

**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES MONDAY 10TH.AUGUST 2020
HELD BY ZOOM**

Present; Cllrs.Anne Hughes, Sarah Hughes, Peter Bunting, Clive Chambers, Maggie Holmes, Richard Marriage, Ian Moore, Mike Strain, Brian Turner.
County Cllr.Kevin Bentley

20/133 Apologies for absence; Cllrs. Andrew Ellis & Jackie McLean.

Chairman Cllr.Anne Hughes welcomed those present. There were 3 members of the public. Caroline Chambers and 2 Brownies, who were observing the work of the council.

20/134 Declaration of members Interests; Cllr.C.Chambers had quoted for CIF work at the Cross.

20/135 Public Open Forum; None

20/136 To approve minutes of the last meeting (13/7/20) Approved

20/137 County Cllr. Kevin Bentley reported; he has received numerous complaints, about repairs to the pavements and kerbs, made by County Broadband. They have also a broken slab, at the play area entrance. Cllr Bentley will make a visit to the village, take photos and make a report to Highways. Cllr.Anne Hughes had written twice to Lloyd Felton CEO of County Broadband, about the solicitor's bill incurred. There had been no response. Cllr.Holmes said work had started in New Cut. Cllr.Bentley will also check on that. Cllr.Bentley had had a complaint about low flying army helicopters. He had written to the Commander and the response given was that they need to practice, for when they go on exercise.

Cllr.Sarah Hughes will pass on the quotes for the new laptop. Cllr Bentley will apply for a contribution from either the Borough or County funds.

Speeding cars along Church Road to the reservoir, despite the exclusion zone around the reservoir, has not improved and if anything got worse. Cllr Bentley will write to the police again and go himself to observe what is happening He will also contact the Safe Essex Partnership, to find out when the speed watch can start again.

Cllr.Bentley left the meeting at 8.15pm.

20/138 Clerk's Report; To adopt the Code of Conduct, as on the website. Agreement proposed by Cllr.Marriage and seconded by Cllr.Sarah Hughes. All Councillors agreed to the proposal.

20/139 Finance

139.1 Cllr.Marriage gave a statement of the accounts. There were 2 additions to the payments. One for removal of a wasp nest from the playing field and one for 3 months payment to B.Telecom.

Cllr.Marriage will communicate with Richard Larkin (Hall treasurer) regarding broadband account.

Opus Energy had received a cheque from the previous Clerk, with no notification as to who it was from. Cllr Marriage has sorted this out and there is now a bill for £6.57 which will bring the account up to date.

139.2

July Receipts

Multi sports Court £340.00

Repayment of VAT £1447.84

Bank Interest .34

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£1778.18

139.3 To Approve Payments

1707	Northumberland Water	Allotments	£75.00
1707	Northumberland Water	Tennis Courts	£75.00
1708	ICO GDPR/Data		£40.00
1709	Sue Priestland	Grass Cutting	£45.00
1710	EALC Training	Cllr.M.Holmes	£48.00
1711	CALC Subscription		£35.00
1712	N.Essex Pest Control	Wasp Nest	£125.00
1713	British Telecom	3 months	£92.26

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£535.26

20/140 Planning/Housing

140.1 Applications for discussion at meeting. Previously circulated and agreed.

201582 Lone Ash, Abberton Rd. Renewable permission to dwell in accommodation at bottom at the bottom of the garden, whilst house is being built.

Note made this should be returned to non dwelling on completion.

201399 Donkey and Buskins. Permission to build new dining area and Disabled toilets.

201400 Donkey and Buskins,(Listed building permission needed).

201213 5 Les Bois. Single storey rear extension

140.2 Decisions Received since last meeting.

200866. 8 Hawfinch Road. Single storey extension. **Approved**

200958 High Tor Abberton Road. Amendments to original plan **Approved**

201025 Folleywood. The Folley **Approved**

20/141 County Broadband. A letter has been sent to Lloyd Felton, asking for reimbursement of the money spent, by the Parish Council, on a solicitor to deal with problems caused. Cllr.Anne Hughes has resent the letter, as there had been no reply to the first one.

As previously discussed, Cllr.Bentley is going to monitor the pavement situation.

Cllr.Holmes will monitor the situation in the New Cut. Work has started both ends of the road.

20/142 Tollgate Partnership They are updating their leaflet for the village. As yet, nothing has been heard from them. Concern was expressed, by the Council, about the change in planning regarding permitted development. It could make a difference to the proposed housing, in The Folley.

20/143 Grass Cutting Cllr Anne Hughes has sent a letter to Estuary Housing asking for their share towards grass cutting at Millfields. No reply Cllr. Hughes will resend.

20/144 V J Day; A short ceremony at 11am at the Cross. Cllr.Anne Hughes has carried out a risk assessment. The ceremony will last about 10 mins. Plastic tape will be erected to make rows and there will be marshalls. David Barnes will play the Last Post. Edward Alport to read the poem "Crying for Peace".

20/145 Solar Panels; Three Parish Councillors met up with the company and walked the site. It is likely there will be some monetary benefit for the village. Nothing else to report at this stage.

20/146 Heatherfields Damage; A letter from Jason Bolitho (Footpath Officer) had been circulated previously. The Council thanked Cllr.Mike Strain and his son, for clearing the footpath and mending the bridge.

20/147 New Laptop; Cllr.Sarah Hughes has researched and found a suitable replacement laptop. Together with Microsoft 365, antivirus and external hard drive, the cost to be approximately £550. As agreed with County Cllr.Bentley the Parish Council will contribute £100 towards the cost.

20/148 Speeding cars and Motor Bikes; Previously discussed under County Councillor Report. Cllr.Anne Hughes has written to the police again. There has been a report by a resident of cars speeding down New Cut again. If licence numbers can be obtained that would be very useful to pass on to police.

20/149 Play Area Cllr.Moore reported that the play area needs some repair. There is a hole in the rubber matting under the swings. The next inspection is in October. The repair needs to be carried out after the school holidays. Cllr.Moore will check the "use at your own risk" signs are all in place.

20/150 Information Exchange

Cllr. Marriage has concerns about the Tollgate Partnership and new planning rules. This is reported under 20/142.

Cllr.Chambers reported that the pond on Malting Green is very silted up. Cllr.Anne Hughes will contact Brad Ives, to quote for clearing the area, as it is very dry it could be a good time to do it. Cllr.Marriage suggested asking Cllr.Bentley if he would be able contribute from his Borough/County funds.

This item should be on September's agenda.

Cllr.Moore said that Tim Pickard has had details passed to him re; the insurance from the accident that damaged the sign and dog bin on Malting Green.

Cllr.Chambers has said he will concrete the no parking sign back in.

Richard Playle has trimmed back the hedge near Brickwall Farm, at the Cross.

Cllr.Holmes has been given an anonymous donation of £100, towards the remembrance garden, at the Cross.

20/151 Appointment of new Clerk; Cllr.Anne Hughes thanked the public for attending and asked if they would please leave the zoom meeting, as this was confidential.

Both candidates, had excellent attributes. Neither were professional Clerks, but both were willing to undertake the necessary training for the job. Both would be capable of carrying out the duties required of a Clerk, while training. All councillors were given a vote. Cllr.Marriage abstained from voting.

The majority were in favour of offering the position to Mrs.Linda Berrett-West. She lives in the village and would be easily accessible. A great advantage for this job, which has many diverse parts to it.

Cllr.Turner, together with Cllrs.Anne Hughes and Cllr Holmes will prepare a contract, detailing hours and pay scales. It was agreed that the position should have an initial 6 months probationary period, which could be terminated on either side, by giving 1 weeks' notice. Starting date 1st.September 2020.

20/152 CIF Cllr.Chambers had an interest in this discussion, having submitted a quote, so Cllr.Anne Hughes, requested that he absented himself from the meeting, which he duly did.

3 quotes were considered. Revill Property Services is to be offered the contract.

Cllr.Holmes will submit the quotes with the necessary paperwork to CIF. Decision is made in October. If successful, then it would be good to carry out the work, dependant on availability, between October and December this year.

20/153 To confirm date and time of next meeting

Monday 8th.September at 8pm (possibly by zoom)

