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Little Totham Parish
Council
Fern House
The Street
Little Totham
Maldon
Essex
CM9 8JQ

28th November 2017

Melissa Kelly
Legal and Democratic Services Officer
Maldon District Council
Council Offices
Princes Road
Maldon
Essex CM9 5DL

**Request for Parish Review to increase the number
of Parish Councillors from 5 to 7 on Little Totham Parish Council**

Dear Sirs,

At the last meeting of Little Totham Parish Council a motion was passed to request Maldon District Council, to conduct a Parish review. The request is for the Parish review to increase the number of councillors from the minimum of 5 to 7.

The reasons to increase the number of councillors are:

- The number of councillors has not increased since the 1960's and we are currently at the minimum legal size for a council. The village has at least doubled in size since the 1960's.
- As the council is at the minimum legal number of councillors, it means that if a councillor resigns, the council is immediately below the legal minimum. This gives the council no buffer and results in the council having to seek and co-opt a new councillor, in a more pressurised situation. Having the minimum number of councillors allows for no contingency.
- The Parish council needs to increase the number of councillors, so that it can manage the increasing workload of the council. We are implementing several plans which include traffic initiatives, and managing and planning the long term conservation of the village open spaces. This includes the 55 acre Totham Plains.

- As we have no contingency, some of our meetings are conducted with 4 councillors, which is just above the legal minimum for a quorum. At the next Parish meeting there will only be 3 councillors in attendance. One of the councillors will have to declare an interest on one of the agenda items, this will result in the matter being delayed for a month, as we will not have quorum for this agenda item.
- The national association of local councils suggests that the minimum number of councillors should be 7.
- Several of our councillors are retired and elderly. Although this allows them to share their experience on the council, they are less active physically, so therefore it makes it more difficult for them to carry out work on behalf of the council. The other councillor, other than the Chairman works shifts, which makes it difficult for them to commit to council obligations.

I look forward to hearing from you and if you have any questions please let me know.

Yours faithfully



Richard Siddall
Chairman
Little Totham Parish Council