

Minutes of Great Oakley Parish Council Meeting

Held at The Village Hall 7.30pm Tuesday 18th April 2017

Present: Mr S Huk – Chairman, Mr T Spurge – Vice Chairman, Mr J Tierney, Mr N Daniels, District Cllr M Bush

Apologies: Mr M Keating, Mr M Bransby, Mrs J Mason, Mr B Eaton, County Cllr A Erskine

Chairman opened meeting at 7.30pm.

Chairman reminded Council that as a General Election has been called we are in what is known as Purdah until the results are known. We need to effectively refrain from making politically sensitive decisions but more importantly from a Parish Council point of view we should not express political opinions as Parish Councillors views as Parish Councillors. Of course, individuals are free to do as they please, as individuals.

Declaration of Interest: There were none declared.

Public Participation: Cllr Bush has been approached by a funeral director regarding a recent funeral which was carried out. He has been asked why the family was charged double the amount they should have been. Cllr Bush was assured that the family in question was charged the correct amount which was in fact the discounted resident fee.

Cllr Bush has received complaints from three residents regarding the service road ditch off Beaumont Road. Council are aware of the matter and it is in the hands of Essex County Council who are responsible for regulating such matters.

Cllr Bush reported that the Community Hub have made an offer on The Red House which has been accepted in principle by the Estate Agent. The idea is to provide a community kitchen and upstairs accommodations. The Parish Council will support where we can.

Mr Daniels reported that the Farm Road sign needs straightening and he has offered to do this.

A parishioner from Partridge Close said that the grass cutting is improving in this area but the contractor needs to pay more attention to detail. The contractor will be notified.

A parishioner reported that the cycle route sign (51) is leaning over so this will be reported to Essex County Council.

New Village Hall: Mr Tierney circulated the website details of the developers Mr Thompson is working with. Mr Daniels will invite Mr Thompson to our next meeting.

Minutes of Annual Assembly held on Tuesday 21st March 2017, after being circulated, were proposed as correct by Mr Tierney, seconded Mr Spurge, carried unanimously.

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Progress Report:

Parked Car

A car has been parked for a protracted period of time in the turning circle at Partridge Close. We have agreed to erect signs at each turning circle which will hopefully deter people from doing this in the future. The sign maker will provide a price based on the specifications we have provided. We have received an email informing us that the car belongs to a local resident and will write to them directly and ask they remove the vehicle.

Fly Tipping

Fly tipping at Little Oakley junction with The Soils has been reported to Tendring District Council.

Art Club

The Art Club would like to display paintings in the Village Hall so they needed to sign a disclaimer indemnifying any third party of damage. This has been issued and signed. The Art Club are arranging to have picture rail put up at no cost to the Parish Council.

Village Hall Car Park

The low hanging branches from the trees in the Village Hall car park have now been trimmed back.

The Avenue

We previously received reports that during a recent funeral, road access was limited due to parked vehicles along The Avenue. We have been in contact with PCC and the problem has been addressed.

Post Office

The future of the Post Office in the Village Hall needs to be discussed so we will try to arrange for a meeting with the Postmaster. We requested the footfall for this service and we were informed that the total footfall is 30 with transactions totalling 100.

Maybush Sign

The Community Hub members would like to hang a sign from one of our lanterns near the war memorial. After a consultation with residents in this area, two objections were received. Parish Council members agreed in principal, asking the pub to ask their customers to be considerate to residents when parking.

Parking Farm Road

Mr Daniels brought to our attention that Mr Thompson has suggested part of his field in Farm Road could be used for overflow parking from the pub. Councillors agreed that this would be a project for the Community Hub to discuss with Mr Thompson.

Highways: Mr Eaton brought to our attention that following the resurfacing work through Stones Green, the drains are now blocked with tarmac. A formal letter of complaint will be sent to Highways.

Fly Tipping Prevention CCTV: Mr Tierney (on behalf of Mr Keating) circulated examples of proposed signage for the CCTV surveillance cameras. In principle they are a good size with appropriate wording.

Essex County Council have been contacted and they need to know the precise details of the intended locations of the signs, details of the street furniture they are to be affixed to and details of the design of the signs. Mr Tierney suggested contacting EALC to see if they have any advice.

We have completed the online ICO registration.

Public Rights of Way: Mr Keating reported the following:

- A fallen tree across the footbridge on the junction of footpaths 26/27
- There is a problem with dog mess on the footpaths and Mr Keating has contacted Tendring District Council Street Scene Department requesting penalty signage to be placed on fingerposts.
- Currently there are no dog bins provided within the Parish of Great Oakley to the West of the church.

TDALC Report: The last meeting was on 22nd March 2017 where the Police & Crime Commissioner reported that he wants to reverse the trend of “disappearing” policeman. Police are being issued with smartphones so they can complete reports at the time of incidents and they want to bring back Special Constables instead of PCSO’s because they have more powers.

Planning:

Application No: 17/00224/FUL

Proposal: Two storey rear extension

Location: Ivy Cottage Colchester Road Great Oakley Harwich

Great Oakley Parish Council had no objections regarding this application.

Accounts for Payment:**Parish Council Income**

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--|-------------------|
| Tendring District Council | Precept | | £ 9,877.00 |
| Santander | Interest | | £ 25.63 |
| Harwich Funeral Services | Burial | | £ 500.00 |
| TOTAL | | | £10,402.63 |

Parish Council Expenditure

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Information Commissioners Office | Registration fee | 722406 | £ 35.00 |
| A & J Lighting Solutions | Street Light Maintenance | 722407 | £ 46.08 |
| E-On | Street Lighting | D/D | £ 112.38 |
| Ainsley Bird | Tree Pruning | 722408 | £ 70.00 |
| Jobsihate | Grass Cutting | 722409 | £ 227.86 |
| Jobsihate | Grass Cutting | 722410 | £ 578.90 |
| Miss J Bootyman | Wages | 722411 | £ 250.85 |
| TOTAL | | | £ 1,321.07 |

Village Hall Income

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|--|-----------------|
| Line Dancing | Hall Hire | | £ 17.00 |
| Pet Care | Hall Hire | | £ 21.00 |
| Football Club | Hall Hire | | £ 46.00 |
| Line Dancing | Hall Hire | | £ 17.00 |
| Line Dancing | Hall Hire | | £ 17.00 |
| Flower Arranging Workshop | Hall Hire | | £ 17.00 |
| Dog Club | Hall Hire | | £ 85.00 |
| Table Top & Quiz Night | Hall Hire | | £ 34.00 |
| Hire Table & Chairs | Hire | | £ 10.00 |
| Line Dancing | Hall Hire | | £ 17.00 |
| TOTAL | | | £ 281.00 |

Village Hall Expenditure

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| Julia Turner | Wages | 400758 | £ 162.50 |
| Julia Turner | Expenses | | £ 12.71 |
| TOTAL | | | £ 175.21 |

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

Correspondence:**Planning**

We have received an email regarding a planning application for a temporary helipad at Great Oakley Lodge. Galloper Wind Farm Limited have said they would be happy to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain the application and answer any questions. All agreed to send out an invitation for them to attend our next meeting.

Burial Ground

We have received further correspondence regarding the burial ground plan and when we might install the paths shown thereon. All Councillors agreed this is not practical to install paths while the field is almost empty. We will contact the resident again and try to explain.

Community Hub

The Community Hub have contacted us to inform us they would like to purchase The Red House, Great Oakley to use it for the Community. The proposal is to provide hot meals each day, utilise the yard for parking to help alleviate the chronic parking crisis in the centre of Great Oakley and use the first floor for accommodation for the benefit of villagers in the form of affordable lets that would be provided to those looking to downsize but who do not want to leave the village.

There being no further business, Chairman closed meeting at 9.14pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....