

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL LANGFORD PARISH MEETING HELD AT
LANGFORD & ULTING VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 16th APRIL 2024 AT
7.30PM

Those present: Cllr. Irene Allen (Chair), Cllr. Colin Ashby, Cllr. Jenny Clemo and Justine Atterbury (clerk).

Also present Cllr Simon Morgan, Maldon District Council

Members of the public - 2

Apologies Katherine Palmer, Lester Magness

1. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting – 18th April 2023

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

Cllr Ashby joined the meeting.

2. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report.

Firstly, I must once again give a vote of thanks to everyone on the Parish Council for their sterling work in the past year.

Tree work has again been very much on our minds this year with another on the green in Ulting Lane being removed, and a TPO being placed on a diseased tree in Ulting churchyard. The Parish council are responsible for the two closed churchyards, and this year we have carried out necessary remedial work on the ash trees in Ulting Churchyard and replaced part of the oak fence at Langford Church. We have also had more problems with fly tipping, exacerbated by the need to book a place at the local tip, and with potholes in all our roads which seem to be on the increase, and more dangerous because of the water levels on the roads following all the rain. I won't even mention the water at the end of Ulting Lane as it would be improper for your chairman to start swearing this early in the evening!

The Art Show this year was again great success, and grateful thanks must be passed on to the organisers who did such a great job, and to everyone who helped in any capacity – from car parking to making the tea. An especial thanks go to the makers of the wonderful cakes, who were eaten out of house and hall by the visitors and had to bake more after a very long day. We raised over £1790 for the village hall which is a wonderful result, and the artworks were, as usual, to a very high standard. Sally Marks, our Treasurer for the event, gave a wonderfully detailed account of pictures and folios sold and all the other expenses said, "Blood, sweat and tears of Committee and helpers was priceless" and I so agree with that. So another great success for the Art Show but, as we all agreed, next year the hours will be 10 till 4 on both days as 10 till 5 is too exhausting, and we also agreed that the programme will be of normal paper (although still with a coloured cover) instead of card, to save money.

Thanks are due to Colin Ashby and his team for keeping the churchyard and cemetery of St. Giles' looking so good, and for putting up the bat box in the churchyard, and thanks also to Alan Marks and his sons for keeping the green in Ulting Lane well mown.

I would also like to record grateful thanks to everyone who took part in the Litter Pick on 16th March. Although we were fewer in number than last year, the amount of litter picked was the same, and we decided that we had almost enough parts to assemble

a small car. One really has to wonder what kind of people they are who throw litter so easily from cars or bicycles, and how little they must value their own countryside.

True to their promise in offering something to the village when the new eel pass was agreed, Essex & Suffolk Water stepped up to the mark and provided funding for replacement LED street lighting in the village and this is most welcome. Dog walkers are also most grateful for the new dog waste bin in Ulting Lane by the Permissive Path.

You will also have noticed that we have a new notice board on the village hall. This beautiful addition was gifted to the Hall by the Village Hall Committee and was put up on 28th January. Thanks to Andy Cullen, Colin Ashby and Lester Magness for their sterling work in getting this (rather heavy) noticeboard in place. Sadly, due to restrictions imposed by Highway on the siting of such signs, it will not be possible to replace the notice board in Ulting, but we offer our grateful thanks to the owners of The Old School for allowing us to have a sign on their building for so long.

Now we come to the sad part. Our lovely Parish Clerk, Justine, has decided to step down. She has done sterling work in the post over the last year, and we are very grateful to Jenny Clemo for her guiding hand in all this. We are also very grateful to Justine for staying on an extra month while Jenny was in Australia – very much appreciated. We now have five candidates for the post and we will be holding interviews on 11th and 12th of this month, and hopefully a new Clerk can be chosen.

Finally, I would like to record my own thanks to those members of the public who attend and take an interest in what goes on in our communities. It can often be a lonely task being a Parish Councillor, and one that is often misunderstood as our powers have been systematically eroded over the years. However, with the limited powers that we do have, we aim to do our best for the communities that we serve, so thank you all for your support.

4. Items from parishioners.
None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.46 pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: