

Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

Held at The Village Hall 7:30pm Tuesday 19th May 2015

Present: Mr S Huk – Chairman, Mr T Spurge – Vice Chairman, Miss N Booth, Mr M Bransby, Mr J Tierney, Mr N Daniels, Mr B Eaton, Mrs J Mason, District Cllr T Howard.

Apologies: County Cllr A Erskine

Chairman opened meeting at 7:30pm.

Co-Option of Councillors: Following the Local Government Elections (un-contested in Gt Oakley), we have five vacancies for Councillors which have been advertised for the past month. We have received expressions of interest from four candidates: Mr Spurge, Miss Booth, Mr Bransby and Mr Daniels. As the number of requests to be co-opted is less than the number of vacancies, it was proposed we co-opt all four people by Mr Huk, seconded Mr Eaton, carried unanimously.

Election of Officers: The Chairman passed the running of the meeting to the Clerk who sought nominations for Chairman. Mr Huk was nominated by Mrs Mason, seconded Mr Spurge. There being no other nominations and Mr Huk having confirmed he was prepared to accept the nomination, he was elected unanimously.

Once again in the Chair, the Chairman sought nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr Spurge was nominated by Mr Daniels, seconded Mr Bransby and having confirmed his willingness to stand and with no other nominations, was elected unanimously.

Committees: As has been our practice in recent years, Chairman read out the previous membership of all the sub committees with a view to re-appointing members en-mass. Mr Tierney was formally proposed to be our TDALC representative, otherwise all were content to carry as previously. Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Miss Booth, carried unanimously.

Declaration of Interest: There were none declared.

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

Mrs Ling commented that the new floor looks good and it was suggested we ask the football club to leave their boots outside. Also, it was noted that the entrance area required finishing off.

Mr Martin Keating expressed a wish to be co-opted as a Councillor and passed his c.v on to the Chairman.

District Councillor Howard brought to our attention a proposal to make a lay-by on Harwich Road into hard-standing, funded by the Local Highways Panel, if supported by the Parish Council. After discussion, we unanimously supported the project.

Mrs Sewell commented she had viewed the New Village Hall plans during the exhibition and asked questions regarding the shop and new surgery. Chairman commented that we haven't seen any updated plans ourselves to date but it is a planning requirement that the New Village Hall is the first building constructed. We have also commented to Mr Thompson that any proposal for a new surgery should be kept separate as our concern is the provision of a New Village Hall for the Parish. Mrs Sewell commented that the size of the new hall on the plans looked too small. Chairman responded to say we have indicated a preference for the larger option of 18 metres by 10 meters.

Mr Daniels mentioned the recent meetings regarding the future of the Maybush which have been well attended and with considerable support. The group propose to issue shares to raise money to purchase the pub. Chairman updated everyone that the Community Asset Form to have the Maybush listed as a "Community Asset" has been submitted to Tendring District Council on behalf of the Parish Council.

Mr Keating commented that there is no shelter at the war memorial so the Maybush is an important place to meet before and after the Remembrance Service, especially if the weather is particularly cold. Chairman is pleased that there is positive action taking place and we will continue to do what we can in support.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 21st April 2015, after being circulated, were proposed as correct by Mr Tierney, seconded Miss Booth, carried unanimously.

Progress Report:

Police Street Meets

The dates when the police van will be in the Village Hall car park will be displayed.

VAT Return

This has been completed and sent to HMRC.

Community Asset Application

The form to have the Maybush Public House listed as a Community Asset to protect it from being sold off and turned into a private residence has been submitted and registered with TDC.

Crossing near School

Following reports that the paving stones were loose outside the school, Cllr Erskine sent photos to Highways and it was reported on their website.

Councillor Vacancies

A notice was displayed on all notice boards informing the public of the current vacancies.

Village Hall Gas

The gas bill we received seemed unusually high in light of the mild winter we experienced so the caretaker will monitor how long the heaters are on for.

Post Office – Safety Screen

We have been informed that funding may be available for a security screen for the Village Hall which will keep the staff of the post office safer. We have asked if the screen could be designed to be removable and we are waiting to hear back.

Street Lighting and Electricity

Mr Daniels previously asked for details on how long our street lights were on so we asked UK Power Networks. They did provide a response which was passed to Mr Daniels. The information provided was not clear so further questions will be asked. We are still looking into price comparisons for street lighting.

Burial Ground

We were contacted by a member of the public to report a holly tree allegedly growing on his parents grave but upon inspection it appears it is growing a few plots away. Clerk has advised that we will monitor the situation and we will discuss further should the tree cause any problems.

School Rounders Matches

We have been advised by the school when their rounders matches will take place on the Recreation Field so we have advised our contractor so he can arrange the scheduled cuts around those dates.

Dog Show

We received a phone call from Karma Dog Club asking if they could use the Recreation Field to hold their dog show this year. After contacting Chairman and asking Pat Ling (as she used to hold a dog show) it was agreed they could on the basis that they make a donation to the Village Hall.

Street Light

It was reported to us that a street light was damaged opposite Partridge Close so it was reported to our contractor. It has now been replaced, along with the bracket.

Printer

Our printer wasn't printing so Chairman agreed to the purchase a new one at a cost of £69.99

Village Hall Floor

The Village Hall floor has now been completed and Chairman thanked Mrs Ling and everyone else who helped raised the funds towards it.

Village Sign

We need a new sign but had deferred this project until after the elections. This will be added on to the next Agenda.

Highways: Mr Bransby once again raised the issue of flooding at The Soils. The last response we had from Highways was that this was due to the state of the ditches which they believe this is the responsibility of the Landowner and that they were in the process of following this up. As we have heard nothing more, we will report again and request an update.

It was also reported that the drain at Lowers Hill continues to overflow, the pot hole in Stones Green is now 42 cm deep and the sign at the school is still bent; all items to be reported again.

Grass Cutting Contract: The grass cutting contract is due for renewal this year with our current Contractor's revised price still being considerably cheaper than the alternative Contractor's quotes received four year ago when last tendered. It was agreed to renew with the current Contractor on the new terms. Proposed Mr Huk, seconded Mr Daniels, carried unanimously. Chairman would like to thank the Contractor for their hard work the past year.

Mr Bransby and Mr Daniels would like to confirm our obligations regarding any procurement regulations.

Street Lights: The annual visit flagged up 9 street lights which are in need of urgent repair so we have asked for an updated price. Information was circulated for two light types, one being more energy efficient but much more expensive to purchase than the other. Mr Bransby would like to find out the life expectancy of both light fittings and offered to work out if it would be cost effective to provide the low energy type, therefore the decision will be deferred to next month's meeting.

Audit: Chairman read through the Audit which has been signed by our internal auditor. Everyone was happy so Chairman signed it so it can be sent to the External Auditor.

Finance Report: This was circulated to everyone and is available to view upon request.

Village Hall/New Village Hall:

Village Hall Fees

Periodically we review the current fees for the use of the Village Hall. After due consideration, it was proposed to keep them the same for this year by Mr Daniels, seconded Mr Spurge, carried unanimously.

Mrs Mason queried why yoga only pay £10 when the minimum rental is £17 so we will ask the Caretaker.

Public Rights of Way: Mr Bransby has noticed Essex County Council have been doing more work on the footpaths recently.

TDALC Report: Mr Tierney reported that there are meetings every second month, the next one due next week.

Planning:

Application No: 15/00618/TCA

Proposal: 1 No. Willow – fell. 1 No. Holly – crown reduce

Location: Holly Cottage Farm Road Great Oakley Harwich

Great Oakley Parish Council made no objections.

Accounts for Payment:**Parish Council Income**

Tendring District Council	Precept		£ 9,877.00
Village Hall Account	Flooring (half)		£ 2,373.00
TOTAL			£12,250.00

Parish Council Expenditure

E-On	Street Lighting	D/D	£ 81.44
Autela Payroll Services	Quarterly Payroll	722271	£ 30.00
EALC	Affiliation Fee	722272	£ 267.79
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722273	£ 46.08
A & J Lighting Solutions	Annual Visit Parts	722274	£ 237.90
A & J Lighting Solutions	New Light and Bracket	722275	£ 412.80
Jobsihate	Grass Cutting	722276	£ 670.04
Lambert Smith Hampton	Recreation Field Lease	722277	£ 275.00
Miss J Bootyman	Expenses	722278	£ 98.78
Miss J Bootyman	Wages	722279	£ 253.39
Essex Contract Flooring	Village Hall Floor	722280	£5,696.11
Local History Recorders	Donation	722281	£ 25.00
TOTAL			£8,094.33

Village Hall Income

Art Club	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Football	Hall Hire x 3 weeks		£ 51.00
Yoga	Hall Hire		£ 10.00
Band Practice	Hall Hire		£ 21.00
Yoga	Hall Hire		£ 10.00
PTA	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Band Practice	Hall Hire		£ 21.00
Art Club	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Toddlers	Hall Hire		£ 119.00
Post Office	Hall Hire (up to date)		£ 400.00
TOTAL			£ 683.00

Village Hall Expenditure

Calor	Standing Charge	400710	£ 19.25
Mrs Turner	Wages	400711	£ 140.84
Mrs Turner	Cleaning Products	Cash	£ 15.95
Parish Council Current Account	Floor	400712	£2,373.00
TOTAL			£2,549.04

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

Allowances

Last month TDC asked whether we wished to claim allowances for our work as Councillors. Chairman pointed out that this is something we have never done.

Mr Daniels has raised the question where these allowances were funded from and how many other Councils claim them. These questions were put to TDC and it was confirmed that allowances were funded via the Precept and should be allowed for within that sum and they also provided a list of local Town and Parish Councils who do take an allowance.

Considering this information it was proposed we do not accept by the Chairman, seconded Mr Eaton, carried unanimously

Correspondence:

Oaklands

We have received a letter from the residents opposite the old forge worried about the low branches of the tree on the verge. They are also concerned about the 30mph sign outside their house as it makes visibility difficult.

Miss Booth has said that her partner will trim the branches in the Autumn on our behalf. The problem with the sign will be passed on to Highways.

Bevendean

We have received an e-mail from the residents on Beaumont Road concerned about a small area of grass outside their property. We have mentioned it to our Contractor who has said he will include it in his schedule.

Fly Tipping

Miss Booth reported that she caught the person who has been regularly fly tipping at the old burial ground and has reported them.

Essex County Council

We have received notification that there will be a change in the "Sunday Saver" Bus Fare as from 14th June 2015.

There being no further business, Chairman closed meeting at 9:16pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....