

Little Oakley Parish Council

Clerk: Vikki Howard 3, Rectory Road, Little Oakley, Harwich, Essex. CO12 5JX

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2015

**Present: Cllr Jackson, Cllr Griffiths, Cllr Howard, Cllr Steer, Cllr Griggs, Cllr Wrycraft
Cllr Hunnaball (19:05), Cllr Thomas (19:15)**

Also present: 1 member of the public

15/001 Apologies for absence

There were apologies from Cllr Cullen and County Councillor Erskine.
Cllr Thomas informed the clerk she would be late.

15/002 Declaration of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Howard declared a pecuniary interest in items 15/009 – Finance and 15/010 - Pension

15/003 Signing of the minutes from 12th December 2014

It was **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th December 2014 were correct and true.

Proposed: Cllr Griffiths

Seconded: Cllr Wrycraft

All agreed

15/003a Matters deemed urgent by the Chair

Streetlight consultation TDC – deadline 23rd February

Cllr Howard spoke about the Tendring District Council streetlight consultation. He explained that some parties wanted Tendring District Council to pay Essex County Council 160k to turn the streetlights back on, which are currently turned off between the hours of midnight and 5am.

Cllr Howard said at the full council meeting of Tendring District Council, the leader of the Council, Cllr Page informed the District Councillors that this consultation was open to the public.

A discussion took place and it was resolved to write into the consultation.

(see appendix 1)

Proposed: Cllr Howard

Seconded: Cllr Griffith

All Agreed

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15/010 Pension – This was moved to the front of the agenda

Cllr Howard left the room for this item

The clerk explained that with regard to the new rules coming in she would like to opt into a pension. She had been in touch with ECC who had sent some information through.

This will require a notice to be put up on the notice boards for 28 days and then it has to come back to a full council meeting to be resolved.

Cllr Howard returned to the room at 19:09

15/011 Report by District Councillor Tom Howard – this was moved due to a correspondence item (see appendix 2)

15/004 Correspondence and Updates

Reply from Cllr Bass – Cllr Bass replied and said he would be delighted to meet with the Parish Councillors with regard to the LED lights in Little Oakley

Community Energy – The clerk informed the councillors about the energy event that would be happening on the 4th March.

Broadband Email - Computer & Telephone Technology. The clerk read out an email from Mr Blott regarding a broadband solution.

The clerk was asked to contact Mr Blott and ask him for some case studies and last years finances.

Proposed: Cllr Hunnaball

Seconded: Cllr Griffiths

All agreed

A120 – The speed cameras are now operational and a 50 mph speed limit is in force.

15/005 To receive quotes for the work needed on the Playground Fence

The clerk had received 3 quotes for the work needed on the playground fence.

The Parish Council felt that at this stage it was better to just replace the bars as and when needed.

It was Resolved to go with the quote from Dunninghams. This was to replace the bars as and when required.

Proposed: Cllr Hunnaball

Seconded: Cllr Griggs

All agreed

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15/006 To receive quotes for the maintenance of the playground grass and emptying of the bin.

The clerk had received two quotes for the maintenance of the playground grounds. She had also asked TDC if they could help but they could not.

It was **Resolved** to give the contract to Andrew James Maintenance Ltd for a year.

Proposed: Cllr Wrycraft

Seconded: Cllr Steer

All agreed

15/007 TDALC – to listen to a report from Cllr Cullen

This was deferred until the next meeting

15/008 Elections

The clerk gave out the election packs for the upcoming Parish Council elections.

Cllr Thomas gave her resignation to the Chairman Cllr Howard. She said that due to family commitments she was unable to continue. Cllr Howard thanked Cllr Thomas for her time as a Parish Councillor.

Mrs Thomas went and sat with the public.

15/009 Finance

The clerk went through the finance and the cheques that needed signing.

(see appendix 3)

Proposed: Cllr Hunnaball

Seconded: Cllr Griffiths

All agreed

15/012 Report by County Councillor Andrew Erskine

There was no report

14/013 Public Speaking – there are 15 minutes for public speaking.

A member of the public said that she had attended the police street meet in January.

She passed a letter to the chairman that she had received from the PCC regarding street meets.

14/014 Items for next agenda and information only

There were none

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Appendix 1 – Response sent to Tendring District Council Part Night Street Lighting Consultation

Little Oakley Parish Council held their meeting on the 11th February 2015 and discussed the Part Night Lighting proposal and their response.

Please find below the response that was agreed at full council.

Little Oakley Parish Council oppose the proposal for Tendring District Council to pay Essex County Council to put the lights back on. This is on the grounds that Little Oakley residents will be paying three times (3x) for lights.

Little Oakley Parish Council are also concerned that this will set a precedent for other Essex County Council services.

In the event of this decision proceeding, Little Oakley Parish Council believe it would only be fair, just and reasonable that Little Oakley Parish Council be reimbursed for the cost of the electricity for our streetlights between the hours of midnight and 5am.

This Resolution was proposed by Little Oakley Parish Council Chairman Cllr Howard and seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed by all remaining councillors.

Please could you acknowledge receipt of this email?

Kind regards

Vikki

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Vikki Howard

Clerk to Little Oakley Parish Council

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Appendix 2 – Report by District Councillor Tom Howard

District Councillor Report – 11/2/2015

Broadband

Despite a request from Bernard Jenkin MP for BDUK Superfast Essex to meet me, which was sent to them well before Christmas, they have failed to arrange the meeting.

Following communications with TDC, BDUK Superfast Essex confirmed to me via TDC that they have no plans to upgrade cabinet 4 in Little Oakley. BDUK have indicated that cabinet customers will receive at least 2 Mb/s by summer 2016 due to “general network improvements”.

I have also been in discussions with BT regarding the rollout of broadband in both Great and Little Oakley. BT indicated that their commercial programme has now finished and they therefore have no planned upgrades to solve the issues that I raised. They also confirmed that cabinet 4 was excluded on the grounds of cost. This raises concerns about BDUK’s plan for cabinet 4 customers to receive 2Mb/s resulting from “general network improvements”.

While there is some potential to involve commercial companies to provide better broadband independently of BDUK and BT, the main issue with these solutions continues to be the cost of implementation and the difficulty in them achieving a return on investment that makes it worthwhile. One of the most effective solutions would also be likely to result in local people losing the internet completely for a couple of weeks while that solution is implemented, and there are clearly concerns as to whether people would be prepared to put up with that in order to benefit from faster broadband.

I do have some further ideas on how to progress local broadband, and how potential solutions could be funded. However, due to the proximity of the upcoming elections, I will investigate these solutions after the elections.

I submitted a representation to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee when it considered rural broadband.

My submission lead to the following quote in their report issued on February 3rd 2015:

“Nearly every council and Local Enterprise Partnership for growth emphasises the importance of superfast broadband and other digital infrastructure in attracting and retaining businesses of all sizes. Councillor Tom Howard suggested that broadband was a core service requirement for rural living, while the Local Government Association added that:

Access to fast and reliable broadband is as important a strategic consideration as electricity, planning, housing and transport for living and doing business in the twenty-first century”

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Furthermore, the chair of the committee Miss McIntosh said: *“The Universal Service Commitment of 2 Megabits per second (Mbps) is already outdated. This is a minimum speed commitment to the public and it must reflect modern technological demands, it is not high enough; 10 Mbps is a more suitable target. Further, it should be regularly reviewed to ensure the UK does not slip behind other European countries.”*

Street light funding

TDC included 160k in the budget for 2015/16 to pay Essex County Council to put the lights in Tendring back on between midnight and 5am.

This has been included to be used subject to the decision due at Full Council on 24th March 2015.

TDC are currently conducting a public consultation on whether TDC should pay Essex County Council to put their street lights back on between midnight and 5am.

Their consultation ends on 23rd February 2015.

Appendix 3 – Finance

Finance Report January 2015

Summary

Balance from 1st December 2014		£1217.90
Less cashed cheques:		

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Vikki Howard – wages consolidation payment	001114	£13.51
Hire of Hall	001111	£20.00
Vikki Howard - Expenses	001115	£75.00
Mike Isted – Grass Cutting	001112	£50.00
Accent Stationers	001113	£25.98
	Total out	£184.49
Plus Income to cheque account		£0.00
Less Direct Debits:		
Eon		£66.36
A & J Lighting		£41.26
	Total D/D	£107.62
Balance in cheque account as of 31st December 2014		£925.79
Balance in Savings Account as of 31 st December 2014		£5590.19
Less Uncashed Cheques Listed Below		£231.02
Overall Balance as of 31st December 2014		£6284.96

Uncashed Cheques		
Oonagh Stein - Internal Audit		£100.00
SLCC		£ 77.00
Play Inspection Company	001116	£ 54.02
	Total	£231.02

Finance Report February 2015

Summary

Balance from 1st January 2015		£925.79
Less cashed cheques:		
	Total out	£0.00

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Plus Income to cheque account		£0.00
Less Direct Debits:		
Eon		£68.58
A & J Lighting		£41.26
	Total D/D	£109.84
Balance in cheque account as of 31st January 2015		£815.95
Balance in Savings Account as of 31 st January 2015		£5590.19
Less Uncashed Cheques Listed Below		£231.02
Overall Balance as of 31st January 2015		£6175.12

Uncashed Cheques		
Oonagh Stein - Internal Audit		£100.00
SLCC		£ 77.00
Play Inspection Company	001116	£ 54.02
	Total	£231.02

Cheques tonight

Vikki Howard – Expenses **£73.83** - Domain renewal for 5 years - £49.95 & Web hosting - £23.88

Playquip inspection - **£144.00**

Hire of Hall – **£20.00**

Vikki Howard – expenses **£19.95** - Local Councils Book - £14.95+ £5 P+P