

GOLDHANGER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Remote Meeting held on 10.3.2021

PRESENT:

Chair – Councillor J Bourn
 Councillors M Bishop, C Cheeseman, S Ellis, SJ Holmes and M Sargeant.
 The parish clerk V Banyard
 No members of the public were present.

2387.20 To receive apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest in the Meeting’s agenda items
 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H Reynolds and the Ward Member Councillor M Thompson.
 No Declarations of Interest were made.

2388.20. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Remote Meeting held on 10.2.2021.
 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above Minutes.

2389.20. To receive information on items included in the above Minutes.
 No issues were raised.

2390.20. Planning

- a. There were no decisions by Maldon District Council.
- b. Latest planning applications – to comment on any planning applications which may be received.
 The following was considered:

20/01249/WTPO	Three Thistles Thistley Close Goldhanger	T1 Oak – reduce portion of crown by 2.5m. Reduce remainder of crown by 2m. Remove lowest limb on northern side. T2 Leylandii – reduce canopy by 2m. It was RESOLVED to support the above application but the Council queried whether it is now too late for the work to be done before the bird nesting season.
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- c. Enforcement issues – to consider any update from Maldon District Council.
 No updates have been received. 1 Benham Close: work on blocking off the existing garage and a new build on the site have been reported to Maldon District Council
- d. To consider any other planning issues.
 No issues were raised.

2391.20. To consider items of correspondence received
 Maldon District Heritage Assets. Councillor Mr Ellis has not yet had a response from Maldon District Council.
 Problems with the delivery of new recycling bins have been reported to the District Council which has taken up the matter with the waste contractors.

2392.20 To receive the financial statements and to authorise accounts for payment.
 The financial reports for March were approved.
 It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the following payments:

V Banyard	Clerk’s salary, office allowance and expenses	£ 200.12
HMRC	Clerk’s tax	£ 42.60
Maldon D C	Grounds work rear of Village Hall - mowing	£ 82.08
Maldon DC	Trucam Nov 2020	£ 210.00
C Smith	Maintenance of Parish Council website	£ 100.00
Yates Playgrounds	New slide	£3678.00*

Essex & Suffolk Tree Services	Tree works in Marigold Wood	£1350.00
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* It was **RESOLVED** to pay for the slide now as it is necessary to put in the claim for Essex County Council's Locality Fund grant by 31.3.2021. It is hoped that the new slide will be installed at the end of the Easter Holidays. As yet no quote has been received from Essex & Suffolk Tree Services for work on the path from Fish Street to the sea wall.

2393.20 To appoint the internal auditor for the accounts year ended 31.3.2021.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Mrs N Powell Davies as internal auditor.

2394.20 To consider any matters concerning the playing field and play area.

English Coast Path. The authority has advised that the Environment Agency is against the use of information boards on top of the sea wall. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the board being placed at the bottom of the steps from the playing field up to the sea wall (as originally suggested). It was also decided at present not to take up the offer of road planings for resurfacing the path – this work is planned for September.

New handrail for steps up to the sea wall. The Environment Agency is adamant that it will not put in a new handrail, even though this could be for safety purposes. It was noted that steps on the sea wall are not included in the EA's list of assets held.

New gates into the playing field and Marigold Wood. Councillor Mr Sargeant has been investigating quotes for this work, for which there is £1,800 in the budget. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote by Broadleaf Fencing for timber gates, and an order will be placed.

Use of drones in the playing field. Councillors considered a policy on UAVs from another Council and also discussed the possibility of updating the current bye laws. It was **RESOLVED** not to take any action at present either in drafting a policy or in reviewing bye laws.

2395.20 To consider any matters concerning Highways and public rights of way in the parish

The fallen footpath fingerpost in Blind Lane has now been repaired.

Wash Bridge. The Parish Council has made its position clear on the frequent damage to the bridge and is awaiting a response from Highways.

Wash Brook. A landowner has advised that he believes the Environment Agency is responsible for keeping the brook clear – it is classed as a main river and a permit is required from the EA to carry out any dredging. This work was last carried out by the EA in September 2015. The EA's stance is that the riparian landowner is responsible for clearance work. Councillor Mr Sargeant will make a reply to the EA and involve the local MP in this issue.

Drainage issues. The jetting crew have recently carried out a considerable amount of work in the village and found a number of blockages in gulleys at various locations. Investigations in Fish Street show that water flows under The Bird In Hand garage and out into the ditch at the rear of the property, but this has been blocked by various householders and its ownership is not known. Councillor Mr Sargeant was thanked for all his work in getting drainage issues looked into.

Speeding and parking issues. The Parish Council will look into parking enforcement by both Maldon District Council and the South Essex Parking Partnership before booking some enforcement patrols.

2396.20 To review the Parish Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

As the National Association of Local Councils has not issued more recent models for the above it was **RESOLVED** to re-adopt the current documents.

2397.20 To consider any issues arising from the current lockdown due to Covid 19.

The Council considered the Hardship Fund which is now available but decided that it was not eligible to pursue this.

2398.20 To consider any matters concerning Marigold Wood.

Work to thin the trees in the woodland has been carried out and all cut wood removed by villagers.

2399.20 Repair work to the village pump – update.

An order has been placed with Repairfast to carry our further work to the pump to restore it to full working order.

2400.20 To consider any matters concerning the bus shelters and defibrillators

It was noted that the kiosk in Maldon Road is working well without a door.

Councillors will carry out trimming of vegetation at the bus halt in Head Street opposite the bus shelter.

2401.20 Arrangements for the Annual Parish Assembly.

This will be held remotely and the Chair of the Council will present her report for the last year.

2402.20 To consider other items of information or for inclusion on a future agenda

The clerk will find out when remote meetings of the Council end under government law.

There is a considerable amount of dog mess in Blind Lane and around the village in general. A note advising dog owners that they can be fined for not clearing up after their pets will be placed in the village magazine.

Two ladies from the Tolleshunt Major litter pickers have carried out an excellent job in Blind Lane and they will be thanked for their work.

2403.20. To set the date for the April meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold the next remote meeting on 14.4.2021 at 7pm. This will then be followed by the Annual Parish Assembly.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45 pm.

The above Minutes were approved at the Council's remote meeting on 5.5.2021 and recorded as Minute Reference 2407.21