

ABBERTON AND LANGENHOE PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 7th December 2020

A meeting of the Council took place on Monday 7th December 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-Slatte

Also in attendance – ECC Cllr K Bentley, CBC Cllrs P Moore and R Davidson, James Lambert, 6 members of public and Clerk

107/20	Apologies for absence – none	
108/20	Announcements – the Clerk advised that the S106 monies for the defibrillator had been received, but monies for the petanque court and benches was still awaited. Still waiting for confirmation of money being available for planters	Action – Clerk to chase funds for planters
109/20	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>Residents present raised concerns about the Council’s recent response to a planning proposal for the site in Peldon Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Skelton asked the Council to clarify its position on the proposals – Cllr Wormell explained that CBC had been advised that 17000 new houses need to be provided within the borough via the Local Plan and had undertaken a Call for Sites exercise in 2016 where any resident could put forward land they own for consideration of future development. As a result of this the land at Peldon Road was submitted by the land owner. In August 2016, CBC held a meeting in the Village Hall to outline how the Draft Local Plan could impact Abberton and Langenhoe and advised that they intended including the land at Peldon Road in the Local Plan for development and estimated that the land could achieve 35 houses. Following this the Council held a public meeting in 2017 that was attended by approximately 100 residents and the overwhelming view was that the residents did not want any further development in the villages. This response was forwarded to CBC. Despite this, the land	

	<p>at Peldon Road was included in the Draft Local Plan with a recommendation by CBC that the land could support 50 houses. Cllr Wormell explained that whilst this didn't suggest that planning permission would be given for a development on the site, once the land had been included in the Local Plan it would become subject to planning proposals by any developer and it was important that the Council ensured that any future development included infrastructure that was essential to the villages. This had formed the basis for the Council's response to the recent public consultation document. Cllr Davidson confirmed that most areas in Colchester borough would see some development to achieve the 17000 new properties needed and that CBC had decided that Abberton and Langenhoe could sustain an addition 50 houses. Stage 2 of the Draft Local Plan is due to go before the Government Inspector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Bowles felt that the Council should have made it more clear to residents that this was fishing exercise as some residents believed this was a done deal and permission had already been given. She urged the Council not to acquiesce to CBC. Cllr Wormell stated that the Council fully accepts all the objections raised by residents, but has a duty to ensure that the best outcome is reached for the villages. He reminded residents that if a planning application for the site is submitted, that the Parish Council is just one objection and that all residents should make their own representations. • Mr Herne reminded the Cllrs that at the meeting called by the Council in 2017, nearly 100 residents objected. He believes that the information on the Council's website and Facebook page was misleading and inferred that planning consent had been given. He asked the Council to issue another statement correcting this. Cllr Wormell agreed. • Cllr Moore reminded the meeting that the site may well not be included by the Government Inspector in the Local Plan, but if it is, then there is nothing to stop a developer submitting a planning application and that now is the time to raise objections. • Cllr Bentley stated that any objections raised must be bona fide planning objections and suggested that ECC Highways may well object to any application on the grounds that the development does not encourage sustainable transport. 	
110/20	Declarations of Interest – Cllrs Wormell, Dougherty and Frost declared pecuniary interests in item 117/20	

111/20	<p>Reports of County and Borough Cllrs</p> <p>ECC Cllr Bentley gave a short update on the current situation in the County concerning Covid and possible future restrictions. He advised that the monies received as a result of entering Tier 2 Covid restrictions and the subsequent lockdown had been used to assist those with the greatest needs including support for foodbanks and holiday clubs during the school holidays. Each ECC Cllr has been given £2000 to support local Covid measures and Cllr Bentley suggested that his allowance could be used to provide food aid to vulnerable people via the Community Shop. He asked that the Steering Group contact him to discuss how this could be achieved. Cllr Bentley thanked Cllr Kibblewhite for his input in resolving local Highways matters.</p> <p>CBC Cllr Moore reported that the Tendering and Colchester Garden Communities Project was moving forward. The plans for the reorganisation of Local Government had been put on hold for at least 1 year. At the last CBC Full Council meeting a motion combatting inequalities had generated a lot of discussion. At the same meeting Cllr Bentley had put forward a motion that ECC and CBC should work together to ensure the automatic adoption of estate roads on new developments. This was received favorably by the meeting. Cllr Moore reported that some people over 80 had already begun to receive invitations for Covid vaccinations, but currently all appointments were at Basildon Hospital.</p> <p>CBC Cllr Davidson advised that the motion on inequalities mentioned by Cllr Moore was being sent to the Policy Panel for further investigation. He reported that a further £4.6m was being made available by CBC for small business grants. He thanked the Community Shop for delivering Christmas cards to each household. He advised of an event being held at the Peldon Village Hall on 18th December.</p>	
112/20	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th November 2020</p> <p>The minutes as previously circulated were agreed as a correct record, to be signed by Cllr Wormell. Proposed by Cllr Hine and seconded by Cllr Grover</p>	
113/20	<p>Matters arising from previous meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Play Inspection – the Clerk reported that Kompan had confirmed that the quote obtained in July 2020 would be honored and the inspection will take place in January 2021. 2. Moving dog bin – the CBC Zone Manager has advised that after consulting with the Zone Wardens that whilst the bin at the bus shelter is not well used, to move it could result in an increase in dog foul in that area. It was also confirmed that CBC only install bins on their own land or Highways land and therefore the suggested location in Glebe Lane was unacceptable. 	

114/20	<p>Planning applications and decisions</p> <p><u>Applications</u></p> <p>201383 – Abberton and District Cricket Club – replacement of old nets, no objection</p> <p><u>Decisions</u></p> <p><u>Approvals</u></p> <p>202182 – 47 Fingringhoe Road</p> <p>202258 – Pete Tye Bungalow, Peldon Road</p>																	
115/20	<p>Correspondence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suffolk Cloud (website host) are offering to include a page on the website to provide listing of Cllrs details – it was agreed this was a good idea and Cllrs were asked to sent the Clerk a photograph and a short resumé for inclusion. 2. Cobalt – request for donation, denied 3. Letter from Mr Herne concerning planning proposal for Peldon Road land – it was agreed that this had been covered in item 109/20 	<p>Action – Cllrs to send info to Clerk for inclusion on website</p>																
116/20	<p>Finance and Accounts – December 2020</p> <p>The following accounts were approved for payment, schedule 010/20 and signed by Cllrs Wormell and Dougherty</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="354 1055 1066 1339"> <tr> <td>A&J Lighting – December maintenance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£60.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A&J Lighting – call out</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£157.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A&J Lighting – call out</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£227.94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Suffolk Cloud – website hosting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£110.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thinksay Creative – newsletter</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£320.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs C McSweeney – Zoom subscription</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£14.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E-On – streetlight electricity – Dec 20</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£59.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff costs – Dec 20</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£271.50</td> </tr> </table> <p>Bank reconciliation – October 2020, Cllr Mattack confirmed that this had been agreed.</p>	A&J Lighting – December maintenance	£60.90	A&J Lighting – call out	£157.14	A&J Lighting – call out	£227.94	Suffolk Cloud – website hosting	£110.00	Thinksay Creative – newsletter	£320.40	Mrs C McSweeney – Zoom subscription	£14.39	E-On – streetlight electricity – Dec 20	£59.80	Staff costs – Dec 20	£271.50	
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117/20	<p>The Lion Corner Community Shop</p> <p>James Lambert, Chair of Steering Group reported that the defibrillator donated by the Parish Council had been installed and insured. Christmas cards had been delivered to all properties in Abberton, Langenhoe, Peldon and Fingringhoe which had generated some new customers who had not previously been aware of the shop. Christmas hampers were on sale at the shop. The shop will remain open over Christmas (with the exception of Christmas day), opening hours on bank holidays would be the same as Sunday opening hours.</p>																	
118/20	<p>Accessibility Statement</p> <p>As previously reported, the Council had been advised to have their own Accessibility Statement on the website. The Clerk had circulated a proposal that had been drawn up using the</p>	<p>Action – Clerk to upload statement to website</p>																

	template on the Gov.uk website. Cllr Dougherty proposed and Cllr Mattack seconded adopting this Statement.	
119/20	Code of Conduct – review The previously accepted Code of Conduct had been circulated for review; however, Cllr Mattack had circulated an updated version which he had confirmed with the CBC Monitoring Officer was compatible. Cllr Mattack proposed and Cllr Grover seconded adopting the new updated code of Conduct	Action – Clerk to upload to website
120/20	Essex Climate Action Commission This had been previously circulated and members were asked to direct any comments to the Clerk.	
121/20	S106 – to consider updating the Wish List for CBC and receive information about a submission from the Cricket Club From the Wish List agreed previously (min 062/20), 1 item had now been achieved (defibrillator) and could be removed from the list. 1 item had been refused funding (Speedwatch equipment). Confirmation of funding for the planters was awaited. After some discussion the Wish List to be forwarded to CBC to be used for inclusion in future planning applications will be – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planters 2. Basketball Court refurbishment 3. Cricket Club enhancements 4. Village Sign refurbishment <p>Cllr Kibblewhite reported that the Cricket Club were intending to submit a request for funding for new nets.</p>	Action – Clerk to submit updated list to CBC
122/20	Representatives Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Footpaths and Tree Warden – nothing to report 2. Abberton and Langenhoe Community Association – the Father Christmas Sleigh will be touring the villages on 13th December collecting unwrapped presents for children (0-16) and donations. All presents and donations will be sent to two local charities for distribution. The Village Hall is now open and the yoga class and dance classes have resumed. 3. Edward Marke Trust – there will be a few half plots available 4. Church matters – still no vicar at the church and the interviews for a new vicar at Mersea did not result in an appointment. There will be no Christmas services this year. 5. Grass cutting/maintenance – the last cut was November. The gaps around the basketball court and petanque court were still visible. It was suggested that these could be backfilled and seeded as necessary in the spring 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Neighbourhood Watch – nothing to report 7. Youth liaison – nothing to report 8. Finance Working Party – nothing to report 9. Property Maintenance – all equipment OK and new notice board erected adjacent to the petanque court 10. CALC – meeting on 3rd December attended by Cllrs Dougherty and Frost. Presentations were made by Peter Davey, Chair of EALC and Charleen Slade, CEO of EALC. There was also some discussion concerning cycle paths. 11. Broadband – BT are still progressing with some works in the villages and higher speeds were being achieved. It was noted that those residents who had signed up to County Broadband were still awaiting installation and could not now access the improved BT services without breaking their contract with County Broadband 12. Speedwatch – Essex Police have undertaken a couple of sessions in the villages. Cllr Grover is going to attend a course on Covid security. There are no plans at present to train up any more volunteers to undertake the speedwatch sessions 13. Social Media and Newsletter – the newsletter has been distributed and been well received. Facebook page continues to attract a lot of visitors. 14. Highways Issues – Cllr Kibblewhite asked members if they wished him to add the possible installation of a zebra crossing in Mersea Road to his working list. The decision was that this was not needed at this time. ECC Highways were investigating the complaints about visibility issues at the junction of Mersea Road/Fingringhoe Road/Layer Road. Another speed survey was required in Mersea Road for the installation of a speed camera. The vegetation at the site used by the crossing patrol has been cut back by the Highway Rangers. There was still no further progress on the Crossing Patrol Attendant receiving a body cam. Still awaiting the vegetation around the sign at Manwood to be removed and the repairs to the footpath at the Village Hall were on the list to be done along with the reinstatement of Mr Cooks driveway. The 30mph limit request in Peldon Road is ongoing and the speed limit on Fingringhoe Road near the Cricket Club was being investigated. The dip in Mersea Road outside Abberton Car Sales was the result of faulty repairs and is being investigated. Cllr Kibblewhite had completed the Highways Survey on behalf of the Council 	
123/20	Date of next meeting – Monday 11 th January 2021	

There being no other business the meeting finished at 9pm