

## Minutes of Layer de la Haye Parish Council meeting

Held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Zoom

**Present** Cllr Anne Hughes, Cllr Sarah Hughes, Cllr Maggie Holmes, Cllr Ian Moore, Cllr Mike Strain, Cllr Peter Bunting, Cllr Richard Marriage, Cllr Clive Chambers, Parish Clerk Linda Berrett-West, CC Cllr Kevin Bentley, CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis and 4 residents

**21/076** Apologies for absence

Cllr Brian Turner, CBC Cllr Jackie Mclean

**21/077** Declaration of Members Interests

Nothing to report

**21/078** Public Open Forum

**Liz Appleby** – Coordinator of Layer Litter Warriors asked who provides insurance for them. Cllr Andrew Ellis felt this would be provided by CBC as they provide all relevant equipment and training but he would check and report back at the next meeting. Liz Appleby further reported that during the month of August they had collected 80 bags of rubbish following completion of litter picks along the 4 main routes into and out of the village.

**Peter Stratton** – Raised his concern about the problem of speeding drivers and whether the Police could address this issue from a different angle. With the police presence very ad hoc, he wondered if they could look at the practise of mapping (drivers alter the onboard computer on the car which changes significantly the way the car can be driven) When a car is altered in this way it must be reported to the owner's insurance company as it is classified as a modification and failure to do so would invalidate the vehicles insurance. CC Cllr Kevin Bentley said he would contact the divisional commander to ask for their attendance together with requesting resurrection of Operation Dolphin. Cllr Anne Hughes asked Mr Stratton if he would kindly attend the Street Meet with the Police to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> May between 10am and 11am as this would be a very good point to discuss with them. Cllr Ian Moore said despite objections from Northumberland Water, Essex & Suffolk Water, Layer de la Haye Parish Council and others objecting to the building of this new road, it went ahead and now we are left with a road that drivers from all over Essex and further afield come to in order to drive it as fast as possible. Cllr Ian Moore further reported that drivers are no longer waiting to reach the end of the village by the church before they pick up speed towards the reservoir, invariably it is now occurring once they pass the cross roads by the Fox Public House and will include the whole of Church Road and residents are ringing the police requesting attendance on almost a daily basis now as they have just had enough. CC Cllr Kevin Bentley said he would look into the process of whether some form of traffic calming could be approved.

**Myles Salmon** – Raised his concern about the proposed Solar Farm and whether the Parish Council had considered this application sufficiently, particularly in view of the amount of agricultural land that would be lost to the village, whether residents had been adequately informed about the scheme. Cllr Anne Hughes advised that the Parish Council had been very active with its consultation with the developers and ensuring adequate communication with village residents. On request of the Parish Council every resident had received communication mailed directly to them from the developer in view of the restrictions surrounding the Covid pandemic. Furthermore, all information had been regularly communicated via the Parish Magazine, Parish Website and the village Facebook group "Secret Layer". . Very few objections or concerns were received and this has been reflected in the decision to support the application. Cllr Anne Hughes concluded by confirming that 2/3rds of the land were in fact in the Parish of Birch and the quality had been assessed and confirmed as very low-grade agricultural land. CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis commented further that the borough had also taken the unusual step of writing to all residents about the scheme and all comments registered will be considered. CC Cllr Kevin Bentley also said the Parish Council had responded in a manner that reflected the residents' views.

**Resident Open Forum Closed at 8.20pm**

**21/079 To approve the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were approved. These minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**21/080 To receive Reports from County Councillor and Borough Councillors**

CC Cllr Kevin Bentley reported that infection rates were continuing to fall within the county of Essex and everything appeared to be on track to meet the next stage of the government's plan on easing the lockdown. He also confirmed that he would follow up on looking at how a consultation could be run to consider traffic calming measures on the road leading to the reservoir. He would also write to the divisional commander requesting an escalation of Police presence to deter speeding drivers and parking around the school at drop off and pick up times.

CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis reminded that Part 2 of the examination into the proposed local plan commenced next week.

**CC Cllr Kevin Bentley and CBC Andrew Ellis left the meeting at 8.26pm**

**21/081 Clerks Report**

Nothing to report

**21/082 Finance**

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

Cllr Richard Marriage confirmed that payment of invoice for grounds maintenance at Millfields had been received from Estuary Housing. Precept had been received. Asset Register had been sent to Cllr Anne Hughes for approval and it was agreed by all councillors present that the old lawn mower should be written off. Nothing else to report as accounts review due at the forthcoming APM & AGM.

082.2 March Receipts

Bank Interest	£ 0.08
Multi Sports Hire	£ 40.00
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	£ 40.08

083.3 To approve payments

1761 - Sue Priestland / Grass Cutting	£ 45.00
1762 - Clerks Salary / Linda Berrett-West	£ 417.67
1763 - Clerk Allowance / Linda Berrett-West	£ 10.00
1764 - BT Account	£ 31.44
1765 - Perspex (Kent Blaxill)/ Ian Moore	£ 110.59
1766 - CBC Light Recharge / M A Hughes	£ 90.47
DD - EDF Energy	£ 30.00
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	£ 735.17

**21/083 Planning /Housing**

**083.1 New Planning Applications**

- 210835 - Abberton Cottage, CO20LB, Demolition of outbuilding, erection of new extension to provide utility, fitness and home office ancillary accommodation. PC no objections
- 210829 – 132 High Road, Application to vary condition 2 following grant of planning permission 182328. PC to comment on parking, height of hoarding
- 210823 – Annexe, the kiln, Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for existing use: to confirm the building has been continuously used as a single dwelling house for more than four years. PC to comment on residential rights
- 210745 – Lairdanite, Abberton Road, Application for a lawful development for proposed removal of existing single brick and tile garage. Extension of existing gravel driveway

into middle of the garden area. The future installation of timber framed and clad garage at the end of the driveway. PC to comment on landscaping

210529 – The Follies, Relocation of existing chimney stack from centre of house to gable end.  
PC no objection

**083.2 Applications already seen by the Parish Council**

210307 – Stonewell Cottage, 86 High Road. PC no objections

210268 - 18 Winstree Close. PC have commented

210453- 3 Waterworks Close. PC no objections

202695 – Solar photovoltaic farm. PC no objections

202462 – Nightingale Corner, The Folley. PC have commented

**083.3 Planning Applications where decisions/comments received from Colchester Borough Council**

210227 – The Lodge, Lower End. CBC approved with condition no residential use

210298 - 9 Winstree Close. CBC approved

210198 – Land on Mill Lane. CBC refused

210200 – 52 High Road. CBC approved

210128 – Honeysuckle Cottage. CBC approved

202899 – 98 High road. CBC approved

**21/084 Tollgate Partnership**

Tollgate partnership will be writing to residents to advise that provision has now been made for 25 units on the proposed housing site will now access via The Folley, leaving 45 units using Greate House Farm Way

**21/085 RCCE**

Cllr Maggie Holmes has circulated a feedback booklet on Community Led Housing to all councillors

**21/086 Police**

Police link to be added to the Parish Council website. Agreed by all to ask at the Police street meet on 8<sup>th</sup> May how much would the cost be if the Parish Council paid for extra patrols.

**21/087 Grass Cutting & Grounds Maintenance**

Nothing to report

**21/088 Annual Parish Council Newsletter**

Clerk will be printing on Thursday and when ready these will be delivered to Ian Moore bundled by street for Councillors to collect and deliver.

**21/089 Annual Parish Council Meeting**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.30pm and still awaiting decision on whether this can be held by Zoom or whether we return to face-to-face meeting.

**21/090 Solar Farm**

Nothing to report

**21/091 Going Green**

Nothing to report

**21/092 Heather fields**

Needs to be assessed due to lots of lying wood that could present a fire risk as we move towards the dryer weather. Clerk to contact Dan Anderson at Strutt & Parker to request for a risk assessment to be undertaken.

**21/093 Multi-Sport Court / Allotments**

It was agreed by all councillors present to freeze current allot rents set at £42 pa and multi sports court hire £4ph for the year 2021/22

**21/094**    **Speed Watch / Speeding**  
Covered under **Item 21/080**

**21/095**    **Play Area / Recreational Ground**  
Layer colts have resumed football on the recreational field and condition of field will be monitored

**21/096**    **The Cross**  
The memorial garden is now looking well established and the bench donated by Gill Brown is in place

**21/097**    **Church / Church Road**  
Nothing to report

**21/098**    **Malting Green**  
Nothing to report

**21/099**    **Village Hall**  
Cllr Anne Hughes advised that CBC are encouraging people to use the postal vote option for the upcoming elections. It was agreed by all to publicise this in the Parish Magazine and via the standalone village Facebook group "Secret Layer". The hall would be opened in line with government guidelines to accommodate anyone wishing to vote in person.

**21/100**    **Village Lights**  
Nothing to report

**21/101**    **County Broadband**  
Nothing to report

**21/102**    **School / Parking**  
Cllr Mike Strain reported that parking remains a problem at the school. CC Cllr Kevin Bentley to request the local parking partnership to attend and will also be writing to the local divisional commander to request some police presence

**21/103**    **Information Exchange**  
Cllr Anne Hughes – reported that she had been contacted by Essex Concert Band looking for suitable outdoor venues to use and felt it would be good to accommodate them. A house had become available at Millfields and would be advertised in Parish Magazine and on "Secret Layer". Complaints about parking on the grass at the end of Winstree Close had been received and whilst a long-standing problem the Parish Council should take action to stop this practise. Clerk to contact CBC re installing posts.  
Cllr Sarah Hughes - raised a concern that not enough support is offered to assist people with technology such as applying for a postal vote. Could this be incorporated into Village Volunteers.  
Cllr Maggie Holmes - reported that the footpath sign on the recreation field needs replacing  
Cllr Ian Moore - Nothing to report  
Cllr Mike Strain – Nothing to report  
Cllr Peter Bunting- Nothing to report  
Cllr Richard Marriage – Reported that pavements are very poor along the high road and in the New Cut  
Cllr Clive Chambers – reported he had received a complaint of the vehicle parked on the grass on the high road

**20/104**    **To confirm date and time of next meeting**  
10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 8pm possibly via Zoom

**The meeting closed at 21.28pm**