

Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

Held at The Village Hall Tuesday 21st January 2020

20/001 Present: Mrs Y Bailey – Chairman, Mr P Day, Mr J Tierney, Ms K Schooling, Mr N Daniels, County Cllr A Erskine

20/002 Apologies: Mr M Bush – Vice Chairman

20/003 Chairman opened meeting at 7.30pm.

20/004 Declaration of Interest: There were none declared.

20/005 Public Participation: There were nine members of the public present who raised the following issues:

- Chairman congratulated Mrs Ling for her Pride of Tending Award.
- Clerk was thanked for the Parish Council meeting dates in Coast to Coast and was asked if they could be published every month. Clerk will find out.
- On the B1414 at The Soils junction there is a pot hole next to the drain. Cllr A Erskine said this has been reported to Highways.
- Parishioners said that while they wait for the bus near Park Pale Farm visibility is restricted due to the height of the hedge. Clerk will bring this to the owner's attention.
- Council was asked if the blocked guttering has been cleared to the rear of the Village Hall. Chairman said it had been but that doesn't appear to be the problem and will report more under Agenda Item Village Hall.
- Council was asked if there were any updates regarding the Red House. A member of the public said there is a meeting on Monday for the shareholders.
- Parishioners raised concern regarding the level of noise from the bird scarers in the fields behind Orchard Close and Hamford Drive. Clerk will bring this to the attention of the landowner.
- A Parishioner informed Council it was National Village Halls week and a representative from the RCCE will visit Village Halls to advise what improvements can be done.

20/006 District Councillor Report: There is no report this month.

20/007 County Councillor Report: Cllr A Erskine reported the Horse Warning Signs have been validated by the Local Highways Panel with locations to be finalised. The 20 is plenty scheme has been declined due to too much signage. Apparently our local Primary School has not responded to the letters that have been sent regarding this scheme. Mr Daniels thinks the School could be proactive by using 20 is plenty on their notices, letters and posters so it is brought to parents/families attention. Pot holes in the area are being reported and two gritters are out each night during the cold weather.

20/008 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 17th December 2019, after being circulated, were proposed as correct by Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Daniels, carried unanimously.

Progress Report

20/009 Play Area: Our play area inspector brought to Council's attention the deteriorating condition of the fence and zip wire informing Council he has been replacing fixings on the equipment and commented he has the power to close the play area if Council don't act on his advice.

Based on this information Clerk contacted the Play Inspection Company for advice and was told that the qualification the inspector completed was for an Operational Inspector which entitles the holder to undertake both Routine and Operational inspections; there is no qualification for maintenance works, but persons undertaking such works should be competent. Any person undertaking such works on our

behalf should have adequate levels of professional indemnity and public liability insurance for the works they undertake. This person has no right to close a playground, they can only advise and the owner has the ultimate responsibility for the safe operation of the area and on whether it would need to be closed or not.

Clerk contacted our play area inspector to report the last inspection sheet was provided to Council in June 2019 so have been unaware of any maintenance issues. Clerk will contact the inspector requesting the inspection forms to date and will contact a maintenance company for further advice regarding the zip wire.

20/010 Planning: Council received news the B1414 Development Site was up for sale so expressed a wish for the head of planning at Tendring District Council attend a Parish Council meeting. Clerk has sent an invitation to Catherine Bicknell at TDC and will follow up before the next meeting.

20/011 Recreation Field Hedge: After receiving a response to Council's letter Council were not satisfied that the points raised were addressed so Council agreed to write back to the resident which has been done with no response to date.

20/012 Village Hall Tables: Councillors agreed more space is needed in the Village Hall storage cupboard so agreed to find out who owns the table tennis table and agreed to dispose of the older style wooden tables. Clerk contacted the Caretaker who found out who the table tennis table belongs to and said it will be removed from the hall. A parishioner may be able to use the old tables but if not they can be used for firewood.

A Parishioner asked for more new tables, maybe some smaller ones. Chairman said Council will review the finances and plans for refurbishment.

20/013 Village Hall Waste: Changes were made to the waste collections which meant the Village Hall Waste was not being collected. After looking into several options Clerk suggested purchasing some commercial waste bags at a cost of £60 for 25 to dispose of the accumulated waste. This was agreed by Council. Clerk will investigate other disposal options searching for companies who hire out large commercial bins. Chairman suggested Village Hall users take their rubbish home with them where possible.

20/014 Precept: Councillors requested account spreadsheet to be circulated via email. These were sent to all Councillors who all agreed on the amount of £22,175, an increase of just below 2% to cover inflation. Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Daniels, carried unanimously.

20/015 Play Area Fencing: Council's application to Tendring District Council for Section 106 money for the replacement of the play area fencing was accepted with work being completed in December 2019.

20/016 Vacancies: Council have three vacancies on the Parish Council. Clerk has sent a notice to be published in Coast to Coast.

20/017 Code of Conduct Training: Clerk previously advised all Councillors of Code of Conduct Training at Tendring District Council. Chairman and Ms Schooling expressed a wish to attend on 4th February. Clerk has advised TDC.

20/018 Christmas Tree: Councillors thanked Mr Daniels for organising the Christmas Tree by the war memorial. Parishioners donated decorations which Chairman thanked them for, with them being stored at the Village Hall for future use. Council agreed to a tree again this year, proposed Mr Daniels, seconded Ms Schooling, carried unanimously. All agreed to discuss in September.

20/019 AGM: Mr Tierney has suggested moving the AGM to July. Clerk will find out.

20/020 VE Day Celebrations: With VE Day Celebrations fast approaching Chairman suggests coordinating with the Maybush, School, Church etc. Ms Schooling said there will be an exhibition in the Maybush. Mr Daniels offered to produce a letter to hall user groups and to put in Coast to Coast.

20/021 Highways: Mr Tierney reported the Red Barn Lane Road Closure was carried out with a diversion in place, although an unsuitable one. He believes the work was carried out quickly to keep the road open as much as possible.

20/022 Burial Ground: Council previously sent a family a letter advising them the slabs would be removed from their families graves due to not having the relevant permission and Council do not allow kerbs or other stones on graves. Council received no response so authorised the contractor to carry out the work. Upon completion the family made contact with the Clerk and were invited to put their grievances in writing to Council which they have now done. Council were presented with these grievances.

At the last meeting Clerk was trying to find out contact details of another family who had installed a granite slab on their family grave without the relevant permission. Upon having this information Clerk contacted the family advising them the granite would have to be removed. Chairman and Clerk met with the family to discuss this in further detail. This family have since written to Council to request retrospective permission for the granite to be lowered to sit level to the existing ground level.

Clerk advised Council where they stand legally, however Councillors requested the EALC is contacted for further advice and Chairman will write to both parties deferring the decision pending this advice.

20/023 Public Rights of Way: There is nothing to report.

20/024 Village Hall: Chairman met with a contractor to discuss a quote for refurbishment with the priority being the kitchen, back door and more storage space. Caretaker has requested the toilet cisterns need updating. The gutters which were recently cleared were looked at to establish if the problem of water leaking into the kitchen and storerooms have been solved. It appears the wood under the guttering has rotted so the problem has not been fixed.

The contractor is going to speak to the fire inspection people to check the fire regulation requirements.

20/025 TDALC Report: The next meeting is on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 with Local Highways Panel, Illegal Encampments, Suicide in Men and Highways being on the Agenda.

20/026 Carbon Reduction: Essex County Council has an independent Party to tackle climate change and reduce emissions. Tree week is in November with 50,000 trees identified for land owned by ECC.

20/027 Planning:

Application No: 19/01919/FUL

Proposal: Proposed single storey rear and side extension

Location: Brenala Sparrows Corner Great Oakley Harwich

Great Oakley Parish Council had no objections regarding this application.

20/028 Accounts for Payment:

Parish Council Income

Tendring District Council	106 funds for fencing	£6,350.00
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Parish Council Expenditure

A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Repairs	722610	£ 248.04
Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership	722611	£ 92.00
E-On	Street Lighting	D/D	£ 172.47
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722612	£ 47.82
Miss J Bootyman	Wages	722613	£ 269.02
Little Oakley Parish Council	Litter Picking Equipment	722614	£ 100.00
Playquip	Play Area Repairs	722615	£ 698.40
Great Oaktree Land Services	Remove Paving Slabs	722616	£ 80.00
Great Oaktree Land Services	Play Area Fencing Labour	722617	£1,150.00
Great Oaktree Land Services	Rec Field Hedge Cutting	722618	£ 600.00
TOTAL			£3,457.75

Village Hall Income

Post Office	Hall Hire	£ 50.00
Oakstones	Hall Hire	£ 360.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Children's Party	Hall Hire	£ 20.00
Toddlers	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Children's Party	Hall Hire	£ 20.00
Tendring District Council	Election	£ 250.00
Band Practice	Hall Hire	£ 21.00
Line Dancing	Hall Hire	£ 17.00
Children's Party	Hall Hire	£ 20.00
TOTAL		£ 809.00

Village Hall Expenditure

Julia Turner	Wages	422021	£ 177.90
Julia Turner	Expenses	Cash	£ 12.44
British Gas	Electricity	D/D	£ 306.32
Affinity	Clean Water	422022	£ 44.56
TOTAL			£ 541.22

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

20/029 Correspondence:

Football Club: The Football Club has contacted Council to inform them the Club is now FA charter standard, which gives them access to funding. One of the areas available is pitch improvements including Verti Draining; aerating the pitch which will help improve the surface and levelling of the pitch. Council agreed to this work proposed Mr Daniels, seconded Mr Day, carried unanimously.

Email: Council received an email from a resident adjacent to Hamford Drive to request the tree stump be removed so he can have easy access to replace his fence. Chairman and Clerk visited the site to find the stump is approximately 3 feet away from his boundary line with it being very low to the ground. Council feels it is not causing an obstruction so won't be removed at this time but invites the resident to if he wishes. Proposed Mr Daniels, seconded Mr Day, carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman closed meeting at 9.50pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....