

Minutes of Langham Parish Council  
Remote Meeting held on  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 7:30pm

**Present:** Cllr Martin Bottwood, Cllr Tony Ellis. Cllr Tony Emms.  
7 members of the public  
Clerk Carol Harbach

**20/164 Welcome and apologies for absence**

Cllr Bottwood welcomed everyone to the remote meeting of the Parish Council (PC) and went on to explain the rules of the meeting. Cllr Dawson has resigned as the Chair of the Parish Council and Cllr Bottwood is currently Acting Chair until the elections in May.

Cllr Bottwood thanked Cllr Dawson for all his commitment and great work that he had done for the council over the past 3 years. A letter of thanks will be sent to him. Cllr Bottwood also wanted to give his personal thanks to Peter and hope he stayed on as a valuable part of the community in his other volunteering roles.

This year is an election year and Cllr Thorpe will not be standing again. Cllr Bottwood thanked Cllr Thorpe for all her work that she has undertaken as part of the council in the past. Election applications close at 4pm tomorrow and then the council know how many people have been nominated for Councillor posts.

Cllr Brockman and Cllr Thorpe apologies for their absence.

**20/165 Declaration of Members Interest**

Any declarations of interest will be brought up and declared as they arise on the agenda.

**20/166 Agree Minutes from the last Parish Council (PC) meeting 3rd March 2021**

These minutes were proposed by Cllr Bottwood and seconded by Cllr Ellis.  
Agreed by all.

**20/167 Matters arising from last meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.**

Rec Ground – to discuss dates of works and the checking of completion of works by contractors. This will be on the agenda for the Recreation Ground meeting 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021. This committee now has new Chair. **Ongoing.**

CBC comments from the planning committee were added to the site by the Clerk. Discharged.  
SEAX and The Oaks – still **ongoing**

No further correspondence received regarding the letter concerning Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic candidates. Discharged.

Road closures have been added to the website by Cllr Bottwood.

Finance regulations have been updated and redistributed to the councillors Completed and discharged.

Local Council awards later on agenda

Cllr Brockman -Information regarding footpath on the website and talking to Andrew Stacey  
**Ongoing**

Cllr Emms to contact candidates regarding vacancy. This was completed. Discharged.

Cllr Emms – Working group terms of reference later on agenda.

**20/168 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes) Questions to be noted and answered at the next meeting.**

A resident spoke about the verges around the village and it is thought that Greyhound Hill is one of the worst.

The ditches have been filled in and these take the water that comes from Moor Road to Blackbrook and the resident is concerned by the lack of drainage.

Cllr Bottwood explained this can be dealt directly with the contractors Gigaclear and Highways and the PC are planning to follow this up with Gigaclear when the works around the village have been completed. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting. **Action Cllr Bottwood.**

**20/169 Visitors Reports (CBC and County Councillors)**

No Councillors present.

**20/170 Co-option of Mr. Ian Mansel-Thomas. Mr. Russ Sainty and nomination of Cllr Emms as Chair of Recreation Ground Committee and Cllr Thorpe to Recreation Ground committee.**

**Co-opting of new councillor Mr Ian-Mansel Thomas to Langham Parish Council**

The Council would like to co-opt Mr. Ian Mansel Thomas who has applied to become a Parish Councillor. The vacancy had previously been advertised and Mr. Mansel -Thomas had applied. The Election Officer at CBC has been informed and the Borough Council have no problem with the Parish Council filling this vacancy as the criteria needed has been met.

Vote taken to elect Mr. Ian Mansel-Thomas  
Proposed Cllr Bottwood Seconded Cllr Emms. All agreed.

Paperwork will be forwarded on to Mr Mansel-Thomas from the Clerk. **Action Clerk**

Mr Sainty had decided not to join the Council at this time.

Due to Cllr Dawson's resignation there was a need to appoint a new Chair of the Recreation Ground Committee. It was agreed that Cllr Emms will cover this role and to make the committee quorate Cllr Ellis will join this committee instead of Cllr Thorpe..

**20/171 Finance**

**171.1 Matters arising from the Finance Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Cllr Ellis thanked the Clerk for her efforts and all the comprehensive papers that have been produced.

Matters arising from last meeting – Question of monitoring contractors work in new role of chair of Recreation Ground committee Cllr Emms will be picking this up at the next meeting.

The Clerk thanked Cllr Ellis for his comments.

**171.2 To approve payments in accordance with the 2021/22 Budget**

Recommended for approval from the Finance Committee

**For April 2021;**

Income from CBC Precept and Grant paid

£10,439.50

Expenditure:

Noted that the second order for envelope printing for surveys has been reimbursed to M. Bottwood and was made in last years budget. £78.00  
Not previously reported.

Mrs. S. Dawson – plants for Community Garden	9.99
Essex Association of Local Councils – EALC subscription fees	323.96
Royal Mail Group Ltd – postage for village surveys sent out	38.02
Topline – Pest control	85.00
James Todd & Co – payroll	72.00
Langham Community Centre previously un-presented cheques for Hall hire 2019	65.00
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	Total £ 593.97

These payments will be authorised by Cllr Bottwood and Cllr Ellis and paid on line.  
Proposed Cllr Bottwood seconded Cllr Emms. All agreed.

**171.3 to approve pre audit figures for year 20/21**

Due to covid-19 regulations and conditions income and expenditure figures were not as they would have been usually.

The overall finance report is as follows;

Total Income for 2020 2021 is	
£30,252.42	
Total Expenditure for 2020 2021 is	£37,461.71
Total balances held by LPC =	£89,740.19
Overall Reduction in capital	£7,209.29

Certain issues are still being discussed at committee level and will have to be agreed through the usual budget setting process.

Approved Cllr Bottwood Seconded Cllr Ellis agreed by all.  
These will be signed by the Chair as soon as possible.

**20/172 Planning/Housing**

**172.1 Applications for discussion at meeting.**

Matters arising from last planning meeting.

The Oaks is still ongoing.

The Survey of Williamson Development Ltd – documents are on the website and the results are posted.

Cllr Bottwood has spoken to Malcolm Inkster and a meeting will be arranged to address this survey.

Within this meeting the area west of that site will be discussed and this will be organised before the outline planning application takes place by the Williamsons Development Ltd.

**Action Cllr Bottwood to arrange meeting with Malcolm Inkster.**

**The PC** now have a direct contact with the site manager at the Linden Homes/Vistry site and a liaison with the current planning council officer at CBC. This is beneficial for both parties and the planning officer will be informing the PC of any further developments in the School Road site.

Godfrey's, Rectory Road, Langham Colchester CO4 5PW Removal of existing conservatory, erection of single storey extension and minor internal works to Godfrey's Farm.  
No objections.

### **172.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed under delegated authority since last meeting.**

Will be available on the Colchester Borough Council Planning website.

#### **20/173 Agreement to accept terms of reference for Village facilities Working Group.**

This document has been circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting.

Vote to accept these terms of reference for the Village facilities Working group.

Proposed Cllr Bottwood Second Cllr Ellis.

All agreed

#### **20/174 Clerk Report and Correspondence**

##### **174.1 Correspondence**

1. The council received a letter from a resident regarding litter around the Birchwood Road area. This letter has been replied to and the resident was invited to join the village litter picking group if they wished.
2. The council received a letter from a resident regarding the campaign for the Boxted Bridge. This letter has also been replied to by the council.
3. A resident reported a dead swan and duck on the island near the bridge at Stratford St Mary. This was reported to the Environmental Agency and CBC by the Clerk.
4. The council received a complaint about the state of the verges around the village after works completed by Gigaclear. As reported last month the council will wait until all the works in the village have been completed before contacting the company regarding this.

#### **20/175 Councillor's Reports**

Cllr Ellis – No further reports.

Cllr Emms – Asked the question of what now happens to the remains of the hedge in School Road at the entrance to the Vistry site now that construction has been delayed. Now we are into the bird nesting season and do they intend to remove what is left. This is to be followed up under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 **Action Clerk to follow this up and report back to the council**

Cllr Bottwood - report will come up under the website agenda item.

#### **20/176 Website Update**

Cllr Bottwood is following up with changing the email addresses with the website developers as some need to be removed and diverted and some reissued. **Ongoing Action Cllr Bottwood.**

The situation regarding the problems with the website – There is a meeting arranged with the Local Marketing Team for the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and the PC will discuss a revised contract that will cover suitable service level agreements and back up arrangements. Cllr Bottwood and Cllr Emms will be attending this meeting. Action Cllr Bottwood

**20/177 Local Council Awards update.**

The Clerk reported that the PC have been registered with this scheme and is awaiting more information back for the organisers. The Clerk will start gathering the evidence required for the level soon. **Ongoing**

**20/178 Langham Lane Speed Limit**

The PC had started a dialogue on this issue about two years ago when a meeting had taken place with a business owner at the Langham Barns site. The point made was that the site was expanding and vehicles were egressing the site into fast moving traffic. This was felt to be a safety issue.

A speed check carried out at that time indicated that the average speed of traffic at that location was 47mph and Highways therefore felt that the traffic speed was self regulating.

The difficult is that the road classification comes from Highways, they take into account the number of dwellings that are in the vicinity, whether the adjoining land is predominantly farmland and also whether the road characteristics can support the national speed limit. The latter could be the width of the road, line of sight limitations and number of junctions.

More recent dialogue with Highways has concentrated on the need to be consistent with speed limits. Park Lane and Langham Road are both now 40mph limits but between these two roads Langham lane is left at the national speed limit. This argument is gaining traction as it is generally accepted that if drivers cannot see the sense in varying speed limits they will be ignored.

Boxted Parish Council have now contacted Langham PC and asked whether we would consider part funding a traffic count and speed check on Langham Lane. This had come about because Cllr Anne Brown had attended a Bosted PC meeting where the issue of traffic speeds on Langham Lane was discussed. Cllr Brown explained that there was currently no budget available from the Local Highways' Panel for further speed checks (£700-£800). Langham agreed that we would support this initiative and also agreed that we would make the submission to Highways as we were more familiar with the process. The outcome of this was the provision of more data from Highways on a speed check carried out in Langham Lane in 2019 where the average speeds were around 41-42 mph. The question was raised of whether average speed is the appropriate measure rather than median, but average is the measure that is the established measure used by UK Highways Authorities

However, they also said that additional budget was going to be made available for 2021/22. Langham PC questioned the location used for the 2019 speed check and also re-iterated the point about consistency of speed limits in the vicinity. Highways have now agreed to raise a project for this and have offered two new locations for the check. The timing for this may need to be considered as it would not be sensible to do this until normal traffic levels are restored following lockdown restrictions.

In addition to the Langham Lane situation Cllr Bottwood reported that Zoom meetings had taken place between Kevin Bentley (Infrastructure Mgr ECC), Cllr Anne Brown,

Langham and Dedham PCs about the rat run traffic between Colchester, the A12 and Manningtree that is causing a lot of issues in the rural lanes. Increased development in the Manningtree area and further expansion at the Ardleigh Interchange is also likely to exacerbate this. Reducing the speed limit in Langham Lane will have a positive affect on this and Cllr Brown is supportive of this initiative.

There was also a debate on the use of the Langham lanes for vehicle testing by the dealerships around the Ardleigh Interchange. There are several dealerships in particular that are test driving high performance cars. It was suggested that the council writes to the dealerships regarding this issue. **Action Cllr Emms**

**20/179 Items for next Agenda**

Verges around the village

Cllr Emms – Car dealership follow up.

**20/180 To confirm date and time of next meeting**

Date of next Meeting to be confirmed dependant on Government Legislation

Possibly 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 7:30pm to be confirmed.

Cllr Bottwood thanked everyone for their attendance.

The Council meeting finished at 8:45 pm.

Signed .....

Cllr Bottwood

Date .....