

TOLLESHUNT KNIGHTS PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the remote meeting held on 21st December 2020

Planning

Decisions by Maldon District Council:

Meadow View 55 Brook Road – Roof extension to existing hipped bungalow with new sliding doors. Approved.

Community of St John the Baptist The Old Rectory Rectory Road – extension to car park. Approved.

The following new planning application was considered:

Ambergate Farm Blind Lane - The use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes for 1no. traveller pitch together with the retention and addition of hard standing, utility/day room and use of existing buildings as ancillary stables. The Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds: This is not a sustainable form of development as the site is remote from essential services and facilities and with poor connections to those services by way of sustainable means of transport. The application seeks to show that there is access to local facilities via an unsurfaced public right of way to the nearest bus stop which has a very limited bus service, and that (very unrealistically) it is an 8 minute cycle ride to the centre of Tiptree. It is stated that the applicants wish to move to this site “due to their age” and they would find themselves socially isolated if they relied on public transport to access the nearest facilities.

The site lies outside the settlement boundary of Tolleshunt Knights.

The buildings previously on this site were in a ruinous state and in fact unrecognisable as such.

The applicant has already carried out work on this site without planning permission – modifying the entrance into Blind Lane, erecting fencing and installing a large area of hard standing, and the Parish Council believes that this needs to be dealt with as an enforcement issue.

The use of the site for a traveller pitch and mobile home would result in a detrimental visual impact on the intrinsic character and beauty of the site and the wider countryside.

The Parish Council is aware that there are already two other traveller sites within a 3 miles of this site (Kelvedon Road Tiptree and Horseshoes Tolleshunt D’Arcy., and questions the need for a new site at Ambergate.

The narrow lanes adjacent to this site would be unsuitable for access by large vehicles/caravans/mobile homes.

Highways and drainage

It was noted that Highways has recently marked out potholes in Tudwick Road for repairs.

Following recent flooding along Layer Brook, Anglian Water has jetted out drains in the area and repaired a faulty valve in the pumping station. This, together with the recent very high volume of water, was the cause of the flooding.

Budget and precept for the year 2021-2022.

The budget has now been approved and the precept for 2021-22 set at £10,000.

Playing field

Work will begin in March to repair the play area fence.

The new memorial bench for Mrs Sheila Hillen and the plaque for Mr Clive French will now be obtained and placed in the playing field.

Village Hall

The Village Hall Management Committee will shortly be leafleting the entire village in an attempt to gain new members to help in the running of the Village Hall. This initiative is supported by the Parish Council and it is hoped that it will result in a number of new members for the committee.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be a remote meeting using Zoom on Monday 18th January 2021. Remote meetings will continue to be held until restrictions are lifted by the government. Residents are welcome to join the meeting – please contact the clerk several days beforehand to obtain joining instructions.