

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES MONDAY 13th.JULY 2020

HELD BY ZOOM

PRESENT Cllrs. Anne Hughes, Peter Bunting, Clive Chambers, Maggie Holmes
Richard Marriage, Ian Moore, Mike Strain, Brian Turner.

Cllr. Kevin Bentley Cllr.Andrew Ellis

20/111 Apologies for absence; Cllr.Sarah Hughes

Chairman Cllr.Anne Hughes welcomed those present. There were no members of the public

20/112 Declaration of Interests. Cllr.Clive Chambers will be submitting a quote for replacing the fence and posts at The Cross.

20/113 Public Forum. None

20/114 Minutes of the June meeting. Approved

20/115 County Cllr. and Borough Councillors Reports

Cllr.Bentley had previously circulated a County Report. Colchester Library opens on Thursday. Other libraries to open in due course. Recycling at Mersea also opens next week.

Speeding cars at Abberton reservoir have become a very serious issue. PC James from Operation Dolphin attended the car meet at the Reservoir on Sunday 12th July. Speed traps have been put up on the Wigborough Road. Cllr.Bentley has spoken to Speed Watch, to see when speed guns can be resumed.

Regarding County Broadband, the CEO Lloyd Felton had been in discussion with Les Bois residents, as this is private land. Broadband is covered by a utility right.

The Parish Council had taken urgent advice from Ellisons Solicitor regarding the erection of Broadband poles on land owned by the Parish Council. Cllr.Bentley suggested a letter to be sent to the CEO, asking for a contribution towards the bill.

Cllr.Bentley, Ellis & McLean have access to a locality budget from CBC of £2000 each.

Cllr.Bentley has a budget of £10,000 from ECC. £5,000 has already been allocated.

Layer de la Haye, can put a bid in for a CIF project. This would be for money towards renewal of the fencing and posts at The Cross. Cllr.Holmes is dealing with a CIF application form. Cllr.Bentley will send an email to Cllr.Holmes giving his support to the project. Cllr.Anne Hughes asked about the possibility of a donation towards an updated laptop. Cllr Bentley would need a quote for this. Cllr.Sarah Hughes is obtaining quotes. Solicitors will need to be employed to deal with registration of the Recreation field and land at the Cross and a contribution to their costs would be helpful.

Cllr.Ellis, gave his report. He will be attending a Local Plan meeting. The decision is to go with one garden Community only. There should be sufficient numbers of housing, without swamping villages with more housing. Cllr.Ellis also suggested unless there are lot of objections to the Folley Site, no one will be called to the meeting. Several of the RCCE housing survey forms sent to residents, were not filled in correctly, so maybe didn't give an accurate result of the need for social housing. Perhaps this needs to be re sent.

The pre application of the proposed Solar farm was discussed. The need for a traffic plan is essential, as there will be a lot of equipment brought in. Inworth had experienced problems. Cllr.Bentley suggested a route through Salcott Cross. Cllr.Ellis said the Parish should obtain a financial inducement, in perpetuity. Cllr.Boutle should be able to help with that information. Cllr.Marriage will follow this up, to find out how much Parish Councils are likely to receive. Cllr.Holmes asked if Cllr.Ellis was in agreement with the CIF application. He agreed to this and said if the bid wasn't successful, then application could be made to the Locality budget.

Cllrs.Bentley & Ellis left the meeting at 8.30pm

20/116 Clerk's Report; Review Standing Orders. All Councillors had read the document and gave their agreement to it. Cllr. Anne Hughes has written to Estuary re; the cost of grass cutting at Millfields.

20/117 Finance; 75.1 Cllr. Marriage had previously circulated his statement of accounts. He had spent some considerable time, sorting out problems and had presented the completed file to the Auditor. Addresses and signing mandates have been changed with the bank. Insurance with Zurich has been renewed at a substantial discount for the next 5 years. Opus Energy and B.T bills are also being dealt with. An AGAR form for next year has been set up, with help from the Auditor. The cash sheet balances up.

75.2 Adopt a Reserves Policy. Cllr. Turner will amend the existing documents and circulate to the Cllrs.

75.3 Adopt Financial Regulations Previously read by Cllrs.

75.4 Risk assessment Previously read by Cllrs.

75.5 Agar Form. Previously read by Cllrs

75.6 Internal Audit Report by Jan Stobart Previously read by Cllrs

75.7 Risk Assessment & Overview of Finances. Presented by Cllr. Marriage

75.8 Appoint an RFO Cllr. Marriage agreed to continue for next year.

75.9 June Receipts There is an alteration. The Multi sports Court receipt should read £775.00 + .33p int. Total should be £775.33, to be changed on the website. Cllr. Moore reported good usage of the courts.

75.10 July Payments These were agreed by the Parish Council

Nos. 75.2 to 75.10 were formally adopted by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Strain

Cllr. Turner on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Cllr. Marriage for his hard work in sorting out the accounts and audit. He asked for this to be recorded in the Minutes. Agreed by all Councillors.

20/118 Planning/Housing

76.1 Plans for discussion at meeting No plans submitted

76.2 Planning Applications None.

20/119 County Broadband A close watch should be kept on any attempts to erect poles in the New Cut opposite the school and hall. As discussed previously an attempt will be made to recoup cost of the Solicitors bill, from County Broadband.

20/120 Tollgate Partnership Draft letter for parishioners, from the Tollgate Partnership, had previously been circulated to Cllrs.

20/121 Grass Cutting A quotation contract from Pinnacle for 2020 had been found. An invoice for £2330.40 (incl VAT) from October 2019 had been paid in January 2020 (recorded in January minutes)

20/122 V J Day 15th. August A letter from the Pageant Master had been received, suggesting that the church bells be rung. The bell ringers would not agree to this, as it would be impossible to social distance.

A suggestion that a suitable poem could be read out at the Cross, following by singing God Save the Queen. Flowers to be laid at the War Memorial. This would be advertised in the Parish Magazine & on Social Media. This was agreed by all the Council.

20/123 Solar Panels Minutes of a zoom meeting with the Company had been circulated. A site meeting is to take place on Wednesday 15th. July. Cllrs. Anne Hughes, Ian Moore & Brian Turner will attend. Compensation as previously discussed, will be followed up.

20/124 Housing Needs Survey The returns were very disappointing. A further leaflet drop was suggested. This time not to be sent out in blank envelopes. Agreed not to give results to Tollgate Partnership, but to ask Cllr. Andrew Ellis to give his opinion.

20/125 COVID 19 Play Area Information was given to residents regarding the use of the play equipment. 3 separate signs were put up, to say the play area was not officially open and that they were using it at their own risk.

20/126 Heatherfields Damage Information signs have all be destroyed. Fire Risk and No cycling.

The Heatherfields Lease is still intact. Cllr.Anne Hughes had written to Jason Bolitho (footpaths) His reply had been circulated to Cllrs. The wooden gate to stop cycles has been destroyed. Cllr.Holmes thinks it is due to cycles being lifted over. Cllr.Moore suggested a kissing gate concreted in to deter cyclists.

Cllr.Anne Hughes is sure a licence is needed and then only if there is livestock. According to Mr.Bolitho little can be done, as a metal gate would not be allowed.

Cllr Moore will get some quotes and ask Cllr.Bentley for advice.

20/127 Appointment of new Clerk It was agreed the post should be advertised, with a short deadline of 2 weeks. Cllr.Anne Hughes has put an advert in the August Parish Magazine.

20/128 CIF Cllr.Holmes is dealing with filling in the appropriate forms, to obtain funding for the regeneration of the fencing and posts at the Cross. The Parish Council has fully agreed to this going ahead, if funding can be obtained. So far Cllr.Holmes has had 30 replies from residents fully supporting the area being repaired and made to look good. 3 Quotations for the work are needed. Cllr. Moore is researching this. The application should be in by the 16th.August.

20/129 Laptop replacement Cllr.Sarah Hughes has, with Mark Jones' help, been researching a suitable updated version. With all the attachments required it will be in the region of £600. Cllr.Turner made the suggestion that an external hard drive for backing up, would be useful. As previously mentioned in the minutes, Cllr.Bentley could help with funding.

20/130 Speeding Cars and Motor Bikes The problem is escalating with cars and motorbikes speeding through the village and congregating at the causeway Abberton Reservoir. Numerous complaints are being made by residents to the Police. The Police having been monitoring the situation, but seem to be no further forward in stopping it. Residents should continue to report incidents to the Police.

20/131 Information Exchange/Items for next Agenda An accident, between 2 cars on Malting Green, resulted in the dog bin and a sign being knocked over.

Village Hall Car Park Sign A resident brought to Cllr.Moores' attention, the sign on the village hall wall, re wheel clamping of unauthorised car parking. Cllr.Moore will investigate.

Village Hall opening Cllr.Moore reported on behalf of the village hall management committee, that this will not happen before 14th.September at the earliest. This is due to the problems of sanitizing the hall between usage. It would be costly and not practical.

GDPR letter Cllr.Sarah Hughes had a letter from the ICO (Information Commissioner Office) regarding renewal of the Parish Council's licence. Cllr.Marriage will check payment.

Footpath Cutting Cllr Chambers enquired as to when footpaths will be cut. This only happens once a year now, due to costs. CBC should cut back foliage late summer.

Date of Next Meeting Should be 10th.August and if it is felt necessary, will be confirmed nearer the date. This would be a zoom meeting again.