

Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

Held at The Village Hall 7.30pm Tuesday 20th January 2015

Present: Mr S Huk – Chairman, Mr C Mayman, Mr J Tierney, Miss N Booth, Mrs J Mason, Mr N Daniels, County Cllr A Erskine

Apologies: Mr B Eaton, Mr T Spurge, Mr M Bransby

Chairman opened meeting at 7.30pm.

Declaration of Interest: There were none declared.

Public Participation: There was one member of the public present.

Mrs Ling asked if we were still going ahead with the barrier to the entrance to the Village Hall car park. Chairman reported that we were monitoring the situation. Mrs Ling said vehicles are still parking there without using the hall and spaces are needed. Chairman will obtain costs for having a barrier installed.

Mrs Ling asked how the plans for the New Village Hall were progressing. Mr Daniels said there was nothing new to report.

Mrs Ling also asked about progress on the Village Hall Floor. Chairman said that the closing date for funding applications was February so we will expect to hear about our match funding application shortly after that.

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th December 2014, after being circulated, were proposed as correct by Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Mayman, carried unanimously.

Police Report: We have received the weekly Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin and there are no crime figures for our Parish.

Miss Booth reported an incident which occurred in December but it is not on the reports.

Mr Tierney brought to our attention a Police Meet & Greet in our Village Hall on 21st January 5pm – 6pm, unfortunately very short notice and limited publicity.

Progress Report:

Village Sign

Information regarding a new village sign was circulated before Christmas. After looking at all the options it was agreed to pursue a metal sign with a new design reflecting the history of the village. Mr Daniels offered to have some preliminary ideas sketched-up for further discussion.

BT

We previously asked BT to remove the near derelict phone box at Sparrows Corner following consistent vandalism. They have contacted TDC to request permission to remove it and a notice has been displayed on the phone box.

Helicopters

Following reports of helicopters flying low over Stones Green and hovering for prolonged periods of time, we wrote to the Commanding Officer at RAF Wattisham to bring it to his attention.

Elmstead Market Parish Council

We were contacted by Elmstead Market Parish Council to ask if we would like assistance in setting up speed monitoring in our Village as they have purchased the equipment. We have responded to say thank you for contacting us but we will decline at this time.

Hedge – Village Hall

The hedge that runs along the car park of the Village Hall needed maintaining so the owners of the property were contacted and have now cut it back.

Burial Ground Hedge

After receiving prices to have the hedge cut back, the work was awarded to Jobsihate who have been contacted advising them of our decision.

Footpath 13

A while ago we received complaints about footpath 13 being overgrown. This was passed on to the Public Rights of Way team at Essex County Council. Since then the hedge has been cut back.

Highways:

Fly Tipping

Mr Bransby had previously brought to our attention fly tipping at The Soils. Cllr Erskine followed this up with TDC on our behalf and they are now dealing with it.

Mrs Mason reported further fly tipping at Honeypot Lane and Miss Booth reported some at The Avenue. These will also be reported to TDC for their attention.

Flooding at The Soils

Cllr Erskine has reported the condition of the ditches at The Soils to Essex County Council and they have responded to say they believe they are the responsibility of the landowners. ECC have written to the landowners bringing this to their attention.

Colchester Road Stones Green

After once again reporting the holes in the road to ECC, they have responded to say they do not meet their criteria for immediate repair, although remedial works will be included with their on-going programme, but they cannot specify a timescale.

Sparrows Corner Lease: We have been liaising with TDC regarding the lease for Sparrows Corner playing field. TDC are not accepting our offer of a 100% increase in the rental amount and will contact us in the New Year to discuss this matter further.

We were hoping to discuss this further at this meeting but we have not received any further communication from TDC since before Christmas.

Village Hall/New Village Hall: There is nothing new to report.

Public Rights of Way: No new issues to report.

Planning: There are no planning applications this month.

Cllr Erskine reported that there is a Tendring District Council meeting to be held on 17th February where a decision will be made regarding the implementation of the Emerging Local Plan.

Accounts for Payment:

Parish Council Expenditure

SLCC	Membership 2015	722249	£ 77.00
Jobsihate	Grass Cutting (Nov)	722250	£ 283.07
Jobsihate	Burial Ground Waste	722251	£ 50.00
E-On	Street Lighting	D/D	£ 84.15
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722252	£ 46.08
Autela Payroll Services	Payroll (3 months)	722253	£ 27.00
Miss J Bootyman	Expenses	722254	£ 31.24
Miss J Bootyman	Wages	722255	£ 242.73

Bruce Landscapes Ltd	Weekly Maintenance	722256	£ 748.80
TOTAL			£1590.07

Village Hall Income

Private Hire	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Yoga	Hall Hire		£ 10.00
Art Club	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Yoga	Hall Hire		£ 10.00
Books	Donations		£ 16.60
Table Top & Quiz	Hall Hire		£ 34.00
Dog Club	Hall Hire		£ 68.00
Football Club	Hall Hire		£ 34.00
WEA	Hall Hire		£170.00
Yoga	Hall Hire		£ 10.00
Party	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Party	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
TOTAL			£420.60

Village Hall Expenditure

Julia Turner	Cleaning Materials	Cash	£ 9.97
Julia Turner	Wages	400700	£140.84
British Gas	Electric (Sept-Dec)	D/D	£ 99.45
Calor	Gas	400701	£463.56
TOTAL			£713.82

After being circulated, accounts proposed as correct by Mr Tierney, seconded Miss Booth, carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

Churchyard / Burial Ground Water

It has been brought to our attention by the Parochial Church Council that in the past we had contributed to the costs of the water supply in the Churchyard which is also used by visitors, to our adjacent Burial Ground.

Having looked into this matter it appears that in the past we had made a 50% contribution to the cost of the water, usually amounting to something in the region of £15.00 - £25.00 per annum. The arrangement would seem to have ceased some years ago due to a change in our Parish Council Clerk unfortunately coinciding with the death of the PCC Treasurer.

After discussion, it was agreed to write to the PCC offering to reinstate this agreement. Proposed Mr Daniels, seconded Miss Booth, carried unanimously.

Beaumont Road

We have received a letter bringing to our attention the condition of the pavement which runs from the school towards the Beaumont end of the village. This information will be passed on to the Rangers team at TDC.

Searchlights

We have received a letter from a gentleman requesting our assistance in identifying where Second World War Searchlight sites were in our area. We will check with our Parish Historian and respond to him in due course.

There being no further business, Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....