

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LANGFORD & ULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2025 AT LANGFORD & ULTING VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors: Irene Allen, Jenny Clemo, Lester Magness
In the Chair: Councillor Irene Allen
Temporary Clerk: John Clemo

No members of the public present

25/16. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Councillors Ashby, Palmer, and District Councillors Morgan and Durham.

25/17. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of 14th January 2025 having been previously circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

25/18. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Clemo declared an interest in item 25/24a.

25/19. County and District Councillor's reports

No report available, see apologies.

25/20. Public Question Time

Not required.

25/21 Matters for information from previous meetings

The temporary clerk reported on the emails and correspondence over January

It was noted that the Woodland Trust trees should arrive next week, planting arrangements need to be made, possibly with some on Ulting Lane green.

No progress on the Ulting Village sign to date.

Surprise was expressed that Braintree District Council had allowed the development opposite Middlefields, Nounsley to be named as Ulting Meadows.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman had been invited to join an informal working group on the 6-week road closure to coincide with the school summer holiday. See below 25/23

Langford churchyard fence and a headstone had been badly damaged when a car collided with it. Churchwarden is dealing with this.

A community effort for a petition to reduce the 40 mph speed limit to 30 mph through

Langford village is well underway: [Petitions > Reduce the Speed limit from 40mph to 30mph through Langford Village](#)

Difficulties have arisen with conflicting statements from Place Services on pollarding the lime trees at Langford Churchyard and the TPO on the Ash monolith at Ulting. All these extra changes/requirements cause delays and increase costs. Councillors agreed to write to District Councillors explaining the problems and misdirection that has been observed.

25/22. Planning Matters

a) Planning applications received:

25/00038/TCA - G1, G2 - Groups of Leylandii conifers – Fell. Melita, Witham Road, Langford. Already approved therefore no comment required.

24/00998/FUL - Resurfacing of the hardstanding. Museum Of Power, Hatfield Road, Langford. Councillors agreed to support this application.

24/01007/FUL - Erection of an education building. Land At Museum Of Power, Hatfield Road, Langford. Councillors agreed to support this application.

25/00083/VAR - Variation of condition 15 on approved planning permission 22/00840/FUL (Erection of building for Sui Generis purposes, together with car parking, servicing areas and landscaping). Maldon Salt, 2 Oval Park, Hatfield Road, Langford. Councillors noted the holding objection by Essex County Council as the changes proposed did not meet the criteria required. ie The discharge rate calculated was greater than the 1 in 1 greenfield rate

or 1l/s, whichever is higher; climate change allowance of 45% should be used for storage and modelling calculations; and evidence that sufficient storage would be provided for all storm events up to and including the 1 in 100 year including 45% climate change.

b) Planning decisions received

24/00990/TCA - T2 - Elder tree - fell. Church Of All Saints, Ulting. Allowed to proceed. It was noted that Councillor Ashby had agreed to carry out this work.

24/00973/WTPO - TPO 06/23 T1 Ash - Monolith (reduce to main stem) to 4 metres, Church of All Saints, Ulting. Consent granted.

25/00002/TCA - T3 Common Alder - Fell. T4 Lime - Reduce to 10m. T5,T6,T9,T10 & T11 Limes - Reduce to 7m. T7 & T8 Lime - Reduce to 8m. Church Of St Giles, Hatfield Road, Langford was allowed to proceed. Replacement *Alnus cordata* or *Tilia x Europea* (suggested) to be planted in churchyard.

24/00974/HOUSE and 24/00975/LBC - Retrospective application for a rear dormer, The Homestead, Maldon Road, Langford was approved.

25/23. Correspondence

a) Langford and Ulting Art Show - 12th and 13th April. Volunteers required 6th April to receive paintings.

b) Keep Britain Tidy – 21st March to 6th April.

c) Ulting Lane road closure – 3rd to 28th March. Hatfield Road to remain open to traffic however traffic lights may be required – 3rd to 14th March. Surface water alleviation scheme works are being undertaken by Essex Highways.

d) Precept Request – It was noted that Maldon District Council now require separate forms for Langford and Ulting.

e) Maldon Parish and Town Council Forum – 25th March, Maldon Town Hall. 1pm (Clerks only), 2-3pm, Clerks and Councillors. Cllr. Clemo to attend.

f) Essex councils accepted onto Devolution Priority Programme – See [Essex councils accepted onto Devolution Priority Programme | Essex County Council](#)

g) Langford Road roundabout construction - Summer 2025 - temporary traffic lights for about three weeks, followed by a full closure of Langford Road which is proposed from week commencing 21st July to early September <https://www.essexhighways.org/maldon-schemes/westcombe-park-development-heybridge-maldon>

h) Pensions Regulator – To note re-enrolment duties and key dates. This may affect the new clerk. Deadline: 1st October 2025.

i) Braintree District Council Issues and Options Consultation – comments to be submitted by 7th March. See <https://engage.braintree.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/local-plan-review>

j) **Chelmsford Local Plan** – Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) Document – Comments to be submitted by 18th March. See: [Statement of Representation Procedure and Statement on Availability of Proposed Submission Documents](#) Possible comment on building on flood plains/support Little Baddow, Danbury and Boreham Parish Councils.

k) Update from [GOV.UK](#) - A guide for parish council clerks who want to set up or move their council to a.gov.uk domain. See: [Moving your parish council to a.gov.uk domain](#)

25/24. Finance

a) The following payments were authorised:-

	Net	VAT	Gross	
Mr J Clemo	£484.74		£484.74	Clerical Services
Mrs J Clemo	£12.00		£12.00	Giffgaff (Jan and Feb)

b) The following direct debit payments were confirmed:-

	Net	VAT	Gross	
A&J Lighting Solutions Ltd	£17.12	£3.42	£20.54	Streetlight maintenance February
SSE	£17.07	£3.41	£20.48	Streetlight electricity 1.4 - 31.5.24
SSE	£34.61	£1.73	£36.34	Streetlight electricity 1.4 - 31.5.24
SSE	£25.77	£5.15	£30.92	Streetlight electricity 1.6 – 31.8.24
SSE	£52.18	£2.61	£54.79	Streetlight electricity 1.6 – 31.8.24
SSE	£25.49	£5.10	£30.59	Streetlight electricity 1.9 – 30.11.24
SSE	£51.64	£2.58	£54.22	Streetlight electricity 1.9 – 30.11.24

c) Bank Reconciliation – Cllr. Allen confirmed she had undertaken internal control to verify bank reconciliation produced by the clerk for month of January 2025.

Ulting Churchyard Tree Work

a) The quotes for the work to the Ash tree were considered but until b) below has been completed work cannot commence. Councillors agreed to accept the quote from South Hanningfield Tree Surgeons but it was noted that the work may now have to be deferred to Winter 2025 when the bees are dormant.

b) It was noted that prior to work commencing, 'a suitably qualified ecologist is required to complete a Ground Level Tree Assessment to determine the suitability of the tree to support roosting bats. Further aerial inspections or bat emergence / re-entry surveys may then be required to further identify or categorise any potential roost sites identified, as well as identify the presence / likely absence of roosting bats, in line with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 4th edition'. A quotation for £525.00 + VAT had been received. The RFO had attempted to get further quotations but had not been successful. Second quotation to be sought, Chairman to provide details. Councillors agreed that the new quotation would be circulated and authority delegated to the clerk to commission the survey so that it could be carried out as soon as possible.

c) It was noted that the church had agreed to share the cost.

25/26. Keep Britain Tidy

Councillors agreed that the annual parish litter pick would be held on 29th March subject to availability of equipment. This was subsequently confirmed by the temporary clerk.

25/27. Community Engagement Service contracts for 2025/26

Councillors confirmed that this service was not required. Charge for the new financial year is £43.24 per hour. It was agreed that if issues with parking and anti-social behaviour occur this decision would be reviewed.

25/28. Streetlights

It was noted that the current contract with SSE ends 31st March 2025. RFO had sought quotations but due to Ofgem changes suppliers are not taking on new customers. Councillors agreed to accept the renewal quotation from SSE to 31st July 2025.

25/29. Items from the councillors

- Ulting Lane green – Cllrs. discussed the possibility of planting a hedge
- Meeting dates – Cllr. Magness requested that 4th Tuesday of the month is avoided

25/30. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7:30pm.

25/31. 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 item of business on the grounds that it includes information relating to individuals.

25/32. New Clerk

Hand over in progress.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date: