

# Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

<sup>th</sup>  
Held at The Village Hall Tuesday 17 December 2019

**19/229 Present:** Mr S Huk – Chairman, Mr M Bush – Vice Chairman Mr J Tierney, Mrs Y Bailey, Mr N Daniels, Mr P Day, County Cllr A Erskine

**19/230 Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence.

**19/231** Chairman opened meeting at 7.31pm.

**19/232 Co-Option of Councillor:** Council advertised three Parish Councillor Vacancies on the Notice Board and our website. Clerk received an expression of interest from a parishioner who has been invited to tonight's meeting.

Ms Schooling is a resident of the Parish, having been a Parish Councillor previously and was introduced to present Councillors. Councillors agreed to co-opt Ms Schooling, proposed Chairman, seconded Mr Day, carried unanimously.

**19/233 Declaration of Interest:** There were none declared.

**19/234 Public Participation:** There were eight members of the public present. The following issues were raised:

- Mr Mayman who carries out visual inspections on the play area on behalf of Great Oakley Parish Council brought to Councils attention dogs going into the play area because the fence needs repairing. Council are aware of the condition of the fence and have secured funds to have the fence replaced with work starting tomorrow. Mr Mayman reported the condition of the zip wire and advised Council he has been replacing bolts on other play equipment and will close the play area down if necessary. Council have received advice from a maintenance company regarding the zip wire with Council agreeing to look into other options before a decision can be made. Clerk commented that Tendring District Council have issues finding maintenance companies for their play areas although Clerk will keep looking for companies with the relevant qualifications for advice. Mr Mayman suggested Council consider the future of dogs being allowed on the Recreation Field due to the amount of dog waste being left behind.
- The play area fencing is being funded by Section 106 funding by Tendring District Council and Mr Daniels would like to know we are receiving the correct amount of funds.
- A Parishioner said the pot hole near Partridge Close appears worse and saw someone, hopefully from Highways, taking a photo of it.
- County Cllr Erskine has requested the B1414 be assessed following the road diversion that was put in place while work was carried out on the A120.

**19/235 New Village Hall:** Mr Daniels would like to invite Catherine Bicknell from Tendring District Council's planning department to a council meeting to discuss the allotment field development planning policy and car park. Clerk asked Council if they would like to keep this item on the Agenda and all agreed to remove it for the time being.

**19/236** Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019, after being circulated, were proposed as correct following a previous amendment by Mrs Bailey, seconded Mr Tierney, carried unanimously.

**19/237** Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019, after being circulated, were proposed as correct after 2 amendments by Mr Daniels, seconded Mr Tierney carried unanimously.

## Progress Report

**19/238 Christmas Tree:** Council had been approached by Parishioners who would like a Christmas Tree near the War Memorial for the Carol Service. Mr Daniels carried out a Risk Assessment, Clerk looked into Council's

Insurance cover and sought advice regarding a power supply for the lights. The action required to use the power supply would have taken too long so Mr Daniels purchased battery operated lights for the tree and was all in working order ready for the Carol Service. Council thanked Mr Daniels for all his work to achieve this.

**19/239 Litter Picking Equipment:** Little Oakley had previously requested a joint donation to purchase litter picking equipment to use in both Parishes. Council had agreed to donate £50. Mr Bush explained to Council that £100 donation would be more beneficial providing all the equipment necessary for the litter picking group and Council agreed. Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Mrs Bailey, carried unanimously.

Mr Bush explained to Council that Little Oakley has nowhere to store the equipment when purchased. Chairman suggested using the cupboard in the Village Hall. Mrs Bailey commented there were items in the cupboard that were not used such as the table tennis table. All agreed for Clerk to contact the Caretaker to find out who owns it and the two older tables that are not used.

**19/240 Bench:** A Parishioner had previously requested to place a memorial bench at the New Burial Ground which Council authorised subject to design and location. After circulating, Council agreed on a preferred style with Clerk meeting the Parishioner suggesting Council's preferred location, in the top right hand corner, and they have agreed to this area overlooking the Burial Ground.

**19/241 Police – Parked Cars:** Parishioners have previously reported parked cars on the pavement opposite the shop in the High Street, causing an obstruction to pedestrians. Council suggested contacting the new Police contact we have been provided with. Following this, it doesn't fall into a police remit but Council's concerns will be forwarded onto their partners at Tendring District Council and hopefully into the relevant department that deals with parking issues.

**19/242 Village Hall Waste:** When the waste collections were changed to wheelie bins the waste at the Village Hall was no longer being collected. Veolia explained that commercial waste should never have been collected but because all waste was in black bags it was difficult to work out where the waste came from so using the wheelie bins has highlighted this issue. Clerk was asked to contact Veolia to see if an extra wheelie bin can be purchased but this is only allowed in exceptional circumstances such as a large family and for medical reasons. With this information Clerk contacted all Councillors suggesting Council purchase commercial waste bags from Veolia at a cost of £60 for 25 bags, so the waste can be cleared from the Village Hall until a permanent decision can be made. All Councillors agreed this was the best way forward. Suggestions have been made for the future such as to request users take their waste home, charging a small fee for waste or renting a large bin reciprocal. No decision has been made as yet.

**19/243 Village Hall Tables:** Oakstones are currently using a donated table which is not ideal so they have requested two new tables. Council agreed to this request on the basis the donated table is disposed of when no longer safe to use. This was agreed by Oakstones members who attended the meeting. Two tables have now been ordered at a cost of £215.92.

**19/244 Recreation Field Hedge:** Last month it was reported to Council that the hedge on the Recreation Field had been reduced in height by a contractor instructed and paid for by the adjacent Parishioner. Council agreed to write to them asking them to explain their actions as it is a criminal offence to cut down someone else's property without permission. Clerk circulated a letter to all Councillors who agreed on the content. Council have received a response that doesn't satisfy Council's request so a further letter will be sent.

**19/245 Burial Ground:** Last year paving slabs were placed on two graves in the New Burial Ground without obtaining the relevant permission. The family were contacted requesting their removal then a further letter was sent advising them they would be removed. Meanwhile, the next grave plot has installed a granite slab covering the grave completely. Clerk is currently seeking the families contact details to request the removal of the slab.

**19/246 Highways:** Council asked County Cllr Erskine if there were any updates regarding the ditch on Beaumont Road. There has been no news to date. Council were advised the next Local Highways Panel meeting is on

th  
6 January 2020. He also reported that patching work on B1414 will be taking place since damage was caused during the diversion.

Mr Tierney reported a power cut at Woodlands and UKPN plans to install a power supply to the four new houses on Red Barn Lane with a diversion being put in place. Mr Tierney has been approached by residents of the area concerned about the proposed diversion and has contacted Power Networks to highlight the issues.

**19/247 Precept:** Chairman disclosed the figures from Parish Council Accounts to determine next year's Precept. All agreed to look into this in further detail so Clerk will forward all information to Councillors.

**19/248 Public Rights of Way:** A contractor has contacted Council offering their services to cut footpaths in the Parish. County Cllr Erskine talked about the devolution process that will happen in the future suggesting we work with other local Parishes, sharing one contractor.

**19/248 Village Hall:** The blocked gutter and drain has now been cleared at the back of the Village Hall, with the contractor being thanked. Mrs Bailey suggested the storage areas need tidying and sorting and has been informed there is no asbestos in the building apart from maybe in the rear gutter area. Areas for improvement in the hall appear to be the back door and kitchen. Mrs Bailey will report to Council when more information has been obtained.

**19/249 TDALC Report:** Mr Tierney reported that the Chairman of Tendring District Council has set up a Climate Change Working Party with funds of £30,000, getting experts to advise them. Tendring District Council hope to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 but this target seems unreasonable; 2050 being a more realistic target.

**19/250 Planning:**

Application No: 19/01782/FUL

Proposal: Proposed construction of 4 detached dwellings along with associated garages, a revision to The previously approved application 16/00546/OUT

Location: Red Barn Farm Red Barn Lane Great Oakley Harwich

Great Oakley Parish Council commented that this was an over development of the site.

Application No: 19/01866/FUL

Proposal: Proposed single storey extension to residential care home

Location: Limetrees Harwich Road Great Oakley Harwich

Great Oakley Parish Council had no objections regarding this application.

**19/251 Accounts for Payment:**

**Parish Council Expenditure**

Rural Community Council of Essex	Membership	722601	£ 72.60
E-On	Street Lighting	D/D	£ 166.91
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722602	£ 47.82
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Repair	722603	£ 126.60
Lambert Smith Hampton	Recreation Field Lease	722604	£ 275.00
Great Oaktree Land Services	Tree Crown Lifting	722605	£ 400.00
Autela Payroll Services	Payroll	722606	£ 47.08
Great Oaktree Land Services	Tree Work	722607	£ 550.00
Miss J Bootyman	Wages	722608	£ 269.02
Miss J Bootyman	Funding for GDPR	722609	£ 815.13
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£2,770.16</b>

**Village Hall Income**

Post Office	Hall Hire	£ 50.00
Toddlers	Hall Hire	£ 187.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£ 17.00

Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Band Practice	Hall Hire	£ 21.00
Xmas Wreath Workshop	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 309.00</b>

**Village Hall Expenditure**

Julia Turner	Wages	422016	£ 177.90
Julia Turner	Expenses	Cash	£ 21.65
Ardleigh Chimney Sweep	Chimney Sweep	422017	£ 48.00
Calor	Gas	422018	£ 483.37
Church Buying Group	Tables	422019	£ 215.92
Veolia	Waste Bags	422020	£ 120.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£1,066.84</b>

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

**Society of Local Council Clerks:** Membership is due at a cost of £92. Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Bush, carried unanimously.

**19/252 Correspondence:**

**VE Day:** Chairman read out a letter Council has received outlining plans for VE Day 75, being organised to celebrate and commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. Councillors are keen to participate in the celebrations so will consider ways to do this.

**Headings for Future Meetings:** With new Councillors having many roles in the community Clerk suggested introducing Agenda Items County Councillor and District Councillor Reports. Proposed Mrs Bailey, seconded Mr Daniels, carried unanimously. District Cllr M Bush would like to add Carbon Reduction on the Agenda that was also agreed.

**19/253 Elect Chairman:** With Chairman standing down from his position within Council, a new Chairman needs to be appointed. Mrs Bailey has expressed a wish to take on this role, and with no other nominations this was proposed by Mr Bush, seconded Mr Tierney, carried unanimously. Mr Bush will continue in his role as Vice-Chairman.

There being no further business, Chairman closed meeting at 9.49pm.