

## ABBERTON AND LANGENHOE PARISH COUNCIL

### COUNCIL MEETING – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

A meeting of the Council took place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm, 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  
                      Steve Wormell

Also in attendance – 11 members of public and Clerk

112/23	Apologies for absence ECC Cllr Bentley and CCC Cllrs Davidson and Powling	
113/23	Announcements Due to the urgency of a response an additional item – Designated Rural Areas will be added to the agenda. The recent death of Irene Meade was reported.	
114/23	Public Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A resident reported flooding on the footpath to the side of the allotments</li><li>• Several residents commented about planning application 232413. A resident whose property is adjacent to the site felt that the proposed properties were out of keeping with the existing rural landscape of the area. The proposed properties do not bare any resemblance to the properties proposed in the outline planning application in that they are larger houses and the design does not reflect existing properties.</li><li>• A resident still has concerns about the highway's aspects of the previously agreed planning application for this site (213531)</li></ul>	
115/23	Declarations of Interest – none	
116/23	Reports From County and City Councillors ECC Cllr Bentley had sent a written report – the allocation of £500 Locality Grant towards the purchase of a new noticeboard has been agreed, still no date for the installation	

	<p>of the replacement VAS and the County's devolution plan was getting closer to fruition. It is hoped that a briefing for Parish Chairs and Clerks will be arranged.</p> <p>CCC Cllr Davidson advised that all CCC Cllrs had been invited to attend a briefing on the new Garden Waste subscription service in order that they can fully answer any questions from residents.</p>	
117/23	<p>Minutes of Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023</p> <p>The minutes as previously circulated were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Mattack and seconded by Cllr Wormell</p>	
118/23	<p>Matters arising from previous meetings not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Councillor Vacancy – an advert has been placed to encourage eligible residents to apply to join the Parish Council. So far there have been 2 expressions of interest. All interested parties will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council when a decision on co-option can be made</li> <li>2. Commemorative Plaque – Cllr Dougherty had sought a quote to affix the plaque to a decorative stone for installation on the green. The quote was £3500. Cllr Wormell had sought the advice of local artist Kay Pattison to design a polished concrete plinth that could hold the plaque and any future commemorative items. The design was circulated and Mrs Pattison was commended for producing a very good design at such short notice. CCC Cllr Davidson had advised that he has a block of granite that may be suitable to use that he would be prepared to donate to the Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllr Wormell with the assistance of others, would look into all options and report back.</li> <li>3. RCCE Housing Needs Survey – the surveys will be delivered to Cllr Dougherty the first week in January for distribution by Cllrs to all properties, the return deadline will be early March.</li> <li>4. Noticeboard – the noticeboard has been ordered.</li> <li>5. Arrangements for Remembrance Day Services – a service will be held at the War Memorial on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November to allow the children of Langenhoe Primary School to lay wreaths and pay their respects. On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November the usual Remembrance Day Service will be held. Both services to begin at 10.45am.</li> </ol>	<p>Action – Cllr Wormell to investigate options for plaque</p>
119/23	<p>Planning Applications and decisions received</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 232357 – View Park, Abberton Road – demolition of existing bungalow and erection of new dwelling – no objection</li> </ol>	

	<p>2. 232416 – land adj. Borleys, Peldon Road – reserved matters – the members had previously listened to comments from the public present and unanimously reached the following the decision – The Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds – loss of amenity to existing residents and out of keeping with the existing rural street scene, including the adjacent Grade 2 listed property. It is noted that the design and size of the proposed properties bear little resemblance to those proposed in agreed application 213531, which were indicative only. The proposed dwellings are too tall and overbearing and the site appears to be even more heavily congested with 5 large houses for the site. Given the sites rural location and the proximity of historical buildings, it is recommended that the plans are redrafted to be more in keeping with the location. Clarification is required on the installation of the public footpath from the development to the school entrance which in this application appears to not extend the previously agreed distance.</p>	
	<p>The next item was added to the agenda due to the urgency of a decision being required</p>	
120/23	<p>CCC – Rural Area Designation Colchester City Council intend to apply for Rural Area Designation and the parish of Abberton and Langenhoe is included in this proposal. The Parish’s view was sought. Initially only 6 days had been given for comments to be received, however this had now been amended to allow more time for consultation. After some discussion the members unanimously rejected this proposal by CCC. It was strongly felt that no evidence was currently in place to support this level of affordable housing in the village – however this need will be determined by the forthcoming Housing Needs Survey that the Parish Council is organising, the results of which will be conveyed to CCC. With the lack of infrastructure in the village (no doctors surgery, poor transport links and lack of school places), it was felt unlikely that residents from the urban area of the city would consider relocating to the rural areas.</p>	<p>Action – Clerk to advise CCC of decision</p>
121/23	<p>Correspondence CCC Local Plan Calls for Sites – noted. The Chair asked that any resident putting forward land for future development keep the Parish Council advised.</p>	
122/23	<p>Finance and Accounts – November 2023 The following accounts which had been previously circulated were approved for payment schedule 011/23. Proposed by Cllr Lambert and seconded by Cllr Knight</p>	

	<p>A&amp;J Lighting – monthly maintenance £60.90</p> <p>A&amp;J Lighting – call out £208.80</p> <p>N Power – streetlight electricity £129.59</p> <p>Thinksay Creative – magazine printing £476.40</p> <p>Noticeboard Company – new noticeboard £1594.78</p> <p>Royal British Legion – poppy wreath £50.00</p> <p>C McSweeney – postage £7.95</p> <p>Staff costs £348.75</p>	
123/.23	<p>Bank Reconciliation – October 2023</p> <p>Cllr Mattack had reconciled the accounts</p>	
124/23	<p>Review of Policies</p> <p>The following policies which had been previous circulated for comments were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Mattack and seconded by Cllr Lambert</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standing Orders</li> <li>• Media Policy</li> <li>• The effectiveness of the internal audit</li> </ul> <p>Regarding the Action Plan – there were several amendments; removal of reference to LCAS Award and addition of RCCE Housing Needs Survey. Cllr Mattack will recirculate this policy with the suggested amendments and Cllrs are requested to advice on any further amendments asap.</p>	<p>Action – Cllr Mattack to recirculate Action Plan</p>
125/23	<p>To consider and agree quotes for annual playground inspection</p> <p>The Clerk has sought 3 quotes but so far only 1 has been received. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.</p>	
126/23	<p>To confirm the appointment of Mrs J Stobart as internal auditor for 2023/24</p> <p>Cllr Lenart proposed and Cllr Mattack seconded accepting Mrs Stobart’s quote of £230 to undertake the internal audit for 23/24.</p>	
127/23	<p>Representatives Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Footpath and tree warden – the footpath between Fingringhoe Road and Abberton Road had been recut</li> <li>2. Abberton and Langenhoe Community Association – the pub night on 3<sup>rd</sup> November had been the most successful to date with 80+ meals being sold. It has been agreed to open the bar in the hall every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday for residents. Music Quiz on 17<sup>th</sup> November, tickets still available. The annual visit of Father Christmas will take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December with refreshments available at the Village Hall after. Proposal for a disco on 31<sup>st</sup> December, this will be strictly tickets only and numbers will be limited.</li> </ol>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Edward Marke Trust – all current allotment holders had renewed their tenancies for another year.</li> <li>4. Church Matters - nothing to report</li> <li>5. Grasscutting – hope to get another cut in before the end of the year</li> <li>6. Neighbourhood Watch – nothing to report</li> <li>7. Finance Working Party – met on 31<sup>st</sup> October to consider the budget for 2024/25. Will be presented to Full Council on 11<sup>th</sup> December</li> <li>8. Youth Liaison – nothing to report</li> <li>9. Property Maintenance – nothing to report</li> <li>10. CALC – nothing to report</li> <li>11. Speedwatch – a session was held on 10<sup>th</sup> October when a total of 25 vehicles were reported at driving between 36 and 39 mph and 8 vehicles were recorded as travelling above 40mph. The Speedwatch Team have recently been advised that there must always be a minimum of 3 volunteers at each session and this was likely to prove difficult due to a lack of volunteers. Discussion is ongoing with the Peldon Team to see if a joint approach would be possible.</li> <li>12. Highway Issues – Cllr Bentley had noted the comments about the failed repair at Manwood Tye. It was reported that ECC Cllr Lee Scott had stood down from the Highways portfolio and had been replaced by Cllr Tom Cunningham</li> </ol>	
128/23	Date of next meeting – 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	

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There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.05pm