

**Minutes of Langham Parish Council (LPC) Meeting  
Langham Community Centre 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 7:30pm**

**Attendees:** Cllr Bottwood, Cllr Thorpe, Cllr Brockman, Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Ogawa,  
Cllr Freeman

**Present:** Carol Harbach Clerk  
Colchester City Councillor (CCC) - Cllr Chapman  
6 Members of the public.

**22/560**      **Welcome and apologies for absence**  
Cllr Bottwood welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
Apologies were received from Cllr Palmer.

**22/561**      **Declaration of Members interests**  
  
None arose. It was agreed that any declarations of interest would be declared as they arise on the agenda.

**22/562**      **Agreement of Minutes of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
These minutes had been previously circulated and there was an amendment to 22/550.2 planning application 222963 to “The diversion order is concluded, but has not been finalised” there is a 2-month negotiation period which has still not been reached.  
This was changed.  
These were then agreed to be a true and accurate account of the meeting.  
Proposed Cllr Freeman seconded Cllr Armstrong All agreed.

**22/563**      **Matters arising from the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
Turnpike Close overgrowing hedge – A meeting was held between the landowner, a resident and a Cllr Bottwood. The landowner agreed to cut back the hedge when the timing for this could be agreed. It was decided that it would be sensible to co-ordinate this with the road red lining that was being investigated at the moment as the area would need to be coned off when the work started otherwise parked cars would prevent the work being carried out. Cllr Bottwood agreed to take this up with Cllr Lewis Barber. Closed and discharged.

Rest of items were on the agenda.

**22/564**      **Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)**  
**Questions may be noted and answered at the next meeting.**  
Nothing from the floor.

**22/565**      **Visitors Reports (Colchester City Council (CCC) and County Councillors)**  
Cllr Chapman reported that CCC are in the middle of budget discussions at the moment. Devolution is coming down from the Government and the aim is to get parishes to converse more with each other and the City Council. This is also encouraged so these parties link up to release funds from the government. This could be obtained by combining services between Counties such as refuse, various ideas are being discussed at the moment and Cllr Chapman will inform the PC of any results that come out of this.

Pylons – The cable route for the ANOB area was going to go underground but this is still under discussion.

22/566

## Finance

### 566.1 Matters arising from Finance meetings on 8/2/23

The Finance Committee recommended two additional budget payments:

- i) A £400 donation for a blue Plaque to Commemorate the Basque Children's stay in Langham during the period 1937-39.
- ii) A £400 donation to the First Responders for equipment.

There was also a discussion on the provision of a cash bar at the King's Coronation event to offset some of the budget allocated for this event. It was agreed that this would be taken to the to the Recreation Ground committee for discussion.

### 566.2 To approve payments in accordance with the 2022/23 budget

These were read out by the Clerk

Langham Community Centre – Jan 23 hires	£101.00
Clerk Salary Jan 23	£885.56
HMRC – NI	£34.64
Contractor Inv 01/23 Dec 22/Jan 23	£234.00
James Todd & Co – payroll	£60.00
J. Palmer bonfire refund for tombola	£157.97
Wave Water – bill for standpipe	£14.60

Total £1,487.77

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#### Income to date

Craft fair hire for car park	£30.00
HMRC VAT Refund	2,280.04

Total £2,310.04

Agreement was proposed by Cllr Thorpe seconded Cllr Freeman. Agreed by all. Cllr Armstrong agreed to start the payment authorisation process and Cllr Brockman agreed to countersign these payments.

### 566.3 Basque Children's Plaque

The sale of the Oaks building is stalling this at the moment, once this has taken place agreement a will be sought from the owners to put this on the building.

### 566.4 Approve budget for 2023/2024 year

This was discussed by the council and new items covered under 22/566.1 were considered.

The budget was agreed for the forthcoming year by the council.

Proposed Cllr Armstrong seconded Cllr Thorpe. Agreed by all.

22/567

## Planning/Housing

### 567.1 Planning Applications Decisions Received

223086 - Lions Farm, Langham Lane, Boxted Colchester CO4 5HY  
Erection of Barn. Approved Conditionally

## **567.2 New Planning Applications Received**

**230066 - The Laurels, High Street, Langham Colchester CO4 5NT**

**Proposed double garage and outbuilding. Resubmission of 212546**

No objections have been recorded on the planning portal from neighbours. A comment from the council will be added to the site when other comments have been checked but no obvious objection was highlighted.

**230116 - Bumblebee Cottage, Moor Road, Langham Essex CO4 5NP**

**Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 and 4 (bricks) of application 221835.**

No objections

**230110 - Blackthorn, Lodge Lane, Langham Essex CO4 5NA**

**Double storey side extensions, single storey rear extension including a pool house, front dormer and new front porch and changes to the fenestration**

This had been looked at and the neighbours were supportive of the project. It included significant extensions but there was no material planning reason to object to this. No objections.

## **567.3 - S106 Funding**

An invoice has been raised by CCC for the Vistry Homes developer contributions. The due date for this to be paid expires later this week. No more updates are available at the moment.

A resident asked about the S106 requirements, what they covered and what they are. Cllr Bottwood provided a brief explanation of the process.

There is a meeting planned between the PC and Karen Syrett at CCC regarding the process for developers' contributions and what can be done to improve this.

A resident commented that they would like to see a list of what the contributions are spent on. This is published by CCC as it takes account of all contributions not just Community Facilities and Parks/Recreation. The request for information being published for developer contributions spent on local projects will be added to the agenda for the next PC meeting.

It was explained by the PC that the Vistry Homes contract was signed in 2020 and projects were included in this by CCC.

Projects identified by LPC are driven by information obtained from the Village Facilities Survey and drop in sessions had been run at the LCC to provide information to residents on the projects being pursued.

The stalling of the building on the Vistry site development was asked about and the PC confirmed that they had contacted CCC but nothing was known about this. There was no indication that anything would prevent the settlement of the invoice raised by CCC.

**22/568**

## **Recreation Ground Committee updates**

### **Bonfire Night**

There are two payments to be collected and these are being chased by Cllr Palmer. Final income and expenditure figures are nearly complete and it is hoped to finalise figures for this soon.

### **Children's Play area**

Work is due to be started in the next two weeks, on the 21<sup>st</sup> February the main kit is being delivered on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February and the hope is for this

project to be finished by the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 23. The final design has been agreed and includes certain items being relocated and new equipment being added. The play area will be shut during this time and its closure will be advertised. The Preschool and the Primary School will also be informed of the works. The gates will have a sign to have the clear access for the equipment needed as there will be a need to have constant access for the work to be completed. A draft for the closure period of the play area has been completed and will be advertised shortly. Images of the play area will be on the website for circulation so people can see what the finished play area will look like. A review of trees that may need trimming is also being carried out. It still needs to be decided if the surface is going to be flecked or dark green the decision will be sent to the supplier shortly.

### **Multi-Use sports court**

All contracts over £50k have to be advertised on the Government Procurement site so that potential suppliers can quote for this. The Multi-Use sports court project has been added to the site which will be open until the end of February. The new court will allow for other sports to be played on the surface as well as Tennis. A third court is required by the Tennis Club so that they can enter tournaments. The existing tennis courts will also be cleaned and resurfaced as part of the project. The Multi-Use court It is going to be open all the time and will not be locked.

Discussions followed on access to the existing Tennis courts by local residents as the existing courts are locked unless the Tennis Club are using them. This will be discussed at the review meeting between LPC and the Tennis Club when the new contract is reviewed.

### **Gigaclear cabinet Moor Road/Park Lane**

The PC is waiting for the weather to change so plants can be purchased and planted in the front of this area.

### **King's Coronation event**

Cllr Ogawa has completed a lot of work on this with Charlotte Parker and a stage has been reached whereby bookings need to be placed. Some budgeting figures have been put together and further discussions will take place. The budget for this event has now been agreed by the council.

### **Cricket facilities at Langham**

Discussions are still ongoing with Essex Cricket and the PC regarding cricket at the Langham Recreation Ground. Essex Cricket is keen to have an existing team playing from Langham as well as looking to encourage local residents to start taking part.

It is hoped that All Stars Cricket in Langham will go ahead this year and Essex Cricket will be asked how far they have got with this. This will involve discussion with local schools to get the children involved.

### **Boxted Bridge email donation request**

A request has been received from the Boxted Bridge campaign for a donation.

The Finance Committee felt that this was an inappropriate use of public funds allocated for the Langham Precept.

The PC are happy to support via social media posts but agreed with the Finance Committee. It was proposed by Cllr Bottwood seconded Cllr Thorpe not to provide a donation of public money to an external body.

**22/570**

**Policies for adoption**

**Health & Safety Policy**

**Equality and Diversity Policy**

These policies have been previously circulated to the councillors.

They were agreed to be adopted as presented.

Proposed by Cllr Thorpe seconded by Cllr Freeman. All agreed.

**22/571**

**Portable Speed Indicator Device in Wick Road update**

All of the key element for this project are now in place:

- Essex Legal Services License
- Supplier for the sign, evaluations and pricing obtained
- Underground Utilities search, company to do this work identified
- Socket provider found and quote obtained
- Excavation work for socket on Wick Road. Licensed company found and quote obtained
- Organisation identified that are licensed to move the sign around
- Contribution from Cllr Barber's Locality budget (£3,000) agreed

Total cost for the project estimated at £6,500 with the PC contributing £3,500. Request that we move ahead with this.

Proposed Cllr Bottwood seconded by Cllr Thorpe. Agreed by all.

A resident raised the issue with the lorries parking at the industrial site during school times, and parking on the pathways and double parking and also blocking the road. The PC stated that this has always been an issue but the PC are prepared to write to the offending businesses if they can be identified. This can also include an engagement with Essex Police/County Highways if this is a regular occurrence of dangerous parking that can be followed up on. Any pictures obtained by residents to demonstrate this problem will also help.

It was also noted that School Road is going to be shut for 3 days from the 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**22/572**

**Traffic Safety at the Park Lane/A12 Junction**

A large lorry had attempted to exit the A12 at the Park Lane junction and went through the boundary hedge at Chimneys, finally hitting the house.

Essex Police have been contacted and they stated that there were no recently recorded traffic incidents at this location and this incident was being dealt with as an insurance claim. This matter has also been discussed with Cllr Barber who is following this up with National Highways and our MP. It is unlikely that this will be regarded as a dangerous junction if no accident statistics can be provided.

It was also noted that cars tend to exit the petrol station close to Park Lane in a very unsafe way.

**22/573**

**Welcome/Information packs update**

Cllr Ogawa updated the council on the packs and the research she has undertaken, she has spoken to 2 designs companies and Charlotte Parker at the shop. The two companies contacted are going to give quotes and ideas but these have not come back as yet. This will be reported back by Cllr Ogawa when the information is obtained.

**22/574**

**Anglian Water next planned meeting and update**

The next meeting planned is on the 21<sup>st</sup> February on a Teams call. A discussion will be needed between councillors before they put their ideas forward on the call. Cllr Bottwood will send out information for this. Findings will be brought back to the next meeting. Action Cllr Bottwood.

**22/575**

**East Anglia Green (Pylons) Project Update**

The last meeting held was in Little Horkesley. The council thought it would be a good idea to have a presentation at the LCC and there is a lot more focus on the ANOB input now. Dedham Parish Council will be contacted and see if they also wish to get involved in the meeting. The statutory consultation has been moved back a year and the situation is changing all the time. There is a slot being presented on Countryfile which will raise the profile of this campaign to move away from Pylons to undersea cable options.

It was proposed to move forward with arrangement to host an event in Langham.

A vote was taken to go ahead with this. All agreed.

When the date is agreed it will be circulated to all residents and a campaign started to get a good turnout for the event.

One major issue that has been identified is the lack of support from villages/residents along the proposed East Anglia Pylons route. There are only around 22,000 objections registered and it is very important to try and increase these numbers if the Government are to take this seriously. LPC have offered to get this message out to residents and explain the significance of individuals recording their dissatisfaction. Draft letters have been prepared by the Pylons East Anglia lobbying team that can be sent to Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, John Pettigrew CEO National Grid and Graham Stuart MP Minister of State Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. These will be modified slightly for use by Langham residents and will be posted on social media and the PC website.

**22/576**

**Councillor's Reports**

**No decisions are made or action points allocated in this section**

Cllr Thorpe – Nothing further

Cllr Brockman – Nothing further

Cllr Armstrong – A letter was sent to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) about the proposal to allow Vistry Homes to lay foundations for the whole site. This mentioned the Anglia Water meeting and Sir Bernard Jenkin's statement. No further comment has been made on this by the LPA.

Cllr Ogawa – Nothing further

Cllr Freeman – Nothing further

Cllr Bottwood –Nothing further

**22/577**

**Clerk's Report and Correspondence**

The PC has received a request to have the annual Fun Run on the Recreation Ground in September. This is being run by the School PTA and the Boxted running club. This will be taken to the Recreation Ground Committee to discuss.

An email received from Cllr Barber informed the council that from the 13<sup>th</sup> March 23 you will need to book "slots" at CCC and Manningtree tips. CCC are also trying to get residents to pay for green waste in the future. This will be an agenda item next month.

A reminder was given to residents that for the forthcoming elections you will need to have a photo ID to vote. If you do not have this there are contact numbers for you to call to get this before May. Information on this was sent out by CCC with the electoral roll forms recently received.

**22/578**

**Training/Events**

Cllr Freeman is going to attend an allotment course  
Playground course is 24<sup>th</sup> May at Gt Dunmow and a council representative will be attending this.

**22/579**

**Items for the next agenda**

s106 developer contributions, Langham expenditure  
Tip booking and green waste  
Above items

**22/580**

**To confirm date and time of next meeting**

Date of next LPC meeting: Wednesday 8th March 2023 7:30pm.  
To be confirmed.

**Chairman closed the meeting at 21.20pm**

Signed .....

Cllr Bottwood

Dated .....