

Draft Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

Held remotely on Tuesday 16th June 2020

20/057 Present: Mrs Y Bailey – Chairman, Mr M Bush – Vice Chairman, Mr P Day, Mr J Tierney, Ms K Schooling, Mr N Daniels

20/058 Apologies: None

20/059 Chairman opened meeting at 7.30pm.

Mrs Bailey advised she would be recording the minutes of the meeting in the absence of a clerk and the meeting was also being audio recorded; a copy of which would be held by the Clerk.

20/060 Declaration of Interest: None.

20/061 Public Participation: There was one member of the public present.

Chairman raised a question on behalf a resident who was not able to take part in a remote meeting. The resident brought to the attention of the Parish Council an incident the previous week on partridge close when a vulnerable resident had been approached on his front drive by a man informing him his Chimney needed repairing and offering to take him to a cash point to get the money to do it. The man became abusive and threatening when the resident refused. Fortunately the neighbours rallied round and the police were called. The resident asked what Council could do to help. It was agreed that Parish Council would work together with GO Community Care Initiative to warn all residents and offer support to anyone who may be affected by this incident and advise what to do in such circumstances.

20/062 District Councillor Report: Report to follow

20/063 County Councillor Report: Held over to next PC full meeting.

20/064 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 18th February 2020, after being circulated, were proposed as correct by Mr Day, seconded Mr Tierney, and carried by Ms Schooling, Mr Bush and Mrs Bailey

Progress Report

20/065 Rubbish Bin at Partridge Close Bus Stop: Chairman to investigate size and type of rubbish bin to progress pending action.

20/066 Barking Dog on School Road: Chairman reported the problem appeared to have stopped since lockdown. As it may continue when owners return to work this item will be monitored.

20/067 Hedge Opposite Partridge Close: Chairman contacted the land owner and work has been carried out.

20/068 Play Inspection Reports: Clerk has written to Mr Mayman to chase up requests for all Play Area Inspection Reports. Mr Mayman has advised he will print these for us when he is able.

20/069 Zip Wire: Clerk to arrange a site visit when playground is able to reopen.

20/070 20 is plenty: Chairman reported school are keen to take part and will be arranged when school returns to normal.

20/071 The Soils Hedge: A resident requested assistance in cutting their hedge. The query was forwarded to the Rangers Team TDC for consideration. They have since confirmed they will cut back to hedge but due to lockdown they cannot provide a date to complete this. The resident has been informed.

20/072 Minute Book: Councillors agreed to purchase a new minute book which has been ordered.

20/073 Community Fund: Cllr Bush, in his capacity as District Councillor for The Oakleys and Wix, was allocated a grant of £1000 from TDC to help the vulnerable during COVID 19 crisis. This was paid into the Great Oakley Parish Council Bank Account as a temporary measure.

As the money could not be accessed immediately the Clerk lent the Community Fund £250. A special bank account has since been set up by the Community Group with £250 being paid back to the Clerk and the remaining £750 being paid into that account from the Parish Council Account.

20/074 Wix Planning Application: As Planning Application 20/00194/FUL for Wix Poultry Farm is not in our Parish Council did not receive this application. However, Councillors agreed this was close to our Parish and would have a severely detrimental impact on our residents. Councillors comments were collated by the Chairman and a collective objection response sent to TDC on behalf of the Parish Council.

20/075 Grass Cutting: Clerk had received an email to say the grass cutting was not up to the usual standard and residents were cutting areas of the grass themselves. Clerk advised residents of the insurance implications of doing this and requested they stop so Council could establish if the grass was being cut in accordance with the contract. The contractor had been informed accordingly.

20/076 Play Area Inspection: TDC informed Council the play area inspection was due and all Councillors agreed to have this carried out.

20/077 Street Lighting: Two street lights requiring repair were reported to the Clerk; one on Hamford Drive and the other near the War Memorial. Both have now been repaired.

20/078 Burial Ground: Revised Burial Ground Rules and Regulations were circulated and agreed subject to final check over by local funeral director. Cllr Bush to arrange. Proposed Mr Tierney seconded Mr Day and carried unanimously.

Headstone Applications: During lockdown a headstone application had been circulated to all Councillors for the late John Mann and agreed by all members. Another headstone application has been received for the late Michael Box. Confirmed and agreed. Proposed Mr Daniels, seconded Ms Schooling and carried unanimously.

20/079 Public Rights of Way: Nothing to report.

20/080 Village Hall: Post Office has continued to open two mornings each week. Remains closed for all other activities.

20/081 Planning: Application No: 20/00562/FUL
Proposal: Proposed New Barn to replace approved stables
Location: 3 Skighaugh, Clacton Road, Stones Green
Great Oakley Parish Council had no objections conditional on no future conversion to residential premises.

Application No: 20/00574/FUL
Proposal: Variation to design of dwelling as approved under planning permission 19/00603/FUL
Location: Bramble farm, Colchester Road, Great Oakley
Great Oakley Parish Council had no objections to this proposal

20/082 Accounts for Payment March:
Circulated during lockdown and agreed by all Councillors.
Confirmed; Proposed by Ms Schooling, Seconded by Mr Day and agreed unanimously

20/083 Accounts for Payment April:
Circulated during lockdown and agreed by all Councillors.
Confirmed; Proposed by Ms Schooling, Seconded by Mr Day and agreed unanimously

20/084 Accounts for payment May:

Circulated during lockdown and agreed by all Councillors.
Confirmed; Proposed by Mr Bush, Seconded by Mr Day and agreed unanimously

20/085 Accounts for Payment June:

Parish Council Income

Paskells Funeral Service	Interment of Ashes		£ 75.00
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Parish Council Expenditure

A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722640	£ 47.82
A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Repair	722641	£ 113.94
Great Oaktree Land Services	Grass Cutting June	722642	£ 480.00
E-On	Street Lighting	D/D	£ 172.47
Miss J Bootyman	Wages	722643	£ 269.02
Oakley and Ramsey Scouts	Uncashed Cheque	722644	£ 50.00
Community Action Suffolk	Insurance	722645	£ 807.57
TOTAL			£ 610.10

Village Hall Income

Post Office	Hall Hire		£ 50.00
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Village Hall Expenditure

Calor	Standing Charge	422035	£ 10.30
Julia Turner	Wages	422036	£ 188.95
TOTAL			£ 199.25

Village Hall Account currently stands at £2,355.98

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

EALC Subscription

Clerk advised this subscription is due at a cost of £308.57.

After due consideration it was agreed to continue membership proposed by Mr Tierney, seconded by Ms Schooling and carried unanimously.

RCCE Subscription

Clerk advised this subscription was due at a cost of £72

After due consideration it was agreed to continue membership proposed by Mr Daniels, seconded by Mr Day and carried unanimously.

Internal Auditor

Clerk advised the Internal Auditor is due at a cost of £125 (same as last year). The auditor has agreed to carry out the Internal Audit in the Village Hall while maintaining social distancing guidelines. This will ideally take place during July so Council can confirm the audit ready for External Audit for September deadline. After due consideration it was agreed to secure his service proposed by Mr Tierney, seconded by Mr Daniels and unanimously agreed.

20/086 Correspondence:

New Member Code of Conduct Consultation: Mr Tierney had circulated an email regarding Proposed New Member Code of Conduct Consultation. Chairman suggested it would be useful for all Parish Councillors to read and comment independently.

Letter: Chairman had received a letter from a resident regarding issues connected with on-going maintenance of a Recreation Field Hedge and Tree. The personnel sub-committee met with the resident concerned and reported recommendations to Parish Council.

It was agreed to request advice from the TDC Tree specialist and check ECC recreation field lease before agreeing any action. The chairman would write to the residents accordingly.

Beaumont Road Correspondence: Chairman had received an email letter of complaint from a resident regarding the condition of the grass verge between the Service Road and B1414 Beaumont Road in front of their property. Councillors agreed to report this to ECC and TDC and also sent a letter of support to the resident advising them of proposed actions. This has been an ongoing problem and Cllr Erskine has arranged for Cllr Bush, Cllr Bailey and a resident to remotely attend a surgery on 13th July 2020 with Cllr Bentley, deputy leader of ECC to pursue matters.

External Review: Council had agreed to EALC commissioning an independent HR Consultant to carry out a review of internal issues at a cost of £550.

Announcements:

Chairman announced that the Parish Council had received a resignation letter from the clerk and her last day would be 13th July 2020. The Chairman expressed her disappointment that the clerk was not able to attend her last Parish Council meeting. All Councillors expressed their thanks for her service and best wishes for the future.

Mr Tierney announced his retirement from the position of Parish Councillor and advised this would be his last meeting. All Parish Councillors offered their thanks to Mr Tierney for his invaluable service and advised he, and his contribution to the Parish Council of Great Oakley, would be greatly missed.

There being no further business Chairman closed meeting at 10.15pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....