

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

**Attendees:** Cllr Bottwood, Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Freeman, Cllr Ogawa  
**Present:** Clerk – Carol Harbach  
Cllr Barber – Essex County Councillor (ECC)  
2 members of the public

**23/38**            **Welcome and apologies for absence**  
Cllr Bottwood welcomed everyone to the meeting  
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Thorpe and Cllr Brockman.

**23/39**            **Declaration of Members interests**  
None arose. It was agreed that any declarations of interest would be declared as they arise on the agenda.

**23/40**            **Agreement of Minutes of the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
  
These were agreed as a true and accurate account of events. Proposed Cllr Freeman seconded Cllr Armstrong. All agreed.

**23/41**            **Matters arising from the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
5<sup>th</sup> April – the question raised from a resident regarding the foundations at Linden site had been answered and there is currently nothing else to add and the LPC position stays the same. Regarding the issue of Anglia water status of permit is still ongoing and the LPC is now waiting to hear back.  
9<sup>th</sup> May – A resident reported that there was a collapsed ditch outside the Oaks School in School Road whereby part of the road had apparently fallen into the ditch. This had been reported by the resident. The Council agreed to check this and ensure that the report is on the planning portal. The site was inspected and it was not clear where the issue was. The road does fall away in places but this is typical of many locations around the village. There was also no record on the portal of this being reported. Further input is required from the resident.

The resident also reported that the 30mph road sign that had fallen over at Greyhound Hill has now disappeared. This was also inspected by the council and one side of the speeding roundel is missing. There was nothing to indicate this had been reported on the planning portal.

Overhanging verge in Wick Road- The council also inspected the area indicated by the resident and it was not clear where the precise location was as there was no obstruction observed. Work was being undertaken cutting down the tree-line outside “The Wick” and this location has been the main area of concern in the past. Further clarification is required.

**23/42**

**Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)**

Questions may be noted and answered at the next meeting.

A resident raised an issue concerning Gigaclear regarding their latest package of services. In particular their Home Phone service which is provided over their fibre broadband connection and it will not work if there is a network outage affecting your home. In the event this happens, you will need to ensure you have a mobile phone with a strong signal, or another way to make a call, in case of an emergency. As Langham does not have a good mobile signal residents cannot qualify for this Gigaclear service.

This brought into a play the issue of duty of care to vulnerable people over the age of seventy and how that leaves them in the event of a power cut which occur quite frequently in the area and there is no reliable mobile coverage as a back up. This could be exacerbated if the BT landline service is switched off in 2025 leaving vulnerable people with no form of communication in an emergency. There was also a brief discussion on the plans for a new mobile mast in the area that would improve the mobile signal strength. Cllr Barber did not have any information on the mobile coverage but agreed to check on this and pass any information back. Cllr Barber also suggested that the village may start to think about a 5G mast somewhere in the village and to consider a good location for this. He also mentioned that the utilities companies do not need permission under delegated rules to site masts and can put these anywhere on public land.

A resident raised the issue regarding security arrangements in the light of past problems that have been encountered with travellers using the Recreation Ground. A discussion took place concerning CCTV and whether this could be placed on the Langham Community Centre to focus on the gate.

It was felt that this was unlikely to be a deterrent based on past events but it will be taken to the recreation ground committee to consider.

The residents were disappointed that there was a no communication about the service at the monument on Park Lane marking the 80<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of American forces first being stationed at Langham. The council were notified by the Boxted Museum and they had asked permission for the service but it was not cascaded for Langham residents to attend. There was no mention of an air display in publicity material and locals were therefore unable to enjoy the display.

A letter will be sent to the museum regarding this event to try and ensure that this can be better co-ordinated in future and to register the disappointment of local residents.

**23/43**

**Visitors Reports (CCC and County Councillors)**

Cllr Barber – the traffic report for Boxted and Langham is still being chased by Cllr Barber and he will be escalating this. There will be a meeting arranged between the three parishes to discuss the current traffic problems before this goes up to the next level.

Boxted had queried the feasibility of the Northern Gateway project and wanted to check that this had taken place. Boxted were asking Langham to get involved in this to look at the feasibility before it is implemented. This may will be part of the above meeting as a consultation stage in the first instance.

Matters arising from the last meeting – three parishes question has been answered.

Issue with the boundary and the Oakview property. The Highway department have come out and looked at it and checked the manhole. There are pipes coming in from three directions and one runs under the front boundary of Oakview, there is one between the playing field and the Oakview boundary and one from the boundary in front of field down School Road. There will be a camera sent down to see where this goes. Cllr Barber will send the pictures that he has to the council and the Essex flood Authority person will be contacted to follow this up. Cllr Barber will update us when he has the information. The PC want to ensure that the appropriate flow measures are in place in the event that the Recreation Ground floods and the drainage responsibilities are observed and the correct maintenance is undertaken to combat any future flooding.

Plan to move to sustainable transport – working also on levelling up to ensure that funding is evenly proportioned and additional funding could be provided to the Colchester Local Highway's Panel.

There is likely to be outstanding Highway projects of £1.5 million currently. The smaller projects are likely to be looked at before the bigger projects. The Kerbstones project (outside the community centre) and a lot of other schemes have been slowed down significantly due to staff shortages and some have gone through to the current year's budget. Existing projects have been ringfenced and the workforce is now back on track, consequently things should start to move. Cllr Barber will keep us updated.

Battery for VAS on Park Lane is still outstanding, Cllr Barber will chase.

Drainage issue on Greyhound Hill - This was due to be looked at imminently but Highways have issued a notice to Anglian Water and it is now an urgent repair. Anglian water services have been told to get this repaired asap. This will be chased by Cllr Barber.

Turnpike Close Red lining update- there are budget issue with this, Highways have now come back and may have funding in October for this. This may take place in the spring. Then the hedge can be cut for pedestrians/wheelchair passage.

Agrimix change of use – this has now gone to ECC as it comes under Waste & Minerals. Agrimix have been told that a change of use application needs to be filed with the Local Planning Authority. If the change of use application is not made an enforcement officer will engage with this. Time is being given for the applicant to work through the process. Cllr Barber will follow this up.

SID sign in Wick Road – the site has been looked at for what utilities were present and there is a gravel drainage area where the PC want to put the sign. This causes a problem with securing the sign safely. NAL are being asked by Hattons (who will do the excavation work) to provide a to design whereby a short socket can be used. As this shorter depth excavation contravenes the ECC conditions, Cllr Barber will help the PC go through the process with Highways to get this approved. When the design is available this will be passed to County Highways via Cllr Barber.

Primary care appointments information sheet was sent out by Cllr Barber was discussed. There is a lack of surgery appointments in this area and 80% of the village attend Ardleigh surgery for medical care, as there is no GP support in Langham. The lack of GP support was a key point that was highlighted in the village facilities survey. Cllr Barber will be looking at this again to see what can be taken forward and what information can be provided to the PC. There is a plan to start training more GPs at the university for the area. A Gala community may be built and will be monitored.

**23/44**

**Finance**

**44.1** Matters arising from Finance meeting on 14/6/23

Meeting did not take place as the meeting was not quorate.

**44.2** To approve payments in accordance with the 2023/24 budget

Clerk Salary May 23	£904.26
HMRC – NI and Tax	34.81
Village contractor’s invoice 05/23	252.00
James Todd & Co – payroll May	26.40
EALC – playground course and certificate	456.00
Information Commissioners Office renewal fee	40.00
First responder’s donation – new equipment previously Agreed Feb 23	400.00
Office is – stationery	25.78
Langham Community Centre Hall hire for May	125.00
E. Ellis plants for village	43.50
T. Emms plants for Pub corner	28.99
Total	2336.74

The were proposed by Cllr Freeman and seconded by Cllr Ogawa all agreed. Cllr Armstrong to start payments Cllr Bottwood to second authorise these.

**23/45**

**Planning/Housing**

**45.1 Planning Applications Decisions Received**

- 230481 - Squirrels , Wick Road. Loft Conversion  
Approved Conditional
- 230368 - Cherry Garden, Wick Road. Single storey rear extension.  
Approve Conditional
- 230660/1 - East lodge Gunhill garden room extension been approved conditionally

**45.2 Planning Applications Received**

- 231206 – Apex 12  
External Fire Escape no comment
- 231059 - Ashdene (formerly Bramley House) Wick Road  
Amended Roof design no issues with this. No comment
- 221510 - Re-submission of plans for 12 (previously 13) new homes on Wick Road. Consultation period extended. Still being discussed at 23<sup>rd</sup> June planning meeting on Monday. Response likely to be similar to last application
- 230965 - Langham Hall, Dedham Road  
New dog training area, barn extension and altered yard area. 2 objections on portal. No comment

230742 – Langford Hall Barn, Grove Hill  
Discharge of conditions regarding listed building materials on for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) building team. No comment  
230810 – St Margaret’s Cottage, School Road  
Demolition of cracked Wall plus new full length new wall and removal of hedging. PC have raised objection to this.

#### **45.3 s106 Funding Updates**

Starting to get funding through for the community facilities but this still needs to be signed off but it is moving.

**23/46**

#### **Recreation Ground Committee updates**

- Children’s Play area – This has been opened and there is still some work to be completed
- King’s Coronation event – still some bills to be agreed ongoing
- Bonfire Night 2023 – started to get things together and is ongoing  
LCC keen to be involved in the next meeting. Andre Palmer is happy to carry on with the website domain name and another event ticketing company will be looked at for the future.  
Toilet/fun rides, food trucks have been contacted and the singer/bar is booked things are on track for the event.
- Football Pitch hire and approval by main Council – there has been a meeting with Boxted club and this is for the under 16s It is likely to be for Sunday morning matches and training at Boxted. This has been discussed by the Recreation Ground committee and would like to go ahead with this hire. Proposed Cllr Ogawa seconded Cllr Freeman all in favour of Boxted hiring the pitch.
- Cricket facilities at Langham  
All Stars event has started and is ongoing  
Recreation Ground cricket pitch feasibility study - As Cllr Thorpe was not present this will be updated at the next meeting.

**23/47**

#### **Footpath update**

Mainly relates to footpaths 29 and 57. Regarding footpath 29 The planning officer had contacted one of residents that had objected to the re-routing and asked the resident to withdraw the objection. No further updates.

**23/48**

#### **Councillor vacancies**

No applicants have been received for this position and adverts will go out again. Proposed Cllr Freeman second Cllr Ogawa all agreed.

**23/49**

#### **Meeting Calendar for forthcoming year**

We have issued the meeting calendar but it will need updating on several of the recent meeting dates such as the Annual Assembly and tonight’s meeting.

**23/50**

#### **Councillor’s Reports**

No decisions are made or action points allocated in this section  
Some of the footpaths were overgrown and can be reported on line  
Pylons meeting - nothing issued to clerk following the meeting and this information needs to go back to the people who ran the event.  
It was noted that several of the refugees that are based at the Holiday Inn have been volunteering in the shop and doing well.

**23/51**

#### **Clerk’s Report and Correspondence**

A12 roadworks have been undertaken and the A12 is closed overnight this week, information has been posted on the website.

**23/52**

**Training/Events**

Playground certificate and course has been undertaken and completed.

**23/53**

**Items for the next agenda**

Any items are to be given to the clerk.

**23/54**

**To confirm date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July.

Cllr Ogawa and Cllr Armstrong sent there apologies for that meeting.