

Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

Held at The Village Hall Tuesday 17th September 2019

19/149 Present: Mr S Huk – Chairman, Mr J Tierney, Mr P Day, Mrs Y Bailey, County Cllr A Erskine

19/150 Apologies for Absence: Mr N Daniels, District Cllr M Bush, Miss J Bootyman – Clerk

19/151 Election of Vice-Chairman: At last month's meeting Council had two candidates for Vice Chairman. Candidates circulated information about themselves so a vote could be taken. Since then only one candidate, Mr Bush wishes to be considered further. Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Mrs Bailey, carried unanimously

19/152 Declaration of Interest: There were none declared.

19/153 Public Participation: There were 8 members of the public present. A Parishioner presented a list of suggestions for improvements to the Village Hall. Chairman thanked them for their contribution advising that as there had been developments regarding the New Village Hall this would be discussed later.

Another Parishioner asked about developments regarding the Red House and Mill House. Clerk has not found any new updates but a member of the public advised that an extraordinary meeting of shareholders was to be held on 23rd September at the Maybush regarding the future of the Red House.

Mr Tierney advised that he had received an email from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex regarding the Police and Crime Plan for Essex inviting all residents to take part in their 'Make a Difference Survey' by accessing the survey on line or obtain copies from local libraries or call the local office.

A Parishioner noted that Council Meeting dates were not in the last edition of Coast to Coast and requested we contact them and try to ensure they are included in future.

19/154 New Village Hall: In his absence Chairman reported that Mr Daniels had contacted the landowners requesting an update on the New Village Hall and had been informed that they would no longer be proceeding with the proposed development and the land was currently up for sale as a development site with Planning Permission. Chairman observed that although the New Village Hall and Car park had been a non-negotiable element of the Planning Consent that condition now only applies after completion of Phase One and may never happen if there were no Phase Two. It was agreed by Councillors that in any event Council should now concentrate their efforts on maintaining and improving the current Village Hall.

19/155 Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 16th July 2019, after being circulated, were proposed as correct by Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Day, carried unanimously.

Progress Report

19/156 Recreation Field Hedge: The hedge around the Recreation Field is due to be cut so Clerk met with the Contractor to clarify the height and width required. The hedge has grown considerably since Council agreed a price and the new price is slightly higher. Proposed Chairman, seconded Mrs Bailey, carried unanimously.

19/157 Burial Ground: Following an inspection of the Burial ground, a family had installed paving slabs on two graves. Clerk made contact with the family who were non-cooperative with Council's request for their removal. Council have formally written to the family stating the Local Authority Cemeteries Order 1977, giving them 14 days to comply or Council will have the slabs removed at their cost. Council agreed this action was regrettable but have no choice.

19/158 Play Area Fence: Tendring District Council have authorised the use of Section 106 money for the replacement of the play area fencing. Council has paid for the materials until the project is complete which should start in October.

19/159 Brush Cutter: With the prospect of Essex County Council giving local Council's the responsibility of maintaining their Public Rights of Way Clerk was asked to contact our previous PROW Representative to find out if they are in possession of the brush cutter. Clerk is waiting for a response.

19/160 Special Constable: Earlier in the year Councillors agreed to set aside funds for the provision of two Special Constables to assist with local issues. The Coordinator has contacted Clerk requesting a photo and Parish bio to produce Council's advert to host on their website recruiting page. This will be deferred until all members are in attendance.

19/161 Cheque Signatory: Due to a change of Councillors, signatories need revising on the bank accounts. After reading the forms, three people can do this, Clerk, Chairman and one other. Vice-Chairman is usually a signatory so Mr Bush will sign for the Parish Council Accounts and Mrs Bailey will sign the Village Hall Accounts. Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Day, carried unanimously.

19/162 Highways: Mr Bush sent Council an update regarding the ditch on B1414 stating that a Senior Officer from Essex County Council is working with the resident to ensure the works requested are being completed efficiently. A site visit was carried out on 30th August 2019 which confirmed that the un-consented pipework had been removed with the ditch being roughly 75% reinstated back to its original state. More work is required which should happen over the next month when another site visit will take place.

The site visit highlighted some alterations to the highway verge including tactile paving along the verge/carriageway and a wooden structure that has been brought to the attention of the Highway Enforcement Team who will be contacting the resident next week to request the verge is reinstated.

19/163 New Waste Collections:

A number of people have experienced problems with the new waste service in our Parish with the roll out of the new bins failing at the end of Stones Green Road leaving Colchester and Clacton Road without any. These properties have to put black bags out which are frequently not collected necessitating repeated reporting to Tendring District Council, despite which bags are not collected for two weeks. Mr Bush provided a copy of a press release from TDC in which they put forward a positive view of the successful rollout and the impact of the new waste collection service.

However, from information received by the Council, it appears between 30 and 40 houses in our Parish were not getting a proper service with a number of examples cited. Mr Tierney also gave examples of non-workable replacement bins being delivered.

Chairman suggested sending a formal letter to TDC complaining about the failed wheelie bin roll out and the atrocious collection service ever since and requesting an update on when the roll out will be completed. Proposed Mr Day, seconded Mr Tierney, carried unanimously.

19/164 Play Area Maintenance:

The Annual Play Inspection was carried out with everything being low risk or very low risk. The most urgent item for attention was the play area fence which is being replaced in October. The next area of concern was the safety surface around the basket swing. Clerk arranged a site visit with a maintenance company to discuss areas of concern. Two more issues were raised; basketball hoop needs replacing and the zip wire supports needs either repairing or replacing along with a new stop on the wire. Clerk will be sent a price for these. Meanwhile Chairman will investigate the zip wire repairs with the local blacksmith. Mr Tierney commended such a comprehensive report.

19/165 Audit:

The internal Audit has been carried out and is ready for Council to agree that procedures have been carried out correctly. Chairman read out the questions and responses from the report and advised there was only one outstanding action, namely the written risk assessment which is ongoing. The report was unanimously agreed and signed off by the Chairman.

19/166 Public Rights of Way:

Cllr Erskine reported that following a discussion he had undertaken with Cllr Bush the question of spreading the cost between three local Parish Councils (Great Oakley, Little Oakley and Wix) should be considered. Public Rights of Way Officers seem unsure how to proceed and concerns have been expressed by Parish Councils across the District. Mr Day asked what responsibility landowners had to keep public rights of way clear. Cllr Erskine confirmed that there was a legal requirement on land owners to provide clear access across

their land. He went on to say there had been no complaints about farmer's fields, it was more to do with linking access between which is currently a local authority responsibility. It was agreed that the extent of the undertaking needs to be established and a decision taken as to how to proceed. Chairman asked Cllr Erskine to request maps of footpaths of the three parishes. Any likely impact of devolution should also be considered and it was agreed to wait to get Mr Bush's view on the matter.

19/167 Village Hall:

Mrs Bailey advised she had made contact with Funding Officers from Essex Community Fund with regards to securing funding for refurbishing the Village Hall. There are various pots of money available in relation to Village Halls once we know what we would like to do and the cost involved. The users' consultation process is well underway with feedback sheets available from the Village Hall. Suggestions range from replacing the kitchen and providing more storage to a full structural rebuild. Mrs Bailey has agreed to take the lead in the consultation process by involving user groups and local residents who wish to assist in putting together proposals. Mr Day indicated he has experience of building projects and offered to help.

Tables and Chairs: Oakstones had acquired a free table and asked if Council were happy to keep it. Due to the unsafe condition it was agreed it couldn't be kept. A request was made from the group for more tables and chairs. Clerk looked into the approximate cost which worked out at £1200. As this is a large sum of money Council agreed it should be included in any funding bid rather than deplete the Village Hall Account to such an extent.

19/168 TDALC Report:

Mr Tierney advised the TDALC meeting would be next week.

19/169 Planning:

Application No: 19/01320/FUL

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) to approved planning application 18/01262/FUL to allow the use of the 2 existing vehicular crossings to access the new dwellings in lieu of the new central access as previously approved.

Location: The Bungalow School Road Great Oakley Harwich

Great Oakley Parish Council made no objections to this application.

19/170 Parish Council Website:

Mr Tierney reported he had received a proposal for the provision of a new website at a cost of £150 per year. Given the problems encountered with the existing provider Council may wish to give this proposal consideration. It was agreed this was an item for the next Agenda.

19/171 Accounts for Payment:

Parish Council Expenditure

Great Oaktree Land Services	Play Area Fencing	722579	£5,200.00
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722580	£ 47.82
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722581	£ 47.82
E-On	Street Lighting	D/D	£ 172.47
E-On	Street Lighting	D/D	£ 172.47
Great Oaktree Land Services	Grass Cutting - July	722582	£ 400.00
Great Oaktree Land Services	Grass Cutting - August	722583	£ 400.00
Lambert Smith Hampton	Recreation Field Lease	722584	£ 275.00
Autela Payroll	Payroll	722585	£ 47.08
Miss J Bootyman	Wages	722586	£ 269.02
Miss J Bootyman	Wages	722587	£ 269.02
Miss J Bootyman	Expenses	722588	£ 54.89
TOTAL			£7,355.59

Village Hall Income

Post Office	Hall Hire	£ 50.00
Post Office	Hall Hire	£ 50.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Dog Club	Hall Hire	£ 68.00
Table Top & Quiz	Hall Hire	£ 34.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Flower Workshop	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Donation for Tables	Donation	£ 30.00
Band Practice	Hall Hire	£ 21.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Dog Club	Hall Hire	£ 136.00
TOTAL		£ 525.00

Village Hall Expenditure

Mrs Turner	Expenses	Cash	£ 27.92
Mrs Turner	Expenses	Cash	£ 19.90
Mrs Turner	Wages	422006	£ 177.90
Mrs Turner	Wages	422007	£ 177.90
Calor	Standing Charge	422008	£ 10.30
Wave	Water - Waste	422009	£ 86.53
Affinity	Water - Clean Water	422010	£ 44.59
TOTAL			£ 545.04

A question was raised why there was such a discrepancy between the Clean and Waste water charges as both are based upon as metered water consumption. Clerk to verify.

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

Wreath: The time is approaching when Council need to think about a wreath for Remembrance Sunday. Last year Council donated £50 and it was suggested the same again for this year. Proposed Mrs Bailey, seconded Mr Day, carried unanimously.

19/172 Correspondence:

Tree Stump

Council had previously authorised the removal of a damaged tree near Hamford Drive which left a stump in the ground. A resident has asked if Council intend to remove the stump as well. Clerk has received a price of £150 to carry out the work and is mindful that Council have to prioritise tree work due to health and safety concerns. Council will investigate and add to the maintenance programme if necessary.

Various Issues

A resident has contacted Mr Bush raising issues in the Parish as follows:

Hamford Drive and Great Oakley pavements are very overgrown with weeds. A man spraying the weeds has been seen in this area but it does only kill the weeds. Some residents have decided to scrape the weeds out between the pavement and the road themselves. Cllr Erskine advised TDC were significantly behind with weed spraying this year and Council agreed this was a TDC issue.

The verges and hedges are very overgrown from Great Oakley School through to Wix. Council agreed this was a Highways matter.

The corner where the Old Post Office used to be in Great Oakley would benefit from slow signs on the road or a road sign warning drivers to slow down, road narrows and pedestrians crossing. Council agreed this was a speeding issue but having the cars parked along there helped to reduce the speed of traffic.

An additional lamppost on the corner of Hamford Drive would increase visibility for pedestrians at night time. Council considered there are too many lights in the village causing light pollution and dark skies are one of the attractions of living in a village.

There being no further business, Chairman closed meeting at 9.29pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....