criteria is currently being reconsidered. Cllr Mclvor stated that given how difficult it is to get a speed reduction, he felt that a speed camera was probably the next option, and that evidence would be needed of regular excess speeding. The Clerk asked if Cllr Mclvor could establish what the process was.

f) Vehicle Activated Signs

Toot Hill and Little End – These will be on the January agenda for budget discussions, as the Parish Council would need to pay for them if it wanted to have them. In the meantime the Clerk has asked Cllr Mclvor to find out what the process was to obtain one.

g) Overgrowth through Little End

The Clerk reminded Councillors that this was the overgrowth between the Woodman Pub and Bridge Farm, previously suggested by Cllr Adams. The Clerk stated that the only way for this Council to legally do this work was to sign up to the Highway Devolution scheme and the Clerk was unsure if this was even running. The Clerk had looked at all the related health and safety requirements of signing up to the scheme, and has put a call in to EALC to establish if the scheme is still running however at this stage they unsure if the scheme if this is the case, so the Clerk will complete some further investigations.

P14.975 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. To CONSIDER any planning applications submitted to the Parish Council for comment as detailed below		
EPF/1156/22	58 Epping Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, Essex, CM5 9SQ	Proposed new vehicular access, fencing and gate. The Parish Council continues to OBJECT to this application. There continues to be no street scene or elevation images which would enable the Parish Council to clearly understand the impact of the proposal on the street scene both in Cumley Road and on the Epping Road. As such the Parish Council is unable to establish if the development would create an overly prominent and unsuitable feature to the current rural street scene. The Parish Council is also therefore unable to establish if there would be a safety issue in terms of vehicles having sufficient visibility when exiting Cumley Road. The Parish Council also has concerns at this stage as to the loss of the green verge, given the rural setting.
EPF/2249/22 & EPF/2250/22	Toot Hill Golf Club, School Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9PU	Application for a proposed temporary golf reception building. The Parish Council has NO OBJECTION to the TEMPORARY siting of these two buildings on the basis that a condition is placed on any such permission confirming that both buildings will be removed within 3 months of the said properties being marketed and available for short golf lets. The Parish Council would not expect a further application from Toot Hill Golf Club to remove this condition, given both buildings were erected without apply for or

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		having planning permission in place and the site lies within the green belt.	
2. To NOTE any planning applications that have been responded to via the Clerks delegated powers			
NIL			
3. To NOTE any planning applications upon which EFDC do not normally accept comments			
EPF/2263/22	Brook Cottage, Mutton Row, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9QQ	Application for a Lawful Development certificate for existing use of original cottage as a separate dwelling.	
EPF/2318/22 & EPF/2317/22	Maybanks Farm, Epping Road, Ongar, CM5 9SQ	Application for Approval of Details reserved by condition 3 for EPF/1375/22. (Side extensions to the existing barn). Application for Approval of Details reserved by conditions 3 & 4 for EPF/1374/22. (A new barn to store farm vehicles and machinery).	
4. To NOTE any other planning matters			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email received from local resident formally requesting the council raise a possible enforcement issue regarding Colemans Farm. This was raised and an inspector tried to visit on 20/10/22 however nobody was present. No further update. Phone call received from local resident regarding pop up luxury hotel at Colemans Farm. 2 possible enforcement issues raised, one regarding the property at the front currently being renovated, and the other was the Hyundai pop up hotel. Potential breaches raised with EFDC, and officer tried to visit 20/10/22, however nobody was present. Hyundai had issued a statement to EEF which stated <i>'pop-up hotel concept which accommodates two people at a time, in an existing cabin on Coleman's Farm. The pop-up has been created on private land which permits holiday and short stay breaks. We have not added any additional permanent structures that require consent or planning permission. The experience has simply switched from mains power to it being powered entirely by electric vehicles and therefore does not draw from the existing supply. Hopefully this clarifies the concept for you and any concern.</i> Clerk has requested an update. The Clerk requested a further update, and the out of office assistant stated that the planning officer would be 'unavailable until further notice. As such, the Clerk had raised the matter via the contact centre, but a response had not yet been received. 			
5. NOTED the following planning decision by EFDC			
EPF/1129/22	Land At The Rear Of The White Bear P.h. 149 London Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 'Contamination risks', condition 4 'Drainage details', condition 6 'External finishes', condition 7'Screen Walls and fences', condition 8 'EVCP', condition 9'High Speed Broadband' and condition 1	Split <i>The PC NOTED this application on which it could not comment</i>
EPF/1957/22	Four Elms, Mutton Row, Stanford Rivers, Ongar,	Application for Approval of Details reserved by condition 3 'drainage' for EPF/1338/22. (Change of use from agricultural land to equestrian ménage, stables & paddock, construction of ménage and construction of stables)).	Approve <i>The PC NOTED this application on which it could not comment</i>
EPF/1835/22	Land at Steers Farm, School Road, Essex, CM5 9SD	Application for Variation of Condition 2 for EPF/1889/19 (Proposed new infill detached 5 bedroom house with detached carport) to alter the appearance of the external facade.	Approve with conditions <i>The PC OBJECTED to this application</i>
EPF/1834/22	Land at Steers Farm, School Road, Essex, CM5 9SD	Application for Variation of Condition 2 for EPF/1889/19 (Proposed new infill detached 5 bedroom house with detached carport.) to alter the size and design of the proposed garage.	Refuse <i>The PC OBJECTED to this application</i>
EPF/1451/22	1, London Road, Stanford Rivers, CM5 9PH	Construction of new 1.5m high front brick wall and entrance gates and piers.	Refuse <i>The PC OBJECTED to this application</i>
EPF/1117/22	Land adjacent to Maybanks Farm	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 6'Contamination	Approve <i>this application on</i>

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	Ongar, Toot Hill	Report', condition 7 'Drainage Details', condition 11 'Ecology' on planning permission EPF/1774/21 (Removal of existing barns and construction of a new detached dwelling.	<i>which it could not comment</i>
EPF/0353/22	Bramber 46 Epping Road, Stanford Rivers Ongar Essex	Reconfiguration of the garden with a porch at basement level.	Approve with conditions <i>The PC OBJECTED to this application</i>
EPF/2077/22	Land adjacent to Maybanks Farm, Ongar CM5 9SQ	Application for Variation of condition 2 for EPF/1774/21. (Removal of existing barns and construction of a new detached dwelling, including new relocated vehicle access to Epping Road).	Refuse The PC had no objection to this application Refused for overdevelopment
EPF/2390/22	Land at Steers Farm, School Road, Essex, CM5 9SD	Application for Variation of Condition 2 for EPF/1889/19. (Proposed new infill detached 5 Bedroom house with detached carport)	Withdrawn

P14.976 BUS SERVICES STANFORD RIVERS

Councillors recalled that over the past few years this Council had done what it could to respond to bus service consultations and passenger transport surveys to try and extend the 375 service to the Four Wants roundabout. The Clerk has been liaising with ECC Passenger Transport further in this matter who were aware of the public transport issues Stanford Rivers has had with service provision and that they were looking at all their services as part of their network reviews. They confirmed they would ensure this Council's request was included within this, however also confirmed that the matter was on their radar from previous requests. There is some concern that ECC Passenger Transport were confusing two services - 575 and 375 - and the Clerk had raised this with them. The Clerk was advised that with limited budgets it had not been possible to introduce services as much as they would have liked, and that when the 575 service was withdrawn quite some time ago Epping Forest Community Transport was made aware of this and extended one of their services to this area. They have been in contact with EF Community Transport to see how this had been going, and to see how to promote this service whilst they continue with reviewing the network. In addition, the Clerk also wrote to the Care Home near Passingford Bridge to try and gain support for extending this service, however there hadn't been any response. It was noted that the 375 is a TFL Service, and that the response received from ECC is that they have no influence over TFL services, and would fully expect TFL to ask ECC to fund any extension of the service. The Clerk's contact, Wendy, had agreed to contact TFL to find out more information and to see if they would be willing to extend the service, and if so she fully expects them to ask ECC for funding for this.

P14.977 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

a) Local Highway Panel Requests:

Councillors **NOTED** the next meeting was scheduled for 29th September at 5pm. Updates to the schemes were as follows:

- LEPP192054 – A113 London Road, Stanford Rivers Signage scheme – Moved into 2022/2023 financial year. Cost £16,500. No date for completion yet. The Clerk asked Cllr McIvor for an update on this scheme.
- LEPP202031 - A113 Romford Road, Great Colemans, Stanford Rivers, Request for measures to protect Grade 2 listed building from large vehicles clipping the property's guttering and wall. Such as signage (slow / narrow section) and metal barriers around the base of the building to stop lorries from being able to get close enough to collide with the gutter. Awaiting Funding. Cost; £8,000. NOTE: This was not submitted by the Parish Council.
- LEPP202047 – A113 London Road, Stapleford Tawney, request for traffic calming measures and signage JW Epping Lane / A113, at Validation Stage. NOTE: This was submitted by the Parish Council, but is not within the Parish. UPDATE: Agreed at the 21st March 2022 meeting that this scheme to be delivered in the 2022/2023 financial year. Expected date Q4

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- LEPP212008 - A113 Layby near Traceys Farm – request for hedging to be removed and replaced with reflective barriers. UPDATE: Agreed at the 21st March 2022 meeting that this scheme would be completed during the 2022/2023 financial year. Works completed. Councillors to consider maintenance of this area.
 - LEPP212019: Request for the reinstatement of signage outside Piggotts for directional signage towards Toot Hill. UPDATE: Agreed at the 21st March 2022 meeting that this scheme would be completed during the 2022/2023 financial year. Expected date Q3
- b) **Overgrown Footpath Stanford Rivers to Ongar – As agreed at the September meeting Everything** Epping Forest completed an article on this matter, including pictures showing the awful state of the footpath. The Clerk had also written to the Chief Executive of ECC asking for his opinion as to if he feels the lack of action is reasonable. Gavin Lewis responded saying a full response will be given after investigation. The Clerk subsequently received an email asking her to pinpoint where the issue was, to which she advised of the full location suggesting the inspector needed to walk the full path and that he/she would need to go into the road on a few occasions, and that if either he/she or ECC was not happy with this in terms of the inspectors safety, why did they think it was acceptable for residents to do so.

P14.978 DEFIBRILLATOR LITTLE END

Cllr Adams had been asked to provide an update on if permission has been granted by the landowner of a property in Little End to locate the defibrillator on his land, and had advised the Clerk that the resident was happy to provide the electricity but not to locate the defibrillator on their property. Cllr Adams suggested London Hoist should be contacted again, to which the Clerk advised she was very reluctant to do this given her previous conversation with them. It was **AGREED** further investigation should take place as to installing a solar powered defibrillator cabinet on the verge, subject to obtaining a licence from ECC to do this.

P14.979 TOOT HILL VILLAGE TRIANGLE

According to the SR NHW page on 29th October a large number of tyre marks were seen across the green, leading one to assume that joy riders had again driven all over the green the prior evening. This was discussed briefly under questions from members of the public. The Clerk advised that this is an open triangle and that her recommendation at this stage was that the Council should be reluctant to close this off given its open nature, given that this wasn't a regular issue. Cllr Saridja asked what evidence there was as to how frequently this occurred, to which the Clerk advised in the last 8 years she had only known two occasions. A Member of the public stated it only happens when it's wet, but the last time it was every day for a whole week. Councillors discussed the possibility of putting up bollards, small posts or a small fence around the perimeter of the green. The Clerk stated that if you wanted to install posts they would need to be a specific distance to prohibit cars and that this would be a significant cost. The Chairman said this was not a regular occurrence and that the Council should at this stage monitor this situation, and keep in touch with PC Cook. This was **AGREED**.

P14.980 BOUNDARY REVIEW CONSULTATION 4TH OCTOBER 12TH DECEMBER 2022

As briefly mentioned earlier in the meeting, Councillors noted that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was conducting a review which examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for the Epping Forest District. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide how many councillors are needed, how many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are, what they should be called and how many councillors should represent each ward or division. When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government

The review is proposing to reduce the number of District Councillors from 58 to 54, as well as altering the ward boundaries. Their draft recommendations are for 18 three-councillor wards, and following consideration of the evidence state they have not been persuaded to retain a single-councillor Passingford ward but are instead proposing to group together the current wards of Theydon Bois and Passingford into a three-councillor Theydon Bois with Passingford ward. The LGBCE acknowledge that this ward would group together urban and rural areas, however they consider that it allows for a better level of electoral equality and further facilitates a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. They also state that this new ward would be represented by three District councillors and is forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2028, with an electoral variance of -10%. The Clerk stated that in addition to Cllr McIvors comments earlier in the meeting, the only benefit of this suggestion is that the Parish of Stanford Rivers would be represented by three District Councillors, whereas at present it only has one. It was **AGREED** the Clerk would formulate a response based on the discussion at this meeting.

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P14.981 MEMBERS REPORTS

- Chairman's Report – No further update.
- Vice Chairman's Report – No report
- District and County Councillor Reports – Cllr Mclvor provided a verbal report, stating that he was very conscious of the challenging times that people were facing, especially concerning bills, flooding, heating, business, and that there is so much worry, asking the Council to contact him if Councillors felt there was anything he could do help. He continued, stating there was lots going on at ECC to try and address some of these issues, and not many people were aware that Adult Social Care is the largest function of the Council, shortly followed by looking after the most vulnerable in our communities, particularly young people and children in care. Cllr Mclvor stated that if people felt it was expensive to pay £150 per asylum seeker per day in this country, they should consider this against the cost of £100,000 per vulnerable child per year, and that this was where a lot of the County's money was spent. He appreciates it is extremely frustrating when potholes don't get repaired or there are issues with a pavement, and although work continues in these areas it's important to view this alongside the social care responsibilities and costs. In terms of work Cllr Mclvor was currently doing, he stated that he had been appointed to the Health Scrutiny Committee and was doing a lot of work on A&E waiting times, doctors surgeries and access, and ambulance response times. The issue of ambulances finding addresses was also a problem currently. Mental Health was also a massive problem and a lot of work was being done in this area, with many people in rural locations being particularly vulnerable due to people being more isolated. He was also working with the Rural Police and Crime Commissioner on domestic violence. Cllr Mclvor reported there had been huge success with the Member Led Pothole scheme.

Regarding Ride London, Cllr Mclvor felt that it would be coming through this area and as such we should do our best to make a success of it, and that to complete all the repairs to the road over the year would cause more disruption. Cllr Mclvor stated that he had pushed for the route to go through Ongar, mentioning that Ongar Town Council had written asking that the route did not go through Ongar without having completing any community consultation. Work had been done looking at an alternative route, but the A414 would still be closed and the businesses in Ongar would not benefit from the people it would bring to the town on a Sunday. Cllr Mclvor stated that he had an open mind about Ride London, and that if the majority of his residents were against the route he would have supported them, but by far the response had been positive. He was happy to support those who were against it but was asking those residents and businesses for evidence. He was also conscious of the elderly and those who may need care, and had been advised that all care groups had been advised about Ride London before he knew about it, and so was happy to liaise with residents if they have any concerns, emphasising they were paying a lot of money to these care groups as individuals so should hold them accountable. The suggestion that you are trapped if you are within the route is incorrect – there is access in and out but you just need to allow much more time for your journey.

Cllr Mrs Jackman asked if Cllr Mclvor ever had discussions with Ongar Memorial Medical Centre, to which Cllr Mclvor confirmed he was a customer of that centre, and that he met with one of the main GPs there after suffering a poor experience with the service, and that they were actually doing a lot of good work and were one of the best practices in terms of patient care in the area, however they do not communicate the good work they are going. Cllr Mclvor stated that he agreed it was extremely difficult to get an appointment there, and that he had raised this matter with the manager, and they were aware of this problem. Cllr Saridja stated that if you want to get an appointment you need to call at 8am, and even then you might be 24th on the list. Cllr Mclvor emphasised that this was not an ECC function, but that that he had spoken to Alex Burghart MP who had also visited the surgery, so people were doing what they could for what was essentially a broken NHS system. The Clerk stated this was a national issue. Cllr Mclvor stated that if you have a bad service, you must complain, for example to Health Watch.

Cllr Mclvor referenced his concerns about flooding, stating that he had spoken to EFDC and that there were things Parish Councils can access to deal with flooding, such as sandbags, and so he has asked that a coffee morning or mini summit is arranged for all Parish Councils to find out what support was available and to look at further work on Emergency Planning. Cllr Mrs Jackman suggested that Cllr Mclvor could attend the LCLC meeting in November.

The Clerk asked Cllr Mclvor for his views on the current consultation on the boundary review, to which Cllr Mclvor stated that he was not happy with it, specifically the idea that Theydon Bois could be joined with the Passingford Ward, in that it is possible that the Passingford area could end up with three Councillors all from Theydon Bois representing a very different, rural area to that of Theydon Bois. Cllr Mclvor felt that Passingford should remain as one ward. It was also noted that a new Rural East ward was being proposed which would result in the loss of the historical elements of these areas. Cllr Mclvor

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also advised there was a County review taking place at this time, further stating that he felt the rural areas were often overlooked in terms of infrastructure and facilities, and that the Council should take any opportunity to raise this.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mclvor for his update and continued support.

The Clerk advised that EFDC Cllr Brady had submitted a report of a possible enforcement issue regarding the Byway than runs from Berwick Lane to Epping Road, in that it has been resurfaced to half way along and now resembles a wide road. It has had road plainings to a great depth and that the owner of the land on the left from Berwick Lane had also created a new hard track of the same material over green belt land and levelled out a large site in preparation for some building work. The Chairman confirmed he would drive down there and report back to the Clerk.

- Parish Councillors Reports – None.

P14.982 TOOT HILL VILLAGE HALL

- a) Councillors noted that the Clerk had received a complaint from a hall hirer advising that at their 5th November booking they only just managed to have space to park their vehicles, stating there were 9 vehicles already parked in the car park. The hall hirer was concerned that going forward there may be cause to double park thus blocking in any cars that should not be parked there. At the September meeting it was agreed to consider the installation of barriers to control the car park and access to this area for the protection of the hall and its patrons. Councillors accepted that the council would need to start controlling this area, and the Clerk advised Councillors of two options – one being bollards and one being a gate. Councillors felt that a gate was more obvious, albeit it more expensive. Councillors were advised that they needed to consider the operational aspects of any barrier, in that the Clerk would need to ensure hall users had access details and that they were not too onerous. The Clerk stated that from her perspective having a padlock with a code she could change on a regular basis was the best option. It was **AGREED** the Clerk would get more quotes and that this would be considered at the time of budget.
- b) Gigaclear – The latest scheduled date to install the gigaclear line was Monday 24th October, and on this date at 3pm the Clerk received a phone call confirming they would be there in 30 minutes to install the line. However by the time the Clerk had arranged for somebody to be there to meet them, she had received another phone call to say it was too late to complete all the works so they would have to reschedule. No further update had been received.
- c) Lighting – complaint received about poor lighting at the entrance to the hall. Electrician visited and advised that the timer was set up for summer nights so this was adjusted. In addition two of the lights were not working out the front, the first flood light on the left and the one above the fire exit on that same left side. The light over the fire exit was recently installed by the electrician so he would try to get that changed under warranty. The electrician had also suggested building a small surround for each flood light above each fire exit as its pretty open to the elements and issues with the lights could occur each winter. A quote for these works had been received of £325 to replace the flood lights, install housing over them for better protection, and to investigate the bollards. This was **AGREED**.
- d) Following the last meeting, Councillors walked around the Village Hall and looked at the overgrowth and tree stumps, however no confirmed decision was made about how to move forward. It was **AGREED** to get this area cleared and to consider what this area could be used for.
- e) At the last meeting Councillors were made aware of the cost obtained by the Clerk to replace a single ceiling tile, being £97 plus VAT per tile. Councillors did consider that it may make more sense to replace the ceiling, and one Councillor stated that he may be able to source a cheaper alternative. It was **AGREED** to defer this item.
- f) Councillors recalled that the Clerk received a quote for a bespoke sign to be made for the Village Hall car park stating 'PRIVATE CAR PARK – FOR HALL USERS ONLY'. The cost of this sign is £178.15 plus VAT. The September meeting did not agree on any action, and it was **AGREED** to consider this at the same time as the barrier / gate at the entrance.
- g) Clerk currently arranging for fire extinguisher service to be completed, and possible annual risk assessment.

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- h) Works to create a protective housing around the gas pipe as it enters the village hall at the rear of the property has now been completed, along with removal of ivy and repair of the guttering. The final cost to repair the gas leak by the Engineer was £591.36 plus VAT (there were also other associated costs).
- i) Phone call from PPL/PRS asking why this Council had not renewed the hall memberships. Clerk advised it was a rolling renewal, and that the problem was their end. Advised to email them directly to confirm this, which the Clerk had done.
- j) Councillors **NOTED** that with regard to the possible installation of an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) that the Village Hall has a single phase electricity supply. The Clerk has spoken with an Engineer who confirms that an ASHP can operate on a single phase supply. There was no update on funding at this time.
- k) CCTV – The Clerk has completed some initial investigation into the legality of having CCTV overlooking the Village Hall land.
- l) Notification by Calor that from 19th September 2022 there will be a price increase of 12p/litre (exc vat) so our new rate will change to 76p/litre. This is a 15.7% increase.
- m) Notification received from EON that Toot Hill Village Hall was eligible for the Government Energy Bill Relief Scheme, meaning the Government will provide a discount on the electricity unit rates, bringing them down from the actual wholesale price to a reduced Government supported price. Discount will be applied between 1st October 2022 and 31st March 2022. During this time, the Parish Council should monitor the increase in electricity charged.
- n) **AGREED** to purchase a new urn and dispose of old ones as they were not working.

P14.983 NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2021/2022

Councillors **NOTED** the completion of the External Audit (AGAR) for 2021/2022. A copy of the Auditors signed off page, and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been uploaded onto the Parish Council website and placed on the Parish Council notice boards. There was one 'except for' matter included in the report which related to non compliance with the governance assertion in Section 1, Box 5, but the Auditor confirmed the Parish Council had provided the internal auditor with an adequate explanation for non-compliance and details of the actions necessary to address weaknesses identified. This is consistent with the 'No' response to internal control objective C on the annual internal audit report.

P14.984 NEWS AND VIEWS

The next edition is expected to include information concerning Essex Sustainable warmth scheme, Christmas lighting event, Warm Places in Epping, ECC Digital Inclusion strategy, Boundary Review, Consultation on ECC / Fire Budgets for 23/24, and a full copy of the leaflet about Demand Responsive Transport and how to sign up to this.

P14.985 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The following payments were **AGREED**.

Reference	To	For	Amount
BACS	Adriana Jones	Clerks Salary Oct and Nov 2022	£1,109.26
BACS	HMRC	PAYE Oct and Nov 2022	£277.40
BACS	David Wickham	Clean Toot Hill VH Sep & Oct, Phone box tidy Sep & Oct, create housing around gas pipe and removal of ivy and guttering repair.	£396.00 (£0 VAT)
BACS	Hellabys	Repair Gas Leak	£709.63 (£118.27 VAT)
BACS	North Weald Bassett PC	Printing of News and Views mid year, Remembrance Sunday	£213.50 (£0VAT)
BACS	Connaught Nurseries	English Yew - Taxus baccatta, for Jubilee Green	£2,808.00 (£468.00 VAT)
BACS	Eon	Electricity Supply Toot Hill Village Hall	£155.72 (£7.42VAT)
BACS	Calor	Standing Charge Gas Toot Hill Village Hill	£20.59 (£0.98 VAT)

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BACS	H Giles	Refund overcharge hall hire 18/10	£4.40 (£0 VAT)
BACS	SK Automotive	Grass Cutting Sep, Oct, Nov	£1,260.00 (£210.00 VAT)

Bank Balances as at 31st October 2022

Unity Current Account 4775	£ 12,563.66
Unity Deposit Account 4788	£ 55,509.03

INCOME: £ 83.82 – Interest received 30/9 a/c 4788
£190.25 – Hire THVH 5/22 – 12/22 – High Country Floral Art Club (#044)
£48.80 – Hire THVH Feb-Mar 2023- High Country Ladies Group (#044)
£156.00 – Hire THVH Sep and Nov 2022 – Essex Silk Painters (#044)
£102.30 – Hire THVH Folk Club July/Sep
£97.50 – Hire THVH 23/10 – Horology Club
£115.50 – Hire THVH Oct/Nov/Dec – OWS
£30.80 – Hire THVH 18/10 – Young Farmers
£102.30 – Tallon Overpayment but will be offset against other invoice

P14.986 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS/EVENTS

Councillors **NOTED** the date of the next meeting:

- 27th November Xmas tree lighting event 4pm Toot Hill
- 12th January 2023 – 5.30pm Toot Hill Village Hall

Councillors were reminded that COVID restrictions are no longer in place and as such meetings must be held in person.

P14.987 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **AGREED** to exclude the public and press as there were two items for discussion, the Council believing that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed.'

P14.988 LAND IN TOOT HILL ROAD

Due to the confidential nature of this subject, these minutes are not available for public inspection as they contain or relate to exempt information within the meaning of the Paragraphs indicated of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

P14.989 VILLAGE HALL AND LAND

Due to the confidential nature of this subject, these minutes are not available for public inspection as they contain or relate to exempt information within the meaning of the Paragraphs indicated of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

Signed Date