

Minutes of Layer de la Haye Parish Council meeting

Held on Monday 12th Oct 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 Ian Moore, Cllr Mike Strain, Parish Clerk Linda Berrett-West, CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley and 1 resident
- 20/174** Apologies for absence
Cllr Clive Chambers, CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis, CBC Cllr Jackie Mclean
- 20/175** Declaration of Members Interest
Nothing to report
- 20/176** Public Open Forum
Nothing to report
- 20/177** To approve the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting
The minute of the previous meeting dated 14th September 2020 were approved. These minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 20/178** To receive Reports from County Councillor and Borough Councillors
CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley gave a brief exchange of information on the Covid 19 situation following the new 3 tier lockdown system announced in parliament earlier in the day. Cllr Brian Turner asked what level Essex was currently placed in under the new tier system and CBC Councillor Kevin Bentley stated Tier 1. Cllr Anne Hughes said she was concerned how any change to restrictions may impact Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Kevin Bentley said if there was to be any change to social gatherings, he would ensure all his parish councils would be advised,
CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley said he had written to the Solar Farm developers Low Carbon concerning unusable routes into and out of the village whilst the site was being developed. Cllr Kevin Bentley said that he stated that their vehicles must not enter or exit the village via the bridge at Birch Dam nor over the Kings Ford bridge just below the Donkey & Buskins public House on B1026. Cllr Anne Hughes said she had received information from the developers saying that the preferred route was to be B1026 but from the direction of the village of Salcott onto Great Wigborough Road that runs across Abberton Reservoir and then to access the site from a lane opposite the Church. Cllr Kevin Bentley stated that was good news but we would need to get the developers to put that into writing. Cllr Anne Hughes said she had received some communication from residents following the distribution of the consultation letters and, the main concern was the digging up of several roads through the village in order to connect to the Abberton Substation a distance of some 1.3miles from the site. Cllr Anne Hughes also said she had received information from the developers concerning financial payments to the village in the form of an Annual Dividend or one-off payment. Cllr Anne Hughes said this would need to be reviewed in order to get the best financial option for the village.
Cllr Kevin Bentley asked if there were any other matters that needed to be discussed before he left the meeting and Cllr Ian Moore asked for **Agenda item 20/185** to be discussed. Cllr Ian Moore said a major issue of safety was developing at the school in light of the irresponsible and dangerous parking on the pavement and road opposite the school by people dropping off and collecting pupils. Cllr Mike Strain said cars were now double parking/stopping in the road alongside cars already parked on the pavements resulting on those pupils and parents who walk to the school having to walk out into the road to negotiate the vehicles as the pavements are completely blocked. Cllr Brian Turner said it was impossible to get a pushchair between the vehicles on the pavement and with no lollipop person this was an accident waiting to happen. Cllr Kevin Bentley said outside of London parking on the pavement is not illegal but as this was clearly becoming a matter of safety the police should be involved. Cllr Mike Strain said those collecting pupils were parking up as early as 2.30pm even though the children did not come out until 3pm onwards. CBC Cllr Kevin Strain said the parish council should speak to the Parking Partnership to come down and just make their presence visible as a deterrent but he would also write to the local divisional commander at Essex Police to ask for the police to attend on grounds of safety. Cllr Anne Hughes said

they would make contact with the Parking Partnership and would welcome any intervention from the police.

Cllr Anne Hughes asked CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley if Operation Dolphin had been concluded. CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley said the police would continue to do spot checks on speeding vehicles through the village and across the reservoir but there would be no regular operation. Cllr Ian Moore said there was still an issue of some cars and motorcycles still speeding but at least there seem to be no further incidences of organised meets.

CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley left the meeting at 8.20pm

20/179 Clerks Report

The Clerk Linda Berrett- West reported that the light outside the village shop was flickering and this was one of the six lights owned and maintained by the village and would need attention. Also, a letter had been received from the church with regards to the annual donation towards the upkeep of the church yard. Cllr Anne Hughes asked for both matters to be put onto the agenda for the November meeting.

20/180 Finance

180.1 Cllr Richard Marriage gave a statement of the accounts previously circulated.
Estuary Housing – payment for the outstanding grass and hedge cutting totally £690 had been received bringing the account up to date.
Cross – donations totally £200 had now been received anonymously for the development of the flower border at the cross.
Layer Colts- a donation of £500 had now been received from Layer colts to help with the upkeep of the recreation ground. A donation would be made of £10 for every match played each week. Cllr Ian Moore said this arrangement would continue until further notice
Wasp Nests – Cllr Brian Turner asked where the wasp nests that had been treated were located. Cllr Anne Hughes confirmed they had been near to and around the play area on the recreational field

180.2 September Receipts

CBC Precept	8825.50
Colts Donation	500.00
Bank Interest	0.09

	£9325.59

180.3 To approve payments

1718 – Sue Priestland ref Grass Cutting	45.00
1719 – Noble Fund, Heatherfields	518.93
1720 – North Essex Pest Control / Wasp Nests	150.00
1721 - Bradley Ives (Tennis Court Hedge)	186.00
1722 - CBC (Street Lights)	88.74
1723 – Sarah Hughes (New lap Top)	333.98
1724 – BT	36.26
1725 – Linda Berrett-West	471.60

	£1776.51

20/181 Planning /Housing

181.1 Applications already seen by the Parish Council
201960 - Sycamore House, 48A High Road, Front Porch, No Objections
201961 - Corner House, Lower End, Extension to side of house, No objections
202046 - 52 High Road, Extension to front of house, No objections
201829 - Land adjacent to Little Garlands, Abberton Road. Building of 2 detached 4-bedroom dwellings with associated garages, parking and amenities. The parish council have objected to this planning application, on the grounds that it is outside the Village

envelope, and ribbon development . Cllr Sarah Hughes said as long as Cllr Clive Chambers separates himself away from the parish council view he can appeal. Cllr Anne Hughes asked for it to be put in the minutes that Cllr Clive Chambers has not been involved in any discussions concerning this application in view of his declared interest at the Parish Council Meeting on 14th September 2020.

- 181.2 Planning Applications where decisions/comments received from Colchester Borough Council
201582 Lone Ash had been granted a 2-year extension for use of sheds at the bottom of the garden as temporary dwellings whilst house is being built. Extension granted until 16th September 2022

20/182 **County Broadband**

Cllr Anne Hughes reported that the original letter sent to County Broadbands CEO Lloyd Felton asking for a donation towards expenses incurred by the Parish Council remained unanswered. Cllr Anne Hughes further reported that following additional work carried out by County Broadband around Malting Green during week commencing 28th September that their workmen had cut through a water mains pipe resulting in flooding of the pond, surrounding green and adjacent road. Cllr Anne Hughes has now written to CEO Lloyd Felton regarding this second incident. Cllr Brian Turner suggested we prepare a bill covering all expenses incurred by the Parish Council to include an amount for compensation for the delay to cleaning out the pond which will require additional work following the flooding. Cllr Anne Hughes will copy CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley in all correspondence regarding these matters.

20/183 **Tollgate Partnership**

Cllr Anne Hughes reported that we are awaiting a response from Tollgate regarding resident feedback on the planning proposal. Cllr Anne Hughes said there had been a good response to the latest rural housing needs survey.

20/184 **Grass Cutting**

Cllr Anne Hughes reported that Richard Playe was currently looking at cutting back around the pond but general thoughts were the recent flooding of the area **Agenda Item 20/182** would result in much needed work being delayed until next year.

20/185 **Parking on Pavement by School**

Previously discussed and minutes taken under **Agenda Item 20/178**. Cllr Ian Moore added that on occasions it had been noted that drivers of vehicles were leaving their engines running sometimes for as long as 10 to 15 minutes. Cllr Mike Strain suggested the parish council should advise the headmistress that we are requesting attendance of police and parking enforcement officers. Cllr Brian Turner agreed this should be done. Cllr Anne Hughes suggested also informing the school governors of proposed action.

20/186 **Solar Farm**

Cllr Anne Hughes reported that she had received letters mainly supporting the development. Cllr Mike Strain reported that he had received comments saying too close to village. Cllr Brian Turner said it was a shame to once again see fields disappear in the name of progress but at least it is not another housing estate.

20/187 **Heatherfields**

Cllr Maggie Holmes reported that she had been contacted by a local resident complaining of cyclists riding through the woods and their apparent disrespect for others. Cllr Maggie Holmes asked for No Cycling Signs to be placed at entrance to the woods accessed from the village but more importantly at the metal and zig zag bridge to advise cyclist coming from the direction of Oliver's Lane. Cllr Anne Hughes said that signs could not be placed on land rented by EWT as they would probably be removed. Cllr Ian Moore said he had signs that included the No Cycling request and that he would place these at the two bridges suggested by Cllr Maggie Holmes.

20/188 **Multisport Court**

Cllr Ian Moore reported that there had been an issue with switching suppliers for electricity from Opus to EDF. Cllr Richard Marriage advised that he had spoken to both suppliers and that the date set for

change of contract from Opus to EDF would be 29th October 2020.

Speeding Cars and Motorbikes

20/189

Previously discussed under **agenda item 20/168**. Cllr Ian Moore advised that a speed watch had been planned for this coming Sunday. Cllr Anne Hughes reported that a request for volunteers to join the speed watch team had been made due to numbers of active volunteers dropping to around 6. At the moment there is no training due to Covid.

20/190

Play Area

Cllr Ian Moore reported the equipment in the play area was in very poor condition. Cllr Anne Hughes asked whether anyone knew when Playquip might attend the site to review. Cllr Sarah Hughes said invariably they will just turn up unannounced in October. Cllr Ian Moore felt the village may need to fundraise to replace some of the equipment but agreed it was best to wait for their visit and subsequent report before any action would be taken. Cllr Ian Moore asked for an opinion on the new signage for the play area that he had previously sent to all councillors for review. It was agreed by all councillors present that these new signs should be used. Cllr Brian Turner proposed that this new signage should be adopted and this was seconded by Cllr Mike Strain. Cllr Ian Moore will arrange for 6 new signs to be printed and placed around the play area.

20/191

CIF and the Cross Flower Bed

Cllr Maggie Holmes reported that she was still awaiting the result of the CIF application which would be known on 23rd October 2020. Cllr Maggie Holmes asked what would be the position with regards to Revills who had been awarded the contract to do the work should, our funding application be unsuccessful as they had made contact asking this question. Cllr Ian Moore said £1600 was needed and we would need to look at other ways to fund the project. Cllr Ian Moore reported that 4 anonymous donations had been made towards the project totalling the £200 reported as received by Cllr Richard Marriage. Cllr Ian Moore and Cllr Mike Strain had already prepared part of the flower bed by putting onto place sleepers and top soil. Cllr Maggie Holmes asked if the painted stones would be incorporated into the design and Cllr Ian Moore confirmed they would be.

20/192

Remembrance Sunday

Cllr Anne Hughes said that it was looking likely that the Service on Remembrance Sunday would need to be scaled down in order to remain within the framework of the rule of 6 imposed by parliament in light of the covid 19 pandemic. Cllr Anne Hughes said if the event does go ahead lots of marshals would be required.

20/193

Information Exchange

Cllr Anne Hughes suggested that the monthly agenda should keep the same working headings and this was agreed as a good idea by all councillor's present.

Cllr Ian Moore reported that the fly tipping that had occurred earlier in the day by the church, names and addresses had been seen amongst the rubbish and a photograph had been taken of the details and reported to Colchester Borough Council. Cllr Anne Hughes suggested this information should also be passed on to Essex and Suffolk Water as it was actually their land where the fly tipping occurred.

Cllr Richard Marriage expressed the need to re do the Asset Register in the not too distant future.

Cllr Brian Turner reported that he had received communication from Dean Hill an electrician based in the village to say that he would be willing to undertake any work to replace parts on the village defibrillator.

Cllr Richard Marriage reported that a budget of £150 is in place for any required parts on the defibrillator. Cllr Brian Turner will forward the letter to the Parish Clerk Linda Berrett-West for action.

Cllr Maggie Holmes, Cllr Mike Strain and Cllr Peter Bunting had nothing to report.

20/194

To confirm date and time of next meeting

Monday 9th November at 8pm possibly via Zoom

The meeting closed at 9.18pm