

Those present:

Cllr Smith (Chair)
Cllr Denney
Cllr Ewing
Cllr Middleton
Cllr Munson
Cllr Reeve
Michelle Curtis (Parish Clerk/RFO)
District Councillor Thompson

Steve Howard, Sue Rayner and Flick Ferns – Parish Working Group

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Henderson.

There were apologies for absence from County Councillor Clarke.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

3. County and District Councillors

Cllr Thompson advised that Maldon District Council (MDC) had granted approval for 200 houses in Tollesbury, and the other large developments in Tollesbury were due for consideration by MDC at the District Planning Committee Meeting on 5th August 2026.

4. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

5. Parish Working Group (PWG)

Steve reported the following updates from the Parish Working Group (PWG):

- Sue Rayner and Flick Fearn have joined the PWG.
- Sue has contacted Maldon District Council's Street Cleansing Team, who have agreed to clear the area outside the school every six weeks.
- Contact has been made with Essex & Suffolk Water regarding smart meters, following reports that some were not functioning correctly. Steve was advised that the company is aware of the issue and is working to rectify it as soon as possible.
- Regarding mobile coverage dead spots, contact was made with Mova, which is responsible for managing the Shared Rural Network programme. Although little information was received in response, Mova's website indicates that 99% of households are covered by at least one mobile network provider and 96% are covered by all four providers.
- In relation to the area outside the school, the Clerk advised that the County Councillor had raised the issue with Essex County Council who would be making arrangements to remove the broken branches.
Steve reported that the large overhanging branch had since been cut down by an unknown person. The branch had been left in pieces on site, and the surrounding undergrowth had become overgrown and requires clearing.

Action: Sue to contact the Street Cleansing Team to establish whether they would be willing to clear the area.

- A resident had raised concerns about the hawthorn tree located on the corner of Vicarage Close, which had become overgrown. Since the matter was reported, maintenance work has been undertaken, and the tree has been cut back.

6. Minutes

Resolved: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd June 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed by those who attended.

7. Planning Applications

7.1 Application No: 26/00465/HOUSE PP-15067202

Proposal: Loft conversion including dormers either side of existing roof with associated internal alterations.

Location: Mardi Gras Chapel Road Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.

7.2 To consider any other planning applications received from Maldon District Council after publication of the agenda – None received

8. Planning Decisions

26/00357/AGR - Brook House Maldon Road - Approved

9. Finance

9.1 Monthly Financial Report

Councillors received the Monthly Financial Report as of 30th June 2026

Bank Reconciliation – a Closing balance of £52,878.91

Expenditure to date – Budget £38,240 – Actual £14,161

Income to date (including Precept £26,890) £38,240 – Actual £30,019

Earmarked Funds – Closing Balance £8,285.85 – Net Transfers -£4,959

The Clerk reported:

- £118.88 bank interest received from the Unity Trust Bank Instant Access Account.

The Chair and Cllr Middleton signed the Reports.

9.2 Payments

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to approve the payments for April 2026 (Appendix A) totalling £2,172.66.

The Chair and Cllr Middleton signed the payment schedule.

10. Training

There were no new training requests.

11. Recreation Ground

11.1 Gym Equipment

The Chair advised that the Play Inspector had contacted the Parish Council during the annual inspection of the play equipment.

The Inspector identified the Sky Walker machine as a safety hazard and advised that it should be removed as soon as possible. Councillors Denney and Middleton subsequently removed the equipment.

Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Denney and Middleton for arranging immediate removal of the equipment.

The Clerk discussed the condition of the remaining outdoor gym equipment with the Inspector, who advised that significant repairs or replacement would be required.

The Inspector reported to the Clerk that another Council in the Braintree District had similar equipment in comparable condition and, following an investigation, had determined that repair was not financially viable.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the remaining outdoor gym equipment be removed.

Action: The Clerk to obtain quotations for the removal and disposal of the equipment and for making the tarmac safe.

Action: Clerk to notify residents via social media of the decision to remove the equipment.

The Council was keen to provide new recreational equipment for the community. Given the limited funds available, it was agreed that, once the current gym equipment had been removed, a basketball hoop, complementing the existing table tennis area, would be installed on the tarmac. As no provision had been made for this project in the budget, the Council acknowledged that external funding would need to be secured before the installation could proceed.

The Clerk advised that the Maldon District Council Quality of Life Fund is now live. The deadline for applications is 30th September 2026.

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to apply to the Maldon District Council Quality of Life Fund for a basketball hoop which will replace the gym equipment.

11.2 Repairs to litter bin

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from Appletons for £120.00 + VAT for a replacement liner and to securely fix the bin into the ground.

11.3 Work to tree in the play area

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from Wallace Arboriculture & Groundcare for £150.00 + VAT to uplift the Horse Chestnut tree and other low-hanging branches.

12. Parish Council Equipment

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to purchase an electronic tablet costing approximately £110.

13. Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Cllr Reeve gave an update on the SID data for June 2026.

Cllr Reeve advised that there were 275,000 vehicle movements (travelling from Tollesbury to Tolleshunt D'Arcy), of which 92,000 were speeding at over 30 mph. Speeding mainly occurs late at night.

Cllr Reeve advised that during the last 3 patrols on the Tollesbury Road by the Community Speed Watch, there were 34 captures.

14. Community Engagement Officers

It was noted that during the CET patrols in June, 11 speeding offences were recorded on Tollesbury Road, with the highest speed recorded at 43 mph.

15. Highways – Road Signs

Councillors considered a request from Tolleshunt Major Parish Council to join a group responsible for repairing road signs. However, due to health and safety concerns, it was agreed that the Council would decline the invitation.

Councillors acknowledged that repairs to highway signs are often subject to significant delays and suggested that local parish councils work together to raise these concerns collectively with Essex Highways.

Action: Clerk to write to Tolleshunt Major Parish Council with the suggestion.

16. Administration

Highways – At the Annual Assembly, a resident raised concern about the condition of the Tolleshunt D'Arcy sign on the Kelvedon Road. Cllr Clarke took this up with Essex County Council but has been advised that it is not deemed a priority.

Funding – The Clerk advised that County Councillor Clarke has funds available for small projects. Any suggestions are to be sent to him for consideration.

Recreation Ground – Still awaiting quotation from Alpha Fire Alarms Ltd to carry out the rectification of the items raised in the reports from the Emergency Lighting and Fire Alarm testing.

Action: Clerk to contact Alpha Fire Alarms Ltd to chase up quotation.

Green Space Games (CSG) – The Clerk advised that the GSG for Tolleshunt D'Arcy was held earlier that day.

17. Representative Reports

17.1 Burial Ground – Cllr and Reeve

There were no new issues to report.

17.2 Recreation Ground/Pavilion – Cllr Middleton

There were no new issues to report.

17.3 Public Rights of Way – Cllr and Reeve

There were no new issues to report.

17.4 Road Safety/Highways – Cllr Denney

Cllr Denney reported:

- Cllr Denney reported that a resident of Chapel Road had raised concerns regarding parking on Chapel Road, particularly near the junction with North Road/Station Road. Vehicles were reportedly parking close to the junction and on the pavement, creating a potential safety hazard. The resident also highlighted that the road markings at the junction had become faded. The Clerk advised that the resident had recently been contacted regarding these concerns and was informed that the Parish Council has no powers in relation to highway enforcement matters. The faded white lines had been reported via the Essex County Council online reporting system, and the current status was recorded as:

"Defect to be considered for repair as part of the planned maintenance programme."

The Clerk further advised that, should the resident wish to pursue the matter, they can contact the County Councillor, Stuart Clarke. The resident was also advised that any dangerous or obstructive parking should be reported directly to Essex Police.

The Chair noted that the Parish Council had previously opposed the introduction of double yellow lines within the village, particularly within the conservation area. However, if the Council's position on this matter had changed, an application could be submitted to the South Essex Parking Partnership for consideration.

Action: Cllr Denney to relay the information to the resident.

17.5 Defibrillators – Cllr Middleton

Cllr Middleton reported that the battery in the defibrillator outside the Queens Head had been replaced. Both defibrillators are to be checked, and Cllr Middleton would update the Clerk once this had been done.

18. Community Matters

The Clerk reported that the Queens Head was now open.

19. Dates of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th August 2026 – 7.30 pm – This meeting would only be held if there were planning applications or important issues to be discussed.

Tuesday 29th September 2026 – Full Council Meeting – 7.30 pm

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.23pm.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY PARISH COUNCIL
PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL

Appendix A

July 2026

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Invoice No/Ref	Expenditure Detail		Amount
UNITY TRUST ACCOUNT						
15.07.2026	D/D	EE	V02492544648	Parish Mobile		£17.40
28.07.2026	Online	Payroll		Staff Payroll		£881.84
	Online	Mr L Aldridge		Maintenance - Area near village shop		£50.00
	Online	Wallace Aboriculture & Groudcare	545	Grounds Maintenance		£576.00
	Online	Maldon District Council	TOL28794918	CPOs Apr - Jun 2026		£323.35
31.07.2026	D/D	Unity Trust Bank		Bank Charges		£7.00
LLOYDS BANK - MULTIPAY CARD						
07.06.2026	D/C	Microsoft	GB-T12602699263	Monthly subscription		£12.10
28.06.2026	D/C	Adobe	IEN2026036804919	Monthly Subscription		£19.97
29.06.2026	D/C	British Heart Foundation		Replacement battery for the defibrillator		£282.00
02.07.2026	D/C	Lloyds Bank		Monthly fee		£3.00
TOTAL						£2,172.66

Name:..... Signed: Date:.....

Name:..... Signed: Date:.....