Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 8:00pm on the 10th November 2026 in the Braxted Pavilion

Present:

Cllrs D Collins (Chairman), C Knapman (Vice-Chairman), M Davis, L Holt and E Miles and L Townend (Clerk), County Councillor Stuart Clarke and two members of the public.

26/60 Apologies for Absence

All Members were present.

26/61 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Resolved: That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting, held on the 8th September 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26/62 Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that they are required to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests or Non-Pecuniary Interests which they know they might have in terms of business on the agenda. They were also reminded that they will need to repeat their declarations at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if required under the Code of Conduct which took effect in July 2022.

They were further reminded that any unforeseen interests must also be declared at the appropriate time.

No Declarations of Interests were made.

26/63 Maldon District Councillor Update

Cllr Siddall was unable to attend the meeting.

26/64 Essex County Councillor Update

Cllr Stuart Clarke provided an update on Essex County Council matters, including:

- Operation Vanguard: Private security had been deployed in Chelmsford and Colchester to tackle theft and sexual misconduct and reassure residents. Police patrols were also being increased.
- Highways: From 1 October 2026, a 90-day target had been introduced for dealing with highway issues. Residents should continue to report issues via the ECC website in the first instance, with Cllr Clarke able to escalate matters presenting an immediate danger.
- Planning: Cllr Clarke was seeking to arrange a non-political meeting at Plantation Hall for Parish Clerks, including representatives from ECC, to provide guidance on planning applications and highways matters.
- Potholes: The new ECC administration had made tackling potholes a priority.

- Locality Fund: Cllr Clarke outlined his locality fund and welcomed applications for projects benefiting children and older residents.
- Cllr Collins raised concerns about speeding through the village and asked whether physical highway measures could be introduced to reduce vehicle speeds. He also enquired about ECC staffing and recruitment.

Resolved: The Clerk would:

1. Send Cllr Clarke a list of outstanding highway issues previously reported to ECC.
2. Submit a request for advice on possible highway engineering measures to reduce speeds within the village's 30mph speed limit.
3. Seek clarification on the timescale for the review of the Local Highways Panel (LHP) and the Essex Speed Management Strategy.

26/65 Public Participation Session

A member of the public raised concerns about the condition of the cricket outfield, suggesting that scarifying and reseeding would improve the playing surface in preparation for the next cricket season and help reduce the risk of injuries caused by uneven ground.

Cllr Collins suggested reviewing the existing resources and available budget before considering remedial work.

Resolved: The Clerk would:

1. Obtain quotations for rabbit control.
2. Contact Cllr Stuart Clarke to request advice from other areas on how similar issues had been addressed.

A member of the public would also provide the Clerk with the contact details of a local gamekeeper.

26/66 Finance

26/66/1 Accounts for Payment

The Council approved the following payments

Date	*Supplier*	*Item*	*Net*	*VAT*	*Total*
18/09/2026	Cllr Knapman	Grass seed for field	31.94	-	31.94
28/09/2026	L Townend	Sept salary	339.20	-	339.20
28/09/2026	HMRC	Sept PAYE costs	85.00		85.00
30/09/2026	Unity Trust Bank	August service charge	7.00	-	7.00
06/10/2026	Wallace Arb	September grounds maintenance	230.00	46.00	276.00
12/10/2026	Maldon Council	Trucam patrols - Jul - Sept	538.92	107.78	646.70
12/10/2026	VCS Websites	Website hosting - Sept '26 to Sept '27	175.00	-	175.00
12/10/2026	Cllr Knapman	Pavilion expenses	41.60	-	41.60
19/10/2026	RBL	Poppy wreath	30.00	-	30.00
23/10/2026	L Townend	October salary	307.30	-	307.30
23/10/2026	HMRC	October PAYE costs	76.60	-	76.60

28/10/2026	Caloo	Service of gym equipment	345.00	69.00	414.00
31/10/2026	Unity Trust Bank	September service charge	7.00	-	7.00
		TOTAL:	**2,214.56**	**222.78**	**2,437.34**

Resolved: That the accounts for payment listed above be approved for payment.

26/66/2 Cash Reconciliation

Resolved: That the cash reconciliation as at 30 September be noted.

26/66/3 Budget Comparison

Members received the budget comparison as at 30 September 2026.

Resolved: That the budget comparison to the 30 September be noted.

Cllr Knapman asked whether the Parish Council would consider covering the Pavilion hire costs for the pop-up pub events he organises, which take place on six Friday evenings each year.

Resolved: The Clerk would investigate whether the Council has an appropriate statutory power to fund the Pavilion hire costs.

26/67 Planning

26/67/1 To Consider Planning Applications submitted and published by Maldon District Council

26/67/1/1 – 26/00627/LDE – Claim for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing erection of a storage building at Woodyard Sunnymeade Braxted Park Road. **No objection.**

26/67/1/2 – 26/00704/FUL – Detached single storey office building and associated parking and hard and soft landscaping on land rear of Hawthorns, Braxted Park Road.

Resolved: That Members will look at the planning application and associated documents and inform the Clerk of their comments by Friday 13 November 2026.

26/67/1/3 – 26/00773/SCR – Opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017 at The Commodity Centre, Commodity House, Great Braxted.

Cllr Collins advised Members of an EIA Screening Request relating to proposed extensions to the existing warehouse facility at the Commodity Centre. The Blackwater Water Conservation Group had contacted the Parish Council seeking its support and requesting that the Council make its own representation to Maldon District Council.

The proposals included two additional warehouse buildings, approximately 20,000 sq ft in total, up to 16.1m in height, a marshalling area for 13 refrigerated articulated lorries,

a lowered service yard and associated landscaping. The development would extend further into open countryside, with the wider site also potentially accommodating further phases of development.

Members noted the site's proximity to the River Blackwater and designated wildlife sites, and concerns regarding the potential environmental impact of the proposals.

Resolved: The Clerk would circulate the email received from the Blackwater Water Conservation Group to all Members.

Resolved: The Council agreed that a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be undertaken and resolved to submit a representation to Maldon District Council requesting that an EIA be required before any planning permission is granted.

Cllr Miles left the meeting at 20.43 and returned to the meeting at 20.44.

26/67/2 To Note the Parish Council's Response to Planning Applications Made Outside of a Meeting

No responses had been made.

26/67/3 To Note the Planning Decisions made by Maldon District Council.

No decision notices had been published.

26/67/4 Maldon District Local Plan 2040 – Scoping Consultation

Resolved: That Members would review the scoping consultation documents and submit any comments to the Clerk by 4 December 2026. The Clerk would issue a reminder during the last week of November. If no comments were received by the deadline, no response would be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council.

26/68 Environment

Members considered a quotation of £700 from Skippers Ground Maintenance for cutting the verge and hedgerows along Tiptree Road.

Resolved: The Clerk would seek clarification from Essex Highways regarding responsibility for maintaining the verge and hedgerows, then discuss the matter with Duncan and bring it back to the January meeting for further consideration.

26/69 Replacement Gym Equipment – Rowing Machine

Members considered options for replacing the obsolete rowing machine, with a hydraulic Lat Pull Down machine identified as a potential alternative.

Resolved: The Clerk would obtain quotations for a replacement Lat Pull Down machine and investigate funding through the Maldon District Council Livewell Grant. If unsuccessful, the Clerk would explore funding through the Essex County Councillor's Locality Fund.

26/70 Items for Next Agenda

The following items will be added to the next Council meeting agenda:

1. 2026/27 budget and precept demand. The budget to include grant for Easter Egg hunt and a sum for playground maintenance.

26/71 Updates

No updates were received.

26/72 General Announcements

No general announcements were made.

26/73 Date of Next Meeting

The next council meeting will take place at 8:00pm on Tuesday 19th January 2027.

26/74 Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:31pm.

Signed:_____ Dated:_____