

190/25 **County and City Councillor reports:**

Cllr Kevin Bentley spoke on the following items:

- TEAMS meetings were offered to the Parish Council if Cllr Bentley is unable to attend Full Council meetings.
- County and City elections will be going ahead in Essex.
- The EEC budget will be agreed on 12th February. A 3.95% increase is expected in the county precept.
- Pot-hole repairs continue as quickly as possible. Pot-holes should be reported online and the reference number reported to Cllr Bentley if appropriate.
- For First Bus issues write to Cllr Bentley via the clerk.

Cllr Paul Dundas spoke on the following items:

- Nine Acres – John Miles is aware of the soil discrepancy between conditions 4 and 8.
- Cllr Dundas will feedback any information he receives concerning the Maldon Road appeal.
- There were 3331 submissions from 1222 respondents to the Local Plan review. Consistency around the need to tighten language in policies.
- Potentially in early March there will be an open evening to explain the new local plan for the residents.
- A Government decision on which LGR model to adopt is expected in March.
- The Colchester draft budget proposes a 2.99% increase in Council Tax.
- An email concerning the Kelvedon Road crossing has been sent to Mark Platt. If we have not received a reply, Cllr Dundas will chase.
- There will be no Tendring garden village until the A120/A133 relief road is fully funded.
- A CCC governance review is looking less likely in the near future.

191/25 **Payment List:**

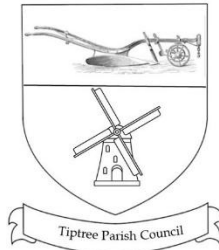
The payments for the month of January were Proposed, seconded and **unanimously** approved, having been previously approved by email.

192/25 **Financial Overview:**

Full council received a brief report and it was noted the precept for 2026-27 has been logged with Colchester City Council.

193/25 **Bank Reconciliations:**

Cllr Wood informed the Council the bank reconciliation was completed for December.



194/25 Consideration of adopting the new IT policy and the website accessibility statement for the AGAR's new assertion 10 question.

After discussion it was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved to accept these two documents subject to two amendments to the IT policy:

1. The duplicated bullet point is removed from paragraph 5
2. The following bullet point should be added to the top of paragraph 5: *The personal devices of councillors and staff are considered 'authorised' so long as appropriate steps have been taken to secure them.*

195/25 Review of the external audit reports:

The Annual report for 2024-2025 and the Interim report for 2025-2026 were discussed. Both reports indicated Council procedures were excellent. There are two remaining recommendations to be addressed in the Interim report.

196/25 Consideration of using the council's general reserve fund to finance the Maldon Road VAS project:

After discussion it was proposed, seconded, unanimously **resolved** that the general reserve fund be used to purchase the VAS unit but the contract for the fitting of the new unit and disposal of the old unit be referred back to the Planning and Highways committee.

197/25 Consideration of the Health and Safety review

This report has not yet been received so could not be discussed.

198/25 Consideration of potential additional section to the council's standing orders referencing how a committee meeting or full council can run without a clerk present at the meeting.

This item was deferred.

199/25 Consideration of insurance policy renewal:

After discussion it was proposed, seconded, unanimously **resolved** that the insurance for the Council vehicles, including the tractor, should be renewed.

200/25 Consideration of terms of reference for the consultation working group and asking for councillors to be part of his group.

After discussion it was decided to defer this item pending further editing. Cllrs Allen-Shepherd, Webb and Osborne have volunteered to be part of this group but no decision was taken to appoint at this meeting.

201/25 Chair closed the meeting at 20.20.

Date of next meeting 3rd March 2026.

Signed

Date: 3rd March 2026