

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LANGFORD & ULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
16th APRIL 2024 AT LANGFORD & ULTING VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors: Irene Allen, Jenny Clemo and Colin Ashby
In the Chair: Councillor Irene Allen
Clerk: Justine Atterbury
Councillor Simon Morgan – Maldon District Council.
There were 2 members of the public present.

24/49. Apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were given by Cllrs Kathy Palmer and Lester Magness.

24/50. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of 19th March 2024 having been previously circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed by the Chairman with one amendment – to remove the following words which were included in error under Planning Decisions received – “*John Thresh Way Langford Maldon Essex CM9 6FR*”.

24/51. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

24/52. County and District Councillor’s report

Cllr Simon Morgan reported that Maldon District Council (MDC) had passed a balanced budget although there was a predicted shortfall in 2025-26. The St Peters facility consultation was ongoing and the NHS were considering where to relocate the services to. The Local Highways panel had been changed and allocation of the funding for schemes would now be decided by a Chairmans panel in consultation with divisional councils. MDC had been granted £5 million to spend on cultural activities, but these needed to be determined by 10th May 2024. The Local Plan revision was progressing and it was likely to be reviewed by the Inspector in 2025.

24/53. Public Question Time

There were concerns raised on the road surface on Ulting Lane. It was agreed that these should be photographed and reported. It was noted it was not possible to give the what three words reference as there was no mobile coverage in this area.

ACTION

To report the road surface faults in Ulting Lane to Essex Highways and contact Cllr Durham to request that they are repaired under the member led scheme if necessary.

24/54. Matters for information from previous meetings

23/114. Public Question Time Hoe Mill

It was noted the request for the extension of the double yellow lines to the South East Parking Partnership was in draft and residents’ signatures of support were being sought. There was no further update.

22/131. Ulting Village Sign.

It was noted that a suitable post for the sign had been sourced from the resident at Hoe Mill Lock and arrangements were being made. Cllr Magness had previously agreed to contact the local resident regarding the availability of the wood for the post.

24/11. Repairs to Langford Churchyard Fences –

It was noted the fence had now been erected. There were concerns raised that the fence may not be level. Cllr C Ashby had reviewed the fence and the work was fine.

24/43. Streetlights – It was noted that the Clerk had accepted the quotation from SSE for the continuing supply of electricity to the Langford streetlights and this had now been confirmed

24/22. Correspondence - The King's portrait scheme for Parish Councils – It was noted that the framed portrait had now arrived and would be hung in the village hall.

ACTIONS

Cllr Magness to contact the resident regarding the wooden post for the Ulting Village sign.

Cllr Ashby and Cllr Magness to hang the King's portrait in the village hall.

24/55. Planning Matters

a) Planning applications received:

24/00275/HOUSE - Addition of new porch and alterations to fenestration of the dwellinghouse and detached garage.

The Croft Maldon Road Langford Maldon

There were no objections.

24/00205/FUL - Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and construction of a replacement dwelling

Rosemead Bumfords Lane Ulting Maldon

There were no objections.

b) Planning decisions received:

The following planning decisions were noted -

24/00078/FUL - 24/00079/LBC - *Stables Langford Hall Witham Road Langford Essex*

Building a stud wall panel within the stable and installing two wall mounted boilers. Core drill through the weatherboard for exhaust flues and pressure relief pipe. Flow and return to house from stable, a pre-insulated pipe-in-pipe that will rise in through the floor into the stable will be installed.

APPROVED

24/00034/FUL - *Langford And Ulting Village Hall Maldon Road Langford Maldon Essex CM9 4SS*

Proposed installation of new window with security shutters to main entrance elevation

APPROVED

24/00002/FUL - *5 John Thresh Way Langford Maldon Essex CM9 6FR*

Part garage and car port conversion to annex used recreationally by the main dwelling

APPROVED

23/00871/FUL - *Land North Of Langford Bridge Maldon Road Langford Essex*

Proposed alteration of existing access and construction of grasscrete track including bridge and eel screen equipment at the existing River Blackwater intake. **APPROVED**

24/00194/TCA - *Old Post Office Maldon Road Langford Maldon Essex CM9 4SS*

T1 - Eucalyptus - Fell. T2 - Conifer – Fell **ALLOWED**

24/00063/LDE - *Oak Trees Crouchmans Farm Road Ulting Maldon Essex CM9 6QU*

Claim for lawful development certificate to confirm that development commenced not later than 3 years from the date of the decision, in accordance with Condition 1 of planning permission

reference 19/00253/FUL **APPROVED**

24/00213/TCA - *Ulting Wick Crouchmans Farm Road Ulting Maldon Essex CM9 6QX*

T1 - Pine – Fell **ALLOWED**

24/56. Correspondence

a). The Blackwater and Pant Fluvial Audit and Restoration Plan – The details of the proposals were noted. Cllr Clemo agreed to attend the introductory workshop at Marks Hall Estate on 2 May if she was available.

24/57. Finance

a) The following payments were authorised:-

	Net	VAT	Gross	
EALC	£121.86		£121.86	EALC and NALC Affiliation Fee 2023-24
GO Green Landscapes	£4,895	£979	£5874	Oak fencing Langford Church
Mrs J Atterbury	£244.68		£244.68	Salary April 2024
Mrs J Atterbury	£45.49	£1.85	£47.34	Expenses April 2024
HMRC	£61.66		£61.66	Tax

It was noted that the Go Green Landscapes payment had incorrectly been recorded as £5574 on the agenda and should read £5874. This is in line with the quotation received.

It was further noted that the Clerks salary reported in the agenda had been incorrectly calculated for April. Cllr Clemo recalculated the salary and confirmed the recalculation was correct. The sum due to HMRC for tax was subsequently amended.

b) The following direct debit payments were confirmed:-

	Net	VAT	Gross	
A&J Lighting Solutions Ltd	£17.12	£3.42	£20.54	Streetlight maintenance (March 2024)
SSE	£9.59	£1.92	£11.51	Streetlight electricity (February 2024)
SSE	£22.50	£1.13	£23.63	Streetlight electricity (February 2024)

c) The following payments were ratified -

	Net	VAT	Gross	
Maldon District Council	£122.25	£24.45	£146.70	Grounds maintenance contract Jan-March 2024
South Hanningfield Tree Surgeons	£475.00		£475.00	Arboricultural services Ulting Church

d) Bank Reconciliation - Cllr Clemo confirmed that she had undertaken internal control to verify bank reconciliation produced by the clerk for month of March 2024.

e) VAT Return – It was noted £1478.21 had been received from HMRC.

f) It was noted the Annual audit information had been received from PKF Littlejohn.

24/58. **Ulting Churchyard Tree Work –**

It was noted, upon further investigation, an appeal to a confirmed TPO order would need to be made to the High Court. It was agreed that an appeal would be too costly to pursue. Councillors expressed their disappointment that a TPO had been granted on a diseased tree. It was agreed to erect a 15m exclusion zone around the tree. It was agreed to discuss future works on the tree at the May parish council meeting.

ACTION

To erect a 15m exclusion zone around the monolith ash tree in Ulting Churchyard. Cllr Clemo

24/59. **Ulting Church Yard –**

It was noted MDC had presented a new proposal for the repair to the broken headstone following receipt of further advice from their stone masons. It was agreed to go ahead with the revised proposal.

24/60. **Risk Assessment –**

The draft risk assessment was reviewed and approved. The Chair and Clerk signed the risk assessment.

24/61. Items from the councillors (NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

Ulting churchyard tree work.

It was agreed to invite Cllr Mark Durham to the May meeting to report on the member led pothole scheme.

24/62. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at Crouchmans Barn, Ulting.

24/63. Exclusion of the Public and Press

It was resolved that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it includes information relating to individuals.

24/64. Current Clerks arrangements –

The request from the Clerk was considered. It was agreed to pay for the Clerks outstanding leave (in line with the employment contract) and additional hours worked. It was agreed Cllr J Clemo to calculate the amount.

24/65. New Clerk

The update on the recruitment progress was noted. It was noted that the current Clerk would be leaving on 30th April 2024. It was agreed that Cllr Clemo would take on the role of Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer until a permanent replacement was employed.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date: