

Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

Held at The Village Hall 7.30pm Tuesday 21st February 2017

Present: Mr S Huk – Chairman, Mr T Spurge – Vice Chairman, Mr J Tierney, Mr B Eaton, Mr N Daniels, County Cllr A Erskine, District Cllr, M Bush

Apologies: Mr M Keating, Mrs J Mason, Mr M Bransby

Chairman opened meeting at 7.30pm.

Declaration of Interest: There were none declared.

Chairman congratulated and welcomed Mr Mike Bush as our District Councillor.

Public Participation: There were 11 members of the public present.

Residents from Partridge Close reported a parked vehicle in the turning area which is causing Heavy Goods Vehicles to turn around in their driveway. This will be reported to the Police as causing an obstruction to the Public Highway. We will also place a notice on the vehicle requesting they move it and we will erect signs up at either end of Partridge Close stating “No Parking, Turning only”.

Cllr Bush reported that the Football Club has issues with moles on the football pitch and there is a pot hole on Farm Road. We have also been contacted directly by the Football Club and this will be dealt with under Correspondence.

Mrs Sewell queried a grass cutting invoice which was submitted in January which is not part of the grass cutting season and it was explained this was for work carried out earlier in the year.

Mrs Sewell also reported fly tipping at The Soils. This will be reported to Tendring District Council.

New Village Hall: Mr Thompson informed the meeting that they have agreed to work with a company called “Village Makers” to deliver the Allotment Field Village Hall, Surgery and Housing. Mr Thompson has viewed past projects, being impressed by the detail and community focussed approach. They are the only developers found who can satisfy that they will deliver something which fits in with Great Oakley and of suitable quality. The developers have spent a considerable amount of time in the village and will be undertaking considerable further consultation with the village and key stakeholders in the coming months so work can start on site this year. It is proposed that individual houses will be sold “off plan” to a number of pre-approved designs.

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 17th January 2017, after being circulated, were proposed as correct by Mr Daniels, seconded Mr Spurge, carried unanimously.

Progress Report:

Village Hall

The art club have asked if they can put pictures up in the Village Hall. We agreed to put up some picture rail up to facilitate this.

Fly Tipping

A parishioner reported fly tipping at the Soils. This was passed on to Tendring District Council.

Defibrillator

Mrs Ling asked if we could put a defibrillator on the outside of the Village Hall. We investigated the cost and suppliers, before finding out that The Maybush have one situated outside. With this in mind everyone agreed there is no immediate need for a second one at the Village Hall at this time.

Roller on Recreation Field

Mr Keating reported that the large metal roller which is on the corner of the Recreation Field needs to be removed for safety reasons. After contacting the football club, who owns the roller, they removed it.

Pavement near School

We have been reporting the condition of the pavement near the school for the last year and once again reported it to The Rangers team at Tendring District Council. Following the latest report, the pavement has now been cleared; a note of thanks to be sent.

Light Outside School

The light outside the school needs reporting because it wasn't working. This will be brought to the attention of our contractor.

Planning

We have a contentious planning application which we want to be "called in" for consideration by the full Planning Committee but without an incumbent District Councillor we contacted Cllr T Ferguson who offered to do this on our behalf. Chairman sends our thanks to her and Cllr Erskine for their assistance. Details of our previous comments in opposition to the application to be sent to Cllr Bush now he is in post.

Art Club Disclaimer

We need to provide a disclaimer to the Art Club to indemnify us against loss or damage when pictures are displayed in the Village Hall. This is currently ongoing.

Gas Tank Fence

The fencing around the gas tank in the Village Hall car park needs changing to a chain link fence to enable air flow. We are waiting on prices.

Highways:

Community Hub Sign

Mr Daniels has asked for Parish Council support to have a sign for the Maybush put on a lamp post near the war memorial. After discussion it was agreed we support this but Chairman suggested a note to local residents asking for their thoughts.

Chairman reported that Highways are preparing to resurface through Stones Green.

There is a sign in Great Oakley saying the B1414 will be closed for four days. We don't know anything about this. Cllr Erskine will investigate.

Cllr Erskine reported that the railings outside the school will be repaired.

Post Office: Mr Daniels has been in contact with the Post Office to find out information regarding Post Office facilities at The Maybush. He received the following response:

"Great Oakley is an outreach branch operated by the Postmaster of Upper Dovercourt. An outreach can only be operated by an established Postmaster from a Core branch such as Upper Dovercourt, in this case. Therefore, I am sorry to inform you that it cannot run independently without a core branch. Secondly, we have a legal contract with Upper Dovercourt to run this service. As far as rent is concerned, Post Office Ltd does not pay any rent for running an outreach but it is locally arranged by the core Postmaster."

In light of this it was agreed to write to Mr Mystery and request details of the current usage of the Post Office.

Village Hall: The electricity fixed price plan is ending in March so a new plan needs to be investigated. Clerk has found a cheaper deal on the internet and Chairman will work with her to secure a better plan. Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Spurge, carried unanimously.

Public Rights of Way: Mr Keating was not able to attend but provided us with a written update as follows:

- Footpath 12 Fingerpost now visible from B1414 after being cleared of vegetation.
- Footpath 24 Fingerpost (Stones Green Road) repaired and showing correct direction of footpath.

Going forward, he proposes to carry out an audit on Dog Bins in the Parish and will report back at a future meeting.

TDALC Report: Mr Tierney reported that planning was the main subject at the meeting. Some Parishes were complaining about omissions from the planning and determination lists, but we find them to be complete as far as we are aware.

Planning:

Application No: 17/00167/TPO

Proposal: 1 No. Oak – front of property – pollard by 1-2 metres

Location: Old Oak Cottage Farm Road Great Oakley Harwich

Great Oakley Parish Council had no objections regarding this application.

Accounts for Payment:

Parish Council Expenditure

A & J Lighting Solutions	Street Light Maintenance	722397	£ 46.08
Miss J Bootyman	Wages	722398	£ 250.85
E-on	Street Lighting	D/D	£ 112.38
TOTAL			£ 409.31

Village Hall Income

Yoga	Hall Hire		£ 10.00
Yoga	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Dog Club	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Yoga	Hall Hire		£ 17.00
Children's Party	Hall Hire		£ 20.00
TOTAL			£ 81.00

Village Hall Expenditure

Julia Turner	Expenses	Cash	£ 11.98
Julia Turner	Wages	400755	£156.00
Calor	Gas & Standing Charge	400756	£594.93
TOTAL			£762.91

After being circulated, accounts proposed as correct by Mr Eaton, seconded Mr Daniels, carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

Football Club

The football club have contacted us to say there is a serious issue with mole hills on the football pitch which could cause issues with the FA. They have a quote of £95 + VAT to remove the moles. Chairman suggested we fund half of the cost (£50). Proposed Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Eaton, carried unanimously.

Letter

We received a letter from a Parishioner who has a copy of the new burial ground plan, showing a footpath running through the centre and shows a location for a bench seat. In this letter she asks when these are going to be put into place.

Chairman has responded thanking her for her interest and commenting that the footpath would cause a maintenance issue and with such an open field there is no need at this time. Once the first quadrant has been filled, the need for a footpath will be reconsidered. There has been no decision made to place any benches at the new burial ground in the foreseeable future.

There being no further business, Chairman closed meeting at 9.12pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....