

Minutes of Layer de la Haye Parish Council meeting

Held on Monday 8th March 2021 via Zoom

- Present** Cllr Anne Hughes, Cllr Maggie Holmes, Cllr Peter Bunting, 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 and 2 residents
- 21/050** Apologies for absence
Cllr Sarah Hughes, Cllr Richard Marriage, CBC Cllr Jackie Mclean
- 21/051** Declaration of Members Interests
Nothing to report
- 21/052** Public Open Forum
Resident Caroline Chambers asked whether some of the footpaths and routes through the woods could be tidied up, removing fallen branches and other debris blocking some of the routes. Cllr Anne Hughes advised that Chest Wood and Heather fields were leased for the enjoyment of the villages but came with restrictions that nothing can be touched or removed without permission from the owners. Cllr Anne Hughes also mentioned that over the years many unofficial paths had been created and nothing would be done with these. It was agreed that Cllr Ian Moore and Caroline Chambers would meet to walk the official footpaths to see if any work was needed. Cllr Andrew Ellis suggested that perhaps a map showing permissible footpaths should be created and made available to residents.
- 21/053** To approve the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting
The minutes of the previous meeting dated 8th February 2021 were approved. These minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 21/054** To receive Reports from County Councillor and Borough Councillors
CC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported that the covid vaccination programme was going well and was ahead of schedule. It was further advised that infection rates were tumbling but with the reopening of schools this would need to be monitored closely. Currently there were no plans to test children of primary school age only those attending secondary school who would be tested twice weekly.
CC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported that the proposed widening of the A12 by 1 extra lane in each direction would include the building of new junctions but there was some concern with the junction proposed near Inworth and Messing and volume of traffic using the local roads.
CC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported that the EEC budget for the coming year would only see a 1.5% increase against adult social care.
Cllr Anne Hughes reported that a number of emails had been received from residents about the static play area proposed within the site of the new housing development and asked how they would have obtained copies of the local plan. Furthermore, the Parish Council were still waiting for information on the number and types of dwellings being proposed on the site and just felt the Parish Council were not being afforded much input into the plans. Cllr Andrew Ellis advised that the examination of the Local Plan would start on 19th April and the plans for the Parish of Layer de la Haye were due to be discussed on Day 3 should anyone want to attend, albeit the request to attend may have now closed. Cllr Andrew Ellis agreed that it was important for Colchester Planning Department to understand the needs for the Parish of Layer de la Haye and that we should copy him in on all needs and concerns so that he can talk directly to the planning department.
CC Cllr Kevin Bentley advised that an emergency repair of the pot holes at the entrance to Old Forge Road had taken place and that a more permanent repair was scheduled for the coming weeks.
CC Cllr Kevin Bentley and CBC Andrew Ellis left the meeting at 8.37 pm
- 21/055** Clerks Report
The request for the purchase of an external hard drive to back up the new computer was agreed and

the Parish Clerk will purchase the drive within a budget agreed of £60.

Following the receipt of the report from Play Quip, the Clerk will write and request a price quote for the jobs highlighted as needing attention and or repair.

21/056 Finance

056.1 Cllr Richard Marriage gave a statement of the accounts previously circulated.
Cllr Richard Marriage had confirmed prior to the meeting that there was very little to report on this month other than to say that Opus had yet to start taking the monthly payment of £30.

056.2 Februarys Receipts

Bank Interest	£	0.09
Locality Budget / Computer	£	274.99

	£	275.08

056.3 To approve payments

1753 - Sue Priestland / Grass Cutting	£	45.00
1754 - Clerks Salary / Linda Berrett-West	£	417.67
1755 - Clerk Allowance / Linda Berrett-West	£	10.00
1756 – Northumberland Water / Anne Hughes	£	150.00
1757 - BT Account	£	32.23
1758 – Play Quip report	£	210.00
1759 – Clerk Training / Linda Berrett-West	£	118.80
1760 – Heather Fields Rent Mar 21 – Sept 21	£	518.93
DD - Opus Energy	£	30.00

	£	1532.63

21/057 Planning /Housing

057.1 New Planning Applications

210298 - 9 Winstree Close, single storey rear extension.

210307 – Stonewell Cottage, 86 High Road, 2 Storey & single storey rear extension, internal alterations, pitched roof to front dormer windows, flat roof to entrance porch.

2102678 - 18 Winstree Close, extend current 1.8m fence by further 2.9m to encompass rear driveway.

210453 - 3 Waterworks Close, demolish single storey extension and replace with single storey rear and side extension to provide open plan kitchen, office space, shower room plus, double garage with basement storage below.

057.2 Applications already seen by the Parish Council

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

210200 – 52 High Road, 2 Storey front extension, Internal alterations, remove existing hedgerow and replant. PC have no objections

210198 – Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use from an agricultural building to dwelling house. 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

202695 – Land to West of village and adjoining Birch Road, the construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm. PC no objections

202462 – Nightingale Corner, Formation of entrance into field and erection of a permanent

gate. PC no objections but commented for agricultural use

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

21/058 **Tollgate Partnership**

Nothing to report

21/059 **RCCE**

Nothing to report

21/060 **Police**

Cllr Maggie Holmes and Cllr Ian Hughes reported back on the meeting held via Zoom on 18th February 2021 with PC Brian Spiers and PC Dex Adams. Cllr Maggie Holmes suggested we should include a link on the Parish Council website linking to the Police monthly newsletters. Cllr Ian Moore reported that they would like to commence a monthly street meet / coffee with a cop which was proposed for 8th May 2021 between 10am and 11am and providing no further tightening of the covid restrictions it was proposed to hold this within the village hall. The Clerk confirmed that information posters would be provided by the Police to publicise and these would be placed on the Parish Council notice boards.

21/061 **Grass Cutting & Grounds Maintenance**

Nothing to report

21/062 **School & Parking**

Nothing to report

21/063 **Solar Farm**

Nothing to report

21/064 **Going Green**

Nothing to report

21/065 **Heather fields**

Nothing to report

21/066 **Multi-Sport Court / Allotments**

Nothing to report

20/067 **Malting Green**

Nothing to report

21/068 **Play Area / Recreational Ground**

A number of posts had been made on the Facebook group Secret Layer advising of the congregation of young people believed to be teenagers around the play area. They were further reported to be drinking, eating and playing loud music and left all their rubbish behind. No official complaint had been made to the Parish Council so at present.

21/069 **The Cross**

Cllr Ian Moore and Cllr Mike Strain reported that the Bench being donated by Mrs Gill Brown was on order and the slabs were on site to which it would be attached.

21/070 **Church / Church Road**

Nothing to report

21/071 **Village Hall**

Nothing to report

21/072 **Village Light**
Nothing to report

21/073 **County Broadband**
Nothing to report

21/074 **Information Exchange**
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 nothing to report
Cllr Anne Hughes mentioned that the grass at the cross would not be cut until the end of the month. That we should include a notification within the newsletter that the lighting of fires of any description are not permitted within the woods. The preschool were still waiting on permission from the landlords of the woods concerning holding of forest school lessons.
Cllr Ian Moore advised that the notice board at the cross needed new Perspex and offered to get this work done as soon as possible.

20/075 **To confirm date and time of next meeting**
12th April 2021 at 8pm possibly via Zoom

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm