

**Minutes of  
Langham Parish Council (LPC) Meeting  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Langham Community Centre**

**Present:** Cllr Bottwood, Cllr Thorpe, Cllr Brockman, Cllr Thorpe, Cllr Armstrong,  
Cllr Ogawa, Cllr Freeman, Cllr Palmer

**Attendees:** Carol Harbach – Clerk  
3 members of the public.

**22/543 Welcome and apologies for absence**  
Cllr Bottwood welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
Apologies were received from Cllr Chapman.

**22/544 Declaration of Members interests**  
None arose. It was agreed that any declaration of interest would be declared  
as they arrive on the agenda.

**22/545 Agreement of Minutes of the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**  
These were agreed as a true and accurate account. Proposed Cllr Freeman  
seconded Cllr Armstrong All agreed.

**22/546 Matters arising from the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**  
All on this agenda.  
Turnpike Close/Ipswich Road – overhanging hedges Clerk to follow up  
VAS Wick Road – checking of underground utilities- The council have found a  
company who can complete this for us with a cost. Completed and  
discharged.  
Credit/debit card - ongoing.

**22/547 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)**  
A resident has sent an email regarding a blue plaque for the Basque  
refugees. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting. The amount  
quoted for this will be looked at for next year's budget.  
Cllr Thorpe had to leave the meeting at 7:40pm due to illness.

**22/548 Visitors Reports (CBC and County Councillors)**  
Cllr Chapman could not attend but had sent an email and reported that  
Colchester City Council (CCC) budget is being looked at for ways to cut  
expenditure over the next few years

**22/549 Finance**  
**549.1** Matters arising from Finance meetings on 11/1/23  
Questions raised regarding the bonfire night budget will be referred back to  
the Recreation Ground committee.

Possibility for a 5-year plan for finance is going to be reviewed and it was agreed that variances against set budget should be tracked more closely. Progress on this will be reported back to the main council.

**549.2** To approve payments in accordance with the 2022/23 budget

Expenditure for December 22 approved under delegated powers.

Impact Security and Medical cover – for Bonfire event	£525.00
James Todd & Co – payroll	24.00
Bowman & Sons – cutting of hedge	156.00
Contractor for village Inv. Oct Nov 22 - village works	222.00
R&D Schofield – storage of paperwork	82.80
JackRabbit Brewing – beer for bonfire event	1,208.40
Clerk Salary for Dec 22 including backpay	1,259.96
HMRC NI Payment & Tax	252.17
Pinnacle Housing Ltd – grass cutting of field	2,340.00
Troggys Grass Maintenance – cutting of verges	760.00
	=====
Total	£6,830,33
January 23 expenditure for approval	
LCC – Hall hire Inv. 5332	48.50

Proposed by Cllr Bottwood seconded by Cllr Brockman all agreed.

Balance as at 31/12/22

Community Account 30553093	£3,801.79
Savings account 30553085	£51,193.02
Tennis account 50634468	£14,946.47
Bonfire account 40553182	£18,029.98
	=====
Total	£87,971.26
Current account	
Income	£26,502.09
Expenditure	£39,347.65

**549.3** Approve budget and precept for 2023/2024 year

Precept – It was recommended by the Finance Committee that the precept payment for 23/24 should be £22,988 which is an increase of 12.6%. This is based on the RPI figure at September 2022.

After questions were raised and answered it was Proposed Cllr Bottwood seconded Cllr Palmer. All agreed.

The Clerk will send this to CCC for submission.

Budget – This will be deferred to the Recreation Ground meeting as the Recreation Ground budget needs to be signed off by the committee. The next meeting is the 30<sup>th</sup> January.

22/550

## Planning/Housing

### 550.1 Planning Applications Decisions Received

**222566** - Bumblebee Cottage, Moor Road, Langham, Essex, CO4 5NP

Extend the height of the existing chimney stack up to 180cms

Approved Conditional

**222309**- 1 Adelphi Cottage, Moor Road, Langham, Colchester, CO4 5NR

Replacement Doors & Windows & Associated Works

Approved conditional

### 550.2 Planning Applications Received

**222858** - Land south of, School Road, Langham Colchester

Application for approval of details reserved by condition 32 of approved application 191830.

The developer has requested permission for laying foundations for the complete site (46 homes), agreement has been given to date for half the site. The PC have engaged with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) about this and raised major concerns. The LPA stated it would still defend the position that only half of the site could be occupied until it was demonstrated that WRC and sewerage network capacity exists and building beyond slab (foundation) level for the additional 23 homes would not be accepted at this time. Nothing has been formally agreed as yet by the LPA..

**222963** - Footpath 26 & 29, School Road, Langham Colchester

Notification of a Public Path Diversion Order

Section 109 of Highways Act 1980

Diversion of Public Footpaths

The diversion order has not been concluded, as there is a 2-month negotiation period which has still not been reached.

A letter had been sent to a resident (this week) to ask for him to withdraw the objection he put in as there would be an ongoing cost incurred by the Planning Inspectorate to review this but the resident will not do this.

**550.3** – National Grid, East Anglia Green (Pylons) scoping document

The application for a scoping opinion was received by the Planning Inspectorate on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 22 and adopted on the 1<sup>th</sup> December 22. The PC sent a response to the scoping document on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and it was proposed that this should be placed on the PC website. Proposed Cllr Bottwood and seconded Cllr Palmer. All agreed. Cllr Armstrong agreed to update the website. The next public consultation on the East Anglia Green (Pylons) project is planned to start in the second quarter of 2023. .

### 550.4 - S106 Funding

Update - the local authority has now raised an invoice to the developer for the S106 money for the whole amount which is due for payment for the Vistry site. The LPA are expecting this to be settled within 30 days in line with the contract conditions. will see if this is paid to the PC within the 30 days.

Indexation has also increased this money to be paid out.

It was stressed by the Cllr Bottwood that the PC needed to put forward a project application including the quotes that have been obtained for projects that were awaiting Vistry S106 contract funding. This is in addition to any projects that were aligned to Unilateral Undertakings S106 payments already collected from developers by the LPA. Action Cllr Bottwood to discuss with Cllr Thorpe.

**22/551**

### **Recreation Ground Committee updates**

The Clerk read out the notes left by Cllr Thorpe

#### Bonfire Night

Cllr Palmer and his team were thanked by the council for a well organised and enjoyed event.

Final figures are nearly complete and there is just one more invoice and a couple of pitch fees to collect.

#### Children's Play area

There is a contractor pre meeting this week to move things forward.

Kompan have sent in an outline order which has been submitted to the Clerk.

#### Multi-Use sports court

Previously received bids need to be updated. Referred to Recreation Ground Committee

#### Gigaclear cabinet Moor Road/Park Lane

Plants are to be planted by the PC once weather improves and Gigaclear have agreed to pay for these.

#### King's Coronation event

Cllr Ogawa stated that there have been some discussions regarding this which will go back to the Recreation Ground Committee. Provisionally this will be over the weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May. It will be a vintage theme and will start on Saturday afternoon with afternoon tea in the main hall with a screen showing the coronation event. It is hoped this will be run by the boys at The Oaks. It is also hoped to have a 1940's girl singing group (Fox, Wiggle & Sass) singing 1940's songs.. Cakes will be contributed by the Langham Ladies. The evening event was hopefully going to be street food vendors and possible vans for coffee/gin bar.. The PC will run the beer tent. It was also hoped to have another band in the evening.

Discussions took place on the lighting of the beacon but this is dependent on what directives are issued by the Palace and if there are any protocols to meet.

On the Sunday it was hoped to have a community sports day and a village picnic with old fashioned races such as egg and spoon and sack races.

There is a meeting with Essex Cricket next week and they will be asked if they would like to participate. There is also a 5 a side football match planned.

The details have yet to be agreed by the Recreation Ground committee and will be confirmed after they have been discussed further.

- 22/552**      **Welcome/Information packs for new residents**  
-    **Cllr Ogawa update**  
Cllr Ogawa has been in discussions with the Community shop, and it was thought to have an A4/5 folder (with appropriate branding) with loose pages as updates that can then easily be printed and changed. There would be a small budget to achieve this. A discussion followed on this and printing companies were suggested. Cllr Ogawa will be talking to suppliers to obtain information and printing costs.  
The costings for this will be brought back to the council.
- 22/553**      **Policies for adoption**  
**Health & Safety Policy**  
**Equality and Diversity Policy**  
These have been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and no further comments had been received.  
This will be deferred to the next meeting as there are some things that still need to be discussed.
- 22/554**      **Vehicle Activated Speeding sign in Wick Road update**  
The PC cannot find a licensed contractor who is willing to excavate the site for the post retention socket.. There are issues with identifying existing underground utilities but the PC have identified a company that can research this. The PC will go back to Cllr Barber to ask for his advice on this. There is another company that can provide the SID sign, that was not our first choice, who may be able to complete this work and this will be looked at as a possible option. This is ongoing and information will be updated as received.
- 22/555**      **Councillor's Reports**  
**No decisions are made or action points allocated in this section**  
Cllr Bottwood – nothing further  
Cllr Thorpe – absent  
Cllr Brockman –nothing further  
Cllr Armstrong – nothing further  
Cllr Ogawa – nothing further  
Cllr Freeman – nothing further  
Cllr Palmer – fireworks event went well and was enjoyed by all.
- 22/556**      **Clerk's Report and Correspondence**  
Blue Plaque for Basque Children - the cost of this is likely to be in the region of £616 (incl VAT) and will be discussed at the next Finance meeting as it was not on the agenda for this month. Ongoing.  
Christmas Tree/Carol Service – The Clerk has received a few comments regarding the Christmas Tree that the Parish Council donated and was placed outside The Shepherd and Dog. A lot of residents were expecting to have the

Carol Service around the tree but this was held in the Pub. Although it had been raining earlier in the day, it had stopped when the service was due to have taken place. Many residents did not want to go into the pub for the service and went home instead. There were also comments that there was no notice on the tree to say this was donated by the Parish Council for the Langham residents, and the pub had been promoting the tree and Carol service as their initiative. This will be considered for next year's event.

The Council has received Certificates of Merit from the Essex Playing Fields Association. A gold Merit in Class 2 – for playing fields serving communities of fewer than 2,500 people.

A silver merit in Class 3 – for children's playgrounds (whether on or off playing fields, but judged apart from and apart from any playing field on which they are situated). These will be placed in the LCC .

**22/557 Training/Events**

If there are any training requirements by councillor's please let the Clerk know.

**22/558 Items for the next agenda**

Above items and anything else to be given to the Clerk for the next agenda.

**22/559 To confirm date and time of next meeting**

Date of next LPC meeting: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 7:30pm.

Apologies from Cllr Brockman

Chairman closed the meeting at 8:50pm

Signed .....

Cllr Bottwood

Dated .....