

Minutes of Layer de la Haye Parish Council meeting

Held on Monday 9th November 2020 at 8.00pm via Zoom

Present Cllr Anne Hughes, Cllr Sarah Hughes, Cllr Maggie Holmes, Cllr Peter Bunting, Cllr Richard Marriage, Cllr Ian Moore, Cllr Mike Strain, Cllr Clive Chambers, Parish Clerk Linda Berrett-West, CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley, CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis and 1 resident

20/195 Apologies for absence

Cllr Brian Turner, CBC Cllr Jackie Mclean

20/196 Declaration of Members Interest

Cllr Clive Chambers declared an interest in planning application 202462, Land adjacent to Nightingale Corner, The Folley.

20/197 Public Open Forum

Cllr Anne Hughes welcomed Laura Atkinson from RCCE to the meeting.

Laura Atkinson gave a report on the follow up survey regarding affordable housing. Laura reported that the response had been very good and had identified the need for 13 dwellings of varying sizes (5x 1 bed, 6x 2 bed, 2x 3 bed) on the proposed rural exception site with a mix of tenure requirements. Laura further reported that 3 respondents had expressed specific housing needs for ground floor living.

Cllr Anne Hughes asked whether the report had been sent to the borough and Laura Atkinson confirmed that it had been forwarded to Ruth Newcombe of CBC but not The Tollgate Partnership. Laura Atkinson said it would be prudent for the Parish Council to review the report and tweak where necessary to ensure adequate dwellings of the right size and type were correctly identified before passing a copy on to The Tollgate Partnership. Laura Atkinson said affordable rented properties with adaptations are as good as bungalows. Cllr Andrew Ellis said where ground floor living had been requested, Chalet bungalows should be considered as these had proved popular elsewhere as these allowed for live in carers to sleep upstairs. Cllr Andrew Ellis said consideration should also be given to housing that would allow people already living in the village to stay by having the option to downsize.

Cllr Andrew Ellis suggested the Parish Council should contact Tollgate Partnership to discuss who the Affordable Housing Provider might be. Laura Atkinson agreed this would be beneficial and to push for a company who were experts on rural housing sites with a proven record of good communication and management.

Cllr Anne Hughes said the next steps once the Parish Council had given consideration to needs would be to contact CBC and The Tollgate Partnership to discuss these and to find out who the affordable housing provider would be.

Laura Atkinson left the meeting at 8.22pm

20/198 To approve the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

The minute of the previous meeting dated 12th October 2020 were approved. These minutes were signed by the Chairman.

20/199 To receive Reports from County Councillor and Borough Councillors

CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley asked if we had submitted our invoice for funding from the locality budget for the new laptop. Cllr Sarah Hughes advised this had yet to be done.

CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley gave a brief report on the current situation regarding covid-19 and how it affected the county of Essex. CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley said following the move to place the county into Tier 2 in mid-October, infection rates were now reported as dropping. Therefore, Essex County Council will be asking to be placed back into Tier 1 when the current National Lockdowns ends on 2nd December 2020.

CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported that Essex County Council were involved in the scheme to offer extra support to qualifying working families in the provision of free meals and activities for children during half term. CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley said a grant of £350 part of this half term emergency fund had been awarded to Layer Primary School.

CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported that he had written to Mr Ashkettle of County Broadband advising them of a number of serious issues of poor workmanship by his company that had occurred in the New Cut

and these matters needed to be escalated to include the borough Inspector for highways and the local MP Priti Patel. CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported that he received an immediate response from Mr Ashkettle and all issues were now receiving urgent attention. Cllr Anne Hughes advised that a response had also been received from Mr Felton of County Broadband in which they had offered to adopt the village project for the pond clearance on Malting Green following damage caused by them to a nearby water main that had resulted in flooding of the pond and part of Malting Green in late September. Mr Felton further advised in his letter that the pole incorrectly placed on Malting Green had also been removed.

CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis offered his congratulations to Cllr Maggie Holmes for her successful grant application to CIF.

CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis said having read the report from the recent consultation regarding the proposed housing development off of the Folley, this clearly highlighted two main issues; 1) access to the site 2) increase to number of proposed dwellings. Cllr Andrew Ellis said together with a discussion on the housing needs on the rural site the Parish Council should also be raising these other issues with The Tollgate Partnership.

CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley and CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis left the meeting at 8.33pm

20/200 Clerks Report

Nothing to report

20/201 Finance

201.1 Cllr Richard Marriage gave a statement of the accounts previously circulated.

Estuary Housing – a extra £100 had been received for the garden clearance. Cllr Anne Hughes had arranged for this work to be undertaken for the sum of £50, resulting in £50 added to the Parish Councils banking account.

Cllr Richard Marriage asked Cllr Sarah Hughes for the VAT receipt for the computer purchase but due to computer issues this had yet to be provided. Cllr Richard Marriage asked what the value of refund should we be requesting from CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley's locality budget. Cllr Sarah Hughes agreed it should be £220.

201.2 Octobers Receipts

Donations	700.00
Estuary Housing	790.00
Laver Colts	130.00
Multi Sports Courts	388.00
Bank Interest	0.09

	£2008.09

201.3 To approve payments

1726 – Sue Priestland / Grass Cutting	45.00
1727 – M A Hughes / Garden Clearance	50.00
1728 – Ian Moore / Memorial Garden	189.60
1729 - M A Hughes / Play Area Signs	100.80
1730 - J M O Jones / Wordpress	51.00
1731 – Richard Marriage / 24 x 2 nd class stamps	15.60
1732– Linda Berrett-West / Salary	417.67
1733 – BT	30.89
1734 – R J Playle / Hedge Cutting	672.00

	£1572.56

20/202 Planning /Housing

202.1 New Planning Applications

202462 – Land adjacent to Nightingale Corner, The Folley. Application to allow formation of

an opening to allow vehicular access onto land and erection of a gate. Parish Council discussed and approved the application providing it clearly states this is for agricultural use only.

202316 –17 Winstree Close, 1st floor side and rear extension. No objections but plans unclear

202.2 Applications already seen by the Parish Council

201829 – Land adjacent to Little Garlands, Abberton Road. Revised plans received. The parish Council has objected to this planning application.

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

201960 - Sycamore House, 48A High Road, Front Porch, CBC Approved.

201629 – Potash, CBC approved but conditional that unit must not become a separate dwelling.

20/203 County Broadband

Cllr Anne Hughes said although County Broadband had offered to adopt the project for pond clearing on Malting Green she was concerned as to whether they had either the expertise or knowledge to meet the environmental and ecological conditions when undertaking the clearance. Cllr Sarah Hughes asked about who would be liable if they damaged anything or what would happen if it went wrong, what insurance would they have or need in place. Cllr Maggie Holmes supported this concern and said this would all need to be put in writing before they commenced any work. Cllr Richard Marriage said it would be wise to make contact with Essex Wildlife Trust and ask if they would visit the site and advise by way of a report that could be discussed with County Broadband before they commenced any work on the pond. Cllr Anne Hughes said the work was usually done by hand and whether using a mechanical process was wise, Cllr Richard Marriage said he is concerned by their working processes following recent issues reported in the New Cut. Cllr Richard Marriage added that it looks like they have dug out roots and damaged the hedge backing onto the playing plus despite specific requests not to dig up the road close to the hedge. It was agreed by all councillors present that a report from EWT would be the first step.

20/204 Tollgate Partnership

Already covered under County Councillor and Borough Councillors Report Item 20/199

20/205 RCCE

Already covered under Public Open Forum Item 20/197

20/206 Grass Cutting

Cllr Anne Hughes reported that Richard Playle had completed a good job with the grass cutting and said moving forward we need to have better control on who, how and when this activity is undertaken in the future. Cllr Sarah Hughes said we have historically awarded the contract to Pinnacle as they were always the cheapest by a large margin. Cllr Anne Hughes asked the Parish Clerk Linda Berrett-West to look into the details of the contract and report back how much longer this was effective.

20/207 Parking on Pavement by School

Cllr Ian Moore reported that the situation with inappropriate parking continued and was at times pure chaos. Cllr Sarah Hughes said at the last meeting CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley had said he would request a visit by the Police and The Parking Partnership. Cllr Anne Hughes said she would contact CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley to see when this would be happening.

20/208 Solar Farm

Cllr Anne Hughes said the report on the public consultation was yet to be received. Cllr Anne Hughes asked the councillors present their feelings on the Community Scheme concerning the Solar Farm and it was unanimously agreed by all that this was not of any interest to the Parish Council.

20/209 Heatherfields

Cllr Ian Moore reported that he had placed new signs prohibiting cycling within the woods, including one by the wooden bridge coming from the direction of Oliver's Lane. Cllr Maggie Holmes asked if a further sign could be put by the Zig Zag bridge from the same direction of Oliver's Lane and Cllr Ian Moore said he would do that at his earliest opportunity.

20/210 **Multisport Court**

Cllr Ian Moore reported that income was going to be minimal for the next few weeks due to the closure of the Multisport Court in line with the National Lockdown.

Speeding Cars and Motorbikes

20/211

Cllr Ian Moore reported that there was very little change in speeding vehicles through the village in the direction of the reservoir with the main culprits being motorcyclists. Cllr Ian Moore further advised that the community speed watch was currently not active due to covid 19 lockdown restrictions.

20/212 **Play Area**

Cllr Ian Moore asked whether anyone knew when the last inspection by playquipe had been carried out. Cllr Sarah Hughes reported that they would normally visit twice a year and Cllr Richard Marriage said he had seen a report from a visit this year which he believed was April 2020. Cllr Anne Hughes asked the Parish Clerk Linda Berrett-West to look into this matter and to make contact with Playquipe to find out when the next visit was planned for.

20/213 **CIF and the Cross Flower Bed**

Cllr Anne Hughes congratulated Cllr Maggie Holmes for her successful CIF grant application. Cllr Maggie Holmes reported that Revell's had already started the work and that the grant would be paid to us on 27th November 2020. Cllr Ian Moore reported that the flower bed was being planted up with bedding plants and roses donated by residents. Cllr Ian Moore also reported that Mrs Gill Brown had suggested the possibility of a bench being donated in memory of her husband David.

20/214 **Remembrance Sunday**

Cllr Anne Hughes reported that the scaled down Remembrance Sunday event had gone well with approximately 140 people in attendance. Cllr Anne Hughes also reported that £240 had been placed in the donation buckets on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

20/215 **Fly Tipping**

Nothing to Report

20/216 **Church**

Cllr Richard Marriage proposed the donation towards the upkeep of the Church for £650 should be made by the Parish Council and this was agreed by all councillor's present.

20/217 **Village Lights**

Nothing to Report

20/218 **Information Exchange**

Cllr Clive Chambers reported that he had been approached by a local resident asking if the Parish Council knew where the entrance / exit was going to be in regards to the proposed housing development. Cllr Anne Hughes said we can only be honest and say we don't know.

Cllr Peter Bunting said he had seen a complaint on the Facebook group Secret Layer complaining of motorbikes around the vicinity of Fields Farm Road and were any of the councillor's aware of complaints. Cllr Sarah Hughes, Cllr Maggie Holmes, Cllr Richard Marriage, Cllr Ian Moore, Cllr Mike Strain and Cllr Anne Hughes had nothing to report.

20/194 **To confirm date and time of next meeting**

Monday 14th December at 8pm possibly via Zoom

The meeting closed at 9.10pm