



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2026, LAYER VILLAGE HALL, 7:30pm

Chair	Councillor Mr B Turner	Present
Vice Chair	Councillor Mrs C Chambers	Present
	Councillor Mrs S Bennett	Present
	Councillor Mrs M Holmes	Absent
	Councillor Mrs S Hughes	Present
	Councillor Mr I Moore	Present
	Councillor Mr P Pyke	Present
	Councillor Mr D Cash	Present
	Councillor Mr M Hopkins	Present
In attendance	Clerk & RFO	

2627/057 APOLOGIES - RECEIVE and **APPROVE** apologies for absence *It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the apologies from Cllr Mrs. M Holmes and Colchester City Councillors K Bentley and A Ellis, proposed by Cllr Mr. P Pyke, seconded by Councillor Mrs. S Bennett, agreed by all.*

2627/058 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - RECEIVE declarations of interest relating to the agenda, **NOTE** decisions of requests for dispensation relating to the agenda *Cllr Mrs. C Chambers in relation to finance due to occupation/employer. Dispensation given to remain in the meeting.*

2627/059 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (not exceeding 15 minutes, individuals can speak for a maximum of 3 minutes each)

- a. **RECEIVE** reports from City Councillors *CCC Cllr Mr. A Harding introduced himself to the attending residents as well as the Parish Council. An update was provided on opposition to the Regulation 19 Consultation currently in progress for the Local Plan. Mention was also made of the cancelling of Local Government Reorganisation for Essex.*
- b. **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration *Many residents (circa 20) attended the meeting to comment on the Malting Green posts project. All were vociferously opposed to the project. Most residents repeated similar issues, with the exception on one resident who raised the argument of historic rights existing.*

2627/060 MINUTES (previously circulated)

- a. **APPROVE** minutes of the previous meeting – for signature by the Chair (minutes of the previous Personnel & Finance Approval Committees Meeting received by email where appropriate) *The minutes of the previous meeting were APPROVED, proposed by Cllr Mr. D Cash, seconded by Cllr Mrs. S Bennett, agreed by all.*

2627/061 Malting Green Post Project

- a. Discuss and formulate any resolution deemed necessary, along with any further actions *Having listened to the views of the residents present, as well as all councillors having received copies of written correspondence and an options paper, the Chairman introduced this topic by summarising the position. The options were to either carry on as planned, modify the plan or shelve the plan.*

The Chairman also acknowledged having reviewed historic documentation (with the Clerk & RFO present) in reference to the argument of historic rights of access to properties existing at present on Malting Green that appeared to have some legal merit. Whilst the Parish Council does not have the legal expertise to warrant that the argument is valid, testing that through a legal process is not regarded as a good use of public money.

*In the light of strong feedback in person and in writing, it was **RESOLVED** to **SHELVE** the Malting Green posts project, proposed by Cllr Mr. P Pyke, seconded by Cllr Mr. I Moore, agreed by all.*

2627/062 GOVERNANCE

- **CONSIDER** and **RESOLVE** to **APPROVE** recommendations of the Personnel Committee (if held) *The Chair of the Personnel Committee reported that the national pay rise for local government workers had been approved (applies to the Clerk & RFO). This was within the budget set for this financial year. It was also noted that the Clerk & RFO would not be commencing the next qualification yet due to the pressure of other work.*
- **CONSIDER** and **RESOLVE** to **APPROVE** recommendations of the Finance Approval Committee *The Vice Chair of the Finance Approval Committee reported that all payments had been approved, and a full bank reconciliation approved as well as the national pay rise being approved subject to the Personnel Committee also approving (see above)*
- Risk Register review - **CONSIDER** then formulate any resolution deemed necessary, along with any further actions *The risk register has not changed, and no further entries were required.*
- External Audit – update by Clerk & RFO *The Clerk & RFO updated the meeting that the external audit had completed, including the public display of the results. This was left on the noticeboard for a considerable time longer than required and remains available on the Parish Council website. The only issue was that we were unable to show proof that our internal auditor was completely independent. The Clerk & RFO assured the councillors that the Internal Auditor was indeed fully independent and that proving this would be resolved for next year's audit.*
- **RESOLVE** to **APPROVE** the following policies:
 - Recording, filming and photography policy
 - Data Protection Policy

*It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** both policies, proposed by Cllr Mrs C Chambers, seconded by Cllr Mr. M Hopkins, agreed by all. It was noted that, for all services the Parish Council offers, participants should be informed of their data protection rights.*

2627/063 PLANNING

- a. 261573 - Layer Mill, Mill Lane - Application for approval of details reserved by condition 6 and 7 of application 250952 – *No action required*
- b. 261546 - The Furze, The Folley - Outline application for the construction of up to 5no. dwellings with all matters reserved except access – *Object due to sewage system overload, waste arrangements, lack of footpath provision adjoining other developments and PROW3*
- c. 261394 - 137 High Road - Single storey hipped side extension, single storey flat roof rear extension, and new outbuilding following removal of existing outbuildings. Internal replan to suit changes (ALREADY COMMENTED – NO FURTHER ACTION)
- d. 261284 - Layer Village Hall - Application for a lawful development certificate for a proposed adding insulation layers and resurfacing flat roof to meet latest standards of insulation and water proofing as well as adding solar panels. – *No action required*

2627/064 FINANCE

- a. **RECEIVE** update from Clerk & RFO/Chair Finance Approval Committee *The Clerk & RFO updated the meeting regarding finance earlier in the meeting – no further updates.*
- b. **RESOLVE** to **APPROVE** the following budget changes:
 - Add £74 to Election Costs budget (Invoice for returning office arrived after the decision to release the entire budget was taken)

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the budget transfer, proposed by Cllr Mrs S Bennett, seconded by Cllr Mr. M Hopkins, agreed by all.

2627/065 PARISH MATTERS – for each item, discuss and formulate any resolution deemed necessary, along with any further actions

- a. Local Plan Reg 19 Consultation *The Clerk & RFO informed the meeting that careful consideration was required re the responses. This is best achieved by a small working party to help (C&RFO has two tender processes finalizing in the next week so has a lot on). Cllr Mr. D Cash and Cllr Mr. P Pyke agreed to form a working party with the Clerk & RFO to prepare the response on behalf of the Parish Council. The deadline for response is 13/10/26, the day after the next meeting.*
- b. Crossroads safety at the Fox/Cross *Cllr Mr. M Hopkins presented a document showing where existing signage is placed and detailing what is missing/deficient. This document to be supplied to the Clerk & RFO to use in registering jobs for Essex Highways as well as informing city councillors.*
- c. British Horse Society request to use Layer Solar Farm funding to fund grass cutting on the pathway along the front of the solar farm *As the Parish Council does not own the land, we cannot pay for work to be done on it. The resident requesting this can introduce the landowner to the worker directly to resolve a fee and payment.*
- d. Sewage smell from entrance to Denbury site *This remains unresolved and being pursued with CCC Cllr Mr. K Bentley*
- e. Anti-social driving (motorbikes and cars) – resident request for renewed push for 20 is Plenty, average speed cameras and speed bumps *This remains unresolved and being pursued with CCC Cllr Mr. K Bentley. The Parish Council was in receipt of a petition signed by 241 village residents, addressed to the Police and Colchester City Council appealing for more action against the disruptive level of noise from speeding cars and motorbikes. This will be submitted and the Parish Council will continue to pursue this matter.*
- f. Communications – social media etc. – *No action required*
- g. Grant application to fund Community360 bus *Cllr Mr. D Cash informed the meeting that an application for a £2,000 grant has been submitted.*
- h. S106 Agreements/5 Year Plan Working Party – progress update from Clerk & RFO *The Clerk and RFO updated the meeting on the progress of s106 applications and tender processes. A date will be set next week for working party meetings depending on the number of responses.*
- i. CALC Meeting update (if any). *Cllr Mr. P Pyke updated the meeting that the main topics of conversation were the Regulation 19 Consultation for the Local Plan, the scrapping of the Local Government Reorganisation and anti-social driving and the lack of police response.*
- j. Multi Sports Court/Allotments Lease - progress update from Clerk & RFO *The Clerk & RFO informed the meeting that a new draft lease had been received and that a meeting at the allotments to discuss issues arising will take place next week.*
- k. PlayQuip – repairs required – C&RFO update – *No action required*
- l. Letterbox at hall – C&RFO update – *No action required*

2627/066 CLERK & RFO REPORT

- a. Correspondence received/sent *Correspondence received has been circulated in month.*
- b. **REVIEW** action tracker *The Clerk and RFO gave a brief update on the status of the action tracker.*

2627/067 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS – matters for forthcoming agenda

- *Cllr Mr. D Cash updated the meeting on current Denbury timelines as well as reminding councillors of the AI MS Teams call on Friday at 19:00. The AI training would be used to help generate a Communications Policy for use by the parish council.*
- *Cllr Mr. I Moore raised a dangerous dog incident and fly tipping in Heather Close, also issues about rubbish in the front of a property on Malting Green Road*

- *Cllr Mr. P Pyke raised concerns about building at a cottage on Church Road, would like to understand Cllr Mr. A Hardings' view of 20 is Plenty and noted that the speed watch group is currently suspended*
- *Cllr Mrs. C Chambers noted that the school warning signs are currently flashing all day, now that power is back on, can the field CCTV be brought back into service? Also noted was stagnant water beside Kingsford Bridge. Can a summer fete be put on the next agenda.*

2627/068 RESOLVE pursuant to s1(2) Public Bodies Act 1960 for the public and press to leave the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

2627/069 Parish matters - discuss and formulate any resolution deemed necessary, along with any further actions – *No matters arose*

2627/070 NEXT MEETING - 12th October 2026 19:30

Meeting closed at 21:30