



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 25th. March 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chair), G. Minish (Vice-Chair), J. Cobb, M. Lear, R. Millett, J. Sedge and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were also 8 members of the public present

028/2026 Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr A. Gardner

029/2026 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda
None Declared

030/2026 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th. February 2026 **All Agreed**

031/2026 Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda

A total maximum time of 15 minutes is allowed for all public participation sessions

A resident asked about an update for The Secret Butchers van to use the car park on a Wednesday PM for 1.5 hours. A discussion took place and it was decided that The Secret Butchers van can use the car park on a Wednesday PM for 1.5 hours. The Clerk to email The Secret Butchers company tomorrow morning.

032/2026 Village amenity update / Representative Reports

a) Greening of the village – Cllr R. Millett any update since last meeting

Bulbs have been planted and awaiting a good show this year.

b) Skatepark – Cllrs M. Lear / J. Cobb any update since last meeting. Note quotations for small concrete base are to be sought.

An offer of hardcore and crushed concrete has been received. Work ongoing to source equipment for digging out the base with councillors following up a number of leads

c) Football on recreation ground – Quotations for replacement goal posts to be sought

Preliminary quotes have been obtained. Cllr J. Cobb proposed to purchase the goal post at a cost of £800. Cllr M. Gibson seconded. **All Agreed** Cllr M. Lear to purchase the goal posts

d) Play equipment – Zip wire: large swings to be considered – Quotations are being sought

Cllr M. Lear proposed purchasing a new aerial zip wire at a cost of £18653.00p

A nest swing purchasing cost of £5151.00p. Cllr G. Minish seconded. **All Agreed**

e) Rubbish bin in play area requires replacing with a standard rubbish bin – Quotations are being sought

The liner in the rubbish bin has totally disintegrated. It was suggested to remove the playground bin immediately. A replacement may be purchased at a later date.

f) Salt bins in the village at the Viewing platform & car park entrance – Quotations are being sought

These are to be sourced over the summer period

g) To receive any updates on the Post Office facility for the village

Emails have been sent to the owner of the Post Office and other branches are not being closed down. It is a frustrating exercise. The dairy layout may have to be altered.

033/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

26/00107/FUL - Greenfield 45 Main Road St Lawrence Essex

Proposed construction of a pair of semi-detached houses with parking

RESOLVED: St. Lawrence Parish Council Recommends oppose

Overdevelopment of the site and access will be a problem

Neighbours natural light will be affected

The plans are sketchy but appear very cramped with small rooms, with sloping ceilings given the roof design.

There is no Design Statement making an informed decision impossible. Any building on this site is merely going to move surface water flood risk elsewhere and SUDS or soakaways may well be unviable given that the ground conditions appear to be very heavy clay.

Signed

M Gibson

M. Gibson – Chair of SLPC

22nd. April 2026

Who these proposed houses are aimed at is difficult to fathom. Family homes don't seem likely given the layouts and it is difficult to imagine them appealing to the more elderly. The whole design does not seem to consider sustainability.

St Lawrence is not a village with good amenities. In order to access education, medical facilities or employment and outward commute is necessary. There is one small shop, a couple of pubs with associated restaurants and two (water) sports clubs.

If the application were to be approved, conditions are required regarding parking on site only for all workmen involved, time restrictions for deliveries and hours of work.

034/2026 Planning Decisions made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence

No planning decisions made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence

035/2026 Finance

a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 28th. February 2026

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 28th. February 2026

b. To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/2026

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/2026

c. To approve the payment of Accounts for March 2026 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements **All Agreed**

036/2026 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village

A defective street light at 93 Main Road has been reported

037/2026 Items for Next Agenda

Local Government reorganisation

038/2026 Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd. April 2026 at 7pm which is the Annual Parish meeting

039/2026 Meeting dates in 2026 - 27.05 SLPC AGM: 24.06: 22.07: 23.09: 28.10: 25.11: 16.12.26

040/2026 Closure of the Meeting

To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business.

The Chair then closed the meeting at 7.40pm and thanked everyone for attending.