

ABBERTON AND LANGENHOE PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING –18th May 2020

A meeting of the Council took place on Monday 18th May 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Cllrs Present Stephen Wormell – Chairman
 Simon Dougherty – Vice Chairman
 Jonathan Andrews
 Alan Frost
 David Grover
 Peter Hine
 Doug Kibblewhite
 Malcolm Mattack
 Margaret Palmer-Slatter

Also in attendance – ECC Cllr K Bentley, 3 members of public and Clerk

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| 001/20 | Apologies for absence – CBC Cllr Davidson | |
| 002/20 | Announcements – none | |
| 003/20 | Public Questions – none | |
| 004/20 | Declarations of interest – none | |
| 005/20 | Reports from County and Borough Cllrs ECC Cllr Bentley reported that since the start of the pandemic, a lot of resources had been put into Adult Social Care. ECC had sourced PPE from the EU, although this had taken a large slice of the budget and they are hoping for a refund of this from Central Government. ECC was the first County to introduce testing in the Care Homes. Three major Highways projects had halted due to the crisis, but the Contractors had begun work again this week so will now proceed. The Highways Maintenance Teams have continued to work throughout the crisis and the scheduled resurfacing and redressing programme will go ahead. 15 of the recycling centres reopened on 18 th May and County Parks will reopen on 21 st May. The request for the speed camera on Mersea Road had proceeded to the legal stages. CBC Cllr Davidson had forwarded a report – there was so far no date for the reopening of the recycling centre at Mersea. The Army are seeking planning permission for 30 containers, to make a village setting for training exercises on the ranges in Lodge Lane. | |

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| 006/20 | <p>Minutes of Meeting – 9th March 2020</p> <p>The minutes as previously circulated were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Dougherty and seconded by Cllr Hine. The funding has not yet been received for the Petanque Court. It was agreed to contact NEPP again about the visits to Bracken Way by the Parking Attendants to point out that the majority of the visits undertaken in 2019 were outside of the times when the parking issues occur.</p> | Action – Clerk to contact CBC re: funding and NEPP re: visits to Bracken Way | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 007/20 | <p>To confirm the continuation in post of the Chair and Vice Chair until May 2021</p> <p>Following Government advice, it is not necessary to hold an AGM until May 2021 with existing Officers remaining in post. It was proposed by Cllr Mattack and seconded by Cllr Hine that Cllr Wormell remain as Chair and Cllr Dougherty remain as Vice Chair until May 2021. Agreed</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 008/20 | <p>Finance and Accounts</p> <p>The following accounts were approved for payment, schedule 001/20, and signed by Cllrs Wormell and Dougherty April 2020</p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>A&J Lighting- maintenance</td> <td>£60.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E-ON – streetlight electricity</td> <td>£61.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Knight – grasscutting</td> <td>£175.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EALC – subs</td> <td>£317.65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>McFee Security renewal</td> <td>£64.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff costs</td> <td>£264.25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Schedule 002/20 to be signed by Cllrs Wormell and Dougherty May 2020</p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>A&J Lighting – maintenance</td> <td>£60.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs J Stobart – internal audit</td> <td>£180.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Knight - grasscutting</td> <td>£125.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Knight – grasscutting</td> <td>£175.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs C McSweeney – postage</td> <td>£8.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E-On – streetlight electricity</td> <td>£59.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Knight – grasscutting</td> <td>£175.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17th Colchester Sea Scouts – plants</td> <td>£42.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs Palmer-Slatter – compost</td> <td>£10.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff Costs</td> <td>£264.25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | A&J Lighting- maintenance | £60.90 | E-ON – streetlight electricity | £61.79 | J Knight – grasscutting | £175.00 | EALC – subs | £317.65 | McFee Security renewal | £64.99 | Staff costs | £264.25 | A&J Lighting – maintenance | £60.90 | Mrs J Stobart – internal audit | £180.00 | J Knight - grasscutting | £125.00 | J Knight – grasscutting | £175.00 | Mrs C McSweeney – postage | £8.96 | E-On – streetlight electricity | £59.80 | J Knight – grasscutting | £175.00 | 17 th Colchester Sea Scouts – plants | £42.00 | Mrs Palmer-Slatter – compost | £10.00 | Staff Costs | £264.25 | |
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| 009/20 | <p>Bank reconciliation – March and April 2020</p> <p>This was checked and agreed by Cllr Mattack</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 010/20 | <p>The Lion Community Shop – update</p> <p>James Lambert – Chair of Steering Group reported that there had been a lot of activity on site and the lease had now been signed. The earliest date to take over the premises is 21st August 2020, but this could obviously be delayed due to the current situation. Mr Lambert thanked Cllrs Wormell, Dougherty and Frost and CBC Cllr Davidson for their assistance</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | <p>in getting to this stage of the project. A leaflet drop would be undertaken around the villages soon to launch the Share Scheme. Cllr Dougherty felt this should be delivered independently from the newsletter to obtain greater impact.</p> | |
| 011/20 | <p>To confirm recommendations from the Finance Working Party</p> <p>The FWP had met to consider and recommended for approval the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the Annual Internal Audit Report 2. To approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) 3. To approve the Annual Statement (Section 2) 4. To approve the Certificate of Exemption. 5. To confirm the dates of the Exercise of Public Rights <p>All above proposed by Cllr Wormell and seconded by Cllr Dougherty. Agreed.</p> | |
| 012/20 | <p>To consider and approve use of current reserves</p> <p>The Clerk explained that the Annual Audit had asked for an explanation into the level of reserves held, where the reserves were twice the level of the precept. As at 31.03.2020 the Council's reserves stood at £44437.</p> <p>Cllr Dougherty proposed and Cllr Mattack seconded that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £20000 be earmarked for streetlight replacement £10000 be earmarked for play equipment replacement £14437 be held as General Reserve. <p>Agreed. It was noted that earmarked reserves can be varied subject to resolution of the Full Council.</p> | |
| 013/20 | <p>To consider using internet banking and moving accounts to Unity Trust Bank</p> <p>It was agreed that council needed to move on to Internet Banking, however Cllr Dougherty raised issues with the charges imposed by Unity Trust Bank. It was agreed to obtain further information from other banks before proceeding.</p> | Action – Clerk to obtain further information |
| 014/20 | <p>To receive a report of the Covid-19 Action Group</p> <p>Cllr Dougherty reported that a questionnaire had been delivered to every property in the villages on 17th and 18th March asking for information of those residents likely to need assistance and those willing to volunteer to help. The information was held on a spreadsheet coordinated by Cllr Mattack, who reported that in May alone 64 requests for help had been fulfilled. Cllr Dougherty had so far sent 3 further emails to all residents who had responded to the questionnaire to keep everyone up to date. The response had been overwhelming and Cllr Frost said that this was down to the enthusiasm of the volunteers. Cllr Palmer-Slatter reported that on VE Day, 34 afternoon teas and goody bags had been</p> | |

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| | delivered to residents and thanks were given to those who had contributed to this. | |
| 015/20 | <p>Representatives Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Footpaths – all PROW are generally clear and receiving a lot more footfall since the Covid – 19 lockdown began. The scheduled annual clearing programme should still go ahead. A new footbridge has been installed on the permissive footpath from Glebe Lane to Abberton Church, thanks to Cllr Wormell for this. Volunteer litter picking continues in the village and two more residents have come forward to assist. 2. Abberton and Langenhoe Community Association – Following Government advice the Village Hall was closed late March and all events have been cancelled. All electrical appliances have been switched off to reduce bills and the hall has been given a Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant of £10k to support the hall during lockdown. The hall will remain closed until the Government advice allows reopening, at which time the building will be deep cleaned. The play area remains closed, but access will be allowed to bench seats in line with Government advice. The VE Day celebrations were a great success and thanks to David May for driving his vintage jeep around the village and to Alan and Cindy Frost for the display on the green. It was noted that the airplane will be sited at the school. Many residents sat in their front gardens to enjoy afternoon tea and the brilliant weather. Thank you to the Edward Marke Charity that made a donation towards providing 34 afternoon teas for residents and other items for gift bags. Thanks also to Sue King who assisted with the distribution of the bags. 3. Edward Marke Trust - the allotments are very busy but we have had to monitor the instances of fires being lit following complaints. The project to build the raised beds has been put on hold until later in the year. 4. Church matters – thanks to Simon and Maggie Dougherty for cutting the grass in the churchyard and to Charles and Pepeta Dutton for dealing with other maintenance issues. In accordance with Government guidelines, the church remains closed. 5. Grass cutting – there has been 5 full cuts this year. Thank you to Mick and Dexter for helping get the green ready for the VE Day celebrations. Plants will be arriving from the Sea Scouts this week for planting in the pots. The greens haven't been weed treated for some time. After some discussion it was agreed to not weed treat the greens at this time. It was also noted | |

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| | <p>that Cllr Palmer-Slatter had resigned from organizing the work on the greens and Cllr Wormell offered to take on this role.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Neighbourhood Watch – nothing to report 7. Youth Liaison – nothing to report 8. Finance Working Party – met by video, items discussed already dealt with earlier in the agenda 9. Property Maintenance – the play area and adult gym equipment remain closed, following Government guidelines. All other street furniture has been inspected and is safe. Cllr Kibblewhite had cleaned the bus shelter. 10. CALC – no meetings held 11. Broadband – still waiting to hear more from County Broadband 12. Speedwatch – another volunteer had come forward to assist. 13. Social media/newsletter – the next newsletter is on hold due to the current situation. It was agreed to reopen the Book Swap. Cllr Kibblewhite will put appropriate notices in the phone box re: social distancing and disinfecting 14. Highway Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstatement of driveway to Corner Bungalow – has been logged but not currently a priority • Pothole repair outside Corner Bungalow – to be checked if an Inspector has yet visited • Pothole near Rectory lane and on Mersea Road at top of Manwood Hill – as above • Kerbstone and pathway repairs in Pyefleet View – this has been reported • Speed camera, Mersea road – SERP have taken this to legal stages • School crossing patrol body camera – to be chased • 30 mph speed limit sign relocation, Layer Road – is progressing • Installation of ‘village gates’ – limited funds available in the Reservoir Fund, suggested PC either use reserves to pay for this or precept for it in 21/22 • Manhole repair by The Geetons – being investigated • Junction markings, H bars, school entrance and yellow exit markings – chasing NEPP • ‘adverse camber’ sign in Manwood Chase has been demolished – will be reported • Vegetation issues – undertaken on rolling programme • Bus stop lining – nothing further to report | |
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| 016/20 | Date of next meeting – 15 th June 2020 | |