

ABBERTON AND LANGENHOE PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 9th September 2024

A meeting of the Council took place on Monday 9th September 2024 at 7pm, at the Village Hall, Edward Marke Drive, Langenhoe

Cllrs Present - Steve Wormell – Chair
Victoria Weavers – Vice Chair
Alan Frost
James Lambert
Margaret Palmer-Slatton
Malcolm Mattack
Micheal Summer

Also in attendance – CCC Cllrs Davidson and Parsons, 2 representatives from Rural Community Council of Essex, 7 members of public and Clerk

088/24	Apologies for absence Cllrs Crayston and Bashford. ECC Cllr Bentley	
089/24	Housing Needs Survey Laura Atkinson and Rachel Fahie attended to explain the results of the recent Housing Needs Survey. The survey attracted a high response and the most pressing need in the area is for affordable smaller homes. Laura explained how a Rural Exception Site (RES) would operate and suggested that this was the best route for the Parish Council to meet the requirements of the community. She stressed that to obtain a RES, it was necessary to ensure that council make representations to CCC as soon as a site is identified. Cllr Wormell thanked Laura and Rachel for attending	Action – Clerk to ask for assistance in writing a response to residents in the Parish Magazine
090/24	Announcements None	
091/24	Public Questions Tony Johnson – Transport Representative advised that he had attended a meeting in July and that he was disappointed that there were no representatives from the local bus companies in attendance and little progress had been made. He noted that several services operated by different companies came through the village close together and is asking the operators to negotiate changes to the timetable to accommodate a better overall service for the village. Cllr Wormell thanked him for attending the Transport meeting on the Parish's' behalf and reporting back. A resident was disappointed with the results of the recent speed survey in Layer Road	

092/24	Declarations of Interest Cllr Wormell declared a pecuniary interest in item 096/24	
093/24	Reports from County and City Cllrs CCC Cllr Parsons reported that the new Government had imposed higher housing targets for the area and 1290 houses will need to be agreed per year. It is expected that future changes to planning laws will shift more decision-making back to central government. CCC are considering replacing the recycling sacks and boxes with one wheelie bin for all recycling. The Local Government Boundary Commission is open for consultation. This could result in a change to many of the Wards in Colchester including Mersea and Pyfleet. Cllr Lambert asked the CCC Cllrs to ascertain when the road sweeper was likely to visit Abberton.	
094/24	Minutes of Council Meeting – 8 th July 2024 The minutes of the meeting as previously circulated were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Lambert and seconded by Cllr Mattack	
095/24	Matters arising from previous meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To confirm Cllr Crayston as the Parish Council contact with Denbury Homes – all agreed 2. 20's Plenty – update, the petition has now been passed the ECC Cllr Bentley. 3. Changes to bank mandate – completed 	
096/24	Planning Applications and decisions received <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 241418 – P R Wormell Farms, Langenhoe Hall Lane – prior notification of agricultural or forestry development – no objection 2. 241583 – land west of Peldon Road – whilst not objecting to this application, observations and suggestions were made concerning highway issues and the location of the school drop off point 3. 241593 – Pantile Farm, Peldon Road – change of use from agricultural to general industrial and storage or distribution – no objection 	
097/24	Correspondence <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EALC – Community initiative Fund is now open – noted 2. PFK Littlejohn – completion of annual audit 3. ECC – Safer Greener Healthier Routes consultation – noted 	
098/24	Finance and Accounts – July, August and September 2024 The accounts as previously circulated were agreed for payment. Proposed by Cllr Mattack and seconded by Cllr Lambert Schedule 007/24 July 2024 J Knight – grass cutting	£175.00

	<p>P Creamer – plants and compost £287.71</p> <p>Schedule 008/24 – August 2024</p> <p>A&J Lighting – streetlight maintenance £60.90</p> <p>J Knight – grass cutting £175.00</p> <p>M Summer – travelling expenses £62.40</p> <p>PKF Littlejohn – audit fee £252.00</p> <p>N Power – streetlight electricity £97.49</p> <p>Thinksay Creative – magazine printing £476.40</p> <p>Staff costs £373.75</p> <p>Schedule 009/24 – September 2024</p> <p>A&J Lighting – streetlight maintenance £60.90</p> <p>N Power – streetlight electricity £98.38</p> <p>J Knight – grass cutting £50.00</p> <p>C McSweeney – office use and stationery £305.64</p> <p>Staff costs £373.75</p>	
099/24	<p>Bank reconciliation – July and August 2024</p> <p>Cllr Mattack had agreed the reconciliations</p>	
100/24	<p>Speed Check – Layer Road</p> <p>The speed check had been undertaken and did not show any significant issues of excessive speeding. ECC Cllr Bentley had advised that no further action would result, but a resident felt that Layer Road should be made an exception due to the lack of footpaths and the Parish Council should make an appeal.</p>	
101/24	<p>Clerk’s Vacancy – update and to ratify decision to increase current salary</p> <p>There had now been 3 applicants and Cllrs Wormell, Weavers and Frost will be conducting interviews. It was agreed that due to the lack of earlier response that a salary up to SP23 should be offered, subject to experience. Proposed by Cllr Wormell and seconded by Cllr Mattack. All agreed.</p>	
102/24	<p>CCC – Electoral review</p> <p>The Local Government Boundary Commission consultation is now open and details can be found on the website</p>	
103/24	<p>Representatives Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Footpaths and tree warden – Cllr Mattack is pursuing some issues with the quality of undertaken work on PROW 8 with ECC Cllr Bentley. The sight splay at the end of PROW 7 has now been cut back 2. Abberton and Langenhoe Community Association – Ed’s Bar on 6/9 was well attended, the next one will be on 20th September. Bookings were being taken for the Xmas meal/Ed’s Bar on 6/12. MacMillan Coffee morning on 28/9 and Quiz on 25/10. 3. Edward Marke Trust – still vacant plots 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Church Matters – problems with ant hills in the churchyard is preventing maintenance 5. Grass cutting – on going. The commemorative obelisk has now been installed on Abberton Green, Cllr Wormell was thanked for his work on this 6. Neighbourhood Watch – the stall at the village fun day had been popular. The Colchester NW had provided some posters with QR codes that provided an immediate link to reporting crime. New signs were being printed to deliver to properties. No recent incidents had affected the village. Cllr Palmer-Slatter was thanked for her work on producing the 'Welcome to the Village' leaflet 7. Finance Working Party – not met 8. Property Maintenance – Cllr Summer had replaced the basketball net 9. CALC – Cllrs Lambert and Weavers had attended the meeting on 5/9. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner had attended the meeting and reported that overall crime figures were down but there was still a need to recruit more Special Constables. There was a presentation on encouraging cycling. 10. Speedwatch – 3 sessions had been held recently. Cllr Summers had confirmed with Essex Police that the Speedwatch volunteers were able to stop the traffic to assist children across the road. 11. Highway Issues – nothing to report 12. Parish Magazine – deadline for items for the Winter edition is 7th October 	
104/24	Date of next meeting -7 th October 2024	

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm