

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LANGFORD & ULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
12th DECEMBER 2023 AT LANGFORD & ULTING VILLAGE HALL

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

23/192. Apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were given by Cllr Kathy Palmer.

23/193. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of 14th November 2023 having been previously circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

23/194. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

23/195. County and District Councillor's report

Cllr Simon Morgan reported budget matters remained under consideration at Maldon District Council. He reported that there had been issues with the previous two years precept as MDC had incorrectly calculated the tax base. Although this had a slight financial impact on Langford & Ulting Parish Council it was noted that MDC would not seek to reclaim the cost.

The written report from Cllr Durham on the future of Local Highways Panels was received.

23/196. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

23/197. Matters for information from previous meetings

23/120. Replacement Noticeboard for Langford & Ulting Village Hall

It was noted that the replacement noticeboard had not yet been ordered by the village hall, but they had agreed to pay for it. It was agreed that as the noticeboard would be owned by the parish council they would purchase it with a donation from the village hall management committee to cover the costs.

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.

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.

ACTION

Cllr Magness to arrange for the invoice from the noticeboard company to be sent to the parish council and make arrangements for the donation for the noticeboard to be made to the parish council.

23/198. Planning Matters

23/01147/LBC and 23/01146/HOUSE - Single storey side/ rear extension. Alterations to fenestration. Internal alterations and new vehicular access with driveway
The Homestead Maldon Road Langford Maldon Essex CM9 4SS

There were no objections.

b) Planning decisions received:

23/00932/TCA - 4 x Conifer trees to front - Fell. 2 x group of Conifer trees to rear - Fell.
The Homestead Maldon Road Langford Maldon Essex CM9 4SS – ALLOWED TO PROCEED

23/00453/FUL - Erection of an education centre building
Land At Museum Of Power Steam Pumping Station Hatfield Road Langford Essex - REFUSED

23/199. Correspondence

a). Local Government Boundary Commission Consultation. - The consultation was noted.

23/200. Finance

a) Authorisation of payments to:-

	Net	VAT	Gross	
Essex County Council	£120.00	£24.00	£144.00	Place Services tree survey – Ulting Church
Information Commissioners Office	£40		£40	Data protection renewal fee
Mrs J Atterbury	£817.85		£817.85	Clerk’s salary October – December and pay NALC pay increase backdated to 1 April 23.
Mrs J Atterbury	£138.14	£4.38	£142.52	Clerk’s expenses (October - December)
HMRC	£204.60		£204.60	Tax

It was noted that the Information Commissioners Office had previously been set up as a direct debit payment and a £5 reduction had been made for this method of payment, so the total charged was £35.

b) Confirmation of direct debit payments to:-

	Net	VAT	Gross	
A&J Lighting Solutions Ltd	£17.12	£3.42	£20.54	Streetlight maintenance (November 2023)
SSE	£10.25	£2.05	£12.30	Streetlight electricity (October 2023)
SSE	£24.06	£1.20	£25.26	Streetlight electricity (October 2023)

It was noted the invoice for A&J Lighting Solutions had not been received and would be reviewed by Councillors in the January meeting.

c) Bank Reconciliation - Cllr Clemo confirmed that she had undertaken internal control to verify bank reconciliation produced by the clerk for the month of November 2023.

23/201. Budget 2024/25 and precept –

The 2024/25 budget was considered. The parish council are responsible for two closed churchyards. Both have a number of mature trees and have heritage wooden fencing. It was noted that the full tree survey was due in 2024-25 and the resulting work would have an impact on the budget. In addition, the fencing at Langford church was in need of replacement. The recently received news from Maldon District Council (outlined in agenda item 23/203 below) also has a significant impact on the budget. Councillors agreed that they wished to explore options for the replacement fencing and for the tree work. It was agreed that this would lead to an increased precept. It was further noted that the tax base of 116 meant that a small financial increase had a

large increase on the percentage raised. It was agreed to postpone the agreement for the 2024-25 precept until the next parish council meeting on 16th January 2024. It was agreed to include an article on the precept and what the parish council funds in the next newsletter.

ACTION

To include an article on the precept and what the parish council funds in the next newsletter.

Chair

23/202. Repairs to Langford Churchyard Fences –

It was agreed to defer this item until the January Parish Council Meeting.

23/203. Ulting Churchyard Tree Work –

The Maldon District Council response to the parish council planning application for works to trees in Ulting churchyard was noted. It was noted that the works to ash tree T13 were approved. The application to fell ash tree T12 were rejected and MDC would apply to place a TPO on the tree. The MDC report reflected that the tree should be reduced to 4m. It was noted that the Clerk had been informed by telephone that this would require a further application for works to be carried out. It was noted that the implication of the TPO would mean that additional ecological and condition surveys would be required before work was carried out to the diseased tree. Councillors were minded to object to the application for TPO status and review at the next meeting once the consultation on the TPO was received.

23/204. Current Banking Arrangements –

It was noted Cllr Clemo had continued to contact Barclays Bank to make arrangements for online banking and access for herself and the Clerk to transfer funds between the accounts. Despite this, Barclays bank have continued to send followed up threatening letters requesting contact (Cllr Clemo has contacted them on a number of occasions). Barclays bank have subsequently removed all access to the accounts (with the exception of Cllr Ashby who was able to transfer the funds before the parish council meeting). The Clerk remains without authorisation to speak to Barclays Bank regarding the accounts. It was agreed to not explore alternative banking arrangements at this time.

23/205. Items from the councillors (NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

There were no additional items for the next agenda.

23/206. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th January 2023 at Langford & Ulting Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date: