

ABBERTON AND LANGENHOE PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 10th July 2023

A meeting of the Council took place on Monday 10th July 2023 at 7pm, at the Village Hall, Edward Marke Drive, Langenhoe

Cllrs Present Simon Dougherty – Chair
 Alan Frost – Vice Chair
 Jonathan Andrews
 John Knight
 James Lambert
 Rod Lenart
 Malcolm Mattack
 Margaret Palmer-Slatter
 Steve Wormell

Also in attendance – ECC Cllr Lee Scott – Portfolio Holder for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, CCC Cllr Davidson, 8 members of public and Clerk

062/23	Apologies for absence ECC Cllr Bentley and CCC Cllr Powling	
063/23	Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Dougherty announced the arrangements for the Memorial Service for former Cllr, Gordon Davis• Cllr Dougherty announced that the Lion Corner Community Shop had opened the Abberton and Langenhoe Community Benefit Society fund for any residents to apply for funding towards community projects or activities	
064/23	Public Questions A member of the public thanked Cllr Wormell for fitting the gate to the allotments	
065/23	Declarations of Interest Cllr Knight declared a pecuniary interest in item 072/23 as he is the recipient of a payment The meeting was then opened to welcome ECC Cllr Lee Scott and allow members of the public to participate	
066/23	ECC Highways Cllr Scott thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting and began by providing some background about himself and his role at ECC. He advised that there was currently a review taking place about the speed limits across Essex and there has	

been discussion concerning meeting with the Sat Nav Companies to have some routes removed from their products to reduce traffic using inappropriate routes. He advised that whilst it is frustrating that the utility companies dig up roads that have only recently been repaired, the County Council has no powers to refuse a request from the Utility Companies to work on the highway. There are currently talks going on concerning the Utility Companies being made to liaise and work with the County Councils to avoid unnecessary disruption to road users. Cllr Scott explained the current trial of the Digi-Go buses in Braintree. These are all electric buses that can be booked in advance by residents for any use. The trial is half way through and so far, is successful and the hope would be to have funding to extend the service throughout the County as some bus routes do not have enough usage to remain sustainable. He believes that the biggest issue to address in the County in the future will be flooding and is hoping that when new developments are built that developers will be asked to contribute to the upgrade of the local drainage system to accommodate the new developments. He is hoping to introduce a charge on developers to ensure that any damage done to the existing infrastructure during builds is restored. Cllr Scott advised that Highways is only the third largest budget at the County behind Adult and Childrens Social Care and Education, and therefore it will never be possible to achieve all repairs and improvements needed, but works will continue to be prioritised.

Cllr Scott then addressed the issues relating to Abberton and Langenhoe;

- Speed camera installation – he advised that he is attending a meeting later in the week of the North East Essex Area Partnership and will be in better position after that to answer this matter
- Bracken Way – cracks in pavement – he has arranged for a further visit by a Highways Engineer
- Vegetation blocking sight lines in Mersea Road – Clerk to forward exact location
- Large pothole in Mersea Road after junction with Hays Lane – Highways Inspector to revisit
- Missing ‘Give Way’ sign at Layer Brook – repaired
- Replacement for School Crossing Attendant – this is not a Highways issue, but Cllr Scott had ascertained that the position had been advertised but to date there had been no applicants

Cllr Scott then took questions from Cllrs and residents

- Cllr Mattack was concerned about the updates provided on the ECC website reporting system and the fact that many reports just do not get actioned – Cllr Scott advised that all works are prioritised and any works regarded as dangerous will always take priority.

	<p>He asked to be provided with details of local defects that had not been actioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Wormell asked if the Coastal Footpath Definitive Map had been completed – Cllr Scott reported that this was 90% completed. Cllr Wormell requested to have sight of the part of the map that effected Langenhoe. • A resident was concerned about speeding issues and speed cameras and was referred to the previous comments • A resident had issues with the highway outside their property that was barely wide enough for two vehicles to pass, had no footpath and was on an obstructed bend. Calming methods were suggested and Cllr Scott asked that he be provided with the exact location and he would investigate <p>Cllr Dougherty thanked Cllr Scott for attending the meeting and the meeting was then closed to the public</p>	
067/23	<p>Reports from County and Borough Cllrs CCC Cllr Davidson reported that discussions were now underway concerning the budget for 2024/25. The CCC Chief Executive was intending to visit all Wards and would be in touch to make arrangements. Cllr Dougherty addressed the issue of the charges for garden waste and enquired why the charge was being introduced in January and not at the start of the next financial year. Cllr Davidson explained that although the new collection arrangements would start in January, bills would not be sent out until April 2024. He advised that residents would have to purchase the bins from CCC before accessing the service.</p>	
068/23	<p>Minutes of Meeting – 5th June 2023 The minutes as previously circulated were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Mattack and seconded by Cllr Lenart</p>	
069/23	<p>Matters arising from previous meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RCCE – a representative will be attending the Parish Council meeting on 5th September to discuss Rural Affordable Housing and a survey 2. Damage to fence in Peldon Road/Bracken Way – this has been repaired by the CCC Zone Warden 	
070/23	<p>Planning applications and decisions received</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 231301 – The Old Bakery, Layer Road – retrospective application for alterations and refurbishment works – no objection 2. 231302 – The Old Bakery, Layer Road – listed building approval – no objection 3. 231537 – 4 Hillcrest Cottages, Mersea Road – proposed replacement of conservatory with two 	

	<p>storey rear extension, front porch and first floor side extension – no objection</p> <p><u>Approvals</u> 230934 – Georgian House, Mersea Road</p> <p><u>Withdrawal</u> 230766 – View Park, Abberton Road</p> <p><u>Notifications</u> 231268 – Oxley Hill Farm, Layer Road – application for prior approval to be submitted 230948 – 2 Bracken Way – prior approval is not required</p>											
071/23	<p>Correspondence CCC – Colchester City Centre Masterplan Supplementary Document – consultation is now open</p>											
072/23	<p>Finance and Accounts – July 2023 The following accounts which had been previously circulated were approved for payment – Schedule 006/23. Proposed by Cllr Lambert and seconded by Cllr Lenart</p> <table> <tr> <td>N Power – streetlight electricity</td> <td>£73.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A&J Lighting – streetlight maintenance</td> <td>£60.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Knight – grass cutting x 2</td> <td>£350.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EALC – course fees</td> <td>£228.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff cost</td> <td>£348.75</td> </tr> </table>	N Power – streetlight electricity	£73.29	A&J Lighting – streetlight maintenance	£60.90	J Knight – grass cutting x 2	£350.00	EALC – course fees	£228.00	Staff cost	£348.75	
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073/23	<p>Bank reconciliation – June 2023 Cllr Mattack had agreed the bank reconciliation</p>											
074/23	<p>Assets Register – to consider and accept the revised Assets Register The Assets Register as previously circulated was agreed and accepted. Proposed by Cllr Mattack and seconded by Cllr Lenart</p>	Action – Clerk to update policy and upload to website										
075/23	<p>To consider the purchase of a replacement noticeboard for Village Hall car park The existing noticeboard is no longer fit for purpose. It was agreed that the Clerk will liaise with Cllr Palmer-Slatter and obtain some quotes to be discussed at the next meeting. The Clerk advised that there were some \$106 funds available in the Communities budget that could be utilized for the noticeboard.</p>	Action – Clerk to obtain quotes										
076/23	<p>Coronation Memorial Plaque – to consider and agree design The purchase of the plaque was agreed at the previous meeting and various designs had been sent for approval. Of the four options, it was agreed to order the stainless steel design and the personalisation to read ‘Abberton and Langenhoe’</p>	Action – Clerk to order plaque										

077/23	<p>Representatives' reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Footpath and Tree Warden – the scheduled cut by ECC is now due 2. Abberton and Langenhoe Community Association – the Social Night on 7th July was very popular, the next Social Night on 4th August will be a BBQ. The hall is currently very busy with a lot of bookings 3. Edward Marke Trust – some plots are still available 4. Church matters – there is currently a position available for Admin Assistant 5. Grass cutting – nothing to report 6. Neighbourhood Watch – the next meeting will be in November 7. Youth Liaison – the final meeting of the Hideaway Youth Club for this term is on 14th July 8. Finance Working Party – nothing to report 9. Property Maintenance – the wet pour in the play area has been repaired. Cllr Mattack reported that it appears that someone had tried to set fire to some paper in the bus shelter 10. CALC – meeting held on 22nd June reported that 'Ride London' would take place for a further 3 years and there is funding available at ECC for youth group activities 11. Speedwatch – session held on 30th June, between 8.30am and 9.30am, recorded 13 motorists exceeding the speed limit 12. Social Media/newsletter – deadline for items for the next newsletter is 3rd August. 	
078/23	Date of next meeting - 4 th September at 7pm	

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15pm