

# **Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting** **Held at The Village Hall 7.30pm Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

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

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

Chairman opened meeting at 7.30pm.

**Declaration of Interest:** There were none declared.

**Public participation:** There were two members of the public present.

**Peter Thompson Re: Allotment Field Development:** Mr Thompson reported that Tendring District Council has granted approval for the Village Hall, car parking and surgery with outline for the housing. There can be no more than 33% of housing built without the village hall.

Mr Thompson confirmed that they proposed to build the surgery themselves on behalf of the NHS/Harwood practice. If for any reason the NHS says no to the surgery then the allocated space will be used as open space.

Before any progress can be made the formal decision notice has to be issued by TDC which should be by the end of this week.

Chairman asked about our previous comments on the application and the size of the approved hall and Mr Thompson confirmed more designs will be drawn up where changes can take place.

Mr Thompson would like to set up a management company to maintain the new development to a set standard which can be maintained and provide more control and flexibility.

Chairman thanked Mr Thompson for coming and updating us. In future we will include a separate Agenda item for progress on the New Village Hall for updates as and when they are available.

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015, after being circulated, were proposed as correct by Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Daniels, carried unanimously.

## **Progress Report:**

### **Street Light**

The street light next to the phone box in the High Street was reported to our Contractor.

### **Village Sign**

Chairman circulated a photo of the progress of the village sign which should be completed by the end of this week.

### **Pot Holes**

A letter was sent to Highways regarding the exposed drain on Colchester Road Stones Green which has been assigned to an Inspector who will visit the site and assess the situation in line with the Essex Highways Maintenance Standards.

### **Tendring District Council Sign**

We have reported the missing village sign at the Beaumont end of the Parish to Tendring District Council.

### **Audit Regime**

We have questioned if there will be a difference in costs when the Audit Regime changes. We were informed that for Councils expending in excess of £25 K per annum there would be no change and a decision will be made soon regarding smaller Councils. In light of this it was agreed to defer a decision until the cost was available.

### **Fly Tipping**

Fly Tipping at Lowers Hill, Wix Road, has been reported to TDC.

### **Gritting**

We contacted the school bus company to ask if they would support our request to Highways for Stones Green to be gritted for the safety of school children. They do support us and will raise it with Highways at their next meeting.

**Highways:** Mr Keating has brought to our attention that vehicles are continuing to cause an obstruction to the footpath next to the school and suggested we request railings be installed to prevent parking on the pavements. After discussion it was agreed to contact the school Governors to ask them to reiterate the safety message to parents and also to ask for their support for the railings. Tending District Council to be requested to make the school zig-zag no parking restrictions enforceable.

**Precept:** Chairman circulated a spreadsheet showing this year's income and expenditure in detail, including his estimate of committed expenditure up to the end of the financial year. It was noted that we had seen a 6.2% increase in General Administration costs and a 10.6% increase in the costs for Street Lighting. This year we had managed to replace the Village Sign and some of our outdated lighting stock two years earlier than anticipated and were also in the process of providing a new bench on the tri-angle at Stones Green. Overall Chairman predicted we would end the year with a surplus of approximately £3,600. After discussion it was agreed to hold the Precept the current level for the coming year and it was hoped that from this we would be able to replace the oak gates at the burial ground next year. Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Miss Booth, carried unanimously.

**Village Hall/New Village Hall:** Our Caretaker informed us that one of the hall heaters was broken at a New Year Party which was held by the village football club. Clerk to obtain further details from Julia before we approach the football club for a contribution towards the cost of the repairs if they were in fact responsible.

**Public Rights of Way:** Mr Keating has reported a number of defects along our public rights of way which will be reported to Essex County Council.

**TDALC Report:** The next meeting is on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

### **Planning:**

Application No: 16/00016/FUL

Proposal: Demolition of barn and replacement with 3 bedroom agricultural workers dwelling

Location: Mill Pond Farm Hill Road Great Oakley Harwich

After discussion it was agreed to support this application on the basis that this is an application for an agriculturally tied dwelling in association with the daily operation of the farm.

The following planning decisions were reported:

15/01727/FUL – Pastures, Harwich Road, Gt. Oakley – Extension – Approved.

15/01740/TCA – Old Scantlings, Farm Road, Gt. Oakley – Tree maintenance – Approved.

Planning Appeal – Land adjacent to Chapple Cottage, Stones Green Road, Stones Green – Dismissed.

**Accounts for Payment**

**Parish Council Expenditure**

Bruce Landscapes	Play Area Maintenance	722320	£ 748.80
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722321	£ 46.08
Jobsihate	Grass Cutting (last cut from Nov)	722322	£ 668.90
TDALC	Affiliation Fee	722323	£ 10.00
Lambert Smith Hampton	Recreation Field Lease	722324	£ 275.00
Miss J Bootyman	Wages	722325	£ 248.06
Miss J Bootyman	Expenses	722326	£ 19.98
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£2,016.82</b>

**Village Hall Income**

Floristry Workshop	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Dog Club	Hall Hire		£ 102.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£ 119.00</b>

**Village Hall Expenditure**

Julia Turner	Wages	400727	£ 145.17
Calor	Gas	400728	£ 539.02
British Gas	Electric	D/D	£ 113.30
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£ 797.49</b>

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

**Correspondence:**

None.

There being no further business, Chairman closed meeting at 9.10pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....