

Those present:

Cllr Smith (Chair)
Cllr Denney
Cllr Ewing
Cllr Evans
Cllr Henderson
Cllr Middleton
Cllr Munson
Michelle Curtis (Parish Clerk/RFO)
District Councillor Thompson
Vanessa Reeve – Parish Working Group
47 Members of the Public

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence; all members were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

3. County and District Councillors

Cllr Thompson was not present at the meeting.

4. Public Forum

Residents raised the following matters concerning the planning application OUT/00207/OUTM:

- Beckingham Road is dangerous, and another entrance to the proposed housing development would exacerbate the issue. Vehicles drive over the 30mph speed limit. Large lorries travel up and down Beckingham Road due to the nearby business park. The roads are not suitable for more traffic. There has also been a fatal accident on Beckingham Road.
- There is no footpath on the side of the road of the proposed development.
- The existing footpaths are very narrow for pedestrians when walking from Beckingham Road to the centre of the village to access facilities, i.e., local shop, village hall, primary school, and bus stops.
- There is no need for additional housing in the village.
- Tolleshunt D'Arcy is rural, and no more housing is needed.
- How will a development on this site impact the wildlife?
- Will there be any improvements to the infrastructure, and who will fund this?
- There are no spaces available in the primary school, and getting a doctor's or dentist's appointment isn't easy.
- The supporting document supplied with the application refers to two planning phases, with the second being 100 houses.
- It is hoped that the Parish Council will support the residents and oppose the application as it will have a detrimental impact on the village.

Cllr Thompson arrived at the meeting.

A gentleman introduced himself as the Chair for HART, Housing Action for Residents of Tollesbury. He advised that it is essential that as many residents as possible submit their objections to Maldon District Council (MDC). Residents must submit their comments to MDC and give valid planning reasons for their objections. The Parish Council is a consultee, and MDC will make the final decision on the application. Due to the recent changes in government and the increase in housing numbers now required, MDC now only has a 2.7-year land supply. Tollesbury also currently has a planning application for 159 houses, this will also significantly impact Tolleshunt D'Arcy.

A resident asked whether the Parish Council has considered producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chair advised that this had been considered many years ago and could be reconsidered if there was enough support.

5. Parish Working Group (PWG)

Vanessa reported:

- Potholes continue to be an issue.
The Chair advised that residents need to report potholes through the Essex County Council (ECC) online reporting tool. ECC will assess the potholes and repair them if they meet their criteria.

The Clerk advised that at recent meetings, the overgrown hedge on the corner of Beckingham Road and Festival Gardens has been raised.

The resident has advised that they will do the piece of hedge that is overgrown where pedestrians walk, but they cannot get it done properly until after 1st September 2025 due to birds nesting.

6. Minutes

Resolved: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th March 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed by those who attended.

The Chair signed the Minutes.

7. Planning Applications

7.1 Application No: 25/00207/OUTM PP-13828626

Proposal: Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for up to 26 dwellings (C3)

Location: Land West Of St Nicholas Churchyard Beckingham Road Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to recommend refusal of this application due to the following:

- As quoted in the Maldon District Council Local Development Plan Review 2021+, this site is not suitable for development:
“On balance it is considered that development of the site would be unsuitable. The site is close to services and facilities in the settlement and can access a commuter bus service but none of these can be accessed safely on foot. This could lead to an increase in the use of the car. There are wide open views across the site to the south and east and these will be impacted upon by development. Overall whilst the site is in a positive location in terms of

access to services and facilities the inability to do this safely on foot means the site is not acceptable and could be out of conformity with national policy.”

- Beckingham Road is very dangerous because the traffic numbers, speeding vehicles, and additional traffic movements would exacerbate the issue. There has also been a fatality when a vehicle joined Beckingham Road from the existing entry point due to limited visibility.
- There is a limited bus service, which is increasingly unreliable and unsuitable for commuting due to a restricted timetable.

7.2 Application No: 25/00179/TCA PP-13669221

Proposal: T1 - Holly Tree - Crown reduction and lateral reduction (from nearby buildings) by 1m, T2 - Magnolia Tree - Lateral reduction (from nearby buildings) by 1m, T3 - Beech Tree - Fell, T4 – Cherry Tree - Fell, T5 - Apple Tree - Fell, T6 - Large shrubs – Reduced by 1 m.

Location: Darcy House 1 South Street Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: Unanimously agreed as follows;

Approval – T1 – Crown reduction and lateral reduction

Approval – T2 – Lateral reduction

Approval - T6 – Reduce shrubs

Refusal – To the felling of trees T3, T4 and T5. This would be a loss of amenity value, and the application has no reason for why these trees should be felled.

7.3 Application No: 25/00362/FUL PP-13891675

Proposal: Change of use from residential garage store to Class E (for hairdressing business)

Location: Land At 1 Oxley Cottage 1 Oxley Hill Tolleshunt D'arcy

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.

7.4 To consider any other planning applications received from Maldon District Council – None received

8. Planning Decisions

8.1 25/00172/WTPO - The Old Rectory Church Street - Approved

9. Finance

9.1 Monthly Financial Report

Councillors received the Monthly Financial Report as of 31st March 2025

Bank Reconciliation – a Closing balance of £37,831.41

Expenditure to date – Budget £34,462 – Actual £34,868

Income to date (including Precept (£24,766) £34,462 – Actual £42,692

Earmarked Funds – Closing Balance £13,573.85 – Net Transfers £4,307.27

The Chair and Cllr Middleton signed the Reports.

9.2 Payments

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to approve the payments (Appendix A) totalling £2,935.57.

10. Asset Register

Councillors reviewed the Asset Register.

The value of the assets at the end of March 2025 was £240,413, an increase of £16,678.89 compared to March 2024 (improvements to the Pavilion – new path, doors and heating).

Action: To review the insurance value of the Pavilion.

Action: Cllr Evans to look into further and provide information for consideration at the next meeting.

11. Risk Management

Councillors reviewed the Risk Assessment and Management Document.

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to accept the updated Risk Assessment and Management Document.

12. Gifts & Hospitality

Councillors confirmed that they have not received any gifts or hospitality during the 2024/25 financial year

13. Training

The Chair advised that he would be attending the Routine Playground Inspections Course at the EALC on 8th May 2025.

Cllr Middleton requested to attend the Routine Playground Inspections Course at the EALC on 8th May 2025.

Action: Clerk to check availability.

14. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

14.1 Overgrown Vegetation

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from DW Maintenance for £225 to cut back the overgrown vegetation on the perimeter of the ditch.

Action: Clerk to obtain a quotation to include this area in the grounds maintenance contract.

14.2 Water Heater - Pavilion

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to the expenditure for a replacement water heater in the Pavilion. The cost of the heater and installation would be approximately £200.

14.3 Improvements to Recreation Ground/Pavilion

The Council considered the proposal from Blackwater Gymnastics to apply for funding to improve the facilities at the Recreation Ground/Pavilion. This included a new path with low-level lighting from the car park to link to the existing path, replacement windows on the Pavilion, a new path at the side of the Village Hall, a patio area outside the Pavilion and a ramp providing access to the rear of the Pavilion.

Councillors were happy with the proposal, and if the funding application is successful, a meeting would be required with Blackwater Gymnastics to move the project forward.

14.4 Risk Assessment for the Village Fete to be held on 7th June 2025
Councillors reviewed the Risk Assessment for the Village Fete to be held at the Recreation Ground on 7th June 2025. Councillors were satisfied with the assessment.

15. Maypole

As the maintenance work required on the Maypole was more than expected, Additional quotations are required.

Action: To be deferred to the next meeting.

16. Police

The Police Reports were received and noted.

17. Community Engagement Officers

17.1 Community Engagement Officer Report

The CET Report for March 2025 was received and noted.

It was noted that during the CETs Patrols in March, there were 14 speeding offences, 3 on Kelvedon Road and 11 on Tollesbury Road, with the highest speeds recorded at 49mph on Kelvedon Road and 40mph on Tollesbury Road.

17.2 Service Level Agreement for 2025/26

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to approve the Service Level Agreement for the services of the CET in 2025/26.

18. Administration

Annual Assembly – The Clerk advised that the Village Larder, the First Responders and the Henry Smith Fund will give presentations at the Annual Assembly. The Village Hall AGM will be held after the Annual Assembly.

19. Representative Reports

19.1 Burial Ground – Cllr Henderson

Cllr Henderson reported:

- Some users of the Burial Ground had disposed of plastic flowers and litter in the fenced area where the soil is contained.

Action: Clerk to put a notice on the fence that the area is for compostable items only. Litter should be disposed of in the litter bins provided.

19.2 Recreation Ground/Pavilion – Cllr Middleton

Cllr Middleton reported:

- He has checked the drain covers and two of the drains had covers that were screwed down. One of the drains is covered, but the cover is not secure.

Action: Cllr Middleton to see if he could screw the drain cover down to secure it.

While looking at the drains, it was noticed that one is nearly full and requires emptying.

Action: Clerk to arrange for Roe's to empty the drain.

- The football goal posts require painting.

Action: Clerk to obtain a quotation for the goal posts to be rubbed down and painted.

- The sign on the gate at the car park advising of "pedestrian access only and no unauthorised vehicles" had gone missing,

Action: Clerk to order a replacement sign.

19.3 Public Rights of Way – Cllr Henderson

Cllr Henderson reported:

- At the last meeting, she reported that it had been brought to her attention that a dog owner was driving their vehicle and letting their dogs out onto the footpath at Harvesters. The dogs are not on leads. It is alleged that the dogs are fouling, and the owner is not picking up after them.

Action: Cllr Henderson to provide further information to the Clerk, who will then report it to Essex Police and the Community Engagement Team.

19.4 Road Safety/Highways – Cllr Denney

Cllr Denney reported:

- The application had been submitted to ECC to install an SDI on Tollesbury Road for consideration.
- Is there any update on the clearance of Salters Meadow?

Cllr Ewing advised that he had tried to contact the landowner, but there had been no reply. Cllr Ewing will try to make contact again.

19.5 Village Hall Working Group – Cllr Evans

No new information to report.

20. Community Matters

The Chair reported the following:

- It has been brought to his attention that the 20's Plenty banner and the banner on the school fence were dirty and required cleaning.

Action: Cllr Evans to remove the signs.

Action: Cllr Henderson to see if the signs can be cleaned.

- An email had been received from a resident requesting that the dog bin and litter bin be moved.

Action: Chair to visit the resident and report back at the next meeting.

21. Dates of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 13th May 2025 – Annual Statutory Meeting – 7.30 pm

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY PARISH COUNCIL
PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL

Appendix A

April 2025

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Invoice No/Ref	Expenditure Detail	Amount
UNITY TRUST ACCOUNT					
31.03.2025	DD	Unity Trust Bank		Bank Charges	£6.00
15.04.2025	D/D	EE		Parish Mobile	£18.59
29.04.2025		Wages		Staff Wages	£471.70
	Online	HMRC		Tax & NI April 2024	£345.62
	Online	Mr L Aldridge		Maintenance - Area near village shop - April	£50.00
	Online	D W Maintenance	2720	Grounds Maintenance	£240.83
	Online	Rialtas	SM32817	Software annual support and maintenance	£243.60
	Online	Maldon District Council	TOL28792413	CET - Jan-Mar 24	£280.31
	Online	EALC	18545	EALC/NALC Affiliation Fees 2025/26	£372.39
	Online	Bonz Cairey Ltd	5311	Fell dead birch in hedgerow - Cemetery	£216.00
	Online	RCCE		Annual membership	£84.00
	Online	SV Electrics	8372	Electrical work to Pavilion	£468.00
LLOYDS BANK - MULTIPAY CARD					
07.03.2025	D/C	Microsoft	GB-T12500888011	Monthly subscription	£12.36
29.03.2025	D/C	Adobe	IEN2025017302541	Monthly subscription	£19.97
01.04.2025	D/C	Microsoft	U367185	Payroll software	£103.20
02.04.2025	D/C	Lloyds Bank		Monthly fee	£3.00
TOTAL					£2,935.57

Signed: _____

Date: _____