



**GREAT OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Clerk: Mr D Land**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ON TUESDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 AT 7.00 PM**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Cllr M Bush (acting)

**Vice Chairman:**

**Councillors:** Cllrs Bailey, Browne, Harris, C Bush

**District Councillor:** Cllr Bush

**Essex County Councillor:** Cllr Land

6 members of the public were in attendance.

**04 / 2024 - 01 | Welcome**

Chairman welcomed Cllrs and members of the public. Cllr Bush explained he would be standing in as the acting chair until the May Annual Parish Council meeting next month.

**04 / 2024 – 02 | Apologies for absence**

None declared.

**04 / 2023 - 03 | Declarations of Interest.**

Cllrs Browne and M and C Bush declared a non-pecuniary interest towards the Community Hub planning application.

**04 / 2024 – 04 | To agree the minutes of the last meeting (16<sup>th</sup> January 2024)**

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

**04 / 2024 – 05 | Public Forum**

MOP asked about the water in the toilets can be really hot. **Action:** notice warning of hot water.

MOP asked if we were doing anything for the tour de Tending.

MOP mentioned the BT cover on the soils has been repaired.

MOP reported shots fired in The Soils location – **Action:** speak to Mr Avery

MOP of the public mentioned the bus stops, they could do with a varnish. **Action:** get a quote to varnish.

MOP asked who is responsible for taking the adverts down in the bus stops. They are happy to keep an eye on things and remove where necessary – the PC thanked the MOP.

**04 / 2024 – 06 | Clerks report / correspondence**

Clerk reported the following matters:

- burial queries
- Essex Records Office visit
- end of year accounts
- merging of RCCE subscriptions
- grant for easter eggs
- contact from residents about the erection of the new fence at the Old Vicarage and the inability now for public to make safe passage from Woodlands to the Church, Pre-school and School. Cllr



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Bailey explained where she sees the Parish Council can come from in this matter. Cllr Harris mentioned there were further concerns that pedestrians could be pushed onto the main road to travel to other village amenities, these were allayed by Cllr M Bush. Cllr Browne outlined we could lend our support to any ongoing matters. Suggested that we contact the owners of the Old Vicarage prior to making any further advances.

**04 / 2024 – 07 | Chairman's Report**

Covered in District Council report.

**04 / 2024 – 08 | District Councillor Report**

Cllr Bush gave updates on the following points:

- TDC waste contract is well underway – Jan 2026 will be the change date. National policies will have to be brought into our new contract, glass etc
- Clacton Air show – no Red Arrows, 80 years of the Battle of Britain will attend
- Garden Borders proposal to go to the inspector this summer, link road to be included
- National Grid, pylons and cabling – what next, consultations
- we need new Parish Councillors in Great Oakley
- pot holes - Whispers, Beaumont Road

**04 / 2024– 09 | County Councillor Report**

Cllr Land gave an update on the following matters:

- budget
- priorities
- new initiatives – highways
- my allocation of Locality Funds
- pylons

**04 / 2024 – 10 | Reports**

**Burial Ground, Recreation Field, Play Area and Greenswards**

Reports were submitted by Cllr Bailey.

Positive comments about the burial ground memorial gardens and thanks were given to the volunteers who look after them.

The bin area is being monitored as we have had to have two collections within a month.

The old burial ground is in need of some attention, graves could be tidied up etc. Quote from our contractor will be sought later in the year for this work.

Looking at ideas for an area for cremated remains including memorial garden.

New rules and regs, fees are in play, they will be reviewed each November.

Cllr Browne noted the swing was reported as being damaged, Playquip were notified. We aim to have the equipment cleaned in due course. It was noted that a motor bike flew through the gap into the recreation field from Beaumont Road. It was mentioned that the gap should be considered for closure.

**Action:** seek quote for works to close the gap.

Orchard Close entrance to recreation field – a possible caterpillar nest. **Action:** visit the site.

It was noted that the ditch on The Avenue is blocked and is causing flooding across the road.



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**Public Rights of Way / Footpaths**

Cllr Browne noted Park Pale path is still an issue, overgrowth etc. **Action:** DL to raise issue with Essex Highways.

It was noted that lower meadow footpath which joins Wix road has a tree blocking the path. **Action:** DL to notify Essex Highways.

Pictures have been sent to TDC ref. fly tipping; damaged signs have been reported to ECC.

A visit to Essex Records Office identified that there is one area of common land in Great Oakley, the triangle at Oakley Hall.

**The Environment, Villages in Bloom, Planters**

Cllr Bailey reported that the abandoned planter on Red Barn Lane was kindly removed by a volunteer and re-sited alongside the roadway to Oakey Dokey's. The planter has since been adopted and replanted. This has inadvertently helped with the poor parking outside the school. There is another abandoned planter on the corner of Hamford Drive which need to be addressed.

**Action:** Cllr Browne will investigate if any Hamford Drive resident is interested in adopting the planter on before a decision to remove and resite is taken..

**TDALC**

Report received from Cllr Bailey. Discussion about quarries in Tendring. The pylons are of great concern to certain villages but affects the whole of TDC. Policing stats – crime is down but shop lifting is up. The message from the police is 'report everything'. Fly tipping is a major issue, new team installed.

**Action:** Cllr Bailey will raise the issue of sub contractors apparent lack of management supervision, specifically relating to temporary traffic lights not working properly and failure to advise local residents, at the next TDALC meeting.

**Village Hall**

Discussions as per motions below.

**Stones Green**

Nothing to report.

**04 / 2024 – 11 | To approve the internal auditors for 2023-24**

Moved that we use Clacton Business Services. Proposed Cllr M Bush, Seconded Cllr Bailey – all in favour.

**04 / 2024 – 12 | To consider planning applications received from Tendring District Council.**

The application for Red House will go to TDC planning committee. As three of the Parish Councillors have declared an interest in this application then no comment was made from the PC.

**04 / 2023 – 13 | Cheques and finance authorisation**

**Resolved:** that this month's cheques be approved and signed.

Proposed by Cllr S Harris, Seconded Cllr C Bush – all in favour.



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**04/2023 – 14 | Motions to Council**

**Resolved:** that we accept the quote for the defib installation on the front of the VH of up to £1000.

**Resolved:** that we accept a quote of up to £5000 to repair the roof above the storeroom.

**Resolved:** that we accept a quote of £1075 + VAT to strip and returf the garden.

**Resolved:** that we accept a quote for up to £350 for the cleaning of bus stops and play equipment.

Agreed that the budget for quotes is set at £7000 for storerooms upgrade

Agreed that thermal installation is set with a budget of £2000

Agreed that the lighting quotes is set at £2000

**Proposals taken on block. Proposed Cllr Harris Seconded Cllr Bailey - all in favour**

**04 / 2023 – 15 | Agenda Items for Future Consideration**

How we communicate with residents.

**Meeting closed 20:55pm**

**Date and Time of next meeting | Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 at 7.00pm | Village Hall**