

6th March 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Abberton and Langenhoe Parish Council held on Monday 6th March 2017 at The Village Hall, Edward Marke Drive, Langenhoe.

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

In the Chair Steve Wormell

Councillors Gordon Davis
 Doug Kibblewhite
 Chris De Courcy-Bower
 Alan Frost
 Margaret Palmer-Slatter
 Dave Grover

Clerk Clair Collett

There were 3 members of the public present.

1 396/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Moore, Cllr Hine & Cllr Dougherty.

2 396/2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

3 396/3 OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There was nothing to say on this point.

4 396/4 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

5 396/5 ADDRESS BY CLLR KEVIN BENTLEY, CLLR DAVIDSON AND ZONE WARDENS (IF PRESENT)

Cllr Bentley reported that he had delivered the letter to the residents about the proposed parking restrictions for Bracken Way Estate, the residents have been given 2 weeks to respond. He will then advise us if any response before making the application and then the hearing.

Cllr Bentley advised that he will push for the tress and hedges on Mersea Road to be cut back.

Cllr Grover raised The Lion site with Cllr Bentley advising that the interested parties were trying to negotiate the rent as they felt it was too high. He asked if Cllr Bentley could help. Cllr Bentley advised that it was down to the applicant and the developer to agree, however an assessment on the rent could be carried out to see if it was a reasonable charge for this property. Cllr Davidson said that The Lion was a village asset and must remain so and he would advise the owners accordingly. The village needs a shop. Cllr Bentley agreed with this. Cllr Davidson advised that he will look into this once correspondence was received from the applicant on this matter.

Cllr Davidson advised that the council tax had been agreed with a 3% increase. He reported that the litter collection will change to 3 refuse sacks every 2 weeks. He confirmed that Balkerne bridge had been installed again and was marginally wider.

Tim Pickard thanked Cllr Davidson for clearing the paint that had been fly-tipped. He advised that he had been at court this week and will also be attending court for a fly tip offence in Mersea.

He had put notices on the cars on the verge on Mersea Road.

He will arrange for the litter pick equipment with the clerk for 23rd April 2017 as part of the Great British Spring clean up. It was questioned what colour bags could be used for refuse, do they have to be black. Tim will investigate and let the clerk know.

Cllr Davidson will advise on the bollards for the grass verge on Mersea Road.

ACTION:
Cllr Davidson

6 3976 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 6TH FEBRUARY 2017

It was proposed by Cllr Grover and seconded by Cllr Palmer-Slatter and agreed by those present that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2017 be accepted as a true record of the business transacted at the meeting. Cllr Wormell signed the minutes.

7 397/7 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Markes Wood

Cllr Davis advised that due to commitments at home he was unable to carry on maintaining Markes Wood. The chairman thanked Cllr Davis for his constant commitment and hard work and noted that it was very much appreciated. Cllr Grover advised that he would take over the ownership of the maintenance of Markes Wood and will liaise with Josh Simpson.

(b) Working Party for the Play Area - Fencing

Cllr Kibblewhite and Cllr Grover reported how disappointed they were about how the play area site had been left after the installation of the fence. He reported that the gates still needed to be painted yellow and the concrete around the play area was in a very poor state. They met with the contractor who advised that the gates would be painted yellow as soon as possible but the concrete was not in the original quote. The contractor raised a quote for this work, which was reduced by Cllr Kibblewhite and he proposed that this quote be accepted, Cllr De Courcy-Bower seconded this and this was agreed by all present to accept the quote for £1,100 plus VAT.

Cllr Kibblewhite also reported that the new bubble window had been installed in the play area to replace the broken puzzle. The chairman had received a letter from Sutcliffe play regarding the remaining balance, it was agreed that Cllr Kibblewhite draft a reply to be sent on behalf of the parish council.

The clerk reported that she met with a supplier of outdoor gym equipment and received 2 quotes and Cllr Kibblewhite and Cllr Grover also met with a supplier and received a quote. The clerk had circulated the detailed quotes to the parish council for review as well as the third quote received from the other supplier. It was discussed that the this quote received was very high and it proposed and agreed by all that the clerk apply for match funding for the gym equipment based on the second quote received from HAGS SMP.

(c) School Crossing & Parking

This was covered in Cllr Bentley's report earlier.

(d) Local Council Awards Scheme

The clerk advised that she had uploaded the standing orders to the website and contacted EALC for them to review. The clerk had been advised that the asset register need more detail. The clerk is liaising with EALC to get this done.

(e) LHP - Speed Limit Request

This was covered in Cllr Bentley's report earlier.

(f) The Lion

Cllr Grover reported that he had been contacted by Mr Jennings who runs the Layer shop. He had advised that he really wanted to sign up for The Lion site but was having issues negotiating the rent.

After much discussion it was asked for Mr Jennings to write to the council to express his interest and then the council can forward this to CBC to review what a reasonable rent for the property would be.

(g) Litter Pick

The litter pick will be held on 23rd April at 2.00pm. Cllr Grover advised that he will ask Mr & Mrs Ingram to help with refreshments.

(h) Bus Shelter - Light and Drainage

Cllr Palmer-Slatter reported that the drainage in the bus shelter was not working as huge puddles were colla and the light was too faint even to read the timetable. It was requested the clerk contact Nick Long to quote for a new solar light and sealant for the floor to help the drainage. This was agreed by all present.

8 397/8 PLANNING REPORTS

There were no planning applications.

9 398/9 CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk raised that she had received correspondence from E-on about the price increase for electricity charges and from A&J Lighting for the price increase for sox lamps.

10 398/10 FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

Accounts Payable

The following payment were approved schedule No 196:

Mrs C Collett (Salary March)	£322.35
A&J Lighting Solutions (Monthly Streetlight Maintenance)	£60.90
E-On (Monthly Electricity charges)	£40.26
E-On (Monthly Electricity charges)	£36.36
EALC (Training course for year-end accounting)	£50.00
Mrs C Collett (LCAS website work)	£400.00
Total	£909.87

It was proposed by Cllr Grover and seconded by Cllr Palmer-Slatter and agreed that the 6 cheques listed on the schedule 196 be approved for payment and they were signed by Cllr De Courcy-Bower and Cllr Wormell.

At the time of the meeting it was not sure how much the training course or LCAS funding would be.

11 398/11 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

(a) Footpaths/Tree Warden

There was nothing to report.

(b) Abberton & Langenhoe Community Association

Cllr Palmer-Slatter reported that there will be a quiz at the village hall with details to follow.

There will also be an afternoon tea for the older residents with the youth club serving the tea and cakes.

(c) Edward Markes Trust

There was nothing to report.

(d) Church Matters

There was nothing to report.

(e) Grass cutting/maintenance

Cllr Palmer-Slatter advised there the first cut will be done this week and suggest new pots for the triangle.

It was proposed that she obtain some quotes for the next meeting.

(f) Public Relations

The clerk advised that the next newsletter will be produced for June.

(g) Neighbourhood Watch

There was nothing to report.

(h) Youth Liaison

There was nothing to report.

(i) Finance Working Party

Cllr De Courcy-Bower advised that the parish council had stayed within the budget for the year.

(j) Property Maintenance

Cllr Wormell advised that he had taken some of the fence out near Langenhoe Green with some more still to be done, but some will remain as boundary for the houses surrounding the Green.

(k) Speed Watch

Cllr Kibblewhite reported that no speed watches had taken place. The newly formed unit had caught 17 offenders who will received fines for £100 and 3 points.

(l) CALC

Cllr Frost advised he had attended the meeting last Thursday, it had been raised that all parish councils must increase their precept, should apply for LCAS and apply for CIF funding.

He also advised that in October 2017 there would be new lottery funding.

12 399/15 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 3rd April 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Edward Marke Drive.

The meeting closed at 9.14pm.