

Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

Held at The Village Hall 7.30pm Tuesday 21st April 2015

Present: Mr S Huk – Chairman, Mr T Spurge – Vice chairman, Mr C Mayman, Miss N Booth, Mr J Tierney, Mr N Daniels, Mrs J Mason, Mr B Eaton, Cllr A Erskine

Apologies: Mr M Bransby

Chairman opened meeting at 7.30pm.

Declaration of Interest: There were none declared.

Public Participation: There were seven members of the public present.

Mrs Ling is holding the next quiz night and table top sale in aid of the Local History Recorders and all agreed under the circumstances to not charge for use of the hall.

Mr Godfrey has carried out a leaflet drop in the village to find out the level of support for keeping The Maybush as a pub with approximately 100 responses so subsequently held a public meeting to discuss, with approx. 50 residents in attendance. People mainly supported food, quiz nights and social nights.

A committee has been formed who are seeking support from CAMRA to ensure The Maybush is kept as a public house and stop it being sold as a dwelling. Mr Godfrey asked the Parish Council for their support in having the pub listed as a Community Asset and it was agreed unanimously that we would do what we can to support the campaign and would submit the Listing Application Form to Tendring District Council.

Chairman said the Parish Council can provide small grants for local causes which could assist with printing costs. It was also agreed we would provide the Village Hall free of charge for meetings and placing notices on our notice boards and website.

Mr Godfrey now has control of the former website for the pub, www.maybushinn.co.uk where meeting dates and other updates will be displayed.

Mrs Sewell reported that the street light opposite Partridge Close is damaged and hanging down. This will be reported to our contractor.

Mrs Sewell also asked about the Sparrows Corner Playing Field and Chairman informed everyone that we had tried to negotiate a new lease with TDC for over a year but were ultimately unsuccessful. Chairman went on to explain that the financial liability associated with Sparrows Corner did not stop with the cost of the lease, but include a significant liability for annual tree inspections and reports and any resultant maintenance work, as well as grass cutting, etc. Clearly TDC had an alternative tenant in mind as part of the field has already been fenced off. Chairman also confirmed that he had checked with TDC and the field can not build on it as it is protected public green space.

We were asked how safe the Recreation Field was and Chairman confirmed we had secured a long term lease so the Recreation Field was absolutely secure in the foreseeable future.

Mrs Sewell raised questions about the extent of Mr Thompson's proposed development off Beaumont Road and the New Village Hall. Chairman reminded everyone that it is Peter Thompson's development so the details are between him and TDC planning, but it was an integral part of the proposal that a new Village Hall has to be the first building built on the site. Mr Thompson is putting on an exhibition in the Village Hall where members of the public can see the plans and raise any questions directly with him.

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Tuesday 17th March 2015, after being circulated, were proposed as correct by Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Daniels, carried unanimously.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 17th March 2015, after being circulated, were proposed as correct by Miss Booth, seconded Mr Tierney, carried unanimously.

Co-Option of Councillors: Four incumbent Councillors submitted their nomination forms to Tendring District Council by the due date which means there are currently five vacancies which can be filled by co-option. These vacancies will be advertised, inviting written requests to be received by Friday 15th May 2015 with the intention of co-opting at the May meeting.

Progress Report:

Village Hall Floor

The new floor will be fitted on 11th and 12th May.

Audit

We are currently in the process of getting the end of year accounts ready for our Auditor and it will be finalised at our May meeting.

Highways:

Gateways

Cllr Erskine has contacted Highways informing them that the location of the new 'gateways' is causing visibility issues. Discussions will be held regarding having them relocated to the end of the houses at that end of the village and possibly having smaller ones installed, although Cllr Erskine warned that this could take a year to do due to funding. Highways will be asked to remove the existing ones if they can't be moved. Cllr Erskine reported that we can't have any installed near Red Barn Lane as there is no verge there to place them on.

Miss Booth reported the paving stones near the school are loose so these will be reported to Highways. It was also reported that the other zig zags near the school haven't been painted so cars are parking on the corner. Cllr Erskine said these were still ongoing.

Village Hall/New Village Hall: Mr Thompson has informed us of a public exhibition which will be held at the Village Hall on Friday 24th April from 11am to 5pm; on the morning of Saturday 25th April and on 27th to 29th April during normal hall opening times.

Mr Tierney reported the Police Street Meets which will be in the Village Hall Car Park on 6th May 10am to 11am; 3rd June 10am – 11am and 1st July 6pm – 7pm. These dates will be put on the notice boards.

Public Rights of Way: There is nothing to report.

Planning: There are no applications this month.

Accounts for Payment:

Parish Council Income

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|--|-----------|
| Harwich Funeral Service | Burial | | £1,100.00 |
|-------------------------|--------|--|-----------|

Parish Council Expenditure

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------|------------------|
| Jobsihate | Burial Ground Waste | 722267 | £ 50.00 |
| A & J Lighting Solutions | Street Light Maintenance | 722268 | £ 46.08 |
| E-On | Street Lighting | D/D | £ 84.15 |
| Jobsihate | Grass Cutting | 722269 | £ 670.04 |
| Miss J Bootyman | Wages | 722270 | £ 242.73 |
| TOTAL | | | £1,093.00 |

Village Hall Income

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| Art Club | Hall Hire | £ | 17.00 |
| Yoga | Hall Hire | £ | 10.00 |
| Band Practice | Hall Hire | £ | 21.00 |
| Yoga | Hall Hire | £ | 10.00 |
| Band Practice | Hall Hire | £ | 21.00 |
| Hire | Hall Hire | £ | 17.00 |
| Art Club | Hall Hire | £ | 17.00 |
| Yoga | Hall Hire | £ | 10.00 |
| Band Practice | Hall Hire | £ | 21.00 |
| WEA | Hall Hire | £ | 170.00 |
| Yoga | Hall Hire | £ | 10.00 |
| Table Top & Quiz | Hall Hire | £ | 34.00 |
| Dog Club | Hall Hire | £ | 68.00 |
| Books | Donations | £ | 9.54 |
| TOTAL | | £ | 435.54 |

Village Hall Expenditure

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|------------------|
| RCCE | Village Hall Membership | 400706 | £ | 48.00 |
| British Gas | Electricity | D/D | £ | 138.96 |
| Calor | Gas | 400707 | £ | 827.48 |
| Mrs Turner | Wages | 400708 | £ | 140.84 |
| John's Gas & Oil Services | Heater Maintenance | 400709 | £ | 54.00 |
| TOTAL | | | | £1,209.28 |

After being circulated, accounts proposed as correct by Mr Eaton, seconded Mr Spurge, carried unanimously.

We have received a high gas bill for a mild winter so we will bring the potential waste of gas to the Caretakers attention.

EALC

The Affiliation fee for 2015/16 is due at a cost of £267.79. Proposed Mr Eaton, seconded Mr Daniels, carried unanimously.

Street Lighting Electricity Supply

E-on have informed us that the cost for street lighting electricity is going up for the first time in 9 years from 9.20p per kwh to 12.40p per kwh.

We have also been advised to update our inventory with UK power networks so they can work out our estimated yearly useage based on the type of light fitting we own. As we replace the older lights with more efficient ones we can update the records and hopefully save money. Cllr Erskine said that Weeley Parish Council are in the process of comparing energy costs. Mr Daniels asked how many hours our street lights were on for so we will ask UK power networks.

TDALC: There is no report this month and a contact e-mail address will be given to Mr Tierney.

Correspondence:

Sparrows Corner

We have received two phone calls and two emails from residents at Sparrows Corner informing us that they are disappointed with our decision to not renew the lease. Chairman has responded to explain the reasons we had to let the field go.

Local History Recorders

We have received a letter from Beryl Tite updating us on the progress with preserving the “pill box” in the centre of the village and asking for a donation for the Local History Recorders as they help her enormously. Agreed to donate £25 proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Miss Booth, carried unanimously.

Tendring District Council

TDC have advised us of the latest recommendations for the payment of allowances by Parish and Town Councils in the Tendring area for the year 2015/16. Chairman observed that up until now we have never claimed these allowances and proposed we continue with that policy, seconded by Mr Eaton.

Mr Daniels proposed an amendment to the initial proposal that we establish how these allowances are funded and how many Parish and Town Councils take their allowances before a decision is made, seconded Mr Spurge.

The amendment was voted on and passed, therefore we will make the enquiries and consider the matter further at our next meeting.

There being no further business, Chairman closed meeting at 9.09pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....