

Lawford Parish Council



Minutes of the **Lawford Parish Assembly** held in the Main Hall, Ogilvie Hall, Wignall Street, Lawford, CO11 2JG at **7.30** on **Thursday 14 April 2016**.

Present:

Councillors Mr Ashley, Mr Baker, Mr C Guglielmi, Mrs V Guglielmi, Mrs Langstone, Mr Payne and Mr Rolfe M.B.E

Clerk: Mrs Peachey

6 members of the public

Apologies:

Councillors Pretty and Collier

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 30 April 2015 having previously been circulated, were accepted as a true record.

Proposed Cllr Payne, **Seconded** Cllr Ashley, **agreed by all those present at the meeting.**

Matters Arising:

None

Charity Reports:

- 1) **Leaches Allotments** – *(The report was previously circulated)*

Currently there are 46 allotments holders.

Income **£2,806.44**

Expenditure **£1,172.46**

Net Revenue **£1,663.98** (50% is allocated to the Educational Foundation)

Balance of the Charity **£11,243.30**

Expenditure covered a number of projects during 2015.

Noted: There are 6acres available and any person wishing to cultivate an allotment should contact the charities secretary.

Leaches Educational Foundation *(No report was available)*

In 2015 there were three applicants for Grants.

Applications for Grants should be made to the Secretary.

Balance of the Charity **£ 6,603.23**

- 2) **Cox and Hales** – there are three Alms houses all of which are occupied, one changed beneficiary during 2015. The houses are exceptionally well maintained and inspections are carried twice yearly.

Ogilvie Hall report: (The AGM will be held separately)

(The report was previously circulated)

Income **£32,671.41** *(increase of 14% on 2014)*

Expenditure **£37,154.28**

Balance b/fwd from 2014 **£18,209.99**

End Balance £13,727.12 (*deficit due to external maintenance work carried out at a cost of £12,915.00. Further work being necessary in the coming financial year at an estimated cost of £30,000.00*)

Thanks was given to the retiring secretary Mrs Diana Daley and Mrs Wendy St.James was welcomed to the post. Thanks also expressed to Mr Daley who has stepped down from the Committee and special thanks to the Caretaker Mrs Sue Huck and Mr David Huck.

County Councillors Report:

(The report was previously circulated)

- 1) **Highways** - £5million pledged to dual A120 Braintree – Colchester. Installation of a new roundabout is hoped to begin later in 2016. ECC has backed a plan for a Thames Crossing linking Tilbury and Gravesend.
- 2) **Finances** – reduction in local authorities budget places considerable pressure on services and the current identified funding gap for the next three years is in excess of £200million
- 3) **Communities** – Communities Initiative Fund (CIF) has been retained with £1.5million being set aside.
- 4) **Trading Standards** – campaign being launched to alert residents to the many scams that are circulating and the devastating effect being a victim can have.
- 5) **Communications** – ‘keep me posted’ was launched in April and provides information about roadworks, gritting information about schools and libraries plus much more.
- 6) **Recycling** – ECC used some government funding to provide free biodegradable liners for the food-waste caddies as part of a comprehensive recycling awareness campaign.
- 7) **Education** – September 2015 saw the introduction of the ‘Home to School’ policy providing free transport if certain criteria was met. In general the examination results have improved on the previous year. ‘Teach in Essex’ was launched in the Autumn to attract teachers to the County.

District Councillors Report:

(The report was previously circulated)

- 1) **Blue Flag beaches** – there are five in Tendring with eight beaches attaining Seaside Awards.
- 2) **Businesses** can apply for grant funding from the £500,000.00 fund. Applications can be made for between £3,000.00 and £150,000.00.
- 3) **Clacton Air Show** will take place on 25-26 August 2016.
- 4) **New Beaches** – on 27 October 2015 23 new beaches were opened along the Clacton and Holland coastline. The project cost £36million, and the new defences will protect more than 3000 residential and commercial properties for the next 100years.
- 5) **Gold Standard** from the Investors in People (IPP) achieved by TDC for the first time.
- 6) **Future governance of TDC** – a review has started into the way TDC will be run in the future.
- 7) **Pride of Tendring Awards** – unsung heroes and heroines from Tendring were honoured on 5 February 2015.
- 8) **Local Plan** – in January 2016 the number of new homes needed across the district for the next 17 years was set at 9350 which equates to 550 per year.
- 9) **Free parking initiative** – permits are no longer printed and issued with the Council Tax bills but if needed can be applied for online or by telephone.

Chairman’s Report:

(The report was previously circulated)

Significant changes relate to the number of potential housing developments creating unrest in the village. In particular this relates to the infrastructure in the area of the Railway Bridge. Action is being taken to look into providing a solution for this problem.

The Summers Park development has begun and the application for the Lawford Green development is yet to be determined. The Lawford Housing Enterprise Trust awaits the delivery of eight new homes, which through the trust will be made available to young people with links to Lawford.

Awards have been received for Lawford’s playing fields and development of these areas will continue. The car park at School Lane will be upgraded in the coming year and over a longer period, improvements to the Tennis Courts and play equipment. During 2015/16 projects included installation of new benches, relocation and improvement of litter bins across the Parish, improvements to land adjacent to Cotman Avenue and Cox’s Hill, installing a new Village sign. The Parish Council were

instrumental in getting parking restrictions on Lawford Dale lifted on Bank Holidays. Other improvements to the local Highways are awaited including the implementation of double yellow lines along Station Road.

Public thanks were given to Mr David Thurlow, the retiring Clerk, to Mrs Judy Goodchild, Vice Chairman to the Council who resigned due to family commitments and unfortunately couldn't be present and finally to Mr Alan Coley who resigned having moved away from the Lawford Parish. Cllr Ashley gave a presentation to Mr Coley in appreciation of the work carried out for the Council during the 14 years he was in office.

Chairman confirmed Lawford Parish Council together with Manningtree Town Council and Mistley Parish Council will be holding the Family Fun at the Furze event on 26 June 2016 at Furze Hill.

In closing the Chairman made mention that Council are looking at changing the format of the Parish Assembly in the coming year and will be inviting local clubs, societies and businesses to attend and promote themselves. Finally the chairman thanked council colleagues, who give up their time for no financial reward in order to benefit the residents of Lawford.

Chairman invited questions/comments.

- 1) Councillor Rayner (Chairman Mistley Parish Council) – expressed his thanks for the support Lawford gives Mistley.
- 2) Chair was asked what the Council reserves are and why they are so large and why the precept has increased by 15%. Chair advised much is apportioned to forthcoming projects and gave the example of Council looking at the purchasing of Riverview.
- 3) Chair advised
- 4) The office opening times were queried, on checking it was noted the hours were correct. However it was believed the note advising the office would be closed due to the Clerk's holiday had been misinterpreted.
- 5) Mr Coley advised he enjoyed being a Parish Councillor enormously and recounted how 25 years ago the Parish Assembly would have been fully supported by residents and felt it sad at the lack of interest displayed latterly.
- 6) There was a short discussion about the events at the meeting to provide residents with information about the proposed Lawford Green development.
- 7) Cllr Guglielmi paid tribute to Mr Coley.
- 8) Cllr Guglielmi felt that at some stage in the future the three parishes should give thought to becoming one voice. (Lawford Parish Council/Mistley Parish Council/Manningtree Town Council).
- 9) Councillor Rayner thanked Lawford Parish Council for their support with recent Planning Applications.
- 10) Cllr Langstone provided an update that the lifts at Manningtree station should be operational in July 2016. Cllr Guglielmi indicated additional parking at the station (field on the Suffolk side) is being explored.

There being no further questions/comments the meeting closed at 8.30pm