

Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

Held at The Village Hall 7.30pm Tuesday 16th February 2016

Present: Mr S Huk – Chairman, Mr T Spurge – Vice Chairman, Mr J Tierney, Mr M Keating, Mrs J Mason, Mr B Eaton, District Cllr T Howard

Apologies: County Cllr A Erskine, Miss N Booth, Mr N Daniels, Mr M Bransby

Chairman opened meeting at 7.30pm.

Declaration of Interest: There were none declared.

Public Participation: One member of the public was present but had no issues to raise.

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2016, after being circulated, were proposed as a true record by Mr Keating, seconded Mr Tierney, carried unanimously, after a small amendment.

New Village Hall: Mr Thompson has passed on some comments as follows:

- The main room of the hall is proposed to be 130 m² which will provide ample space for a full size badminton court.
- The hall design which was included in the planning application was the largest of all the options presented during the consultation phase.
- George Thompson Ltd will form a management company with responsibility for the green space around the hall, surgery and car park to ensure it is all kept in good condition and protect it for the future.

Progress Report:

Stones Green Bench

The bench for Stones Green will be delivered this week.

Village Hall Advert

An advert publicising the Village Hall will go into the March edition of Coast to Coast, free of charge in this instance.

Burial Ground Gates

A suggestion was made to contact the Mayflower Project regarding the possibility of them building new gates for the burial ground. They have been asked and they are interested in providing a price.

School Railings

A suggestion was put forward to have railings installed along the pavement edge near the school to prevent vehicles parking around the corner. The School Governors had a meeting and agreed to support the proposals, also requesting new railings opposite the school. A letter of support will be provided.

Parking Enforcement

Vehicles are continuing to park on the school markings so the Parking Partnership have been made aware with a view to them putting forward for an enforcement order.

Public Rights of Way Issues

Mr Keating has raised many issues on our public rights of way. These have been passed on to Highways for their consideration.

Village Hall Heater

During the New Year festivities, one of the Village Hall heaters was damaged but no one is prepared to own up to being responsible. As a consequence, it was agreed in future to hold a £50 deposit for all parties held at the Hall.

Village Sign

The new village sign is now in place. Now it is installed it is clear that the Recreation Field hedge needs reducing in height to make the sign more clearly visible. Clerk to get a cost from Jobsihate for this work.

Parking Issue – School

Mr Keating has previously observed cars obstructing the pavement outside the school and offered to make a witness statement to the Police. The Police advised that they need to be informed at the time of the incident so they can attend, therefore in future anyone seeing this sort of behaviour should call the Police on 111 so an incident number can be created and an officer deployed, if available.

Highways:

Coy Cottage

We have received a phone call from the owner of Coy Cottage as Farm Road floods after heavy rainfall. We have been sent photos which have now been passed on to Highways. As it is believed the water may be coming from the adjacent agricultural land, Mr Thompson to be notified as a courtesy.

Mrs Mason reported that Wix Road has been patch repaired because it is due for resurfacing in June. She suggested we request surface dressing on Clacton/Colchester Road Stones Green as well.

Village Hall:

Calor

Standing Charges for the gas tank have not increased in 20 years despite significant cost increases driven by statutory maintenance requirements and inspections. Consequently, the standing charge has now risen from £19.25 to £20.59.

Public Rights of Way: Mr Keating asked if we could contact Mr Bransby to ask for contacts or information regarding P3.

A question was raised to find out what progress has been made with repositioning the village “gates”/signs so we will contact Cllr Erskine for an update.

It was reported that there are signs of fly tipping at the Soils again so this will be reported yet again.

TDALC Report: Mr Tierney reported from the most recent TDALC meeting.

Difficulty in recruiting teachers in this area has been identified as an issue.

There have been cuts made in the District which are causing difficulties for some individuals. TDC have decided to discontinue the issues of free bin bags.

Some members expressed a wish to meet with our local MP's representing all our Councils but this has not proven possible at present. As an alternative, it has been suggested a joint letter be sent to the MP's, a draft letter to be circulated to all Councils. Chairman suggested that if or when a letter is circulated we can discuss at a meeting and agree if we would like to be included.

Planning:

Application No: 16/00077/TCA

Proposal: 1 No. Copper Beech – reduce by 30%. 1 No. Apple – reduce back to previous points

Location: Mill House High Street Great Oakley Harwich

After discussion it was agreed there were no comments to make.

Application No: 16/00157/TCA

Proposal: 2 No. Copper Beech – 30% reduction. 1 No. Holly – reduce height by 30%. 1 No. flowering Cherry – reduce by 20 - 30%

Location: Meander 1 Queen Street Great Oakley Harwich

After discussion it was agreed there were no comments to make.

Accounts for Payment:

Parish Council Expenditure

Jobsihate	Burial Ground Waste	722327	£ 50.00
Stow Forge	Sign – Remaining Balance	722328	£ 741.00
A & J Lighting Solutions	Repair	722329	£ 127.20
A & J Lighting Solutions	New Street Lights X 9	722330	£3,127.20
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722331	£ 46.08
E-On	Street Lighting	D/D	£ 96.78
Miss J Bootyman	wages	722332	£ 248.06
Glasdon	Stones Green bench	722333	£ 528.79
TOTAL			£4,965.11

Village Hall Income

Band Practice	Hall Hire	£ 21.00
Art Club	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Yoga	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Yoga	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Band Practice	Hall Hire	£ 21.00
Art Club	Hall Hire	£ 374.00
Yoga	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Band Practice	Hall Hire	£ 21.00
Football Club	Hall Hire	£ 68.00
TOTAL		£ 573.00

Village Hall Expenditure

Affinity Water	Water Bill	400729	£ 114.95
John's Gas & Oil Services Ltd	Heater Repair	400730	£ 110.60
Julia Turner	Expenses	Cash	£ 48.01
Julia Turner	Wages	400731	£ 145.17
Calor	Standing Charge	400732	£ 20.59
TOTAL			£ 439.32

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

We are still waiting for hall hire to be paid by the Post Office. Reminder invoices will be sent.

Correspondence: There is no correspondence this month.

There being no further business, Chairman closed meeting at 8.25pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....