

ABBERTON AND LANGENHOE PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 5th February 2024

A meeting of the Council took place on Monday 5th February 2024 at 7.30pm, at the Village Hall, Edward Marke Drive, Langenhoe

Cllrs Present Simon Dougherty – Chair
 Alan Frost – Vice Chair
 John Knight
 James Lambert
 Rob Lenart
 Malcolm Mattack
 Victoria Weavers
 Steve Wormell

Also in attendance – ECC Cllr Bentley, CCC Cllrs Davidson and Powling, 7 members of public and Clerk

162/23	Apologies for absence Cllr Andrews	
163/23	Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was reported that long term resident of the village, Michael Waite had passed away• The Clerk reminded the members that CCC were holding an on-line briefing about the Local Plan on 12th February and anyone can dial in	
164/23	Public Questions Several residents had attended to raise concerns about a planning application and the lack of School Crossing Patrol. It was agreed to allow these residents to make their comments later in the meeting when those items were discussed.	
165/23	Declarations of Interest Cllr Weavers declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 171/23 as she is the recipient of a payment. Cllr Mattack declared an interest in item 170.3/23 as his wife was Chair of Governors of Langenhoe Primary School and would be speaking later in the meeting.	
166/23	Reports from County and City Cllrs ECC Cllr Bentley reported that at a Full Council meeting to be held on 13 th February an increase of 2.99% on the Council Tax would be proposed. He explained the reasons for the increase. The Local Highways Panel had forwarded a report concerning moving some bus stops in Mersea Road, but	

	<p>neither the Parish Council or Cllr Bentley were aware of this proposal and he will investigate further.</p> <p>CCC Cllr Powling had donated £600 from his Locality budget to the Parish Council for the purchase of the new noticeboard and he was thanked for this.</p> <p>CCC Cllr Davidson advised that changes to the Ward boundaries were been considered. CCC were in considerable financial deficit and one proposal was reduce the Council by 25% over the next 5 years. The take up for the new garden waste collection service was double that expected at 24% although there had been some teething problems with collections.</p>	
167/23	<p>Minutes of Meeting – 8th January 2024</p> <p>The minutes as previously circulated were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Lambert and seconded by Cllr Knight.</p>	
168/23	<p>Matters arising from previous meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noticeboard – the new noticeboard has now been delivered and is awaiting installation. It has been insured and this will add an additional £15 to the council’s policy at renewal. 2. RCCE Housing Needs Survey – The RCCE has advised that as at the 31st January, there had been a return of 21% of surveys. Cllrs were urged to encourage residents who haven’t already returned their survey to do so. 	
169/23	<p>Planning Applications and decisions received</p> <p>232413 – land adjacent to Borleys, Peldon Road. The Parish Council object on the following grounds – the proposed properties are urban in appearance and as such are out of keeping with the existing street scene. The property proposed as Plot 1 will dominate the existing Grade 2 Listed Property to the north of the development. The footpath from the development as agreed in September 2022 is not clear on the plans and it is not clear how this will link up with the footpaths proposed from the development of 50 properties immediately opposite.</p> <p>The Clerk had sought advise concerning the footpaths from both proposed developments on Peldon Road and had been advised that the details of the footpaths are secured by condition 10 of the outline consent and therefore do not have to be provided as part of the reserved matters application but as part of a future discharge of condition application.</p> <p>Residents present at the meeting expressed concern about the confusion the issue of footpaths was causing and ECC Cllr Bentley agreed to take this matter up with ECC and obtain a definitive answer. He would also be looking into the provision of the safety audit. CCC Cllr Davidson was concerned that the provision of parking on the school site had not been</p>	<p>Action EC Cllr Bentley to seek advice from ECC</p>

	<p>progressed and again ECC Cllr Bentley would speak to colleagues to ascertain whether this matter had been resolved.</p>																			
170/23	<p>Correspondence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EALC – confirmation that the Councillor Training Bursary had been awarded to Cllr Weavers to attend Cllr Training Days 1 and 2 2. CCC – invitation to participate in Colchester’s Winter Clean – date to be agreed at next meeting 3. School Crossing Patrol – following representations from the school and residents, ECC had confirmed that despite advertising this position since the previous Crossing Patrol Attendant retired, no applications have been received and they were unable to provide any assistance to man the crossing. The Chair of the school governors was concerned about the danger to pupils and parents having to cross such a busy road and requested that consideration be given to the installation of a statutory crossing at that point. ECC Cllr Bentley agreed to approach colleagues at ECC to ascertain the procedure to make a request for this to be investigated. 	<p>Action</p> <p>Cllrs to look at dates for litter pick</p> <p>ECC Cllr Bentley to speak with ECC</p>																		
171/23	<p>Finance and Accounts – February 2024</p> <p>The accounts as previously circulated – schedule 014/23 were agreed for payment. Proposed by Cllr Mattack and seconded by Cllr Lenart</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">EALC – training fees</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£228.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anglia Inspections Ltd – playground inspection</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£195.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thinksay Creative – magazine printing</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£476.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AYJ Lighting – call out</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£514.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AJ Lighting – call out</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£143.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A&J Lighting – monthly maintenance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£60.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>V Weavers – travelling expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£61.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N Power – streetlight electricity</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£166.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£373.75</td> </tr> </table>	EALC – training fees	£228.00	Anglia Inspections Ltd – playground inspection	£195.00	Thinksay Creative – magazine printing	£476.40	AYJ Lighting – call out	£514.80	AJ Lighting – call out	£143.34	A&J Lighting – monthly maintenance	£60.90	V Weavers – travelling expenses	£61.00	N Power – streetlight electricity	£166.20	Staff costs	£373.75	
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172/23	<p>Bank reconciliation – January 2024</p> <p>Cllr Mattack had agreed the reconciliation</p>																			
173/23	<p>Annual Playground Inspection</p> <p>The inspection had been undertaken by Anglia Inspection Ltd on 15th January 2024. There were no immediate risks to be actioned. The splits in the children’s swing seats will be monitored.</p>																			
174/23	<p>Streetlights – to consider a proposal to replace all current sodium lights with LED</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>ECC Cllr to Bentley to approach ECC</p>																		

	<p>Cllr Mattack had suggested applying for funding from S106 to replace all current sodium lights (23 in total) with LEDs. The Clerk had been advised that this would involve an approach to ECC to obtain funding from their S106 pot. The council does have a Reserve fund for replacement streetlights but this would not cover the cost to replace all the lights at this time. ECC Cllr Bentley will investigate if lights can be sourced from the ECC supplier at a cheaper cost.</p>	
175/23	<p>20's plenty – update</p> <p>Cllr Mattack advised that at its Full Council meeting on 12th December 2023, ECC voted against a motion to reduce speeds in residential areas to 20mph. However, consideration was being given to individual cases. ECC Cllr Bentley explained the process to be put in place to obtain consideration. Initially a petition from residents would need to be presented by Cllr Bentley to ECC. The Clerk will obtain the wording for the petition.</p>	Action – Clerk to obtain wording for petition
176/23	<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 pub night on 2nd February was very busy, however it was noted that the majority of customers were from outside the parish. There are still tickets available for the Valentines Disco on 10th February. 3. Edward Marke Trust – some of the vacant plots are becoming overgrown 4. Church Matters – nothing to report 5. Grasscutting – cutting will begin again at the end of the month and there are plans to cut back the hedge 6. Neighbourhood Watch – nothing to report 7. Youth Liaison – nothing to report 8. Finance Working Party – nothing to report 9. Property Maintenance – one of the water butts by the bus stop has a split and will be monitored. A resident had enquired about purchasing a memorial bench near to the children's play area in memory of her late mother. It was noted that one of the benches already in place was in need of replacement and the Clerk will obtain a price for a new bench to match the second bench at the play area. 10. CALC – there is an extra meeting on 8th February, Cllr Frost will attend 11. Speedwatch – no sessions have been undertaken since the last meeting and more volunteers are urgently required. 12. Highway Issues – the pot hole in Lodge Lane has now been inspected. 	<p>Action</p> <p>Clerk to look at prices for a replacement bench</p>
177/23	Date of next meeting – 4 th March 2024	

