



## ARDLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of Ardleigh Parish Council held on Monday 9 October 2023 at 7.30pm at Ardleigh Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Tim Barrott (Chair), Helen Fontaine, Jayne Marshall, Carolyn Mason, Richard Talbot, Emma Thrower and Martin Whiteley  
Officers Clerk, Rachel Fletcher, and Deputy Clerk, Diane Bull (Minutes).

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Five members of the public were present-four in person and one remotely.

<b>23.134</b>	<b>Chair's Welcome</b> The Chair welcomed everyone to the October meeting.
<b>23.135</b>	<b>Apologies and reasons for absence</b> Apologies were received from Cllrs James Blyth and Jonathan Waters. Apologies were also received by Cllr Carlo Guglielmi (Essex County Council) and Cllr Zoe Fairley (Tendring District Council)
<b>23.136</b>	<b>Public participation session relating to items on the agenda</b> Two issues were raised by members of the public:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraging residents to keep frontages neat/passable. The suggestion of an Ardleigh Clean Up Day was raised. Thanks were given to the resident for his hard work in voluntarily strimming some overgrown areas.</li> <li>Following the fatal collision on Dedham Road on Saturday 7 October, discussion was held on ways in which to improve this accident blackspot. It was noted that Cllr Guglielmi and a representative from Highways would be visiting the accident site to see what mitigation could be put in place with consideration given to a number of neglected/missing and broken road signs. Cllr Fontaine had requested permission for an additional Speedwatch site on Dedham Road.</li> </ul>
<b>23.137</b>	<b>Declaration and Register of Interests and Dispensations</b> No interests were declared.  It was noted that dispensations remained in place in respect of proposed pylons, substations, windfarms and for legal action relating to the food distribution centre. See Minute number 23.122 for full details.
<b>23.138</b>	<b>Minutes of meetings held on 11 September and 2 October 2023</b> The minutes of the meetings held on 11 September and 2 October 2023 were <b>approved</b> as a true and accurate record.
<b>23.139</b>	<b>Planning</b> Applications published, received, validated and/or decided since the last meeting were noted. Comments on new applications and appeals were agreed as outlined below. It was noted that, where appropriate, reference would be made to the Neighbourhood Plan policies/Village Design Statement when commenting on planning applications. See <a href="https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications">https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications</a> for current applications. It was noted that weekly lists provided by Tendring District Council (TDC) were sent to Councillors.
<b>Applications</b>	<a href="#">23/01235/FULHH</a> installation of new fencing to front Three Elms, Harts Lane, Ardleigh, CO7 7QH <b>The Council objected as such fencing conflicted with the Neighbourhood Plan.</b>

Other/ Appeals	<p><a href="#">23/01299/DISCON</a> Discharge of External external lighting condition re 21/00002/FUL. Three Elms, Harts Lane, Ardleigh, CO7 7QH <b>The Council had no objection.</b></p> <p><a href="#">23/00646/FUL</a> Change of use of nursery/horticultural land to residential curtilage. Kalm Oak Nursery Hunters Chase Ardleigh CO7 7LW <b>This had previously been discussed and restriction sought.</b></p> <p><a href="#">23/01333/FULHH</a> Single storey rear extension. The Orchard, The Street, Ardleigh, CO7 7LD. <b>The Council had no objection.</b></p> <p><a href="#">23/01295/FUL</a> Extension to workshop and additional car parking (resubmission following lapse of period). Curtis Machine Tools Ltd, Martells Industrial Estate, Slough Lane CO7 7RU. <b>The Council had no objection.</b></p> <p><a href="#">23/01387/FUL</a> Proposed construction of HGV lorry park with ancillary welfare facilities and 3 metre high fencing; and 3 bay jet wash for cars. Ardleigh Service Station, A120. <b>The Council had no objection.</b></p> <p><b>Minerals and Waste</b> application <a href="#">ESS/79/23/COL</a> Waste recycling facility handling, processing and storing road planings; together with associated works. Land off Ipswich Road, Langham, Essex, CO4 5LZ. <b>Further information would be sought outside the meeting and an objection submitted should it be felt that the operation would be detrimental to Ardleigh residents.</b></p>
<b>23.140</b> 23.140.1  23.140.2  23.140.3	<p><b>Other Planning and Infrastructure Issues</b></p> <p><b>Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community (and related issues)</b>  It was noted the developers had opened up a further consultation. It was agreed to urge all residents to view the plan and submit their comments.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Plan (and related issues)</b> It was noted that some changes to the Plan and its policies were proposed by the independent examiner. A further short period of public consultation would be the probable next step.</p> <p><b>Pylons, Substations, Windfarms and related</b> The public meeting held on 15 September was attended by around 100 residents and was considered to be informative and useful. Presentations from the meeting would be shared to the website. Thanks were extended to the speakers, and volunteers who assisted on the night, including RRT Rapid Relief Team for providing free refreshments.  Cllr Whiteley reported that he would be joining the Steering group of Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk Pylons action group and would provide a further link with the Council and the group.</p>
<b>23.141</b>	<p><b>Highways, Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and related issues</b>  Road safety issues were discussed- see public participation above. It was noted that cars parking on Station Road were causing an obstruction and congestion as were cars on the A137 as it crossed the A120. It was agreed to contact Cllr Guglielmo to request his assistance in liaising with North Essex Partnership Parking if the issues continued.</p>
<b>23.142</b> 23.142.1  23.142.2	<p><b>Community Projects, meetings and events and request for support</b>  The following matters relating to community groups and amenities were discussed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bottle Bank</b> A second glass recycling facility had been provided at Prettyfields Vineyard, together with a collection point for the Tendring Primary Recycling Scheme.</li> <li>• <b>Speedwatch</b> Further volunteers were required to ensure Speedwatch could continue to operate. It was agreed to publicise this request on APC website and the Ardleigh Advertiser.</li> <li>• It was AGREED in principle to look into EV/solar energy for the Village Hall.</li> </ul> <p>23.142.2 The consultation on an area-wide <b>Public Spaces Protection Order</b> (PSPO proposed by Tendring District Council (TDC), targeting dog fouling and nuisance dogs off leads was noted and broadly supported.</p>

23.142.3	<p><b>Environment and Biodiversity</b> An update on the newly-formed Ardleigh Practical Actions for Climate and Environment (APACE) group was given. Following the success of the first and second meetings of the environmental group, the next meeting would be at Skylark on 27 September.</p> <p>The duty on public authorities in England to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making and recently-published guidance for Parish Councils in this regard was noted. A proposed policy would be brought to a future meeting.</p>																						
<b>23.143</b> 23.143.1 23.143.2 23.143.3	<p><b>Reports and Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>District and County Councillor and Police Reports</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Councillors' Reports</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Clerk's Report</b> The Clerk's report had been previously circulated and was noted.</p>																						
<b>23.144</b> 23.144.1 23.144.2          23.144.3	<p><b>Parish Council Finance and Staffing</b></p> <p>The <b>financial reports</b> to 30 September 2023 were received and accepted.</p> <p>The following <b>payments</b> were approved plus salaries including HMRC and pension contributions. Bills for payment for the Village Hall were also agreed.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Archivist expenses</td><td>£66.70</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bland Landscapes Ltd</td><td>£1,111.80</td></tr> <tr> <td>Clerks Expenses</td><td>£40.22</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cottage Landscapes</td><td>£1,020.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cloudy IT</td><td>£157.92</td></tr> <tr> <td>Superfine fencing</td><td>£90.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ardleigh Village Hall</td><td>£67.50</td></tr> <tr> <td>Npower</td><td>£210.88</td></tr> <tr> <td>Chairs allowance</td><td>£100.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Deputy Clerks expenses</td><td>£13.05</td></tr> <tr> <td>Clerksroom/Simon Bell</td><td>£6,720.00</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Staffing Matters.</b> <i>This item was taken after 23.145. Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded during discussion of this agenda item as the Council was considering contractual issues.</i> Members of the public were asked to leave the room.</p> <p>The recommendations from Staffing Committee held on 2 October concerning staffing arrangements were discussed and approved. It was <b>resolved</b> to appoint Steve Roberts and Rachel Edwards as temporary/ casual Deputy Clerks in accordance with the recommendations in the confidential report and for Staffing Committee to review Job Descriptions and hours needed prior to permanent appointment(s) with updates to the salaries budget to be incorporated in to the 2024-25 budget. Thanks were noted to Diane Bull for her service as Deputy Clerk.</p>	Archivist expenses	£66.70	Bland Landscapes Ltd	£1,111.80	Clerks Expenses	£40.22	Cottage Landscapes	£1,020.00	Cloudy IT	£157.92	Superfine fencing	£90.00	Ardleigh Village Hall	£67.50	Npower	£210.88	Chairs allowance	£100.00	Deputy Clerks expenses	£13.05	Clerksroom/Simon Bell	£6,720.00
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<b>23.145</b>	<p><b>Amenities and Contracts</b></p> <p><b>a) Council contracts and contractors. Floral displays</b> The autumn/winter floral displays had now been planted.</p> <p><b>b) Play and Exercise Equipment</b> – an update on the actions highlighted following the annual safety checks and weekly visual checks was overdue. Several quotes had been requested for work including repairs to sandpit area where S106 funding had been earmarked.</p> <p><b>c) The Ardleigh Recreation Ground</b> no report given.</p> <p><b>d) Cemetery / churchyard matters</b> It was noted that the cemetery was looking good and the excess soil would be removed from the front of the cemetery in due course.</p>																						

	<p><b>e) Village Hall matters</b> It was noted that the specialist inspection in respect of the presence of RAAC in the Village Hall was yet to be completed. The Council would be updated once the report was received.</p> <p><b>f) Other Amenities and Open Space Issues.</b> Quotes would be sought for the high and medium priority tree work identified in the annual survey.</p>
<b>23.146</b>	<p><b>Judicial Review</b>  <i>Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public were excluded during the discussion of this agenda item as the Council was considering legal and contractual issues. Members of the public were asked to leave the room.</i></p> <p>Following the Order by Mrs Justice Lang in the case of Ardleigh Parish Council v Tendring District Council, a barrister had been identified who was willing to advise and represent the Council, an initial meeting held (subject to legal privilege) and quote obtained. It was <b>resolved</b> to instruct Simon Bell, to advise on merit and, subject to confirmation that there was an arguable case, to prepare updated grounds and to represent the Council at the oral permissions hearing costs as per the quote provided. Other actions and decisions relating to the case which would be required between meetings would be agreed and enacted using delegated powers following consultation with Councillors. Further financial pledges had been received and donations would continue to be sought.</p>
<b>23.147</b>	<p><b>Future meetings and meeting closure</b>  The meeting closed at 9.20pm. The next meeting would be held on <b>Monday 13 November at 7.30pm</b> at Ardleigh Village Hall (with remote link).</p>

Signed by Meeting Chair ..... on .....