

ABBERTON AND LANGENHOE PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 4th September 2023

A meeting of the Council took place on Monday 4th September 2023 at 7pm, at the Village Hall, Edward Marke Drive, Langenhoe

Cllrs Present Simon Dougherty – Chair
 Jonathan Andrews
 John Knight
 James Lambert
 Rod Lenart
 Malcolm Mattack
 Margaret Palmer-Slatton

Also in attendance – CCC Cllrs Davidson and Powling, Laura Atkinson (RCCE), 6 members of public and Clerk

079/23	Apologies for absence – ECC Cllr Bentley, Cllrs Wormell and Frost	
080/23	<p>RCCE – Husing Needs Survey Laura Atkinson – RCCE Housing Needs Enabler, explained the concept of Affordable Housing and outlined the differing ways this can be achieved. It was noted that the last Housing Needs Survey in Abberton and Langenhoe had been undertaken in 2012. Laura outlined how a survey would work and advised that the survey would only be relevant for 5 years. Whilst the RCCE will draw up the survey and collate the responses, the Parish Council will be responsible for delivery of the survey and would need to accept the cost involved. Cllr Dougherty thanked Laura for her very informative presentation and advised that the meeting will discuss later whether to pursue this and the Clerk would be in touch.</p> <p>CCC Cllr Powling left the meeting at 7.30pm</p>	
081/23	<p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk will be on annual leave from 18th-26th September • Notification had been received that the Post Office supported the request made in 2022 for a post box to be installed in the vicinity of the Community Shop. Checks will now need to be undertaken to locate any underground utilities and permission from the landowner (likely to be ECC) will be sought. 	Action – Clerk to advise ECC Cllr Bentley

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several Cllrs had attended the memorial service for former Councillor Gordon Davis and Cllr Palmer-Slatter advised that the family had sent a card of thanks 	
082/23	Public Questions – none	
083/23	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllr Knight declared a pecuniary interest in item 089/23, as he is the recipient of a payment. Cllrs Dougherty and Andrews declared a non pecuniary interest in item 088.5/23 as they have property in Layer Road</p>	
084/23	<p>Reports from County and City Cllrs</p> <p>CCC Cllr Davidson reported that the allocation of clear recycling sacks was currently being delivered. He advised that the 2023/24 budget was already considerably overspent and further savings will need to be made for the 24/25 budget</p>	
085/23	<p>Minutes of Meeting – 10th July 2023</p> <p>The minutes as previously circulated were agreed as a correct record with the following amendment – 069/23, replace 5th September with 4th September. Proposed by Cllr Lambert and seconded by Cllr Lenart</p>	
086/23	<p>Matters arising from previous meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To decide the location for the Coronation commemorative plaque – the plaque has now been received and all agreed it was excellent quality. Cllr Dougherty asked all Cllrs to consider where best to place the plaque and let the Clerk know before the next meeting 20's plenty – Cllr Pyke (Layer de la Haye) had advised Cllr Mattack that several meetings arranged with ECC to discuss this matter had been cancelled at short notice and a further meeting had been scheduled Highways update – no further information had been received from ECC Cllr Scott since the previous meeting. Cllr Dougherty had received correspondence from a resident in Lodge Lane concerned about the damage being caused to the carriageway by large vehicles accessing the Fingringhoe Range site. This has been reported to ECC Highways and Cllr Dougherty will take this up with Cllr Scott 	<p>Action</p> <p>Cllrs to advise Clerk on preferences for plaque to be sited</p>
087/23	<p>Planning Applications and decisions received</p> <p>231735 – Oxley House, Mersea Road – application to determine if prior approval is required for change of use from agricultural building to dwelling – no objection</p> <p>Decisions – approvals</p>	

	213530 – land west of Peldon Road – outline approval for up to 50 dwellings 231537 – 4 Hillcrest Cottages – replacement of conservatory with two storey rear extension	
088/23	Correspondence <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CCC – invitation to all Parish Cllrs to attend free Planning Training session – noted 2. The Conservation Volunteers – offering work parties this autumn – it was agreed no work was required this year 3. CALC – letter from Chair advising of recent activities 4. N Power – increase in electricity prices for streetlight from 1/9/23 – noted 5. Request from resident for Parish Council to support speed reduction in Layer Road – it was noted that the Parish Council supported the 20's Plenty campaign 6. ECC – Bus Network Consultation – the consultation is due to end on 5th October and all residents are encouraged to submit comments 	
089/23	Finance and Accounts – August and September 2023 The following accounts which had been previously circulated were approved for payment Schedule 007/23 – August 2023 proposed by Cllr Lambert and seconded by Cllr Palmer-Slatton A&J Lighting – maintenance £60.90 A&J Lighting – call out £586.74 CALC – annual subscription £35.00 R Lenart – travelling expenses £59.20 N Power – streetlight electricity £74.96 J Knight – grasscutting x 2 £350.00 Thinksay Creative – newsletter £476.40 Staff costs – August £348.75 Schedule 008/23 – September 2023 proposed by Cllr Lenart and seconded by Cllr Lambert A&J Lighting – maintenance £60.90 A&J Lighting – annual inspection £280.80 J Knight – grass cutting £175.00 Black Country Metal Works – plaque £238.80 C McSweeney – office use £260.00 Staff costs – September £348.75	
090/23	Bank reconciliation – July and August 2023 Cllr Mattack had agreed the reconciliations	
091/23	Noticeboard – to agree replacement of noticeboard outside Village Hall and to submit a grant application to the ECC Micro Grants Fund	Action – Clerk to submit grant application

	<p>It had previously been agreed that the existing notice board was no longer fit for purpose. A suitable replacement would be in the range of £1400 and it was proposed to apply for funding from the ECC Micro Grants fund and request the ECC and CCC Cllrs to make a contribution from their Locality Grants. The Parish Council will make up any short fall from reserves. Cllr Mattack proposed and Cllr Andrews seconded submitting a grant application towards the purchase of a new noticeboard and the Parish Council making up any shortfall. All agreed.</p>	
092/23	<p>Housing Needs Survey – to consider/agree any recommendations arising from item 080/23 It was agreed that it would be prudent to undertake a Housing Needs Survey at this time, particularly due to the proposed development in Peldon Road that may contain an allocation of affordable housing. Cllr Lambert proposed and Cllr Lenart seconded allocating £400 from General Reserve towards the cost of the survey.</p>	Action – Clerk to notify RCCE that the PC wish to proceed with the Housing Needs Survey.
093/23	<p>Earmarked Reserves – to discuss/agree reserve earmarked for replacement heating in the Village Hall to be reassigned to cover cost of new flooring It was agreed that the replacement flooring was urgent and the Community Association had already sought quotes and had a preferred supplier. The cost of the flooring is £7747 + vat (which will be claimed back). It was proposed by Cllr Mattack and seconded by Cllr Andrews to reassign £7747 from the reserve earmarked for heating replacement to be used for the new flooring. This would leave £2253 earmarked for further improvements to the Village Hall. All agreed.</p>	Action – Clerk to liaise with Comm. Ass.
094/23	<p>Reserves – to consider and agree reserves following end of year accounts closure At 31st March 2023 a sum of £1449 remained from the 22/23 precept allocation. Cllr Lambert proposed and Cllr Knight seconded adding this sum to the General Reserve. The total of the General Reserve now stands at £25228 (including £10000 allocated to the Community Association – see item 093/23)</p>	
095/23	<p>Remembrance Day – to consider arrangements It was noted that Remembrance Day this year falls on a Saturday and it therefore likely that the school will wish to undertake a service at the War Memorial on the Friday. The usual service for all residents will take place on Sunday 12th November. A decision will need to be taken as to whether a service will also be held on 11th November.</p>	Action – Clerk to enquire what arrangements the school are making
096/23	<p>Streetlights – to note the annual streetlight inspection report A&J Lighting had recently undertaken the annual inspection. This had resulted in the replacement of 3 lamps and one cell.</p>	

	All lights have been cleaned and overhanging vegetation removed.	
097/23	<p>Representatives Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Footpaths and tree warden – footpath 7 has now been partially cleared by a resident and footpath 8 that spans Abberton and Fingringhoe is becoming impassable. The annual cutting of the footpaths by ECC is still awaited. 2. Abberton and Langenhoe Community Association – a lot of improvement works have recently taken place, including; new flooring, kitchen units and improvements to the bar. A lot of the work has been undertaken by volunteers therefore keeping the costs down and the volunteers were thanked. A record 64 meals were served at the Pub Night on 1st September. The Meeting Place continues to be well attended. There is a Macmillan Coffee Morning on 23rd September, and tickets are available for a quiz night on 13th October. A music quiz is planned for 17th November. 3. Edward Marke Trust – Cllr Frost has recently cut the hedges around the allotments and car park 4. Church Matters – nothing to report 5. Grass cutting – cuts still ongoing 6. Neighbourhood Watch – the next meeting is on 27th November. Walk with Cops will take place on 10th September starting at the Village Hall at 6pm 7. Youth Liaison – the Youth Club have received several grants and will be resuming at the end of September 8. Finance Working Party – nothing to report 9. Property Maintenance – the fence around the Village Green is collapsing again and the bus shelter needs sweeping out. 10. CALC – next meeting 28th September at Marks Tey Village Hall 11. Speedwatch – a couple of sessions have been cancelled due to holidays 12. Social Media and newsletter – Facebook continue to be well used. It was agreed that in future to refer to the newsletter as the ‘Parish Magazine’ 13. Highway Issues – Cllr Mattack had asked ECC for details of outstanding issues within the villages and had found that 300 jobs are showing as outstanding. 	
098/23	Date of next meeting – 9 th October at 7.30pm	

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.40pm