

Minutes of Layer de la Haye Parish Council meeting

Held on Monday 14th December 2020 via Zoom

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

20/220 Apologies for absence

Cllr Sarah Hughes, CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis, CBC Cllr Jackie Mclean

20/221 Declaration of Members Interest

Nothing to Report

20/222 Public Open Forum

Nothing to Report

20/223 To approve the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 8th November 2020 were approved. These minutes were signed by the Chairman.

20/224 To receive Reports from County Councillor and Borough Councillors

CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported that each CBC Councillor had been allocated a hardship fund of £2000 to assist any small business such as catering and or hospitality firms that were struggling due to current COVID-19 restrictions around trading. CBC Kevin Bentley reported this fund could also be used by organisations such as charities/schools providing food parcels or meals. CBC Kevin Bentley together with all councillor's present agreed that identifying those in need is not easy as often pride would stop businesses/people asking for help. CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley said he would need to approve any grant requested.

Cllr Brian Turner asked CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley whether there were any plans to review Tiers following the 5 days over Christmas where the government would ease restrictions allowing families to meet. CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported that providing people behaved over the Christmas period then it was hopeful Essex would return to Tier 2.

Cllr Ian Moore asked CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley whether he had received the pictures he had sent across showing the damaged school crossing sign with the wires hanging out, CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley asked for these to be resent to his county email address as issues receiving mail had been identified with his local birch&wintree email address. Cllr Ian Moore also asked when the pot holes previously identified would be repaired as the one at the entrance to Old Forge Road was becoming particularly dangerous to pedestrians crossing the road. CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley said he would chase this up in the new year.

CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley asked whether the school parking was still an issue and Cllr Ian Moore advised this was still a major issue and asked CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley when would the CBC parking enforcement team would visit. CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley said he would email the parking enforcement team again asking them to attend.

Cllr Anne Hughes advised CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley that the parish council had a meeting next week with Low Carbon the solar farm developers. CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley said he had not received any rumblings from local residents so that was a good sign.

CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported that it had all gone quiet with the developers of the proposed new housing development following the public consultations which had clearly identified an issue with the proposed site entrance / exit. Cllr Anne Hughes said she was concerned people who had responded to the survey saying they had a need for local housing would miss out as they had not joined the borough housing needs list.

CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley left the meeting at 8.18pm

20/225 Clerks Report

The clerk Linda Berrett-West reported on the following points:-

Defibrillator - We had been contacted by Dean Hill from TH Electricals advising that the adult battery pack in the unit needed replacing and did we have a budget in place to cover this work. Cllr Richard Marriage confirmed that a sum of £150 was available within the annual budget to cover for any such works. The clerk Linda Berrett-West will liaise between Dean Hill and DeFib Uk to get this work completed as soon as possible.

Grounds Maintenance – Letters had been sent out on 18th November to Pinnacle, Richard Playle and Glover Landscapes inviting them quote for our 2021 ground maintenance work. To date we have heard nothing from Richard Playle or Glover Landscape and Pinnacles letter had been returned by royal mail with notification that recipient had gone away. Linda reported that she had contacted Pinnacles office in Clacton who had advised it was best to contact their head office in London which had subsequently been done.

Street Lights - the light outside the shop and the fox public house have previously been reported to CBC needing repair. Linda confirmed that she has now also spoken to Simon High at CBC who has confirmed the matter is in hand.

20/226 Finance

226.1 Cllr Richard Marriage gave a statement of the accounts previously circulated.
Pinnacle Housing had not invoiced us for recent grounds maintenance work which is unusual as this normally comes in monthly.

226.2 Novembers Receipts

Multi Sports Courts	169.00
Bank Interest	0.09

	£ 169.09

226.3 To approve payments

1735 – Nigel Revill / Fencing at the Cross	1606.98
1736 - Sue Priestland / Grass Cutting	45.00
1737 – RCCE /Housing Survey	414.60
1738 – Ian Moore / Repairs at the Cross	32.95
1739 – Ian Moore / Chain Hooks at The Cross	9.78
1740 – British Legion Wreaths	70.00
1741 – St John The Baptist / annual donation	650.00
1742 - BT Invoice	29.98
1743– Linda Berrett-West / Salary	417.67

	£ 3276.96

226.4 Adopt the budget for 2021/2022

Cllr Richard Marriage advised that the precept had been increased by 4% and the accountants fee would be £185.

Cllr Ian Moore proposed to accept the 2021/2022 budget which was seconded by Cllr Mike Strain and agreed by all councillors' present.

20/227 Planning /Housing

227.1 New Planning Applications

202614 – Little Wick, Church Road, extension and alterations to existing bungalow. PC have no objections

227.2 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.

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.

227.2 Planning Applications where decisions/comments received from Colchester Borough Council
202316 –17 Winstree Close, 1st floor side and rear extension. CBC conditional approval

20/228 **County Broadband**

Cllr Anne Hughes reported that the garden wall previously damaged by County Broadband had now been rebuilt to the householder's satisfaction.

20/229 **Tollgate Partnership**

Cllr Anne Hughes advised that the latest housing survey outlining the rural housing needs had now been sent to the Tollgate Partnership and the next step would be a meeting to discuss these requirements,

20/230 **RCCE**

Cllr Ian Moore and Cllr Maggie Holmes gave a good report of the meeting they attended via Zoom held by RCCE

20/231 **Grass Cutting**

Covered under Clerks Report Item 20/225

20/232 **Parking on Pavement by School**

Covered under CBC Cllr Kevin Bentley's report Item 20/224

20/233 **Solar Farm**

Cllr Anne Hughes requested councillor availability so that a Zoom meeting with Low Carbon, Solar Farm Developers could be arranged

20/234 **Heatherfields**

Nothing to report

20/235 **Multisport Court**

Cllr Richard Marriage advised that there had been an issue with direct debit payments with the new electricity supplier EDF. Cllr Richard Marriage advised that EDF had originally stated the direct debit payment would only be £30 per month but had initiated the first payment as being £303 which is more than the annual spend. Cllr Marriage advised that despite numerous phone calls in an attempt to sort, they had not been helpful so the direct debit has been cancelled and will now await their contact.

Cllr Ian Moore advised he had looked at the annual maintenance contract from Tennis 2000 but Cllr Anne Hughes felt they were too expensive. Cllr Richard Marriage advised the sum of £2000 was available in the budget for any such works. Cllr Ian Moore agreed that Tennis 2000 are expensive but they do a very good job.

20/236 **Calc Meeting**

Cllr Maggie Holmes attended the recent Calc meeting and previously circulated brief notes to the Councillors. The full minutes will be sent by CALC to Chair of each Parish Council. The meeting also centred around networking with other councils. Cllr Anne Hughes wondered if using Zoom would be the way forward for attending these types of meetings as participation appeared to be higher than normal.

20/237 **Play Area**

A letter had been received from Play Quip advising the next inspection would not be until February 2021. Cllr Anne Hughes suggested we should look at other companies for this maintenance and asked the Clerk Linda Berrett-West to look into this.

20/238 **The Cross**

Cllr Ian Moore confirmed that all but 2 rose bushes remain to be planted in the memorial garden and some now had plaques detailing names for whom dedicated to. Cllr Ian Moore further advised that the residents looking on to the green had also replaced fencing that is their responsibility so that this matched the new fencing provided under the CIF Grant.

20/239 **Church**

Nothing to Report

20/240 **Village Lights**

Nothing to Report

20/241 **Information Exchange**

Cllr Richard Marriage said he would need the total cost of the Cross work so that it could be included in the assets register.

Cllr Anne Hughes asked Cllr Clive Chambers if he could provide a cost of rebuilding the bus shelter again for the purpose of including on the assets register. Cllr Anne Hughes also suggested that the piece of land known as smees corner on malting green to be left uncut in order to see if a wild flower and habitat could be encouraged. It was agreed by all councillors present that this is a good idea and that it should be left uncut for a minimum period of 1 year.

Cllr Brian Turner asked if anyone knew why the Donkey & Buskins remained closed. Cllr Ian Moore said they had decided to remain closed until such time as no restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic were in place.

Cllr Ian Moore advised that grumbling had been received from local residents accessing the woods by the village hall as the owner of the cottage in the woods where the public footpath crosses their property had erected an electric gate and a new kissing gate. Residents had complained the path through the kissing gate was becoming very difficult to navigate due to mud and lying water and could anything be done. Cllr Anne Hughes said she would speak to the owner to see if anything could be done.

Cllr Maggie Holmes – Nothing to report

Cllr Mike Strain – Nothing to report

Cllr Peter Bunting – Nothing to report

Cllr Clive Chambers – Nothing to report

20/242 **To confirm date and time of next meeting**

Monday 11th January 2021 at 8pm possibly via Zoom

The meeting closed at 8.51pm