



GREAT OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk: Mr D Land

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE, VIA ZOOM, ON TUESDAY, 17th November 2020 AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Yvonne Bailey

Vice Chairman: Mike Bush

Councillors: Paul Day, Nick Daniels, Kim Schooling, Joel Green, Janey Nice, David Fox, John Higgins

District Councillor: Mike Bush

Essex County Councillor:

2 members of the public were in attendance

11 / 2020- 01 | Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone and reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded.

11 / 2020- 2 | Apologies for absence

None have been received for the meeting

11 / 2020- 3 | Declarations of Interest

Cllrs introduced themselves; none declared any interests on this occasion.

11 / 2020 – 4 | Rules for online / remote meetings

Attendees have been asked to raise a hand should they wish to speak throughout the meeting.

11 / 2020 – 5 | To agree the minutes of the last meeting (22nd September)

Resolved: That the minutes be agreed as a true record- all in favour.

11 / 2020 – 6 | Public participation

Questions have been submitted:

Mr Steve Huk spoke about his concern of the new LED lighting that has been installed in Stones Green. The lamp is on the opposite side of the street outside the old post office, situated at approximately a 45 degree angle and shines across the road towards my Huk's garden, but the wide angle coverage of the lamp is towards Mr Huk's windows, causing annoyance to Mr Huk. He did thank the Council for their efforts so far. The light has been reduced in its luminosity and a protector screen will need to be added and the angle tilted away from Mr Huk's property. Cllrs Fox and Bush noted that the world is changing, councils are looking at ways in reducing their carbon footprint and also saving taxpayers money in the running costs over a period of time. TDC did pass a resolution to encourage all areas, including businesses to help their energy efficiency, lighting falls under this as well as tree planting, solar farms etc. Cllr Bush pointed out that the old lights are inefficient and not cost effective to continue using as there are no replacement bulbs on the market anymore. Cllr Bush suggested that Carbon reduction plan should be added to the agenda moving forward.

Cllr Fox explained that he had visited properties in the area of the lamps and gave feedback on the responses. Residents, in the main, supported the energy efficiency improvements.

Cllr Fox explained some distances of the lights from properties in the area and gave feedback.



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Steve Huk – have not seen any planning applications in recent months. The Chairman explained that owing to a set of circumstances out of our control this had happened.

Another question from Stones Green about the lights affecting the Radio Signal – radio Ham, interfering with frequency.

ACTION: Write to the resident that the screen protector has been put up. He can write to OFCOM should he wish to take the matter further.

A report had been received that the hedge on the Footpath alongside Park Pale Barn – had been removed and the footpath narrowed. Parish Councillors have visited the site and found no major issues which affect the use of the path. It is identified that only the hedges have been taken out to enable the ditch to be cleared on the field side which may give the illusion that the footpath had been narrowed. A question had been received about the cutting back and top of the hedge on the field along Harwich Road from the airfield to Park Pale Barn.

ACTION: Write to landowner asking for clarification of the footpath hedge and requesting the hedge to be cut and topped.

11 / 2020 – 7 | District Councillor Report

Cllr Bush reported on the following points:

Tendring Climate energy action plan. GOPC should be looking to support this. **ACTION:** Put on agenda Local Government Reform. TDC have joined 10 other councils to appoint a consultant to look at the devolution of the Greater Essex Area, when this may come about in the future.

Back to Business agenda from Tendring, all portfolio holders are uniting to see and provide district recovery in the short/medium term. RETURN TO NORMALITY. Grants in the second tier are still be arranged and organised. 32 million pounds of grants have so far been issued to local businesses. Solar Farm application in Wix has been lodged, significant, 60 acres, to produce 22 megawatts. Freeports initiative is supported locally

11 / 2020 – 8 | County Councillor Report

No report was submitted

11 / 2020 – 9 | Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following matters:

EDF Contract

Website

Bin

Noticeboards

Cllr Day said the planning committee had met and asked about the possibility of a footpaths map being added to the new notice boards.

Cllr Schooling said she had put together a map of all the footpaths which could be used to go in the new noticeboards when they arrive



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Cllr Bush said the website is old, poorly laid out and dysfunctional. What are the contractual arrangements? **ACTION:** Clerk to seek guidance on hosting fees and contracts.

11 / 2020 – 10 | Chairman's Report

Chairman gave updates on the following matters:

The Chairman reiterated that once you are not a Parish Councillor anymore you should not act on behalf of the Council under any circumstances. All details of your Parish Council existence should be deleted and removed once you end your term as a Councillor.

Sub Committees and Working Groups are up and running. Sub-Committees must have an agenda and minutes but working groups were less formal, just requiring notes or a report. We need an IT and Governance working group moving forward.

Please can sub group minutes and working group reports be submitted within a week of the Full Council meeting each month.

Cllr Day asked about an update on the financial matters.

Cllr Bush suggested that the Finance Sub- Committee meet on the 6th January to complete the various budget requirements from the working groups. This can then be signed off by full council at the January meeting.

Cllr Daniels suggested that the council could look at buying in a package to support the accounts and budgeting. Finance Committee to look into the options.

Actions and Motions to be considered from the cancelled October meeting owing to the Chicken Farm application being considered at the TDC Planning Committee meeting which was the same night.

Resolved: That all motions and payments be approved retrospectively from the October meeting
Proposed Cllr Green Seconded Cllr Fox- all in favour

Personnel sub-committee met and a report was sent out. The Clerk has completed his probation and is now an approved member of staff. An FOI was received by the council, a response was provided within the allocated timeframes.

11 / 2020 – 11 | Dates of meetings 2020/21

The dates of the meetings in 2020/21 were noted and **re-circulated**.

11 / 2020 – 12 | Reports

Burial Ground, Recreation Field, Play Area and Greenswards

Resolved: To approve the quote for £336 to level and returf 20 graves

Noted: Letter from Chris Mayman offering to carry out weekly playground inspections. Cllr Higgins said due diligence needs to be done in terms of DBS, current qualifications and our insurance liabilities.

ACTION: check up on the required points.



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Recommendations were included in the working party report to council. Items such as a new burial ground plan, memorial ground and gates are proposed.

A specification report was received from GreatOaktree Land services, **thanks** were given for the quick turn around on the document. A number of ideas are within the proposal which can be budgeted for and rolled out as and when the council decide.

The hedges etc in the new Burial Ground are now cut and the works have improved the area. The old burial ground now needs some attention.

Recreation Field play area zipwire needs to be removed and the play equipment cleaned down annually. Cllr Bush expressed that the zipwire should perhaps remain on the site, rather than lose play value Cllr Daniels said that the matter was over safety rather than removal perse.

Cllr Schooling said we should look to replace the zipwire, potentially through 106 monies.

Cllr Higgins suggested that we leave the item in situ for now and once we have the finance/budgeting completed then a decision can be made.

Public Rights of Way / footpaths

A report was submitted by Cllrs Fox and Schooling

Cllr Schooling has reported fly tipping by Meadow Cottage

TDALC

Report was submitted by the Chairman

Village Hall

A working group report with recommendations was submitted to council.

The proposed developer of the Thompson's site, wishes to engage with the Parish and talk about potential opportunities.

Site visit on the 3rd December is pencilled in to review maintenance requirements.

LED Lighting Trial

Resolved: That the council agree to the purchase of 3 light units of £1256.40 Proposed Cllr Schooling Seconded Cllr Day – all in favour.

Resolved: That the council approve the quote for £185 for the installation of the bin Proposed Cllr Nice Seconded Cllr Day – all in favour.

11 / 2020 – 13 | Planning applications

Planning application have been dealt with as they have come in throughout the month and comments fed back to TDC Planning.

20/01173/LBC – External & Internal alterations – Essex House, High Street, Great Oakley. Dated 13th November – which was considered and minuted at our GOPC meeting on 17th November – **NO**

OBJECTIONS

20/01490/LBC – Emergency Repairs to replace 3 windows – Old Scantings, Farm Road, Great Oakley.



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Dated 17th November – received too late for our PC meeting and as we only have 21 days to comment it would be too late for our December meeting (although it should be an agenda item and minuted). Can you please access on TDC website, consider your response and circulate to all GOPC.
Put Essex House in Here.

11 / 2020 – 14 | Cheques and finance authorisation

Resolved: that this month's cheques be signed, including any expenses.

Proposed by Cllr Green Seconded Cllr Nice – all in Favour.

Council noted the NALC salary increases from April 2020.

11 / 2020 – 15 | Christmas Tree

Cllr Daniels visited the Christmas tree factory and was blown away by the colours, shapes and sizes

Cllr Higgins asked if any farmers locally could safeguard the village supply forever via a planting scheme

Resolved: that the council approve the purchase of Christmas tree/s for £500. Proposed Cllr Day

Seconded Cllr Nice – all in favour

11 / 2020 – 16 | Phone Box

We have the paint and refurb will be addressed at the appropriate time. Prior to any painting and repairs council will decide on usage to determine what additional works maybe required.

11 / 2020 – 17 | Correspondence

Clerk has circulated throughout month

11 / 2020 – 18 | Agenda Items for Future Consideration

Carbon reduction management plan

Speeding in the village – traffic calming measures

Meeting closed

Date and Time of next meeting | Tuesday 15th December 2020 at 7.00pm (Venue to be announced)