

ABBERTON AND LANGENHOE PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 1th December 2023

A meeting of the Council took place on Monday 11th December 2023 at 7.30pm, at the Village Hall, Edward Marke Drive, Langenhoe

Cllrs Present Simon Dougherty – Chair
 Alan Frost – Vice Chair
 John Knight
 Malcolm Mattack
 Steve Wormell

Also in attendance – CCC Cllr R Davidson, 4 members of public and Clerk

129/23	Apologies for absence – Cllrs Lambert, Lenart and Andrews and ECC Cllr Bentley	
130/23	Announcements There were no announcements	
131/23	Public Questions There were no public questions	
132/23	Declarations of Interest Cllr Knight declared a non pecuniary interest in item 139/23 as he the recipient of a payment. Cllr Dougherty advised that he will be amending his Declaration of Interest Form to reflect some organisations/charities that he no longer is involved with.	
133/23	Reports from County and City Cllrs CCC Cllr Davidson reported on changes to the recycling collections over the Xmas holiday period. There will be no further garden waste collections until mid-January. A pay settlement has been reached between Colchester City Council and its employees. ECC Cllr Bentley had submitted a written report – ECC are making representation to National Highways regarding the recent delays on the A12, Locality Budget money is now approved for the noticeboard and there is still some money available if any community groups are needing funding	
134/23	Minutes of Meeting – 6 th November 2023 The minutes as previously circulated were agreed as a correct record with the following amendment – 113/23, the resident who had passed away was Heather Irene Meade. Proposed by Cllr Mattack and seconded by Cllr Knight.	

135/23	<p>Co option to Parish Council</p> <p>Cllr Dougherty reported that one of the applicants had now withdrawn his application to join the council. Mrs Victoria Weavers was present at the meeting and invited to discuss her reasons for wishing to become a member of the Parish Council. Cllr Dougherty thanked her for her application. At the end of the meeting the members voted unanimously to invite Mrs Weavers to join the Parish Council</p>	Action – Clerk to contact Mrs Weavers and provide necessary paperwork to join the council
136/23	<p>Matters arising from previous meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commemorative Plaque – Cllr Wormell had looked at various methods of displaying the plaque and felt that constructing a plinth on Abberton Green would be the preferred method. Cllr Mattack proposed and Cllr Frost seconded that a plinth be constructed up to a budget of £1000. All agreed 2. CCC Rural Area Designation – the Clerk advised the meeting of the objection response that had been sent to CCC 3. RCCE – Housing Needs Survey – the survey had been delivered to Cllr Dougherty and will be distributed to members at the January meeting for delivery to all residents 	Action Cllr Wormell to construct plinth
137/23	<p>Planning Applications and decisions received</p> <p>232793 – land adj to Manwood Tye, Mersea Road – proposed erection of 3 bed bungalow with associated garage – objection on grounds that property is outside the village envelope and that A&L have already accepted the quota of new properties as designated in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Decisions</p> <p>232357 – View Park, Abberton Road – approved</p> <p>232143 – Oxley Hill Barns, Layer Road – approved</p>	
138/23	<p>Correspondence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CCC Norwich to Tilbury Grid Reinforcement – invitation to attend meetings – it was agreed that whilst the members would like to be kept informed of progress there was no need to send a representative as this group is being aimed at parishes/towns to the North of the County 2. NALC – to note the 2023/24 Local Government Pay Services Agreement – it was noted and accepted that the pay award amounts to £1 per hour increase in the Clerks salary. In accordance with a recommendation from the Internal Auditor, Cllr Mattack checked and agreed the back pay calculation 3. Complaint from resident of Edward Marke Drive concerning surface water flooding from Langenhoe 	Action

	<p>Green. Cllr Dougherty had walked around the green today and had not seen any surface water on the green which it is noted is on clay soil. It was noted that on 9th December 1.4 mm of rain had fallen, this was above the average for this time of year. Whilst the members were sympathetic to the resident's issues with surface water on her driveway it was felt that this was due to the exceptionally high rainfall on the day in question and the soil conditions. It was not felt that any corrective measures were necessary at this time.</p>	Clerk to respond to resident										
139/23	<p>Finance and Accounts December 2023 The following accounts which had been previously circulated were approved for payment, schedule 012/23. Proposed by Cllr Wormell and seconded by Cllr Mattack</p> <table> <tr> <td>A&J Lighting – streetlight maintenance</td> <td>£60.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N Power – streetlight electricity</td> <td>£148.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Knight – grass cutting</td> <td>£175.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Suffolk Cloud – website hosting and domain name</td> <td>£136.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff costs</td> <td>£573.75</td> </tr> </table>	A&J Lighting – streetlight maintenance	£60.90	N Power – streetlight electricity	£148.72	J Knight – grass cutting	£175.00	Suffolk Cloud – website hosting and domain name	£136.50	Staff costs	£573.75	
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140/23	<p>Bank reconciliation – November 2023 Cllr Mattack had agreed the bank reconciliation</p>											
141/23	<p>Budget and Precept The budget recommendations which had been previously circulated (appendix 1) were discussed. The precept proposed for 24/25 is £18470. If the CCC Revenue Grant (£864) remains in place this will result in a decrease in the Parish Council element of the council tax of 0.75% or 0.30p per property pa. If the Revenue Grant is withdrawn this will result in an increase of 4.11% or £1.65 per property pa. Cllr Mattack proposed and Cllr Wormell seconded accepting the recommendation from the Finance Working Party. All agreed.</p>	Action Clerk to advise CCC of precept requirement										
142/23	<p>Playground Inspection The Clerk had obtained 3 quotes for the annual playground inspection. The quotes received were for £195, £320 and £331.34. Cllr Wormell proposed and Cllr Mattack seconded accepting the cheapest quote from Anglian Inspection Services (AIS) who had undertaken the inspection in 2023.</p>	Action Clerk to arrange inspection with AIS										
143/23	<p>Review of Policies The following policies had been previously circulated and were agreed on bloc with the following amendments – Risk Management – reconciliations changed from quarterly to monthly Acceptance of Advertising – all references to 'newsletter' changed to 'magazine'</p>											

	<p>Freedom of Information – Quality Status now n/a Proposed by Cllr Wormell and seconded by Cllr Knight</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data Protection 2. Risk Management 3. Complaints Procedure 4. Training Procedure 5. Acceptance of advertising for the Parish Magazine 6. Freedom of Information 	
144/23	<p>CCC Code of Conduct Meeting</p> <p>Cllr Mattack had attended an on-line training workshop organised by the CCC Monitoring Officer. Cllr Mattack outlined Best Practice when using the adopted Code of Conduct and advised that the Monitoring Officer had suggested that each Parish/Town Council held a short briefing session annually to ensure that members were up to date with the requirements including the requirement to keep Registrable Interests current. It was agreed that at the next meeting when the Code of Conduct is due to be reviewed that this will be looked at further and also the inclusion of the new Civility and Respect Pledge that it is suggested that Parish Councils adopt.</p>	
145/23	<p>Representatives Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Footpaths and tree warden – nothing to report 2. Abberton and Langenhoe Community Association – the Father Christmas visit was very successful, as well as many donations of presents, £250 was collected during the visit around the village, the Social Night on 1st December was successful and tickets are now on sale for the New Years Eve party. Cllr Frost thanked all the volunteers for their hard work during the year. 3. Edward Marke Trust – the ditch has been cleared 4. Church Matters – the annual Carol Service will take place on 17th December at 4pm 5. Grass cutting – a final cut has now been done 6. Neighbourhood Watch – new members still required 7. Youth Liaison – nothing to report 8. Finance Working Party – nothing to report 9. Property Maintenance – nothing to report 10. CALC – a meeting was held by zoom on 7th December but due to connectivity issues the meeting was cut short. 11. Speedwatch – a session was held on 10th November, 626 passed the check point of which 10 were above 36 mph and 6 above 40mph. There may be fewer sessions arranged due to the need to have 3 volunteers on duty, but the local team may join with the Peldon Team to work both areas together. It was noted that having the information about total number of vehicles passing the check point put the information into better perspective. 	

	12. Highway Issues – the replacement VAS is now working.	
146/23	Date of next meeting – 8 th January 2024	