



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>. April 2026 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.**

Present: Cllrs M. Gibson (Chair), G. Minish (Vice-Chair), J. Cobb, A. Gardner, M. Lear, J. Sedge, MDC Cllr L. Haywood and Kevin B. Money (Clerk to Parish Council). There were 0 members of the public present

**041/2026 Apologies for Absence** were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp and Cllr R. Millett,

**042/2026 Declaration of Interest**

To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda Cllr M. Lear declared an interest in planning application 26/00098

**043/2026 Minutes**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup>. March 2026 **All Agreed**

**044/2026 Village amenity update / Representative Reports**

**a) Greening of the village** – Cllr R. Millett any update since last meeting No report was given

**b) Skatepark** – Cllrs M. Lear / J. Cobb any update since last meeting.

The contractors have been approached and will be chased later this month. The position of the skatepark needs to be finalised.

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

The size of the football goals needs to be finalised. Speak to Richard Garwood for the size of the smaller football pitch.

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

3 quotations regarding a new zip wire installation. The quotation from Caloo to be accepted and the purchase to go ahead.

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

No further updates on the Post Office for the village stores

**045/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response**

**26/00098/FUL** - Ancillary Annexe At 46 Mountview Crescent St Lawrence Essex

Extension to existing residential annexe

**RESOLVED:** St. Lawrence Parish Council Supports this planning application

**25/01022** - Land East Of Bridge Wick Lane Dengie Essex

The construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of an onshore wind electricity generating facility and associated infrastructure, comprising up to 15 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), onsite substation, access tracks, underground cabling, temporary construction compounds, temporary concrete batching plant, and landscape and ecological mitigation and enhancement.

**RESOLVED:** St Lawrence Parish Council, while accepting the concept of providing green energy, cannot fully support this proposal for the following reasons:

The suggestion that the cable connecting the windfarm with the Rayleigh substation would run under the road networks, avoiding footways, can only mean very extensive roadworks to trench the cable in. The only mention of drilling is to cross railway lines and watercourses. The effect of this – whichever route is taken - would be catastrophic for the whole of the Dengie. The road network is poor and there are no alternative routes. The few north / south roads (lanes would be a better description) are vital for communication. They are used for school transport, medical, shopping etc, etc. It already only takes one incident on one of the east / west roads for the whole of the Dengie to be at a standstill. The road through Latchingdon operates at a very high traffic level and cannot pick up long term additional traffic resulting from closures or even partial closures on one of the other roads.

There have to be concerns regarding the impact on the iconic landscape around St Peter's Chapel. The

Signed

M. Gibson – Chair of SLPC

27<sup>th</sup>. May 2026

potential effects on wildlife, for example with overwintering birds which seem to have only been addressed solely from the viewpoint of the immediate area of the proposal. The flocks of Brent Geese move up and down the estuaries and marshes. They don't stay in one place.

The history of the area is little known – the likelihood of considerable archaeology cannot be ruled out but without a proper investigation before any development takes place, that could remain a hole in our knowledge. The Community Benefit Funding scheme is barely defined. This needs to cover the whole of the Dengie, not just those areas already benefiting from the existing windfarm schemes.

**26/00069/HOUSE** - Saints And Sinners 43 Main Road St Lawrence Southminster  
Retrospective application for erection of a single-storey garage/storage outbuilding to the front.

**RESOLVED:** St. Lawrence Parish Council Recommends Refusal.

The design is incongruous and is an overdevelopment of the site. There is already an integral garage on the site. Given the small amount of amenity space behind the house this development reduces the area of land available for amenity (rather than car parking) use since the whole of the front garden is hard standing.

**046/2026 Planning Decisions made by MDC affecting St. Lawrence**

**047/2026 Finance**

a. To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. March 2026

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. March 2026

b. To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/2026 & 2026/2027

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/2026 & 2026/2027

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

d. To appoint the internal auditor for 2026/2027

Cllr M. Gibson proposed appointing Ann Wood as Internal Auditor for 2026/2027 year. Cllr G. Minish seconded.

**All Agreed**

**048/2026 Councillors to list any defective streetlights with location/s in the village**

No street lights reported

**049/2026 Items for Next Agenda**

**TruCam visits** – Councillors to inform the Clerk for dates / times etc.

**050/2026 Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>. May at 7pm which is the SLPC AGM**

**051/2026 Meeting dates in 2026** - 24.06: 22.07: 23.09: 28.10: 25.11: 16.12.26

**052/2026 Closure of the Meeting**

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

The Chair then closed the meeting at 7.50pm and thanked everyone for attending.