

Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

Held at The Village Hall Tuesday 19th November 2019

19/199 Present: Mr S Huk – Chairman, Mr J Tierney, Mr N Daniels,

19/200 Apologies: Mr M Bush – Vice Chairman, Mrs Y Bailey, Mr P Day, County Cllr A Erskine

19/201 Chairman opened meeting at 7.30pm.

19/202 Declaration of Interest: There were none declared.

19/203 Public Participation: There were ten members of the public present who raised the following issues:

- Mrs Ling asked Council if she could donate the Village Hall hire fee for the Table Top and Quiz night to Children In Need. All Councillors agreed.
- A representative from the History Recorders asked Council how they were going to celebrate VE Day and advised Clerk there will be a letter from Tendring District Council. Chairman is keen for Council to take part in the celebrations somehow.
- Representatives from the Oakstones asked if the donated table could stay in the Village Hall. Chairman and Councillors agreed to purchase two new tables so the donated table can stay until it is not fit for purpose. Proposed Chairman, seconded Mr Daniels, carried unanimously.
- A Parishioner asked Council if they were aware of the leaking gutters and overgrown drain to the rear of the Village Hall. He was advised that the work was scheduled to be carried out the following day, thanking him for bringing it to Councils attention.

19/204 New Village Hall: Following the news the Allotment Field Development site is up for sale, Councillors agreed to write to Tendring District Council Planning Department expressing concerns regarding the promised car park. Tendring District Council responded by saying any new purchaser would be bound by the conditions and S106 legal agreement unless they submit a fresh planning application. A suggestion was made to invite Catherine Bicknell, Head of Planning at TDC, to come to a future meeting and address our concerns.

19/205 Due to the limited number of Councillors present, the Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 15th October 2019 will be formally agreed at December's meeting.

Progress Report

19/206 Pot Hole – Harwich Road: A resident reported a pot hole on Harwich Road which was reported to Highways. They inspected this area on 13th November and found no issues.

19/207 Pavement – The Soils: The pavement along The Soils has reduced in width due to overgrown vegetation. Clerk reported this to The Rangers team at Tendring District Council.

19/208 Brush Cutter: Council have a brush cutter from the previous Highways P3 Programme that a previous Councillor is in possession of. Clerk has contacted him to arrange collection.

19/209 Burial Ground: There are paving slabs on two graves at the burial ground which were installed without Council's permission. Council contacted the family to request their removal with no response. Council have since received a price to have them removed proposed Mr Daniels, seconded Mr Tierney, carried unanimously. Council will inform the family that the paving slabs will now be removed.

19/210 Village Entrance Sign: The village entrance sign needed repairing/restoring and Mr Daniels kindly offered to arrange a new design and arranged restoration with Council's permission. The sign is now in place on Wix Road. Chairman thanked Mr Daniels. Chairman also thanked Mr Daniels for laying the wreath on Remembrance Sunday on Council's behalf.

19/211 Play Area Maintenance: The play area annual inspection highlighted some areas in need of repair that included the safety surface beneath the basket swing and a new basketball hoop. Council agreed to contact Tendring District Council asking if there is any remaining S106 money to fund the work. They have

responded by saying the play area fence used all the available funds at this time. Council proceeded to agree to fund the work. Proposed Mr Daniels, seconded Mr Tierney, carried unanimously.

19/212 Litter Pick Equipment: Little Oakley Parish Council contacted Council asking if we would like to contribute to the purchase of joint litter picking equipment for use in both Parishes. The amount suggested based on equipment prices was £200 (£100 each Parish). Council have previously purchased Hi-Vis Vests for the Litter Picking Group. It was suggested they also approach Exchem to see if they would make a donation. Council agreed to donate £50 towards the equipment, as originally requested, leaving £50 for Little Oakley Parish Council to find. Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Daniels, carried unanimously.

19/213 Burial Ground Bench: A Parishioner recently approached Council requesting permission to install a memorial bench at the new burial ground using funds from their fundraising, requesting a plaque in memory of a relative. Council agreed to the plaque and after being presented with different bench designs, expressed a preference for the recycled bench. Council agreed in principle to a location and Clerk will arrange to meet and discuss with the Parishioner.

19/214 Village Hall Gutters: Council have been notified the gutters and drain are blocked at the rear of the Village Hall. Clerk contacted contractors for prices. A local contractor has offered to carry out the work free of charge for the Community. Clerk passed on Council's gratitude for his kind offer. The work is due to take place the next day. As he has declined payment, it was agreed to send him something as a gesture of appreciation.

19/215 Street Light: Clerk has received notification from a Parishioner of a defective street light in Red Barn Lane. This has been reported to our street light maintenance contractor.

19/216 Horse Warning Sign: Some months ago Council made a request to Essex County Council for a Horse Warning Sign for Stones Green. This request has been approved and will be put forward for funding in 2020/21.

19/217 Christmas Tree: Parishioners asked Council for a Christmas Tree near the War Memorial in time for the Carol Singers. Council will look into the insurance cover and electric usage for the lights. Mr Daniels has carried out an extensive risk assessment. Mr Spurge kindly donated a tree. Mr Daniels will continue to organise which Council thanked him for.

19/218 Parked Cars: Council received complaints from Parishioners regarding vehicles parking on the pavement opposite the shop on Harwich Road. Clerk has filled out a report form of the Essex Police website and will inform our new Community Police Officer.

19/219 Highways: Council were informed of a van crashing into the fencing at the corner on B1414 outside Great Oakley Hall on the way towards Little Oakley which had also destroyed another of the few remaining warning chevrons. When the missing warning signs were reported to Highways they said they were not a priority. To be reported again.

Councillors would like an update regarding Beaumont Road Ditch so Clerk will ask County Cllr Erskine for an update.

19/220 Proposed UKPN Road Closure – Red Barn Lane: There is a Road Traffic Regulation Order for the intended closure of Red Barn Lane in December. Mr Tierney has raised issues and questions to UKPN informing them of the unsafe roads surrounding the closure. UKPN are aware of the concerns raised, have deferred the start date and said they would reconsider their method of working among other things. Chairman thanked Mr Tierney for his thorough investigation of the matter.

19/221 Recreation Field Hedge: Earlier this year a resident approached a Councillor to request the boundary hedge to the Recreation Field be reduced in height. Council concluded the hedge had been previously cut back the previous year and no further maintenance was necessary at this time. Council advised the resident that any overhanging branches to their side could be trimmed back. Council received no further correspondence from the resident.

The resident has since payed a contractor to reduce the hedge to a height of his choosing without consulting Council which UK Legislation says is against the Law. Council agreed to write to the resident, requesting him to attend a meeting or explain his actions in writing.

19/222 Grass Cutting: Our grass cutting contractor has informed Council that one of the September grass cuts was not carried out as per schedule due to lack of grass growth. He has suggested that the budgeted amount be used to fund the cutting of low hanging branches to three trees at the Recreation Field making access easier for grass maintenance. Proposed Mr Daniels, seconded Mr Tierney, carried unanimously.

Partridge Close Trees: Council received reports of a Horse Chestnut tree and Silver Birch tree at Partridge Close needing maintenance work. A limb needs removing on the Silver Birch tree because of the proximity to the road and the Horse Chestnut tree is diseased and could be reduced by half or removed.

Council agreed to the work including the removal of the Horse Chestnut and will look into replacing them in the future. Proposed Mr Daniels, seconded Mr Tierney, carried unanimously.

19/223 Public Rights of Way: There is nothing new to report.

19/224 Village Hall: Since the introduction of the grey wheelie bins in the Parish, the Village Hall waste hasn't been collected. Upon investigation, Village Hall waste is not collected by Veolia as this is seen as commercial waste. With the black bag system it was difficult to ascertain which property they came from so were collected with household waste.

Veolia have informed us that waste bags can be purchased with the price covering the cost of collection at £60 for 25 bags. A Parishioner had heard that additional wheelie bins can be purchased so Clerk will research this option before a decision is made.

19/225 TDALC Report: The next meeting is on 27th November 2019.

19/226 Planning:

Application No: 19/01708/FUL

Proposal: Construction of single storey dwelling with rooms in the roof together with associated works

Location: Land West of Ashleigh Cottage Harwich Road Great Oakley Harwich

Great Oakley Parish Councillors made no comments regarding the application.

19/227 Accounts for Payment:

Parish Council Expenditure:

A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722595	£ 47.82
Great Oaktree Land Services	Grass Cutting – October	722596	£ 400.00
E-On	Street Lighting	D/D	£ 172.47
Tendring District Council	Election Expenses	722597	£ 107.02
Miss J Bootyman	Wreath (Clerk sent personal cheque)	722598	£ 50.00
Miss J Bootyman	Wages	722599	£ 269.02
Mr Daniels	Village Entrance Sign	722600	£ 112.50
TOTAL			£1,158.80

Village Hall Income

Post Office	Hall Hire	£	50.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£	17.00
Band Practice	Hall Hire	£	21.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£	17.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£	17.00
Painting Group	Hall Hire	£	391.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£	17.00
Dog Club	Hall Hire	£	85.00
Table Top & Quiz Night	Hall Hire	£	34.00
Children's Party	Hall Hire	£	20.00
TOTAL		£	669.00

Village Hall Expenditure

Calor	Standing Charge	422013	£	10.30
Julia Turner	Wages	422014	£	177.90
Julia Turner	Expenses	Cash	£	8.49
TOTAL			£	196.69

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

PRS Music Licence: The Village Hall Music Licence is due for renewal at a cost of £140.84. Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded, Chairman, carried unanimously.

Rural Community Council of Essex: Council's membership is due for renewal at a cost of £72.60. Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Daniels, carried unanimously.

19/228 Correspondence:

Tendring District Council

Tendring District Council have contacted Council informing them of two Code of Conduct training sessions for Councillors in the New Year. The dates are Tuesday 4th February and Tuesday 18th February 2020. If any Councillors would like to attend please let Clerk know who will pass details to TDC.

Police

A police representative has contacted Council advising them he is our Community Police Officer covering this area. He has been on the Harwich Community Policing Team since April 2019. He has suggested using the supplied email address to contact him with any issues we may have.

Chairman's Announcement

Members will recall at the beginning of the year it was Chairman's intention to stand down from the Parish Council and he didn't stand for re-election. The newly elected Parish Council were unable to elect a Chairman and as a consequence he agreed to be Co-opted back on, on the understanding that it would be for a limited period, hopefully to ease the transition and he would stand down at the end of the year. As December is approaching Chairman gave formal notice that he will be standing down and resigning from the Parish Council at the end of the December Meeting and thanked Councillors and Parishioners for their support over the years.

There being no further business, Chairman closed meeting at 9.20pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....