



LATCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on
Thursday 28th September 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Room.
The Village Hall, Burnham Road, Latchingdon, Essex**

PRESENT Cllr Dale Symons (Chairman), Cllr Lynn Robinson (Vice Chair)
Cllr Graham Rogers, Cllr Jacqueline Ruocco & Cllr Gill Winsor.
District Councillor Beverly Acevado - MDC
In attendance: Sarah Sayer Members of the public: 3

The meeting commenced at the later time of 7.40 p.m. and the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

District Councillor Bob Boyce.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING(s)

- a) The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th July 2017 pages 169-172 were proposed by Cllr Winsor and seconded by Cllr Winsor, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by the Chair – Cllr Dale Symons.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) None declared at this point in the meeting.

4. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

- a) Members noted the resignation of Dave Moore and the statutory notice of casual vacancy was up on 26th September and therefore the Parish Council did not need to have an election and could co-opt.
- b) Members noted the resignation of Dave Banner and the statutory notice would be up on 29th September, after which the Parish Council could co-opt.

It is understood that there are a couple of people interested in the vacancies.

5. PUBLIC SESSION

Petition to keep the old allotment site part of the playing field was presented and the resident stated that the people who had signed it were unaware of what was happening and felt that they had not been properly informed of the progress of the project to sell the old allotment site for development in order to raise the capital to construct a new village hall. Members refuted these comments and stated the dates of the consultations that took place in 2014, the hand delivered letter to every home in Latchingdon and that the parish

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council minutes have been published every month on the website and the decision had already been made and the planning permission given subject to the finalisation of the S106 agreement attached to the consent. Residents are under the impression that the Village Hall is not used sufficiently enough to warrant a new one however, the Village Hall is used daily and is booked very regularly at the weekends. It was commented that the hire rate was a bit pricey by the resident presenting the petition but the prices are inclusive of light and heating and have not been increased in 3 years where as a lot of other halls add utility on top of the hourly rental rate.

The village hall has come to the end of its useful life and the repair costs outweigh economic sense. The new hall can be used for indoor sports, opening it up to residents for more activities without having to travel to Maldon and Chelmsford all the time. There will still be a considerable sized playing field for children to play, football and walking dogs and there are a number of footpaths (PROW) that can be utilised for this. The new development will also have a play area which partly counter acts the loss of the old allotment site.

It was also stated that the Notice Boards were not very informative and were very out of date. The Clerk did say that they are updated but quite often the pages are ripped down, however the comments were taken on board and measures would be taken to ensure that more up to date information stayed on the board.

The Members of the Parish Council thanked Ms Heidi Dixon for presenting the petition but it was clearly stated that the decision had already been made and the planning consent approved subject to the finalisation of the S106 agreement, and as soon as a figure for the sale of the land has been decided and the draft plans drawn up for the village hall, as those on the planning application are only outline plans, this information will be published widely to ensure that all the village are aware of the progress. It was further stated that more than 80% of the people that turned up to the 2014 open consultations were in favour of the sale of the land and the building of a new village hall. It was felt that due diligence had been done and all information was detailed in the minutes of the parish council meetings since 2014. Ms Dixon said that she found the members very intimidating which surprised the members, but it was also recognised that one person attending the meeting without support would feel that way and it was a shame that some of the people who had signed the petition did not attend also, but Ms Dixon stated that she wanted to keep it precise and to the point and that is sometimes difficult with too many people.

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It was also stated that the Notice Boards were not very informative and were very out of date. The Clerk did say that they are updated but quite often the pages are ripped down, however the comments were taken on board and measures would be taken to ensure that more up to date information stayed on the board. It was also stated in order that people who do not have access to the and the Parish website can view the draft minutes they will be published in the "Newsagents" within 28 days of the next parish council meeting. Also those that do not use the website but are more au fait with face book the draft minutes will be posted on FB.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DC Acevado stated that in relation to AA Dog Rescue there had been ongoing difficulties for Parish, Neighbours and District and that any dogs still on the premises will be re-homed. Another planning application had been put into which is fundamentally different.

The local highways panel has approved some works on the Lower Burnham Road to install safety measures to stop drivers ending up in the pond. The LHP has some surplus funds as some projects have come in under budget. Enforcement and Planning Department fully staffed so confident things will start happening a lot more quickly as there are many experienced and competent officers.

It was stated that the health and safety review protocols were not working as the repairs done with glittery glue seemed to cause more problems than solve. Cllr Acevado advised to contact Jon Simmons at Highways and copy her in regard to any highways issues and that of the signs having not been removed after work carried out.

7. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT REPORT

- a) The Clerk again informed members that there was no change on the reported defects on the ECC Highways website, but she will keep chasing.
- b) Cllr Rogers said that the D6 from Southminster to Althorne Monday to Friday had been terminated from 27th August. Other services changed but do not directly affect Latchingdon. D1/D2 Maldon To Bradwell On Sea has changed to Heddingham and District instead of Stephensons. Chelmsford to Maldon 31a terminated. The new timetable will be put on the website/face book and the notice boards.
- c) No update available regarding flood relating matters in the village, still waiting for deluge of rain in order to test the completed works. No further progress had been made in regard to the Burnham Road, Cllr Rogers said he would follow up with MDC Environmental Dept.

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- d) No further news available on the projects on the Local Highways Panel.
- e) Clerk waiting for a response from Highways to ascertain if it is possible to widen the bend at the Jacks Centre as currently two large HGV's cannot pass by each other unless one stops and even a large HGV and normal sized cars have the same problem. Clerk to chase.

8. PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSULATION

- a) It was decided to send email to Hazel Blaney so that Clear Court residents can have their say and publicise on FB and website and notice boards so rest of residents can have their say. Consultation ends on Monday 6th November.

9. PLANNING

The Planning meeting followed the Parish Council meeting.

10. LATCHINGDON SOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- a) The valuation was considered good but members requested the clerk to clarify that the figure of £600,000 was after costs had been deducted and if this was the case then all members were in agreement that it was a reasonable price.
- b) It was stated that three quotes will be obtained, once the village hall plan and specification had been drawn up. Clerk to contact Fields in Trust answering the email received explaining what is currently going on and nothing regarding the citing of the Village Hall has been decided upon and would not be until obtaining their permission for a swap of land, but it was not necessarily going to be the case. It might however, be a case of citing a temporary building to accommodate halls users while the new village hall is being built on the footprint of the old one. It was stated that Mr. Hull had spoken to a member of the Parish Council and there would not be any ransom charged for the access to the old Allotment site. Strutt and Parker to draft up a Heads of Term agreement for approval.

11. PARISH PATHS

- a) No news at this point in time.

12. ALLOTMENTS

- a) No news at this time
- b) Clerk to still contact with BT regarding the possibility of more allotments at the BT Exchange on The Street, however no further action at this time.

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13. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence noted.

14. FINANCE/PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- a) The payments and receipts were reviewed, accepted, agreed and signed for the month of August and September 2017
- b) It was noted that the end of year return had been received and all was in order.
- c) It was resolved to send Essex Air Ambulance £250 donation for and on behalf of the residents of Latchingdon.

15. TRAINING

- a) Cllr Robinson would like to attend the three Chairman workshops over the next 12 months and this was approved.

16. VILLAGE HALL AND KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD AND POND

All matters pertaining to these headings were dealt within the Committee meetings held prior to the Parish Council meeting.

17. PLAY AREAS

- a) Clerk informed members that a quote for a new cable swing was being acquired and all other items which were of a very low risk were being attended to or quotes obtained.

18. RISK ASSESSMENT(S)

- a) Clerk stated that risk assessments are in final stages and hopes to present drafts at the October meeting.

19. TO UPDATE MEMBERS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED NOT SHOWN AS A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM OR MEETING TO BE ATTENDED.

Clerk updated members about the DHGPC meeting on 20th September held at Bradwell On Sea Village hall where Emma Foy was present to update on MDC Finance and the plans going forward and Cllr Adrian Fluker was present and updated those present on the Bradwell B and that a letter would be circulated to 36000 homes shortly informing them of the project and what it will involve for locals.

Cllr Robinson attended Stow Maries Aerodrome where they are promoting workshops for over 45's who have lost confidence after being on disability benefits, this project is funded by the Government and needs more support and advertising to let people know it exists.

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20. WEBSITE/FACEBOOK

All running smoothly. Further promotion on notice boards and in shops to make people aware of its existence.

21. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a) Due to the Clerks holiday it was decided to have the next meeting for October on 2nd November at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Room as the Village Hall will be in use again for the Blackwater Dog Training club.

Meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

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