

## Minutes of Layer de la Haye Parish Council meeting

Held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 via Zoom

- Present** Cllr Anne Hughes, Cllr Maggie Holmes, Cllr Sarah Hughes, Cllr Peter Bunting, Cllr Richard Marriage, Cllr Ian Moore, Cllr Mike Strain, Cllr Brian Turner, Cllr Clive Chambers, Parish Clerk Linda Berrett-West, CC Cllr Kevin Bentley, CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis, CBC Cllr Jackie Mclean and 1 resident
- 21/001** Apologies for absence  
None
- 21/002** Declaration of Members Interests  
Cllr Clive Chambers confirmed he continues to have an interest in planning application 201829 – Land adjacent to Little Garlands following the receipt of further drawings and alterations to the existing application received
- 21/003** Public Open Forum  
Nothing to Report
- 21/004** To approve the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting  
The minutes of the previous meeting dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were approved. These minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 21/005** To receive Reports from County Councillor and Borough Councillors  
CC Cllr Kevin Bentley gave a brief update on the covid-19 pandemic. He advised of concerns around compliance to the national lockdown rules, supermarkets appeared not to be enforcing rules as strongly as they did in the first lockdown. CC Cllr Kevin Bentley advised of a general view for a tightening of rules is required, seeing us return to people shopping alone, keeping to the 2-meter rule and 100% compliance on wearing face coverings when in shops. He further advised that some businesses that currently remained open such as estate agents would probably be required to close.  
CC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported that they were currently assessing various services provided by both CBC and ECC in order to set minimum levels of staffing that would be needed to operate safely. He reported that Libraries remain open for registrations of births, marriages and deaths only. Binmen and recycling centres were operating but reduced staffing levels due to workers isolating had started to affect some bin collections and it is being considered to operate a booking service for the recycling centre to control numbers attending. He advised that parks were currently open but may need to close as it was being reported as a place where people were meeting up/congregating. CC Cllr Kevin Bentley also confirmed that the Royal Mail sorting office at Chelmsford had significant operating issues due to high numbers of workers off with covid or isolating due to exposure. The message to stay at home unless going out for food, medicine, exercise or in an emergency must be adhered to CC Cllr Kevin Bentley finalised by saying venues for providing local vaccination were now being looked at to speed up the roll out especially in more rural areas. Cllr Anne Hughes thanked CC Cllr Kevin Bentley for his assistance with the covid situation at the village shop prior to Christmas and in general for his tireless work for the parish as a whole. Cllr Ian Moore also thanked CC Cllr Kevin Bentley for sorting out the damage to the school crossing sign.  
CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis added his thanks to CC Cllr Kevin Bentley for all his work and assistance he provided to both himself and CBC Cllr Jackie Mclean. CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis reiterated the seriousness of the new covid variant and the need for compliance to the rules, saying that it is very likely, unlike during the first national lockdown that we all now have family, friends, work colleagues, neighbours and or associates that have covid or are isolating due to exposure. CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis asked where the Police speed signs had come from as he had noted several motorist reducing speeds on entering the village since their erection. Cllr Anne Hughes advised they had been provided by the Police as part of Operation Dolphin.

CBC Cllr Jackie Mclean advised that due to issues with emails she had not been receiving minutes or invites to meetings. Cllr Jackie Mclean advised that she was still involved with issues, especially planning and gave an alternative email address.

Cllr Anne Hughes reported of problems with flooding in front of properties on Church Road and asked whether the work previously carried out by Essex and Suffolk Water had been adopted by highways. CC Kevin Bentley said he would investigate although felt confident it had been. Cllr Anne Hughes advised that the puddles were forming as a result of the road/drive edge dropping with use and residents were requesting remedial action to resolve. Cllr Sarah Hughes advised that she remembered residents being written to and asked whether they wished road/drive edges to be tarmac or reinstated with block pavers. CC Cllr Kevin Bentley advised he would look into the matter and report back.

**CC Cllr Kevin Bentley, CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis, CBC Cllr Jackie Mclean left the meeting at 8.26pm**

**21/006 Clerks Report**

The clerk Linda Berrett-West reported that a letter of thanks had been received from the church for the annual donation from the Parish Council towards the upkeep of the graveyard. Linda further reported that an invoice for scheduled maintenance on the defibrillator had been received for the sum £173.96 together with an invoice from Colchester Borough Council for the provision of street lighting for £88.90 and these would need to be added to this month's cheque run. Cllr Mike Strain commented that the two lights reported for repair to CBC were still not working. The clerk Linda Berrett-West will chase although it was generally agreed that this would not be a high priority repair due to working constraints due to covid.

**21/007 Finance**

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

Cllr Richard Marriage confirmed that the energy account with Opus was now closed with a credit of £95.52 to be returned. He further reported that the matter of the direct debit with the new supplier EDF had been resolved and now set at £30 per month. Cllr Richard Marriage advised that all requests for payments/receipts and anything of a finance nature should now be directed to the clerk Linda Berrett-West. Cllr Anne Hughes suggested that an allowance of £10 per month be paid to the Clerk to cover working from home and this was proposed by Cllr Sarah Hughes and Seconded by Cllr Richard Marriage and agreed by all councillors present

007.2 Decembers Receipts

Bank Interest	0.09
Donations	50.00
CIF Grant	1606.00
Donation from Layer Colts	20.00
Multi Sports Court	90.00
	-----
	£ 1766.09

007.3 To approve payments

1743 - Sue Priestland / Grass Cutting	45.00
1744 - BT Invoice	29.78
1745 – DeFib UK / Defibrillator Maintenance	173.96
1746 - CBC / Street Lighting	88.90
1747– Linda Berrett-West / Salary	417.67
	-----
	£ 755.31

**21/008 Planning /Housing**

227.1 New Planning Applications

202733 – 6 Old Forge Road, erection of front porch – No Objections

- 202695 – Land to West of Village and adjoining Birch Road, the construction and operation of a Solar photovoltaic farm – No objections
- 201829 - Land adjacent to Little Garlands, Abberton Road. 2<sup>nd</sup> set of revised plans received. The parish Council has objected to this planning application and revised plans received had not altered that view

227.2 Applications already seen by the Parish Council

- 202614 – Little Wick, Church Road, extension and alterations to existing bungalow. PC have no objections
- 201829 – Land adjacent to Little Garlands, Abberton Road. The parish council has objected to The original planning application and 1<sup>st</sup> revised alterations.
- 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  
Nothing to Report

**21/209** **County Broadband**  
Nothing to report

**21/210** **Tollgate Partnership**  
Nothing to report

**21/011** **RCCE**  
Nothing to report

**21/012** **Grass Cutting & Grounds Maintenance**  
Tenders received from Pinnacle and Richard Playle for grounds maintenance for the year 2021 were discussed by all councillors present. It was agreed that Pinnacle would retain the contract for grass cutting at the playing field, malting green and Millfields for 8 dedicated cuts with provision for 2 additional cuts if required. It was further agreed that Richard Playle would retain the contract for maintenance of hedges at the playing field and village hall, Millfields, tennis court and allotment, plus 1 verge cut at the playing field and 1 pond edge clearance on malting green. This was proposed by Cllr Mike Strain and seconded by Cllr Richard Marriage and agreed by all councillors present. Cllr Anne Hughes confirmed that the re wilding of Smeets Corner was going ahead and this would need to be communicated to Pinnacle in advance of the contact commencing. The parish clerk Linda Berrett-West will write to both successful applicants.

**21/013** **School & Parking**  
Nothing to report

**21/014** **Solar Farm**  
Cllr Brian Turner reported that he and Cllr Anne Hughes had been contacted by email from a community investment group at the recommendation of the solar panel group. Cllr Brian Turner felt it prudent to wait until he had gathered all relevant information before advising the parish council further.

**21/015** **Heatherfields**  
A recent request for metal detecting had been received and this had been refused. Cllr Anne Hughes advised that landowner permission would always be required in any such requests. Cllr Anne Hughes also reported that Bradley Ives would be carrying out additional work in the woods to remove a rotting tree. Cllr Ian Moore reported that a local villager had spent several hours cleaning out and replacing the pipe that runs under the mall bridge to make it more accessible for walkers. Cllr Anne Hughes asked for it to be put in the minutes that the Parish council thanked the villager who had undertaken this task.

**21/016**    **Multi-Sport Court / Allotments**

Cllr Ian Moore reported that the person who had previously reported damage to his allotment had made no further contact.

**20/017**    **Malting Green**

Cllr Anne Hughes reported that following the incident on Malting Green and the abandoned car found on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 it has been agreed for the Police to adopt the use of their community resolution policy as opposed to prosecution.

**21/018**    **Play Area / Recreational Ground**

Layer Colts are currently not using the recreational ground following suspension of all games due to the national lockdown

**21/019**    **The Cross**

Nothing to report

**21/020**    **Church / Church Road**

Discussed under **Item 21/005 County and Borough Councillors report**

**21/021**    **Village Hall / Village Lights**

Cllr Ian Moore reported that he had approached the local doctor's surgery offering the village hall as a vaccination centre. In response it has been confirmed that the hall would need to be NHS registered. Cllr Ian Moore has now emailed Mike Gogarty, director of public health for Essex County Council who has forwarded this email onto Essex partnership university foundation who are leading the vaccination programme and is awaiting a response.

Village lights discussed under **Item 21/006 Clerks report**

**21/023**    **Information Exchange**

Cllr Richard Marriage nothing to report

Cllr Mike Strain nothing to report

Cllr Clive Chambers nothing to report

Cllr Peter Bunting nothing to report

Cllr Brian Turner nothing to report

Cllr Maggie Holmes thanked the clerk Linda Berrett-West for the detailed minutes produced each month

Cllr Sarah Hughes reported that the total cost for the new parish council's laptop was to be reimbursed in full by Colchester Borough Council. The total to be reimbursed is £274.99

Cllr Anne Hughes nothing to report

Cllr Ian Moore nothing to report

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

8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 8pm possibly via Zoom

**The meeting closed at 9.01pm**