

## Minutes of Layer de la Haye Parish Council meeting

Held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 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 and 5 residents

**21/025** Apologies for absence

CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis, CBC Cllr Jackie Mclean

**21/026** Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Peter Bunting declared an interest in planning application 210198 – Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house

**21/027** Public Open Forum

Resident Jenny Lynch reported that the public right of way 141 footpath 3 (PROW 141-3) is becoming almost impassable. Jenny stated that currently the footpath which runs between the Folley and the High Road is waterlogged which is so often the case in the winter months and severely overgrown in the summer months and asked who is responsible for its maintenance. CC Kevin Bentley believes maintenance would be the responsibility of the County Council but will check and report back at the next Parish Council meeting in March.

**21/028** To approve the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved. These minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**21/029** To receive Reports from County Councillor and Borough Councillors

CC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported on the flooding that is currently affecting the entire county, saying that drains and ditches are simply not coping due to the sheer volume of water that has come from the heavy and prolonged rainfall of recent weeks. The fire brigade is on high alert to assist with any need to pump out premises. CC Cllr Kevin Bentley added that the weather which had kindly moved from rain to snow was now impacting on the vaccinations centres and whilst every effort is being made by the gritting team to keep main roads open, the centres at Clacton and Colchester were currently closed. On the matter of covid CC Cllr Bentley reported that although infection rates were dropping the numbers remained high in Essex.

Cllr Ian Moore asked what the situation was with the repair of potholes, especially at the entrance to Old Forge Road. CC Cllr Kevin Bentley agreed that progress was slower than planned due to weather conditions but the teams were out working to get repairs completed.

Cllr Anne Hughes asked why the consultation end date for registering comments on the planned solar farm had been extended without notice and why had the borough written directly to all village residents. CC Cllr Kevin Bentley was not aware of the letter, nor why the consultation end date had changed but asked for this information to be sent to him in order to look into the matter. Cllr Anne Hughes added that it is frustrating when the parish were only given the usual 21 days in which to respond. Cllr Anne Hughes asked the Parish Clerk Linda Berrett-West to write to CC Cllr Kevin Bentley with the information he had requested.

**CC Cllr Kevin Bentley left the meeting at 8.18pm**

**21/030** Clerks Report

The Parish Clerk Linda Berrett-West had a number of matters to report on:-

Internal Audit – This has been booked for 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021. It had been agreed for the auditor to undertake the review at the village hall for ease of accessing paperwork and to accommodate this an additional

room would be needed for the auditor to work in. Cllr Ian Moore advised that he would book the small hall for this purpose.

Precept 2021/2022 – The parish expenditure form for the precept 21/22 had been submitted and received by Colchester Borough Council for review.

Defibrillator – At long last the required maintenance and replacement batteries had been received and fitted to the defibrillator. Moving forward the electrician Dene Hill has added a log sheet to the unit to clearly show the maintenance schedule and when parts would need to be replaced.

Street Lights - The light outside the shop and the Fox had finally been repaired but not invoiced yet.

Parish Newsletter – It would soon be time for the annual parish newsletter to be delivered and Cllr Anne Hughes, Cllr Maggie Holmes and Cllr Sarah Hughes were currently working on its contents and format.

## 21/031 Finance

031.1 Cllr Richard Marriage gave a statement of the accounts previously circulated.  
Cllr Richard Marriage confirmed that there was very little to report on this month other than to say that we remained £3,000 below the projected budget for the year 2020/2021.

### 031.2 Januarys Receipts

Bank Interest	0.10
Opus Energy Credit / Multi Sport	175.52
	-----
	£ 175.62

### 031.3 To approve payments

1748 - Sue Priestland / Grass Cutting	45.00
1749 - Clerks Salary / Linda Berrett-West	417.67
1750 - Pinnacle	2004.00
1751 – Clerks working from home allowance	10.00
1752 - BT Account	33.24
	-----
	£ 2509.91

## 21/032 Planning /Housing

### 032.1 New Planning Applications

210227 – The Lodge, Lower End, demolition of existing detached garage and replacement detached garage and workshop. PC have objected to this application as they feel the building is too large for the site, stipulate no residential use or overnight stays

210198 – Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use from an agricultural building to dwelling house. Cllr Peter Bunting withdrew from the meeting prior to any discussions taking place on this application. Cllr Anne Hughes explained to the members of public present that every application must be looked at individually and Cllr Peter Bunting having declared an interest in the application was not able to participate. Cllr Anne Hughes further advised that the application if approved would only allow for a dwelling to be built on the old foundations. Cllr Brian Turner reported that he had had 3 specific questions from residents close to the site asking 1) Would the entire field be reclassified as building land, 2) Would sufficient access remain for grass cutting and 3) Can you have a parking space on agricultural land. Cllr Brian Turner said he had directed the residents to make comments and ask questions via the CBC planning application portal – PC have no objections.

210128 – Honeysuckle Cottage, 1.5 storey side and garage extension – PC have no objections

202899 – 98 High road, ground floor side extension with pitched roof – PC have no objections

### 032.2 Applications already seen by the Parish Council

202695 – Land to West of Village and adjoining Birch Road, the construction and operation of a Solar photovoltaic farm – No objections

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.

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

202733 – 6 Old Forge Road, erection of front porch – Approved 18/01/21

202614 – Little Wick, Church Road, extension and alterations to existing bungalow. Approved 15/01/21

201829 - Land adjacent to Little Garlands, Abberton Road – Rejected 29/01/21

**21/033** **County Broadband**

Nothing to report

**21/034** **Tollgate Partnership**

Cllr Anne Hughes reported that Jayne Gee from the Tollgate Partnership had rejected the first draft site plan received from the architect.

**21/035** **RCCE**

Cllr Anne Hughes asked for councillors to attend the forthcoming online conference which RCCE would be presenting at. Cllr Anne Hughes elected to attend on 16<sup>th</sup> March at 10am, Cllr Peter Bunting, Cllr Richard Marriage and Cllr Ian Moore elected to attend on 16<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm. Cllr Maggie Holmes elected to attend on 17<sup>th</sup> March on either the am or pm session.

**21/036** **Grass Cutting & Grounds Maintenance**

Nothing to report

**21/037** **School & Parking**

Nothing to report

**21/038** **Solar Farm**

Cllr Anne Hughes reported that she will make contact with the energy group at Copford in order to find out more about how these groups work.

**21/039** **Going Green**

Cllr Anne Hughes reported back on the climate emergency conference she attended. Cllr Anne Hughes suggested we should be looking at putting solar panels onto the roof of the village hall, whether we could replace the existing boiler in the hall to a heat pump, looking into whether an electric charging point for vehicles could be installed at the garage and may adopt a project such as to plant a tree when a baby is born in the village. Cllr Anne Hughes said it was important for the Parish Council to be seen to be taking a lead on green projects and asked all councillors to think about what we could do. Cllr Ian Moore said he would look into the solar panels for the village hall.

**21/040** **Heather fields**

Nothing to report

**21/041** **Multi-Sport Court / Allotments**

Nothing to report

**20/042** **Malting Green**

Cllr Anne Hughes and Cllr Ian Moore have been planting withies around Smeets Corner on Malting Green which is the area to be rewilded.

**21/043** **Play Area / Recreational Ground**

Cllr Ian Moore reported that the playing field is becoming waterlogged as it is compacted and needs spiking. Cllr Ian Moore will obtain a quote for this work to be done which he believes to be around £50 per acre plus Vat and will report back at the next meeting.

We are expecting an inspection of the play equipment next month.

**21/044**    **The Cross**

Cllr Anne Hughes reported that a letter had been received from Gillian Brown kindly offering to donate a bench to be placed near to the newly completed memorial garden. It was agreed by all councillors present that the bench would need to be set into a concrete slab to eliminate left. The Parish Clerk will write to Mrs Brown on behalf of the Parish Council accepting her kind donation.

Cllr Ian Moore reported that he had spoken to Miranda Holman about her concerns in relation to the current point of access to the memorial garden.

Cllr Ian Moore said the only possible place the entrance could be moved to would be on the corner of Birch Road but that would present safety issues for people wishing to visit the garden. All councillors present agreed that the current entrance should remain in situ. The Parish Clerk will write to Miranda Holman with this decision.

**21/045**    **Church / Church Road**

Nothing to report

**21/046**    **Village Hall**

Cllr Ian Moore reported that he had not heard back as yet from the NHS regarding the possible use of the village hall as a vaccination site.

**21/047**    **Village Light**

Dealt with under **Item 21/030** Clerks Report

**21/048**    **Information Exchange**

Cllr Richard Marriage nothing to report

Cllr Mike Strain nothing to report

Cllr Clive Chambers reported that the finger post on the Folley still needed maintenance and that most of the drains along the Folley appeared to be blocked.

Cllr Peter Bunting nothing to report

Cllr Brian Turner nothing to report

Cllr Maggie Holmes said we should start to consider how the annual Parish newsletter will be delivered. Currently royal mail deliver staff are covid tested twice a week.

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 mentioned that it will be the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen's coronation in 2022 and discussions would need to take place to decide on how the Parish should celebrate this day.

Cllr Ian Moore nothing to report

**20/049**    **To confirm date and time of next meeting**

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

**The meeting closed at 9.12pm**