

# ***Little Oakley Parish Council***

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in the Millennium Room, St Michael's Church, Ramsey starting at 7:00pm.

Emma Haward

Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

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**Present:** Cllrs Attrill (Chairman), C Aubrey, J Aubrey, Coates, Griggs, Harbour, Lane, Pearce and Sanderson.

**Also in attendance:** Emma Haward (Clerk/RFO)

**Members of the Public:** There were no members of the public present.

## **23/136 Public Announcements**

There were no public announcements.

## **23/137 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **23/138 Declarations of Interests**

There were no Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Personal Interests.

## **23/139 Signing of the Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr Attrill, seconded by Cllr Griggs, and RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## **23/140 Public Speaking**

There were no public speakers.

## **23/141 Report from District Councillor Bush**

No report due to absence.

## **23/142 Report from County Councillor Land**

No report due to absence.

## **23/143 Clerks Report**

Previously circulated.

**Heras Fencing, Oakley Coronation Park** – The Clerk received a response from Planning Services after liaising with the Enforcement Team who advised accordingly:

Oakley Coronation Park already has open wired fencing around the play area itself. Unfortunately, TDC are not able to ask the developer to erect or place any additional fencing around the development unless there is a specific point raised in either the Construction Method Statement or drawings which were granted. Although TDC are not in a position to assist with this matter, it should be noted that any harm or injury caused to a person who enters a construction site, legally or illegally, it is the owners responsibility and leaves them open to legal action. The Parish Council may

wish to contact the HSE if they believe there is a safety issue regarding this point as a secondary course of action.

Clerk to contact the developer to request that fencing is erected around the site for safety reasons. If no action is taken, to contact Health and Safety Executive on behalf of the Parish Council.

Clerk to seek additional quotes for electricity supply and contact neighbouring parishes to seek more information around their own supply.

### **23/144 Finance**

Previously circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr Attrill, seconded by Cllr Sanderson, and RESOLVED to approve the payments and expenses for March.

### **23/145 Planning Applications**

**24/00224/FUL - Land Between No. 9 and Walcot Harwich Road Little Oakley Essex** - Construction of detached house.

The Parish Council agreed to support this application as the applicant has met the requirements made in the 2019 outline permission and agreed that the proposal is in keeping with the village.

Clerk to submit comments to Planning Portal.

### **Determinations**

**23/01422/FUL - 52 Rectory Road Little Oakley Harwich Essex CO12 5JU** - Change of use of existing dwelling to C2 (care home) and proposed 3 bedroom assisted living bungalow.

Full approval was granted on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**24/00180/WTPO - St Marys House Clacton Road Little Oakley Harwich** - Proposal: T1 - reduce lime tree by 40%. T2 - reduce lime tree by 40%. T3 - prune back oak tree away from building. T4 - Re-pollard 3 lime trees.

Full approval granted on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**23/146 Planning application 21/02144/FUL - Land to The South East of Foulton Hall Harwich Road Little Oakley Essex CO12 5JA** - *Proposed removal of vegetation, localised removal of topsoil, construction of a seawall, associated borrow dyke system and wave breaks and managed realignment of coastal flood defences by breaching of the existing seawall to create estuarine and coastal habitat comprised of approximately 76ha of intertidal mudflat, approximately 19ha of intertidal mudflat/saltmarsh transition, approximately 10ha of saltmarsh, approximately 5ha of sand and shingle and approximately 7ha of fresh/brackish water borrow dykes, together with associated engineering (including diversion of footpath), drainage and earthworks.*

The Parish Council received and discussed the Report of the Director of Planning (TDC) for this application. Parish Councillors agreed to reiterate their original objection submitted requesting that the proposed footpath sits on top of the bund and that maintenance and inspections are regularly undertaken.

Cllrs Coates will speak on behalf of the Parish Council at Tendring's Planning Committee taking place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at 5pm in the Committee Room of Clacton Town Hall. Cllr Griggs advised he will also be in attendance and will speak if required.

Cllr C Aubrey will look in to producing a recording of the statement to Committee to publicise the Parish Council's stance.

Cllr Attrill to contact the East Anglia Gazette and Harwich and Manningtree Standard to advise of Committee and offer a statement in relation to the application.

Cllr Griggs gave an update on the petition following the Parish Council's latest submission. The number of signatures has increased from 1,345 to 1,525.

### **23/147 Football Pitch, Oakley Coronation Park**

Cllr Attrill contacted PlayQuip to seek advice in relation to rabbits. PlayQuip advised that there are numerous fencing options to deter rabbits, but the main issue would be to ensure it is strong enough to go around a football pitch, the continued impact of a ball can soon damage a fence. Play Quip recommend duo8 fencing, it is specifically designed to go around ball courts and it tough enough to withstand the punishment inflicted, it is also rabbit proof. To reduce costs the height could be as low as 1.0m but they would be required to fit a gate. The fence costs around £80.00 a linear metre installed, total cost would be around £6,800.00. There are cheaper alternatives, but the initial saving may be soon lost if regular repairs are required.

Cllr Attrill visited the site, the rabbit holes on the football pitch had diminished but more had appeared on the main field. Cllr Attrill also spoke to a pest controller who suggested gassing the burrows but the area must be cordoned and monitored as it is in close proximity to the school. Cllr Attrill to look into how Little Oakley Memorial Club deter rabbits.

Cllr Coates to respond to Lambert Smith Hampton regarding the accessway and any land swap with the developer.

### **23/148 Footpaths, Litter and Hedge Maintenance**

Footpath from Memorial Club to Oak Ridge – Cllr Griggs to contact Andrew Cullen and Cllr Dan Land to request advice on repairing/improvement of the footpath.

Litter – The Parish Council will raise concerns about litter on the A120 to Cllr Dan Land. The next village litter pick takes place at 10:30 on the 7<sup>th</sup> April meeting outside the Memorial Club.

Hedge Maintenance at the end of Oak Ridge – Clerk to write to the occupier of the property to request that the hedge is cut back to clear the footpath.

### **23/149 Governance and Policy Documents**

#### **Review of Code of Conduct Policy**

Clerk contacted TDC to ask if Code of Conduct training was still offered to Parish Councillors. Training is no longer offered, but will look into offering some in due course. Clerk also contacted Pearl Wilcox at EALC to offer advice in terms of the amended Code of Conduct recommended by the Local Government Association and to seek training opportunities.

The item was deferred to the next meeting to seek advice and obtain training options.

### **Review of Lone Worker Policy**

Following a discussion around risk assessments and method statements, Cllr Harbour agreed to produce a RAMS template to share with the Parish Council for future-use with lone workers.

Clerk to look at Community Clerks Network Facebook page for advice on how other parish councils deal with risk assessments and lone working.

It was proposed by Cllr Attrill, seconded by Cllr Griggs, and RESOLVED to defer the Lone Worker Policy to the next meeting.

### **23/150 Items for Next Agenda**

- Oakley Coronation Park
- Code of Conduct & Lone Worker policy

### **Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

Annual Parish Assembly, Wednesday 10th April 2024, Millennium Room, St Michaels Church, Ramsey at 7.00pm.

Full Council, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024, Millennium Room, St Michael's Church, Ramsey at 7:15pm.

Meeting concluded at 20:34 pm.