

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL LANGFORD PARISH MEETING HELD IN LANGFORD & ULTING VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 18th APRIL 2017 AT 7.30PM

Those present: Cllr. Vicky Anfilogoff (In the chair), Irene Allen, Vicky Anfilogoff, Katherine Palmer, Colin Ashby, John Clemo, Jenny Clemo (Clerk), Ian Frost (Essex County Council Contracts Manager) and ten members of the public.

1. Broadband

The Chairman welcomed Ian Frost from Essex County Council who gave an update on the progress of the Superfast Essex programme. The aim is to provide 98% of Essex with speeds of 30Mbps or more. Langford is not part of the Superfast Essex programme as another operator has indicated that it plans to provide wireless broadband. Cabinet 6 in Nounsley was fibre-enabled on 28th February 2017 which means that Ulting residents connected via this link can now access improved broadband speeds. Ian agreed to provide contact and website details for BT's Community Fibre Scheme. Councillors and residents were given the opportunity to ask questions. The Chairman thanked Ian for attending the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting – 19th April 2016

The minutes were read out by the Chairman, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report.

Cllr. Anfilogoff noted that a year in the life of the Parish Council had passed as quickly as ever and in her report had taken the opportunity to provide an update on progress. As last year, she emphasised that Parish Council business proceeds very slowly with small steps to reach an outcome and that there is rarely anything earthshattering that happens in a twelve-month period.

a) Neighbourhood Plan - The Independent Examiner's report had just been received this time last year and discussions with Maldon District Council as to the best way to move the Plan forward had been arranged. In the ensuing period all of the examiner's recommendations were agreed with the exception of the housing policy which the Parish Council is very committed to achieving to answer the needs of our community. After lengthy deliberations the Parish Council is now pursuing this from another angle in order to realise the very low number of small houses/bungalows required to fulfil the need demonstrated in our original survey.

b) 30mph speed limit through Langford - This item had been removed from the local Highways Panel list and despite the Parish Council's continuing efforts to get this reinstated it was unlikely that this would succeed.

c) Path at Ulting Lane green - The pathway round the green in Ulting Lane has continued to deteriorate and the Parish Council is waiting for information and photographs from one of the residents before pursuing this with the Water Company.

d) Oval Park – The Planning Inspector dismissed the appeal to build 45 houses on the Oval Park site.

e) Ditches – The Parish Council was invited to participate in an Essex County Council project to survey and map ditches in the Parish. A start has been made on this in Ulting led by councillors, the clerk and residents.

f) Litter Pick - A litter pick was held in Langford and Ulting with hi-vis jackets, gloves and litter pickers being lent by MDC. It was a great success and residents joined in with councillors, collecting a large volume of rubbish from the verges. It is hoped to make this a twice yearly event.

g) Dog Waste Bin – The Parish Council had a bin for dog waste installed opposite the village hall at the start of the track to the golf club.

h) Blackwater Rail Trail - Friends of Flich Way had done a wonderful job reinstating the Langford & Ulting Halt on the old railway line by Railway Cottage with a grant from Tesco Bags of Help. This included the provision of four seats along the old line and information boards.

Finally, the Chairman thanked fellow Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their hard work and commitment over the past twelve months, in particular, the Chairman thanked Colin Ashby for his mowing skills in Langford Churchyard and John Clemo for his continued maintenance of the ford in Langford. District Councillors, Henry Bass and Mark Durham were thanked for their continued support and input throughout the year which had been very much appreciated.

4. Items from parishioners.

There were no items from parishioners.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: