

Minutes of Layer de la Haye Parish

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Held on 14th June 2021 at The Queen Elizabeth Village Hall

Present Cllr Anne Hughes, Cllr Sarah Hughes, Cllr Ian Moore, Cllr Brian Turner, 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 9 residents.

21/151 Welcome & Apologise for Absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Maggie Holmes and CBC Cllr Jackie McClean

21/152 Declaration of Members Interests

Nothing to report

21/153 Public Open Forum

Cllr Anne Hughes welcomed the members of the public in attendance who wished to speak about the outline planning application to build an additional 70 new dwellings on a site located just off of the Folley.

Sandy Measor - Q. What was the view of the Parish Council regarding this development and what response had we given the borough? Cllr Anne Hughes replied that the Parish Council would always listen to and endeavour to reflect the view of the residents. Cllr Anne Hughes confirmed that an extension to the deadline date for our response had been granted to enable this meeting to be held before penning our response.

David Hamilton – Q. Why had the number of proposed dwellings continued to grow, 35 became 50 and now it was planned as 70? Q. Objected to the play area on grounds of noise & anti-social behaviour, what could be done to stop this? Q. Would access to the power lines at the rear of Les Bois be retained? Cllr Anne Hughes stated that this was an outline application and approval to build 70 houses was yet to be gained. Cllr Anne Hughes said the Parish Council also disagreed with the play area and felt that should any money be allocated to such a project it should be used to purchase equipment to compliment the play area already established on the recreation field. CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis confirmed that by law the utility company would always have access to the overhead power lines for maintenance.

Nick Clarke – Felt the request to build 50 dwellings was reasonable but not 70 and had objected to this number. Q. Could the larger taller dwellings be placed into the middle of the development with the single storey dwellings placed around the edge. Q. What type of screening was being planned to retain privacy of residents in existing properties? Cllr Anne Hughes stated that the actual detail such as the screening of the site was not part of the outline planning application. CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis stated that developers like to place the bigger dwellings on the outside as a design statement however he confirmed that the Parish Council has made numerous representations for smaller dwellings making downsizing a priority over executive dwellings

Peter Pyke – Q. Was anything else planned for the Parish in relation to building new dwellings? Q. How many dwellings would be given to social housing? Q. If the Police deem it too dangerous for any speed watch activity to be undertaken on The Folley how come Highways have passed it as an acceptable road for an entrance onto the site to be formed? CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis replied no nothing else, Layer de la Haye would be seen as having taken its quota of new dwellings where as other villages would be looked at again when the local plan was reviewed in 5 years' time. CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis also stated that approximately 30% would be social / low-cost housing with another 8 in perpetuity for the village. Cllr Kevin Bentley said the proposed two

entrances onto the site, both came with issues surrounding safety, noise and pollution and it was clear that the Parish Council would be highlighting this in their response.

Rob Walker – Q. As previously mentioned, the number keeps growing, what would stop the number of dwellings increasing from 70 to 140 ? CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis confirmed that firstly any such request would go to appeal and secondly developers must keep density in line with the area.

Steven Howes – Q. What will happen with the surrounding 3 plots of land and would the developers use this for other means such as storage? CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis advised that conditions would be put in place with the developers regarding storage, access and traffic management.

Cllr Anne Hughes closed the Public Open Forum at 8.38pm thanking those residents who had attended, for their questions and stated that all feedback would now be reviewed and a response to the borough from the Parish Council would shortly be made .

21/154 To approve the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting dated 17th May 2021 were approved. These minutes were signed by the Chairman.

21/155 To receive Reports from County Councillor and Borough Councillors

CC Cllr Kevin Bentley advised that with the start of the new council year there was the sum of £10,000 in the locality budget so please think about any worthy projects. Cllr Anne Hughes wondered if the tomb of General Brown would qualify for some financial assistance or whether this would come under a CIF application. CC Cllr Kevin Bentley said he would look into this and confirm

CC Cllr Kevin Bentley added his frustration to those of the Parish Council by the news that Anglian Water were about to dig up Malting Green Road which had only just finished being redressed and relined.

CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis announced that following the recently held local elections, the conservatives with support from the independent party had now taken control of Colchester and with that he had now taken up the cabinet position of portfolio holder for housing and planning. Cllr Anne Hughes congratulated CBC Cllr Andrew Ellis on behalf of the Parish Council on his new appointment.

CC Cllr Kevin Bentley and CBC Andrew Ellis left the meeting at 8.54pm

21/156 Clerks Report

The clerk reported back on the training day regarding the new format for the CiLCA Qualification and based on knowledge, experience and length of service had been selected to commence the qualification in this year's intake, commencing in August 2021. The clerk will submit the relevant training forms outlining fees for the course which includes our eligibility for the bursary of a 75% refund on successful completion.

The BT account had been updated moving to online billing and a direct debit form had been requested for ease of payment going forward.

21/157 Finance

157.1 Statement of Accounts (RFO & Parish Clerk)

The statement of accounts had been circulated and were accepted by all councillors present. The final allotment rent had been made and 2 donations from Layer Colts totalling £100 had been received.

157.2 Receipts for month of April 2021

Bank Interest	0.09
Allotment Annual Rent – Drury	42.00
Donation Layer Colts	100.00

	£ 142.09

157.3 To approve payments -

1773 - Priestland / Grass Cut at the Cross	45.00
1774 - Clerks Salary / Linda Berrett-West	417.67
1775 - Clerk working from home	10.00
1776 - BT account	37.70
1777 – Parish Clerk EALC Training Day	30.00
1778 – Peter Pyke / Speed Watch Coordinator	65.96
DD - EDF Energy / Multi Sports Court	30.00

	£ 636.33

21/158 Planning

158.1 New planning applications received

- 211521 – Woodlands, Birch Road – Proposed garage extension and internal alterations. PC have no objections
- 210869 – The Heath, New Cut – Proposed change of use of outbuilding from domestic to commercial use as an Air bnb. PC have objected with various comments.
- 211209 – 136 High Road, replace existing porch, addition to existing single storey rear extension and first floor rear extension. PC No Objections

158.2 Planning applications already seen by the Parish Council

- 210840 – Garden House, 59 Malting Green Road. PC No objections
- 211033 – Chestnut Farm Cattery, Abberton Road. PC No objection
- 211075 – 3 Waterworks Close, Church Road. PC No objections
- 202695 – Solar photovoltaic farm. PC no objections
- 202462 – Nightingale Corner, Formation of new entrance into field and erection of a permanent gate. PC made comments

158.3 Planning application decisions received since last meeting

- 211037 – Brooklands, 149a High Road. CBC Conditionally Approved
- 210849 – Lyncombe, Church Road. CBC Conditionally Approved
- 210835 - Abberton Cottage, CO20LB. CBC Conditionally Approved
- 210829 – 132 High Road. CBC Conditionally Approved
- 210823 – Annexe, the kiln, Application for a Lawful Development Certificate. CBC Conditionally Approved
- 210745 – Lairdanite, Abberton Road, Application for a Lawful Development Certificate CBC Conditionally Approved

21/159 Tollgate Partnership

Cllr Anne Hughes stated that the Parish Council was now in a position to collate all feedback received regarding the outline planning applications 211392 & 211393 and our response would be made on the borough planning website no later than 28th June 2021.

21/160 RCCE

Nothing to report

21/161 **Police**
Nothing to report

21/162 **Speed Watch / Speeding**
Nothing to report

21/163 **School / Parking**
Nothing to report

21/164 **Solar Farm**
Nothing to report

21/165 **Going Green**
Cllr Anne Hughes reported that she had recently attended another meeting on climate change but there was nothing new to report.

21/166 **Layer Litter Warriors**
Cllr Ian Moore reported that some of the equipment had been damaged. There was CCTV footage of the damaged items being returned and by whom and it was agreed to contact the parents in the first instance regarding this matter.

21/167 **Grass Cutting & Grounds Maintenance**
Nothing to report

21/168 **Play Area / Recreational Ground**
The Parish Clerk advised that a request had been received from the school for permission to request Pinnacle to mark out an athletic track for the school's sports day which they will fund. This was agreed by all councillors present.
Cllr Anne Hughes had received a request from a parent asking if they raised money for the purchase of a new piece of play equipment would the Parish Council have any objection to this being placed on the recreation field. In principle all Councillors present were happy with this proposal.
A further quote is to be requested from Play quip for the complete replacement of the area under the swings, this has been tasked to the Parish Clerk to obtain a quote.

21/169 **The Cross**
Nothing to report

21/170 **Malting Green**
Cllr Anne Hughes reported that further withies had been put out on Malting Green to help prevent parking and that the area being re wilded is growing well. Cllr Anne Hughes also asked the clerk to include in the annual letter to residents that they are not permitted to mow or cut the grass on Malting Green without first obtaining permission from the Parish Council.
The clerk is to chase up quotation from Signpost Restoration Limited for replacement of finger post on Malting Green. Cllr Anne Hughes said we should ask CC Cllr Kevin Bentley whether any funds from the locality budget could be used for this project. The Clerk will write to CC Cllr Kevin Bentley regarding this matter.

21/171 **Heather fields**

Cllr Anne Hughes reported Strutt & Parker were currently looking into the ownership of the lower part of the track accessed from the New Cut as the Land Registry shows no resident has any vehicular rights.

21/172 Multi-Sport Court / Allotments

Cllr Ian Moore confirmed that use of the courts had been quite slow during the past month. Cllr Anne Hughes asked if he was aware of a complaint that had been received regarding a noise issue from the court from a local resident to which Cllr Moore advised he had and that it had been dealt with.

21/173 Church / Church Road

Nothing to report

21/174 Birch Road

Cllr Anne Hughes felt the issue of speeding drivers was not something the Parish could deal with in an effective manner following the receipt of letter from a resident who is concerned for the safety of pedestrians walking along this road. It was agreed to forward this letter to CC Cllr Kevin Bentley to request his assistance in this matter as the Speed Watch coordinator had confirmed to the clerk that no sessions could be planned for this road due to it being deemed too dangerous with no safe places to operate from by the Police.

21/175 Village Hall

Cllr Ian Moore confirmed that the delay to removing all lock down restrictions had resulted in cancellations for some village hall bookings as capacity had to remain at 25%.

21/176 Village Lights

Nothing to report

21/177 County Broadband

Nothing to report

21/178 Information Exchange for Agenda Items for the Next Parish Council Meeting

Cllr Anne Hughes – Reminded that we must set up a working party to coordinate events for the forthcoming 70th Jubilee on 2nd June 2022

Cllr Ian Moore – Reported that there was a need for an additional CCTV within the locality of the village hall and could the Clerk confirm details of who originally installed these. Also, could this item be put on next months agenda to discuss regarding funding.

Cllr Sarah Hughes – Nothing to report

Cllr Brian Turner – Nothing to report

Cllr Peter Bunting – Nothing to report

Cllr Mike Strain – Nothing to report

Cllr Richard Marriage – Nothing to report

Cllr Clive Chambers – Nothing to report

21/179 To confirm date and time of next meeting

12th July 2021 at 8pm at the Queen Elizabeth Village Hall

The meeting closed at 21.17pm