

Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

Held at The Village Hall Tuesday 15th October 2019

19/173 Present: Mr S Huk – Chairman, Mr M Bush – Vice Chairman, Mr J Tierney, Mrs Y Bailey

19/174 Apologies: Mr N Daniels, Mr Paul Day, County Cllr A Erskine

19/175 Chairman opened meeting at 7.30pm.

19/176 Declaration of Interest: Mr M Bush declared an interest for Agenda Item 9 Litter Pick Equipment.

19/177 Public Participation: There were six members of the public present who raised the following issues:

- There is a pot hole near the bus stop on Harwich Road. Clerk to report to Highways.
- The pavement at The Soils is disappearing under the grass verge. Clerk to contact Tendring District Council's Rangers to find out if they can assist with this issue.
- A Parishioner asked if there had been any progress with the Red House Planning Application. Mr Bush commented that it was still awaiting a decision by members of the Community Hub; some members wanted to keep the property while others wanted it to be sold. The members have been asked how they would like to progress. One idea was the possibility of a working party to bring the property back to life as two residential properties, retaining the garden space for possible extension of the Maybush in the future but there is still a lot to be discussed with all the members.
- Parishioners were advised the Mill House Planning Application was given approval with environmental conditions.
- Mr Bush reported there would be no more helicopters using Great Oakley from Galloper. He also informed everyone there are more wind farms being built approximately 30 miles out to sea, potentially creating hundreds of jobs. Mr Bush also stated that Tendring District Council hope to be Carbon Neutral by 2030, although he is not sure what impact the Road Rally will have on this target.
- Cars are being parked on the pavement opposite the shop which means no one can use it. Clerk will report to the relevant authority.

19/178 New Village Hall: Following the news the Allotment Field Development site is up for sale, Councillors agreed to Contact Tendring District Council to make their feelings known regarding the promised Car Park facilities and Village Hall provision and to attempt to secure the S106 monies for projects within the Parish.

19/179 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2019, were proposed as correct by Mr Tierney, seconded Mrs Bailey, carried unanimously.

Progress Report

19/180 Brush Cutter: Clerk had contacted Council's previous Public Rights of Way Representative to ask if he knew the whereabouts of the brush cutter. It has been confirmed he is in possession of it and Clerk will arrange collection of it.

19/181 Burial Ground: Paving slabs have been placed on two grave plots at the New Burial Ground. The family were given 14 days' notice to have these removed, which has now expired. Clerk will get prices to have these removed.

19/182 Audit: The audit was sent to the external auditors who informed the Clerk that due to our current income not exceeding the limit, Council can be exempt this year from having an audit carried out. After consulting with the Chairman it was agreed to accept the exemption, saving the audit fee of around £200 this year.

19/183 Water Bill: At last month's meeting Councillors queried why there were two invoices for the supply of water to the Village Hall. Clerk informed Council that the waste water and fresh water were under two companies with two separate invoices. These invoices add up to the one payment that used to be paid.

19/184 Coast To Coast: It appears the Parish Council meeting dates are not being published in Coast to Coast. Being close to the end of the year Clerk will send next year's dates to the Editor as there is not enough time to submit November or December's date.

19/185 Village Entrance Sign: One of the village entrance signs was in need of replacement or refurbishment. Mr Daniels offered to arrange for a new sign with a slightly new design which he hopes will be installed by the time we have our next meeting.

19/186 Christmas Tree: Parishioners have asked Council if they can put up a Christmas Tree near the War Memorial. Mr Daniels contacted our street light maintenance contractor who has advised him the street light electricity supply can be used with permission. This is still ongoing.

19/187 December Meeting: At last month's meeting residents were concerned the Parish Council meeting always fall on the carol service evening so a suggestion was made to move the date of the Parish Council meeting. Councillors agreed to change the meeting to the 10th December 2019.

19/188 Highways: Mr Bush updated Council on the Beaumont Ditch situation saying that Enforcement have carried out a site visit but doesn't know to what extent. Chairman asked if the resident has adequate Public Liability Insurance in the event of an accident.

Mr Daniels reported a broken concrete bollard on the corner of Farm Road to be told by Highways they do not consider it important enough to repair, which is disappointing as it's in a Conservation Area. Mr Daniels reported a quick survey showed 40% of road signs in the village are damaged, obscured or missing and he will take photos and reported on Highways website.

Mr Daniels has received several complaints regarding diverted overnight HGV traffic pushing oncoming vehicles into ditches and being very noisy in the early hours. There was a crash near EPC associated with this diversion. He suggests a letter of complaint regarding this.

Mr Daniels also reported the Bus Shelters are becoming overgrown with brambles/vegetation. Clerk will contact Tendring District Council Rangers about this. He has also reported fly tipped ceramic panelling on B1414 to TDC.

19/189 Play Area Maintenance: The Annual Play Area Inspection highlighted some areas that needed attention which included Basket Swing Safety Surface, Basketball Hoop and the Zip Wire. Clerk contacted a local Play Area Maintenance Contractor for advice and costs to repair/replace.

The wet pour safety surfacing has two areas of damage. It is proposed to remove all of the loose material within the areas then cut and clean the edges to install new black wet pour at a cost of £395. Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Bush, carried unanimously.

The Basketball Hoop has been bent and the steel has been split. It is proposed to remove and dispose of the damaged hoop and replace with a heavy duty, vandal resistant stainless-steel hoop and stainless-steel net at a cost of £187. Proposed Mrs Baily, seconded Mr Bush, carried unanimously.

Council agreed to contact Tendring District Council to find out the situation with S 106 money. If there is enough left after the play area fence, Council will apply for the above costs.

The zip wire wooden cross bar has a very large split which requires replacement. One support leg has a large shake/split running through a fixing point and another leg has the onset of decay. The Contractor offered two options, one to simply replace both legs, the other is to make repairs to the legs as advised by Spiel Art. As these costs are extremely high Council agreed to defer a decision seeking further advice and prices/funding options.

19/190 Litter Pick Equipment: Little Oakley Parish Council have contacted Council asking if we would like to share the cost of buying litter pickers, hoops, hi-vis vests and bags. The equipment would be strong enough to withstand repeated use. They thought sharing would keep costs down and save someone having to collect

them from Weeley each time a litter pick was carried out. The cost for everything is around £200 split between both Parish Councils.

Council have previously purchased items for the litter picking group at which point Mr Daniels observed they should have approached Exchem for a donation. Chairman suggested they do so this time in the first instance and maybe other local companies as well before we can make a firm decision.

19/191 Bench: Council has received a request for a Parishioner to install a Memorial Bench at the New Burial Ground. Money has been raised by their family and are keen to provide one at a suitable location. Council agreed in principle, subject to agreeing a suitable location. Chairman suggested the area to the top of the Burial Ground that overlooks the area. Clerk will make contact with this suggestion. Proposed Mr Bush, seconded Mrs Bailey, carried unanimously.

19/192 Website: The Parish Council Website is over 10 years old and we receive no support from our website providers. Uploading new material to the website can be an issue and a challenge to maintain. Mr Tierney has looked into other options with one of them costing £150 set up fee and £150 hosting per year. Council agreed in principle with Mr Tierney looking at our options.

19/193 Public Rights of Way: At last month's meeting Public Rights of Way maintenance was discussed and Cllr Erskine was asked to obtain maps of the footpaths from the three parishes. Mr Bush has also tried to meet with Sarah Potter from Essex County Council PROW department.

19/194 Village Hall: Council are looking for ideas on how to improve the Village Hall with feedback forms being circulated to user groups of the hall as well as the public. A few ideas have been suggested such as a hearing loop, wheelchair ramp, new back door, new guttering, and a new kitchen. A suggestion has been made to extend the hall into the rear garden. Mrs Bailey would like to set up "Friends of the Village Hall"; a group of people who can help with ideas and source funding. A Structural Engineer has been contacted with no feedback as yet.

Council received an email from a Parishioner asking questions regarding the Village Hall and informing Council of the blocked gutters to the back of the Hall. The questions were answered and Clerk will look into getting the gutters cleaned.

Mr Bush has been contacted by the Caretaker regarding the waste collections for the Village Hall. Since the Wheelie bins came into effect the waste from the Hall hasn't been collected so Mr Bush referred this to Tendring District Council.

19/195 TDALC Report: Mr Tierney reported the attendance of Catherine Bicknell who is the Head of Planning at Tendring District Council. She reported the Local Plan is ongoing with technical information being provided.

Points of interest from the meeting included back-land developments are occurring in inappropriate places, only Highways can object to highway issues in planning applications and a residence can now be built in what was an industrial building.

19/196 Planning:

Application No: 19/01319/FUL

Proposal: Proposal to remove and rebuild the front porch, construct a single-storey rear extension, construct a new rear first-floor bedroom over the existing single-storey area and demolition of the conservatory at the rear

Location: 22 Sparrows Corner Great Oakley Harwich Essex

Great Oakley Parish Council had no objections to make regarding this application.

19/197 Accounts for Payment:

Parish Council Income

Tendring District Council	Precept	£10,875.00
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Parish Council Expenditure

Great Oaktree Land Services	Grass Cutting September	722589	£ 400.00
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E-On	Street Lighting	D/D	£ 166.91
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722590	£ 47.82
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Repair	722591	£ 118.20
Letchwood	Internal Audit	722592	£ 125.00
Autela Payroll	Payroll from July	722593	£ 39.23
Miss J Bootyman	Wages	722594	£ 269.02
TOTAL			£1,166.18

Village Hall Income

Post Office	Hall Hire		£ 50.00
Children's Party	Hall Hire		£ 20.00
Band Practice	Hall Hire		£ 21.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Children's Party	Hall Hire		£ 20.00
Band Practice	Hall Hire		£ 21.00
Football Club	Hall Hire		£ 138.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Table Top & Quiz	Hall Hire		£ 34.00
Dog Club	Hall Hire		£ 51.00
Book sales	Donation		£ 26.90
Line Dancing	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
TOTAL			£ 432.90

Village Hall Expenditure

Mrs Turner	Wages	422011	£ 177.90
E & J Fire and Security Ltd	Annual Inspection	422012	£ 111.04
British Gas	Electricity	D/D	£ 226.97
TOTAL			£ 515.91

After circulating, accounts were proposed as correct by Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Bush, carried unanimously.

19/198 Correspondence: There was no further correspondence.

There being no further business, Chairman closed meeting at 9.59pm.

The next meeting will be held on 19th November 2019 at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

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