**GOLDHANGER PARISH COUNCIL**
**CHAIRS REPORT 8th April 2026**

## 1. Council Composition

The current make-up of the Parish Council is as follows:

Julia Bourn – Chair
Hugh Reynolds – Vice Chair
Michael Sargeant – Finance officer
Clive Cheeseman – Allotments officer
Stephen Ellis – Village Hall representative
Michael Bishop
Maria Unsworth
Clerk - Julie Webster

Council meetings continue to be held on the second Wednesday of the month.

## 2. Introduction

We have had a quiet year, no major projects have been completed, although councillors have been busy with everyday tasks.

The planning application for 25 Houses on Head Street was resubmitted, with updates, following the Government changes to the housing targets imposed on local councils. The Parish Council and the Goldhanger Community Planning group have robustly objected to the application, which is still 'pending' a decision by Maldon District Council.

Remedial work on the drains on Maldon Road and drainage works in Fish Street (Oct/Nov 2025) appear to have been effective and Goldhanger has not seen any repeat of flooding experienced in previous years.

The Listed telephone box in the square which houses the defibrillator has been renovated by Parish Councillor's, with a new door, new glass and repainted and specialist detailed painting by Steve Clark.

Two picnic benches have been installed at the playing field, adjacent to the children's play area.

Residents may have heard in the news discussions about devolution of Councils in Essex, this primarily involves reorganisation of the County Council and Maldon District Council into Unitary Authorities and as yet there is no clear guidance on what devolution will mean for Parish Councils.

## 3. Planning

There have been various applications for the council to consider and report its view to Maldon District Council, who make the decisions.
(applications up to March meeting included)

### Pending from 24-25

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| Land north of 6 Church Street | Proposed new build 4 bed bungalow and detached garage | Object (2024) | Refused (July 2025) |
| Land adjacent to the Hangar Maldon Road (ref 24/00876 & then 25/00303) | Outline Planning application with all matters reserved for proposed eco development of three passive dwellings with associated landscaping. Including allotments, sensory gardens and orchards | Object Object | Withdrawn, Reapplied Pending |
| Foundry Barns, Maldon Road | Prior approval application for the change of use of an agricultural building to five dwellinghouses and for associated operational developments | Object (same application as 2022, due to expire) | Withdrawn (July 2025) |
| 9 Fish Street | Two storey rear extension and addition of storm porch to the front | support | Approved |

**New housing applications** –.

The most significant application to note last year was the re-application for 25 Houses on Head Street. Over 400 residents have written letters objecting to the application and our MP Priti Patel attended a meeting in October offering assistance to the Parish council in its objection. A decision has yet to be made by Maldon DC.

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| Land South of Head street | 25 new dwellings. – | Objected, Pending. |

**Extensions and Minor Works** comprised:

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| 8 Head Street | Part demolish rear lean to single storey extension. Erection of a new single storey rear extension with alterations to fenestration | support | Refused, approved on appeal |

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|---|---|---|---|
| 25/00428 | The Ramblers, 56 Maldon Road | Single Storey front porch extension and new cladding of the existing dwelling | s |
| 25/00476 | 11 Fish Street | Single storey rear extension with alterations to fenestrations to rear. Addition of rooflight | s |

**Miscellaneous** consisted of:

- 6 tree work applications, - allowed to proceed.

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| Timber Barn and Foundry Barn | Prior approval for the change of use for agricultural buildings to flexible use within storage. Change of use to Class B8 STORAGE AND ALTERATIONS TO THE FRONTAGE | OBJECT | approved |
| The Cricketers PH, 33 Church Street | Change of use | no comment | approve |

## 4. Highways

### SID

The current SID (speed indicating device) continues to operate after much effort from Councillor Bishop who has replaced the battery and keeps it charged it, when the sun doesn't shine.

### Flooding, blocked surface drains

Resolved

### Speedwatch

A residents speedwatch group, has been set up and is organised by Greg Lake. Monitoring and reporting of speeding traffic takes place regularly. If any residents would like to volunteer to be involved with the speedwatch group please contact Greg or the Parish Council.

### Parking within the village

Parking around the village remains under pressure in areas, the Parish Council have received complaints this year regarding unused/untaxed vehicles parked on the verge in front of the Moat development on Maldon Road.

Parking on the verge in front of the Moat development on Maldon Road causes problems with sight lines pulling in and out of the development, as well as causing the grass to become churned up. Moat were asked to review what can be done to improve the situation in 2023 and followed up since, and we have just had a reply that the land is adopted by Highways. This will be followed up.

Parking at the bottom of Fish Street is problematic when cars (typically visitors) block the access to the park gate (needed for grass cutting vehicles and emergency access to the seawall) and also park on double yellow lines, which can cause obstructions for larger traffic accessing the farm.

The Parish Council appeals to all residents and visitors to park legally and considerately, Thank You.

**Accidents**

Again this year we have seen a number of accidents in our Parish, on the Goldhanger Road between Wash Bridge and our boundary on the D'arcy side, typically attributed to speeding.

Wash Bridge – Has remained intact this last year.

We remain keen to keep track of accidents, as this data is not held by any other parties. Collecting this data will give us an evidence base which we can call upon, should we request any safety improvement works in the future. So please email myself or other Councillors details of any accidents you may see, you do not need to have witnessed the initial incident.

**5. Moat Housing**

In addition to the Parking issues, above. Moat have carried out 'in fill' repairs the 'Moat' footpath, that joins Head Steet and Hall Estate garages.

**6. Maldon District council**

**Bus stop licences**

The Parish Council have been asked to apply for 'Bus Stop licences', The Parish Council are requesting clarification of ownership of bus stops on land not owned by the Parish Council.

**Land behind Hall Estate**

Maldon DC have requested suggestions for the land behind Hall Estate, adjacent to the former garages removed by Maldon DC last year. The Parish Council has made suggestions but has not received any acknowledgement.

**Park Signage**

The Parish Council has received permission from MDC to remove redundant and damaged signage from the park.

**Asset of Community Value**

It had been 5 years since The Chequers public house was first listed as an ACV, and this needed renewing this past year.

**Data poles**
While the Parish Council object to unnecessary or inappropriately placed data poles, we are not a consultee and the utilities companies can install these where they consider necessary, currently 'host' properties are being sought for data points (instead of poles) for Church Street and Head Street, if none are found, further data poles will be installed.

## 7. Playing Field, Woodland and Leisure

**Park and playground**
Two picnic benches have been installed at the playing field, adjacent to the children's play area.

**Marigold Wood**.
Management & thinning out is due to be carried out in Marigold Wood and the Orchard is growing well. Many members of the public and the Nursery School enjoy the use of the wood and bench. Thinning out of the trees was carried out at the end of February, as part of the woodland management plan.

## 8. Allotments
Councillor Clive Cheeseman has continued to administer the allotments and if you are interested in having a plot, please contact him.
During last summer a new water trough was installed.

## 9. Neighbourhood Watch
Malcolm Holmes is our neighbourhood watch co-ordinator and receives Police crimes reports for the Maldon District, any relevant reports are circulated via the 'Goldhanger Village Group' Facebook page and Malcolm can be contacted via Private messenger if further information is needed. On the whole we are very fortunate to have little crime to report.

## 10. Precept
The Parish Precept is a tax on each property to fund the activities the Parish Council undertakes for the benefit of the community and forms a very minor part of your total Council Tax charges. The Council Members work hard to keep this as low as possible by undertaking many tasks themselves.
Circa £11500 pa is required to meet our recurring expenditure for our legal obligations associated with Parish assets. To allow for other projects considered desirable for the Parish the 25/26 precept was set at £12,750,
In view of our low turnover it is considered prudent to maintain a reserve for the unexpected.

**11. Defibrilators**

The village defibrillators continue to be monitored and maintained by volunteer councillors. We are awaiting a long overdue delivery of spare pads and the Maldon Road box has been reported as rusty.

**12. Website**

Thanks goes out to our host Christopher Smith for maintaining our website. Recent legislative changes requires us to change the hosting of our website and also requires Councillors to use a .GOV email, which incurs additional recurring costs.

**13. Administration**

While Goldhanger falls into the smallest category of Parish Councils, our administrative requirements, regarding policies etc are the same as larger councils such as Maldon DC.
One policy we have felt necessary to add is for 'memorialisation' this will allow a consistent & fair approach when memorials are requested.
This year we will have to add to our suite of policies, an I.T policy and a Data Protection policy.

**14. Village Hall**

The Parish Council have continued to support the village hall.

I would like to thank Julie, our Clerk, for her service supporting and guiding us, and all Councillors for their dedicated work which also enables us to continue to minimise the precept.

J Bourn
Chair - Goldhanger Parish Council