



GREAT OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk: Mr D Land

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE, VIA ZOOM, ON TUESDAY, 23rd March 2021 AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Yvonne Bailey

Vice Chairman: Mike Bush

Councillors: Paul Day, Nick Daniels, Kim Schooling, Janey Nice, Dave Fox

District Councillor: Mike Bush

Essex County Councillor:

2 members of the public were in attendance

A minutes silence was held in memory of all of those people who have been affected by the covid pandemic over the past year and the recent sad passing of local resident Elliott Willis.

03 / 2021- 01 | Welcome

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

03 / 2021- 2 | Apologies for absence

None

03 / 2021- 3 | Declarations of Interest

There were none declared

03 / 2021 – 4 | Rules for online / remote meetings

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

03 / 2020 – 5 | To agree the minutes of the last meeting (23rd February)

Resolved: That the minutes be agreed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Schooling, Seconded Cllr Nice- all in favour.

03 / 2021 – 6 | Public participation

No questions have been formally submitted.

Mrs Mason was given the opportunity to speak

A question was asked about the detail within the minutes, the clerk outlined the statutory responsibilities in reporting of the minutes of the meeting – decisions. Had been some new protocols put in place and would ensure that payments were included moving forward.

Willow tree on the triangle needs attention – to be looked at By Cllr Fox and Great Oaktree Land Services.

Action: Cllr Fox will contact ECC in relation to the damaged triangle belonging to county broadband

03 / 2021 – 7 | District Councillor Report

Cllr Bush gave an update on the following matters:

Nothing to report



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03 / 2021– 8 | County Councillor Report

No report was submitted

03 / 2021 – 9 | Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following matters:

Grant for Village Hall successfully awarded - £9,000

ECC updates – the verge along Harwich Road – ECC aware of the matter.

03 / 2021 – 10 | Chairman's Report

Continue to make excellent progress on the working group reports

Positive feedback has been received from the efforts of the PC

Two councillors have had to resign from their roles owing to, 1. professional limitations and 2. time constraints – we are very keen to show how much we appreciate the efforts they have made.

Advertisements will be launched to attract new Cllrs.

Cllr Daniels reported the Great Oakley Community Care Initiative (GOCCI) has a number of volunteers on their list who could be contacted to see if they would like to join the PC.

Further communication channels are being explored.

The Chairman announced she would step down at the end of 2021 – she asked for consideration of those that might like to take on the role – she would support them in the hand over.

Action: Cllr Schooling asked for the councillor vacancies advert to be sent her as the GOCCI contact.

Cllr Daniels has spoken to the owner of the village shop in relation to the notice boards poor condition.

£61.58 would be the cost of a new board. **Proposed by Cllr Daniels Seconded Cllr Bush – all in favour**

03 / 2021 – 11 | Reports

Burial Ground, Recreation Field, Play Area and Greenswards

A report was submitted prior to the meeting.

Site meeting will take place on 31st March for Beaumont Ditch with ECC.

Play area has a quote to clean the Play Equipment and Bus Shelters on the agenda

Resolved: that the quote to clean the play equipment and bus shelters for £200 be accepted. Proposed Cllr Day Seconded Cllr Nice- all in favour

Still looking into the options of purchasing the Field.

Burial Ground – all rubbish has been removed by the team and settled burial plots have been levelled and returned by the contractor.

The planned memorial garden is progressing, Cllr Bush has offered a bench in memory of his father who recently passed – condolences and thanks were given.

Another potential donor has also been contacted.

Greenswards – we should look to pair with TDC in relation to tree planting.

Cllr Day brought up the matter of a piece of land on Farm Road and whether or not this could be acquired for car parking in the village. Cllr Day and Cllr Daniels will liaise with the land owner to make



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enquires.

Cllr Nice will take the lead on GO and SG in bloom

The PC Finance Committee are requested to undertake a review of current and future contracts.
Motions on the agenda under this item were deferred to the next meeting.

A conversation about the agenda and minutes took place and how these should be presented moving forward. No conclusion was reached.

Public Rights of Way / Footpaths

A report was submitted – thanks were given to Cllr Schooling and Fox.

No motions were put forward

Action: The footpath from the woodlands across the field adjacent to the allotments does need consideration and the developers to be contacted to reinstate the footpath and remove all hazardous objects.

Great Oakley and Stones Green in Bloom

Cllr Nice has placed an advert in Coast to Coast. The Church and the school are interested in being involved.

We need to agree on the date – suggested before the school breaks for the summer holidays.

Village gateway signs on Harwich Road need cleaning prior to installing any planters

Planters could also be located at various sites around the villages including memorial square.

Advertising will be required prior to the summer launch in July.

All were asked to put forward suggestions to Cllrs Nice and Schooling

Action: Budget required for this project.

TDALC

The green agenda is of high priority.

Village Hall

A working group report with recommendations was submitted to council.

Cllr Daniels has made contact with various agencies in relation to funding. He had spoken to Fran Wright from Essex Community Foundation who has advised of local funding options. There are many improvements and emergency remedial works requiring attention both internally and externally In phase one of proposed refurbishments which need to be progressed. Phase two of the refurbishment, including a new kitchen, the installation of a hearing loop, WiFi and parking shelter for mobility scooters, pushchairs and bicycles, would require applications to providers of larger funding grants.

Cllr Schooling has contacted the Royal Institution of the Deaf for advice and costs for the hearing loop and is awaiting a response.

Chairman would write to the user groups to request evidence of potential outcomes for funding



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applications and an invitation to put forward nominations to work on a community user group committee to shape the future of the village hall.

RESOLVED: That the annual subscription fee to the RCCE be agreed of £66. Proposed Cllr Daniels
Seconded Cllr Nice- all in favour

LED Lighting Trial

Evaluate the trial period –the lights have worked well.

Cllr Bush outlined that he supported the roll out of LED lighting and the environmental and cost savings available.

Cllr Fox noted the council could look to roll out new lights as and when lights failed or needed repairing.

Cllr Bush and Nice supported the idea of LED rollout

Cllr Day queried the lifespan of an LED bulb. Cllr Fox advised 30 years with checks needed sporadically

Stones Green

No discussion.

03 / 2021 – 12 | Neighbourhood Plan

A meeting took place between three parishes, GO, LO and Wix

Feedback from TDC was to wait until the local plan has been passed and have a clear understanding of what they want from their own plan.

03 / 2021 – 13 | Speeding

Nothing to report

03 / 2021- 14 | Litter / Dog Bins

Cllr Schooling noted the increase in dog mess in the village and suggested that the Church and Woodlands might be a potential site for bins.

A discussion took place about the issue around the local and wider area. Cllr Bush advised there is a GO litter pick on the 11th April at 10:30am at the Village.

Cllr Nice mentioned the buses from TTC and the potential for litter being dropped and left in the area and suggested a bin at the corner of Red Barn Lane in the vicinity of the Beaumont Road Bus Stops.

Cllr Bailey mentioned there are two bins near the Burial Ground which she regularly empties.

03 / 2021 – 15 | Carbon Reduction / Net Zero Carbon

Action: We should have a policy aligned with TDC.

Cllr Bush reported that the solar farm in Wix had been approved. It will generate 20 Megawatts

There are now a number of solar farms in the area – Cllr Bush supports renewable energy but there needs to be some payback to the villages nearby.

03 / 2021 – 16 | Parking on Verges

Cllr Daniels had mentioned that we should identify who owns various areas of the village including verges.

The Clerk updated on the info which had sent out concerning the company who map the local landscape



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03 / 2021 – 16 | Planning applications

21/00334/ful – Proposed demolition of existing stables with new, including feed store and manege – 18 Partridge Close

Cllr Nice had visited the site and local residents had also contacted local Cllrs informally. While Parish Council had no objection to the application it is recommended that consideration be given to residents concerns and that it is limited to personal equestrian use with consideration given to the close residential environment and limited access to the site.

03 / 2021 – 17 | Delegation of powers to the personnel and finance committees.

Further info requested

03 / 2021 – 18 | Cheques and finance authorisation

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

Proposed by Cllr Daniels Seconded Cllr Schooling – all in Favour.

Noted about the Nest pension scheme contributions to be considered.

Monthly Payments	Net	VAT	Gross
Clerks Pay	£325.92		£325.92
HMRC	£198.80		£198.80
A & J Lighting	£39.85	£7.97	£47.82
Autela Payroll Services	£57.59	£11.52	£69.11
Great Oaktree Land Services	£280.00	£56.00	£336.00
RCCE Membership fee	£60.50	£12.10	£72.60
Expenses for Chairman (Zoom meetings)	£14.39		£14.39
DD - E-on energy	£261.98	£13.10	£275.08
DD - E-on energy	£0.40		£0.40
Parish Council Totals	£1,239.43	£100.69	£1,340.12

03 / 2021 – 19 | Correspondence

Paula McDonnell – parking

Cllr Bush noted that parking issues are clear to see and not always easy to solve. Cllr Day noted that the PC should look into available parking and consider all options. Cllr Nice mentioned the lack of disabled parking. PC could use signage to promote the fact that considerate parking is essential.

Council Tax increase – online / email

The council will respond via the appropriate channels

Catie Francis, memorial bench – email



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The request was noted- Chairman and Clerk to contact and meet with the enquirer who is advocating on behalf of the family to discuss their wishes.

Cllr Nice said she was happy to make contact the family about requirements at an appropriate time.

Cllr Schooling mentioned the broad band survey – promote!

03 / 2021 – 20 | Agenda Items for Future Consideration

Meeting closed 10.30pm

Date and Time of next meeting | Tuesday 20th April 2021 at 7.00pm (Venue to be announced)