

Minutes of Layer de la Haye Parish Council meeting

Held on Monday 14th September 2020 at 8.00pm via Zoom

Present Cllr Anne Hughes, Cllr Sarah Hughes, Cllr Maggie Holmes, Cllr Peter Bunting, Cllr Brian Turner, Cllr Richard Marriage, Cllr Clive Chambers, Parish Clerk Linda Berrett-West, CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley, CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis, Laura Atkinson RCCE and 1 resident J Lynch

20/154 Apologies for absence

Cllr Ian Moore, Cllr Mike Strain

20/155 Declaration of Members Interest

Cllr Clive Chambers declared an interest in planning application ref 201829

20/156 Public Open Forum

Cllr Anne Hughes welcomed Laura Atkinson from RCCE to discuss the allocation of rural needs housing. Laura advised of a poor uptake to the survey run earlier in the year with only 8 dwellings being identified from respondents from a previously projected 15. Laura Atkinson felt the timing of the survey and poor response could have been affected by the emergence of Covid 19. CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley said consideration must also be given to perceived stigma attached to respondents having to go on CBC housing needs register. CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis advised that as things stood the remainder of dwellings on the exception site would go to open market. Cllr Anne Hughes asked if it would be possible to request for more smaller bungalows to be built. Cllr Andrew Ellis & Cllr Kevin Bentley both agreed that the Parish Council should discuss this with the developer as a need for more affordable housing especially within the boundary of the rural exception site. Cllr Sarah Hughes said the proposed development of 70 new dwellings was a 10% increase to the number of dwellings in the village which currently stands at approx. 700. Cllr Sarah Hughes asked whether other villages were also being subjected to this same percentage increase and CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis said he would look at the emerging local plan and advised. Cllr Sarah Hughes asked Laura Atkinson if a follow up survey in regards to identifying affordable housing needs could be run. Laura advised that although the timescale was tight this could be done and that she would contact Cllr Anne Hughes the following day with details.

20/157 To approve the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

The minute of the previous meeting dated 10th August 2020 were approved. These minutes were signed by the Chairman.

20/158 To receive Reports from County Councillor and Borough Councillors

CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported that he would be submitting later this week the request for repair of potholes and confirmed the entrance and exit to Old Forge Road from Malting Green Road was top of the list for repair. CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley asked Cllr Sarah Hughes to ensure he is copied in on all communication regarding the request for funds to assist in the purchase of new computer.

CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis asked whether there had been any noticeable reduction in speeding through the village and across the reservoir since the Police speed check signs had been installed. Cllr Turner stated that it was too early to tell as noise of vehicles accelerating in the area of the reservoir could still be heard at times. Cllr Andrew Ellis regularly drives the route, he has noted far less spectator presence in the area of the reservoir and felt some success to Operation Dolphin had been achieved but would contact the Police to ask for this to be re-run.

20/159 Clerks Report

To adopt the new Grievance and Disciplinary Policy as sent to each Councillor, this will then be displayed on the Parish Council website. Agreement proposed by Cllr Anne Hughes and seconded by Cllr Maggie Holmes. All Councillors present agreed to the proposal.

The Clerk Linda Berrett- West explained her training path, request for funds to support this training, and offer to add a clause within her contract of employment for repayment in full of all training fees should she leave for any reasons within 2 years of appointment. Agreement was proposed by Cllr Sarah Hughes

and seconded by Cllr Brian Turner. All councillors present agreed to the proposal. Cllr Richard Marriage suggested allocating £500 from the money saved from the 3-month period of having no paid clerk in post to a training budget. Agreement proposed by Cllr Anne Hughes and seconded by Cllr Peter Bunting. All councillors present agreed to the proposal.

20/160 Finance

160.1 Cllr Richard Marriage gave a statement of the accounts.

There had been a reduction in the outstanding BT Bill due to removal of a £40 late payment fee reducing the outstanding amount to £30.25. Previous issues of matching payments with Opus energy had now been concluded and the account currently has a credit of £130.73 and it has been suggested that we look to change to a lower rate when the contract comes to an end. Cllr Marriage suggests we look at moving funds away from Lloyds Bank as we received an interest payment of only 9 pence on a balance of £11,000. It was agreed by all councillors present that this should be explored but Cllr Sarah Hughes advised that some higher interest accounts would be unacceptable as they do not accept parish/charity accounts.

160.2 August Receipts

Multi Sports Court	375.00
Bank Interest	0.09

	£ 379.09

160.3 To approve payments

1714 – Sue Priestland ref Grass Cutting	45.00
1715 – BT Account	30.25
1716 – RJ Playle	60.00

	£ 135.25

20/161 Planning /Housing

161.1 Applications for discussion at meeting

201629 Potash, Abberton Road – The Parish Council have responded with agreement to the building of a small annexe but with condition that this should not become a separate dwelling.

201582 Lone Ash Abberton Road – Passed as renewable permission to dwell in accommodation at bottom of garden but with condition that this is returned to non-dwelling on completion of main dwelling or 2-year anniversary from date granted.

201829 Land adjacent to Little Garlands, Abberton Road. Application received for the building of 2 detached 4-bedroom dwellings with associated garages, parking and amenities. Parish Council will be rejecting the application as: it is outside the village envelope; not part of the village plan; not the type of housing the village needs; also regarded as ribbon development which is discouraged by Colchester Borough Council.

161.2 Planning Applications where decisions/comments received from Colchester Borough Council

201213 5 Les Bois – Passed

201399 Donkey and Buskins – Passed

201400 Donkey and Buskins, Listed Building - Passed

20/162 County Broadband

Cllr Anne Hughes reported that no response to date had been received from Mr Felton requesting a donation towards work on the pond. This item would be added to the October 2020 agenda

20/163 Tollgate Partnership

Cllr Anne Hughes expressed concern that insufficient bungalows seem to be included and that once the planning consultation period had finished this would need to be discussed with the Tollgate Partnership.

Cllr Sarah Hughes felt the Parish Council needed a degree of separation from the current planning proposal to show residents that they were listening to views from all sides. Cllr Sarah Hughes suggested the inclusion of a letter within the Parish Magazine but Cllr Anne Hughes was concerned that the deadline for the October magazine may have already passed but the option would be explored.

20/164 **Grass Cutting**

Cllr Anne Hughes advised that there had still been no response received from Estuary regarding payment for the hedge and grass cutting at Millfield's. Cllr Anne Hughes asked for views concerning the maintenance and upkeep of Malting Green as it was generally felt that the grass was often cut when unnecessary and the pond was rapidly becoming overgrown. Cllr Anne Hughes will contact Richard Playle to talk about cutting the growth around the pond. Cllr Clive Chambers stated that it would be easier to tackle the issue of digging out the overgrown pond now rather than waiting and Cllr Sarah Hughes asked if it would be possible to put money in the kitty now and then refunding should money be received from County Broadband. No decision was reached and this item will be put back on the October 2020 agenda. Cllr Anne Hughes thanked Cllr Clive Chambers for completing repairs to the damaged signs on Malting Green.

A letter had been previously circulated to the council for Malting Green Residents outlining access and parking rights. Cllr Richard Marriage expressed the need to change the wording of the second paragraph to include all visiting vehicles must also be parked within the owner's boundary. Agreement proposed by Cllr Anne Hughes and seconded by Cllr Maggie Holmes. All Councillors present agreed to the proposal

20/165 **V J Day**

Approximately 50 people attended the short service. Social distancing was adhered to. Nothing further to report.

20/166 **Solar Farm**

No further information to report

20/167 **Heatherfields**

No further information to report

20/168 **Laptop**

Cllr Sarah Hughes now has the new laptop but has not submitted a bill for reimbursement of cost due to an error with charges by the supplier but once resolved the invoice will be passed to Cllr Richard Marriage.

20/169 **Speeding Cars and Motorbikes**

Previously discussed under the County Councillor and Borough Councillors report item 20/158

20/170 **Play Area**

Cllr Anne Hughes confirmed that notices advising "use at own risk" had been replaced around the play area and that repairs would need to be carried out in the Autumn by the authorised company. Cllr Anne Hughes also reported that too many parents and children are using the play area after school and that a complaint had been received from a parent and the headmistress in which they had requested whether the Parish Council could further enforce usage rules. Cllr Anne Hughes stated that there is no further action that the Parish Council could take.

20/171 **CIF and the Cross Flower Bed**

Nothing further to report

20/172 **Remembrance Sunday**

Cllr Anne Hughes said that no poppies will be sold in the village this year but wreaths could be ordered for the service at the cross

20/172 **Information Exchange**

Cllr Anne Hughes expressed her gratitude to Virginia Bunting for covering the task of minute taking

following departure of the clerk in June.

Cllr Clive Chambers advised that no "Police speed check Signs" had been put up on Abberton Road.

Cllr Brian Turner referred back to planning application 201829 under item 161.1 asking Cllr Clive Chambers on behalf of a resident whether any trees on the proposed site would be affected. Cllr Chambers confirmed that no trees apart from trimming would be affected.

Cllr Richard Marriage had nothing to report.

Cllr Peter Bunting advised that the lettering on some signs around Malting Green were faded and needed to be looked at.

Cllr Maggie Holmes confirmed that the result of the CIF would be known on 20th October and work had provisionally been agreed to start on 26th October 2020. Cllr Maggie Holmes further confirmed that she is still holding the anonymous donation of £100 given for use on the flower bed at the cross.

Cllr Sarah Hughes said a token of gratitude on behalf of the Parish Council should be sent to Virginia Bunting suggesting a bouquet of flowers.

Layer Colts will be using the playing field for some matches this Autumn.

20/173 **To confirm date and time of next meeting**

Monday 12th October at 8pm possibly via Zoom