



GREAT OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: M D Land

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 17th August 2021 AT 7.00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Chairman: Yvonne Bailey

Vice Chairman: Mike Bush

Councillors: Kim Schooling, Janey Nice

District Councillor: Mike Bush

Essex County Councillor: Daniel Land

6 members of public in attendance.

08 / 2021- 01 | Welcome

The Chairman welcomed those attending the meeting.

08 / 2021- 02 | Apologies for absence

Cllr Daniels, Cllr Day.

08 / 2021- 03 | Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

08 / 2020 – 04 | To agree the minutes of the last meeting (20th July)

It was agreed there were 6 members of the public in attendance not 5 and the minutes would be amended accordingly.

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

08 / 2021 – 05 | Public participation

Mrs Lindsay asked for an update on: the loss of Parish Councillors. The Chairman confirmed there were currently three Parish Councillor Vacancies which had been advertised. There were no other vacancies to report. Cllr Bush acknowledged his distaste of rumours concerning him moving out of the village being untrue.

An update on traffic calming measures.

An update on the 5k motion to employ a surveyor for the village hall.

In 'bloom flowers' look nice- may have helped with speeding in the village as a knock-on effect.

Mrs Sewell asked for an update on: The forge trespassers will be prosecuted – is that allowed? It appears the sign in effect refers to the private property not the pedestrian footpath.

Any news on the proposed development site? No update at this time.

Any news on Exchem? No issues at Exchem are known of.

The Chairman explained that the remaining items will be addressed on the agenda.

Cllr Bush gave an update on the history of the site on Beaumont Road. It has a planning consent from the previous application therefore items dropped on the site are at the owner's discretion

Cllr Nice reiterated there had been no prior meetings of Parish Councillors with the developers.



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08 / 2021 – 06 | District Councillor Report

Cllr Bush had nothing further to report other than items already on the agenda.

08 / 2021- 07 | County Councillor Report

Cllr Land reported on:

Local Highways Panel proposals including; whole village signage review, Beaumont Road, The Soils.

A supported application to the Locality Fund by the Community Care Initiative

Footpath 13 – update from ECC

Request to reinstate painted lines outside the School & faded speed signs.

08 / 2021- 08 | Clerk Report / Correspondence

Website – calendar facility now in place – meeting to take place with caretaker.

Application to join parish council (3 spaces), Mrs Ann Offord, application will be brought to September meeting.

08 / 2021- 09 | Chairman's Report

Thanks to all our volunteers on the task groups within the council who work on items such as Great Oakley and Stones Green in Bloom.

Thanks to Cllr Bush who cleared the footpath by the allotments, reported the subsequent exposed broken footpath needing repair and cleared the entrance to the burial ground from The Avenue by the newly installed gates.

Thanks to Cllr Daniels for his ongoing repair/repainting work on the Red Barn Lane sign which is in worse condition than first thought and is consequently taking rather longer than anticipated.

Thanks to Mr Bailey for his work on the new burial ground including clearing the entrance; installing new gate opening retainers; watering and weeding the memorial garden and regularly emptying and disposing of rubbish from the four bins.

Thanks to all local groups and individual residents inc. litter pickers etc. who regularly look after our parish.

A thank you letter was received from Tendring Brass Band for the PC donation. Residents enjoy their contribution at our Christmas Carol services and are looking forward to welcoming them back, hopefully, this year. We wish them well.

Concerns were once again expressed about official channels of communication to the Parish Council- social media is sometimes unhelpful with misinformation and inaccuracies being spread raising concerns amongst our residents. As a Parish Council we cannot respond on social media other than through our own Great Oakley Face book Page or through our Website which are directed to the Parish Council and responded to by the clerk.

The Clerk has sent a response from the Parish Council objecting to the proposed 2022 Car Rally, as in previous years, on the grounds of disturbance to local people and businesses on route; impact on local rural roads and damage to highways; noise disturbance; and negative impact on the climate though fuel emissions from multiple high emission cars. Furthermore, as a Parish directly affected by the rally we are not aware of any local charity, group or organisation to have benefited from the income generated from past events.



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08 / 2021- 10 | Reports

Recreation Field, Play Area and Greenswards, Burial Ground, Great Oakley and Stones Green in Bloom

The contractor has already identified hedge and tree cutting required on the recreation field. A walk about with our grounds contractor has been arranged for next week to inspect additional works required around the village.

TDC have provided us with a template to use for dog signage on the play area and recreation to be carried out and installed in line with our focus on community safety.

PC is waiting for TDC to release 106 monies to make improvements / repairs and install a new zip wire in the play area. It is proposed that the remaining 106 monies should be spent on new equipment for the wider community resulting in the community consultation information recently been posted on our Face book page.

It is recognised and agreed that in addition to the regular safety inspections carried out annual maintenance /cleaning schedules of all such apparatus is essential.

A 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' application to the Woodland Trust will be made as soon as suitable locations have been identified and submitted for PC consideration at the next meeting.

There is some confusion about the situation with the ditch on Beaumont Road. Parish Council received and commented on a retrospective licence to plant in June this year but have heard nothing since. A request has been made to ECC Highways for a further site visit.

The memorial garden in the new burial ground is proving to be high maintenance and will be reviewed to identify alternative, easier to manage, plants. To complete stage two of the memorial garden it is recommended that two recycled material benches and a memorial plaque be purchased and installed.

A corner of the New Burial Ground has been identified for cremated remains and ideas to identify separation such as a low wall or miniature hedge are being investigated.

New gates have been installed at the entrance to the burial ground from The Avenue and have received positive comments. A key code padlock has also been purchased for the new gates to prevent unauthorised vehicles entering and to ensure the area is kept clear and secure. .

Postponement of the School Fete due to COVID restrictions was disappointing for our planned Village in Bloom launch. However, we were grateful to All Saints Church organising committee for allowing us to take part in their open even on 10th & 11th July and all agreed it was a great success.

The postponed School Fete has been rescheduled for 25th September and we have two stalls booked.

The Community Care Initiative has PC support to submit an application to our County Councillor for a grant to purchase additional planters for the Villages in Bloom project.

RESOLVED: that additional tree works be approved at a cost of **£360**. Proposed Cllr Bailey Seconded Cllr Nice – all in favour.



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RESOLVED: that the purchase of 2 memorial benches be approved at a cost of **£733.54**. Proposed Cllr Bush Seconded Cllr Nice – all in favour.

Public Rights of Way / Footpaths

Cllr Land read out a follow up email from ECC about the ongoing matter of the ditch alongside footpath 13. We are waiting for a further update from the ECC officer.

Cllr Schooling explained that with our current limited resources it wasn't possible to walk all footpaths and ROW every month and asked residents to help us by directly reporting to us any concerns they may come across.

TDALC

Chairman was unable to attend due to other commitments although was able to update from circulated draft minutes.

There is a big steer on the 'green agenda' signed up to by all local councils. An update was presented from the Essex Association of Local Councils. All representatives agreed that meetings should continue to be held remotely although there is continuing pressure to hold meetings face to face.

Village Hall

Two task group meetings took place. Cllr Stephenson attended one of the meetings to talk about the improvements and workings of a similar hall in Clacton.

The Contractor is nearing completion on the current phase of works (emergency repairs and maintenance). Applications are in for grants from ECC and ECF. In order to access the size of grants the structural integrity of the hall comes into question. Cllr Bush outlined the need to think forward for the next generation of hall users. It is therefore recommended that all further work on village hall to be suspended until a report is undertaken and completed by a surveyor / structural expert to enable all options to be properly considered. It is also recommended that a review is commissioned to identify how PC currently communicate with the community and identify options for collaborative working with all current and potential user groups to identify exactly what is wanted from the village hall and support community fund raising opportunities to support it.

RESOLVED: that a survey be commissioned to look at the structural integrity and future build options for the village hall up to the cost of **£5000** for all-inclusive items. Proposed Cllr Bailey Seconded Cllr Nice – all in favour.

LED Lighting

RESOLVED: That the remaining light fittings within the villages (19) be converted to LED sockets and fittings at an approx cost of **£6500**. Proposed Cllr Bailey Seconded Cllr Bush- all in favour

Stones Green

Nothing to report.



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08 / 2021 – 11 | Community Safety

The Chairman gave an update on all of the measures that have so far fed into the 1st stage of PC Community Safety Strategy which included: meeting with ECC highways, Tendring District Council and correspondence with the Police. Cllr Land has submitted a Local Highways Panel proposal for a complete review of all signage. Road markings around the school and along Wix Road to be reinstated for visual enhancements. A School Crossing Patrol Officer has been suggested to the primary school via ECC – school has yet to respond. Policing notices have been put on the PC Face book page to reinforce that speeding can be reported directly to the police. Parking on verges and greenswards to be explored via ‘creative’ options such as benches or bollards and alternative village parking provision to be investigated. A community safety public open meeting is planned to take place in September via TDC. Further details will be published on the Parish Council website and Face book page and all residents are encouraged to attend to make our community voices heard.

Our Community Safety Strategy is ongoing and subject to regular updates, review and evaluation.

ACTION: to put the community safety report onto the website.

08 / 2021 – 12 | Carbon Reduction

Our aim to reduce our carbon footprint is currently being engaged through our plans for tree planting, the installation of LED lights following last year’s trial in Stones Green and Great Oakley Village Square and proposals for Waste Recycling schemes.

ACTION: To split this item down into trees, lighting and waste.

08 / 2021 – 13 | Community Hub Housing Strategy

Cllr Bush gave an update on his desire to see social housing going to local people with current and future developments. Great Oakley Community Hub is waiting for a planning decision to come through for the Red House. Social and affordable housing would fit the objectives of the Hub on this site and a housing needs strategy is required to see if a trust can be setup to achieve the aims of the trust.

Noted: the intentions of the Hub in relation to a housing needs strategy/survey for affordable housing within the village.

08 / 2021 – 14 | Planning applications

There were no planning applications received through the month.

08 / 2021 – 15 | Cheques and finance authorisation

Resolved: that the Cheques be approved. Proposed Cllr Schooling, Seconded Cllr Bailey – all in favour.

08 / 2021 – 16 | Agenda Items for Future Consideration

Tendring Primary recycling scheme

Waste

Meeting closed 21:20pm

Date and Time of next meeting | Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 7.00pm