

Stow Maries Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 28th April 2025

in The Smythe Hall, Church Lane, Stow Maries at 7.30 p.m.

Cllr Matt Cooper welcomed all those present.

COUNCILLOR ATTENDEES AND OTHER ATTENDEES

Councillors:- Matt Cooper, David Hopping, Debbie Driver & Adam Brown

District: Not in attendance

Essex CC Not in attendance

In attendance: Parish Clerk

25-6/001 APOLOGIES

DCllrs - White and Whiffen, County Councillor Jane Fleming and Cllr Neil Gilmore.

25-6/002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) No declarations were made at this point in the meeting.

25-6/003 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

a) The minutes of the meeting of 17th March 2025, were approved and signed by the Chairman Cllr Matt Cooper as a true and accurate record.

25-6/004 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

a) An email was received with news from Maldon District Council from Cllr Whiffen as follows:-

In December 2024 the Government set out plans to move power out of Westminster and back to Local Communities. Local Leaders from Essex, Thurrock and Southend-on-sea have expressed interest in taking this forward creating a Mayoral Combined County Authority, with the election for a Mayor taking place in May 2026. MDC met on 03 April and have commented that the proposed voting members of the Mayoral Combined County Authority, must be balanced fairly across the county as District Councils need to have voice in stating where funding and investment is required. MDC supports the inception of a Locality Board which would ensure the needs of the district are prioritised.

- MDC in partnership with ECC and four local councils are launching a 2 month campaign to encourage residents to pass on unwanted furniture instead of disposing of it. Donated items are to be given a new lease of life and benefit those in need. The Make Space not Waste campaign is just in time for your spring clean and a directory is available on the love essex website. This makes it easy to find those organisations accepting items and in some cases, free collections are available.
- James Burrell-Cook, the Conservative candidate was elected as the new District Councillor for the Maldon North ward on 27th March with 462 votes.

Signed by the Chairman.....
Cllr Matthew Cooper

Dated 19/5/2025

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- MDC has had its Essex Police Community Safety accreditation successfully renewed. The teams have worked hard to meet the standards set by Essex Police, thus allowing a positive impact in the community.
- The U-fest festival has been arranged for Friday, 15th August in the promenade park. Activities will run from 1am to 4pm and provides an opportunity for residents to find support with cost of living, family and personal support.

25-6/005 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Fleming sent her March update which is now on the website.

25-6/006 QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC -An opportunity for members of the public to speak and raise issues.

No members of the public present.

25-6/007 PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications:-

- a) No planning applications.
- b) **Planning correspondence** received over the course of the month and circulated via e-mail:
 - i) Planning application listings were noted
 - ii) Planning decisions and appeals were noted
 - iii) Planning Decisions:- An appeal letter received regarding Application Ref: 23/00977 had been received regarding Land Adjacent to The Owls, Woodham Road, Stow Maries. Members resolved to reiterate what had already been stated in that the application was outside the development boundary of the Village.
- c) **MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**
 - i) No information at this time.
- d) **BRADWELL B**
 - i) No information at this time.
- e) **STOW MARIES GREAT WAR AERODROME**
 - i) No information at this time.

25-6/008 HIGHWAY & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES

- a) No update regarding Halt Bridge as Alistair Dore was away.
- b) Clerk informed members that an approach had been made to Maldon District Council regarding a dog bin and also for them to look into the problem so that the grass cutting contractor is able to cut the grass.
- c) Members noted that various public rights of way will be closed and alternative footpaths used. Information has already been circulated and hard copies of the notices for the notice boards and a copy has been placed on the website.

25-6/009 FINANCE

- a) Members approved the payments and receipts for the April 2025 meeting.

Signed by the Chairman.....
Cllr Matthew Cooper

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- b) The bank reconciliation for the year end could not be reconciled due to problem the Clerk was experiencing with her printer/scanner which was due to be repaired and the papers will be presented at the next meeting.
- c) Members noted that the annual precept has been paid into the Parish Account.
- d) Members approved the increase in cost of the use of The Smythe Hall hire from £12.00 to £20.00 effective 1st June 2025.

Apr-25	Payments						
Folio	Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Gross
25-26/001	28/04/2025	100685	EALC	AR Fees	£78.96	£0.00	£78.96
25-26/002	28/04/2025	100686	Sue Lees Consultancy	Website	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00
25-26/003	28/04/2025	100687	Sarah Sayer	Salary/Expenses	£434.66	£434.66	£434.66
25-26/004		100688	Information commission	Data protection annual fee	£52.00	£0.00	£52.00
					£605.62	£434.66	£605.62

25-6/010 WEBSITE

- a) No update.

25-6/011 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

25-6/012 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – This will be the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 19th May 2025 at 7.30 p.m. which will follow the Annual Parish Assembly at 7 p.m.

**25-6/013 ALL BUSINESS HAVING BEEN TRANSACTED THE CHAIR
THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING & CLOSED THE
MEETING at 8.30 pm.**

Signed by the Chairman.....
Cllr Matthew Cooper

Dated 19/5/2025