

Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

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

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

Apologies: Mr M Bransby, District Cllr T Howard

Chairman opened meeting at 7.32pm.

Declaration of Interest: There were none declared.

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

A parishioner from Stones Green reported an overgrown hedge round a corner in Stones Green. Chairman observed that the corner is very narrow and the hedge prevents vehicles from speeding round the corner. Mr Daniels suggested we report the hedge to Highways who will inspect it and take the appropriate action.

Mr Daniels informed everyone present that Exchem would be carrying out an emergency practice on the 21st October which will include the Emergency Services.

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 15th September 2015, after being circulated, were proposed as correct by Mr Tierney, seconded Miss Booth, carried unanimously.

Progress Report:

Wreath

An order has been placed for the Wreath for this year's Remembrance Service.

Burial Ground

Chairman has received further comments regarding brambles at the burial ground but doesn't see any immediate problem however Jobsihate have been asked to trim any that are overgrowing pathways and grave plots.

Village Signs

Mistley Parish Council have just had new Village "boundary" Signs. It seems there were self-funded at a cost of £768 each so Councillors agreed not to pursue this any further at present.

Footpath near Burial Ground

We have received reports that the footpath between the church and the burial grounds is becoming overgrown. Upon inspection, the problem is mainly low growing vegetation, although our hedge will need cutting back in the near future. We will contact Mike Badger at TDC initially to see if he can offer any assistance.

Fly Tipping at The Soils

Fly Tipping is becoming a regular problem at The Soils so we asked District Cllr Howard if TDC can prosecute the perpetrators. He said they can only prosecute if there is a witness who has the registration number of the vehicle and a photo if possible. The witness also needs to be prepared to give evidence if it goes to court. He did say TDC would erect signs, subject to landowners permission, warning fly tippers would be prosecuted.

Street Light Consultation

A consultation is being carried out by TDC regarding the over-night switch off of ECC street lights. Potentially, TDC are offering ECC a considerable amount of money to turn them back on in the District where demand exists. The only street lights in our Parish this could affect are in Partridge Close. One parishioner there told District Cllr Howard they wanted the lights back on but the majority didn't. As we have mainly Parish Council owned street lights in our Parish and in the absence of any significant demand, it was agreed to not request the ECC lights be put back on.

Village Hall

After agreeing to advertise the Village Hall in Coast to Coast, Mr Daniels has offered to take some photos which will show the upgrades carried out to the hall.

Village Sign

At last months meeting it was agreed to accept the quotation from Stowe Forge and a deposit has been paid.

Telephone Box

Miss Booth is concerned that we have bought the materials needed to upgrade the telephone box but the work hasn't been completed as yet. Chairman will contact Mr Mayman, who agreed to help, with a view to securing a date.

Highways: We contacted The Port at Harwich regarding vehicle movement during the recent A120 road works. They confirmed that there were between 1,500 and 2,000 vehicle movements each day during the period of traffic diversion.

Miss Booth has been approached by the owner of Apple Tree Cottage. Since recent road repairs they are suffering from flooding outside of their property. This will be reported to Highways.

Mr Keating asked about a road closure for Remembrance Sunday. Chairman said we have tried in the past but it has not been practical.

Mrs Mason said that the school bus stops outside her house and opposite there is a huge pot hole which is causing concern for safety.

Concern was raised over the lack of winter gritting in the Parish and it was agreed we would write to Highways again asking for gritting, especially on the school bus routes. Cllr Erskine suggested contacting the bus companies (school and public) to request they try to apply pressure to Highways.

The Crab Apple tree on the corner of Hamford Drive was brought to our attention in the summer, Miss Booth confirmed Michael Eaton would lift the crown to improve access for grounds maintenance.

Street Lights: We have two options for replacement street lights. Conventional lamps were cheaper to install but more expensive to run whilst LED Lamps were more expensive to install but cheaper to run. After due consideration it was agreed to opt for the cheaper lights as the overall energy saving was not enough to justify the more expensive ones. Proposed Miss Booth, seconded Mr Tierney, carried unanimously.

Bench: Mrs Mason asked Council to consider a bench for the Triangle at Stones Green so different styles and prices were circulated to all. A "Phoenix Seat" in brown was chosen at a cost of £430 and will be ordered once we have confirmed the installation costs. Proposed Mrs Mason, seconded Miss Booth, carried unanimously.

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

Public Rights of Way: There is nothing to report.

TDALC Report: Mr Tierney said there wasn't anything relevant to report and the next meeting will be held in November.

Planning: We received notification from TDC that there was going to be a site meeting at 'Break of Day' today.

Accounts for Payment:

Parish Council Income

Co – Op Funeral Services	Memorial		£ 100.00
Tendring District Council	Precept		£9,878.00
TOTAL			£9,978.00

Parish Council Expenditure

E-On	Street Lighting	D/D	£ 93.65
Mrs Mason	Replacement Cheque	722302	£ 62.00
Royal British Legion	Wreath	722303	£ 40.00
PKF Little John Accountants	Audit	722304	£ 156.00
Tendring District Council	Uncontested Parish Election	722305	£ 75.00
Autela Payroll Services	Auto Enrolment	722306	£ 20.00
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722307	£ 46.08
Miss J Bootyman	Expenses (ink)	722308	£ 50.69
Miss J Bootyman	Wages	722309	£ 220.49
TOTAL			£ 763.91

Village Hall Income

Art Club	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Yoga	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Dog Club	Hall Hire		£ 68.00
Yoga	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Band Practice	Hall Hire		£ 21.00
Art Club	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Yoga	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Yoga	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
TOTAL			£ 191.00

Village Hall Expenditure

Julia Turner	Wages	400721	£ 145.17
Julia Turner	Expenses	Cash	£ 5.37
British Gas	Electricity	D/D	£ 108.64
E & J Fire and Security Ltd	Servicing and Inspection	400722	£ 114.53
TOTAL			£ 373.71

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

Correspondence:

The Maybush Inn Nomination

We have been issued with a Decision Notice from TDC to inform us that our nomination to list the above as an Asset of Community Value has now been included in the list held by the Council.

There being no further business, Chairman closed meeting at 8.55pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....