



# GREAT OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: M D Land

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 AT 7.00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

### PRESENT:

**Chairman:** Yvonne Bailey

**Vice Chairman:** Mike Bush

**Councillors:** Janey Nice, Paul Day, Ann Offord, Cindy Browne, Kim Schooling

**District Councillor:** Mike Bush

**Essex County Councillor:** Daniel Land

12 members of public in attendance.

### 10 / 2021 - 01 | Welcome

The Chairman welcomed those attending the meeting.

### 10 / 2021 - 02 | Apologies for absence

Cllr Daniels.

### 10 / 2021 - 03 | Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

### 10 / 2020 – 04 | To agree the minutes of the last meeting (21<sup>st</sup> September)

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

### 10 / 2021 – 05 | Public participation

MOP commented on the Oakstones Group in relation to the opening of the group / hall.

MOP asked about the number of people allowed into the village hall kitchen.

MOP asked about the tree on Partridge Close. Covered later on agenda.

MOP asked about Red House. Cllr Bush informed the meeting that permission for the development has now been given full approval.

MOP asked about the LED lighting and impact on Insects. Consultation to MOP over replacement lights had been ongoing for many months.

### 10 / 2021 – 06 | Roles and responsibilities

Cllr Browne is interested in flora and fauna / Greensward and be a link between the Council and the School / community organisations

Cllr Offord expressed an interest in the Community Care Initiative, community safety and finance

Cllr Day is happy to pick up passenger transport.

### 10 / 2021 – 07 | District Councillor Report

Cllr Bush gave an update on the following matters.

Road closures / diversions on the A120 from November -February.

20 areas to be put into conservation status through TDC local plan. Request to the community for local knowledge. **Action: Link to be included in the minutes.**



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### 10 / 2021 - 08 | County Councillor Report

Cllr Land reported on the following matters:

Signs by the school to be replaced.

Written to Ashleigh House, re pavement.

Lorries diversion – A120.

Verges have been cut.

### 10 / 2021 - 09 | Clerk Report / Correspondence

Email from Oakstones – re-opening.

Emails from residents of Partridge Close regarding the tree.

Email from resident concerning the grass area on Red Barn Lane – it's being use as a cut through by delivery drivers. TDC will look to install posts.

### 10 / 2021 - 10 | Chairman's Report

Thanks to all Cllrs for their efforts.

Pleased we have two new Councillors who can support the village and its activities, welcome to Cllrs Browne and Offord.

Communication is encouraged through the Gt Oakley FB page and not the Public Group.

Cllr Bailey re-confirmed her wish to step down from the council post-December 2021

Councillors Safety – this has been brought into focus since the tragic killing of an MP.

Remembrance Sunday is on the 14<sup>th</sup> November. PC will have a service from 10.45am at the

memorial. 3 wreaths, Parish Council, District Councillor and Community Care Initiative will be laid

Cllr Day was asked if he could contact any ex-servicemen who could attend to lay the wreaths.

The Parish Council has not heard any more about the development on Beaumont Road. Once we

hear of an application we will post the links on our notice boards, FB page and website. It is advised that people make individual comments to TDC to add more weight.

Joe Tierney's funeral will take place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 12pm at All Saints Church. All are welcome to the service.

### 10 / 2021 - 11 | Reports

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

Repair and maintenance work will commence on the play area this month including a new zip wire.

Clerk has obtained two quotes for the outdoor gym and trim trail.

We are look for suitable sites across the Parish to plant trees for the jubilee. TDC will fund half of any costs.

The ditch on Beaumont Road continues to evolve.

Following the motion to approve the works on the tree on Partridge Close, PC put the motion on hold

pending expert advice from the TDC Tree Officer. He advised it is not a native species and not in the best of conditions but it's not in imminent danger of falling down. Cllr Day asked if it could have remedial work. Cllr

Bailey advised remedial work would be an ongoing commitment at considerable cost. Cllr Bush outlined

that the tree needs to be continually monitored as it nears the road.



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The Greensward on Partridge Close is owned by the Parish Council. There is a motion which stands for six months. Cllr Bailey recommended that any decision on the tree in question be kept under review. Cllr Bailey noted that the planting of trees or any other types of plants or foliage on Parish Council property must have prior permission from the Parish Council. Written requests should be submitted in advance to the Clerk stating type/species, evidence of where sourced and proposed location. Any planting without the prior approval of the Parish Council will be removed.

Two benches to be installed on the memorial garden as well as a plaque.

A kind volunteer still weeds the memorial garden and empties the bins in the grave yard – thanks to Mr Bailey.

Ensure that the new play equipment is fully insured and maintenance contract covers annual cleaning.

### **Public Rights of Way / Footpaths**

No report.

### **Villages in Bloom**

Great Oakley Community Care Initiative -Villages in Bloom project - reports that most flowers have been removed and the planters stored for next year. Boxes have been left in situ and currently identifying plants to provide year round foliage & colour. Our thanks to the kind resident in Stones Green who made and donated the beautiful planter on the small triangle. New planters will be purchased in the next couple of months using the locality fund grant. The project has been totally by donations and sponsorships; this will continue and Parish Council is asked to consider a donation next year. .

### **TDALC**

Chief Exec of TDC gave a talk on activities within the district. A discussion of sorts took place in relation to the Corbeau Car Rally. A disagreement between parties was shared with various points put forward from each side. Some local Councillors are making their voices heard to ECC & TDC regarding the impact on the rural communities affected and the wider detrimental impact of carbon emissions.

### **Village Hall**

Cllr Bush gave an update on his thoughts on the hall, those similar to last month.

Cllr Bailey gave an update on a successful lottery grant secured by Great Oakley Community Care Initiative for a hearing loop, sound system and Wi-Fi.

The Clerk gave an update on previous discussions about the hall. The thrust of those discussions was that: no more significant funds should be spent on the hall until the structural integrity and disability compliance have been investigated by way of the 5k that was signed off at a previous meeting to employ a surveyor / architect.

As long and the plaques are kept, MOP said AS LONG AS THE PLAQUES ARE SAVED PULL THE VILLAGE HALL DOWN AND REBUILD A NEW VILLAGE HALL ON THE LAND.



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A defibrillator should be installed at the Village Hall. Cllr Day said that a new defib was due to be installed at the pub and that a second defib can be acquired for the village hall.

Hourly fees were discussed; comparatives to Wix prices were brought up.

Oakstones indicated their desire to re-open. It is up to the organiser of the groups to ensure that the laws are adhered to. It was put to the public they should re-open based on the above criteria.

Hedges and trees to be cut back on the car park of the village hall.

### **LED Lighting**

A trial took place in Stones Green for the conversion of 3 lamps and a further roll out of two more at the Memorial in Great Oakley. The expected savings were achieved. A notice of intent was put onto the PC website and Face book page that the remaining lights would be converted one month prior to the works starting.

The final conversions of the remaining 19 lamps were completed and to date the PC has only received one negative review.

### **Stones Green**

Nothing to report.

### **10 / 2021 – 12 | Community Safety**

The Community Safety strategy is on the website.

Wasp nest was removed in light of public safety at the back of Woodlands. Garden waste and garden rubbish was noticed too on a site visit. A letter was sent to all residents on Woodlands to update them on the matter. Please be vigilant to spot any acts of fly-tipping and report them. All Councillors and the public should notify 'someone else' if they intend to meet with a member of the public during their duties. Safeguarding advice will be provided to all councillors and made available to the public on the website.

### **10 / 2021 – 13 | Carbon Reduction**

A representative from Chelmsford Motor Club will be in attendance at the November meeting.

### **10 / 2021 – 14 | Christmas Celebrations**

Cllr Browne gave an update:

We can apply to TDC to have an event within the village. Needs to be central, involve the local community and business supplies. Clerk to assist with the grant form.

### **10 / 2021 – 15 | Queen's Jubilee**

Volunteers needed to establish a Platinum Jubilee Committee involving all Village groups – Cllr Bailey said she will champion it as the Community Care Initiative representative. Cllr Nice said she would be the PC representative.

Cllr Bush mentioned beacons that are being lit.



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### 10/2021 – 16 / ECC Devolution.

Cllr Offord Seconded Cllr Nice – all in favour.

### 10 / 2021 – 17 | Planning applications

There were none during the month.

### 10 / 2021 – 18 | Cheques and finance authorisation

**RESOLVED:** that the Cheques be approved. Proposed Cllr Bailey, Seconded Cllr Bush – all in favour.

To Note the findings of the external auditor.

### 10 / 2021 – 19 | Agenda Items for Future Consideration

Cllr Bush – Agree the precept for 2022/23

Set up a Finance Committee meeting – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2.30pm

**Meeting closed 21:30pm**

Date and Time of next meeting | Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.00pm