

# *Little Oakley Parish Council*

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

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**Present:** Cllr Howard, Cllr Wrycraft, Cllr Steer, Cllr Griggs and Cllr Hunnaball, Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Jackson

**Also present:** Mr Michael Good - LOFC

### **15/035 Apologies for absence**

There were apologies from Cllr Cullen and County Councillor Erskine

### **15/036 Declaration of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr Howard declared a pecuniary interest in items 15/039 Clerks Pension and 15/044 Finance

### **15/037 Signing of the minutes from 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

It was resolved to accept the minutes from the 18<sup>th</sup> March meeting as true and correct.

**Proposed:** Cllr Wrycraft

**Seconded:** Cllr Griggs

**All agreed**

### **15/038 Police Report**

PCSO Ladkin had reported at a street meet that there had been one crime in Little Oakley in the past month. This was an assault – an egg was thrown out of a vehicle at a cyclist.

### **15/039 Clerks Pension**

Cllr Howard declared a Pecuniary Interest in this item and did not participate. Councillors were advised by the Clerk that a public notice had been displayed for the required 28 days. Council passed a resolution agreeing to the formal enrolment of staff in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

**Proposed:** Cllr Griffiths

**Seconded:** Cllr Wrycraft

**All agreed**

### **15/040 Eon**

It was resolved that the clerk should get some quotes from Eon and other electricity companies for street lighting and bring this item back to the next meeting.

**Proposed:** Cllr Griggs

**Seconded:** Cllr Griffiths

**All Agreed**

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## **15/041 New Light**

Cllr Griffiths said he had been wondering about putting a new light in on the Harwich Road. The clerk had done some research and gave the council a rough estimation on how much installing a new light would cost. After a brief discussion it was **Resolved** not to buy a new light at this time and to review it later in the replacement programme.

**Proposed:** Cllr Griggs

**Seconded:** Cllr Hunnaball

**All Agreed**

## **15/042 Planning**

### **15/00433/FUL - Two Storey extension 78 Harwich Road**

Cllr Griffiths read out the application and the council discussed it in detail. It was resolved to support this planning application.

**Proposed:** Cllr Griggs

**Seconded:** Cllr Griffiths

**All agreed**

### **15/00401/FUL - Change of use of Land to a football pitch.**

Cllr Griffiths read out the application and the Chairman Cllr Howard asked Mr Michael Good from LOFC to explain the application in more detail.

The time of the use of the new pitch was brought up by Cllr Howard and Mr Good replied that the pitch would only be in use on Sundays from 10am – 3pm.

He also went on to say that the pitch would be orientated from East to West.

Little Oakley Parish Council Resolved to support this application ONLY if the following conditions were put on as planning conditions. These were:

#### **Condition one:**

Activity on the pitch will only take place between the hours of 10am and 3pm on Sundays.

#### **Condition two**

That the orientation of the pitch should run from East to West e.g parallel to the Harwich Road.

Without these conditions, then this response should not be taken as a support comment

**Proposed:** Cllr Hunnaball

**Seconded:** Cllr Jackson

**All agreed**

## **15/043 Any urgent items since the publication of the agenda**

There were none

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## **15/044 Finance**

Cllr Howard declared a pecuniary interest in this item and did not participate  
See appendix 1

**Proposed:** Cllr Hunnaball

**Seconded:** Cllr Steer

**All agreed**

The clerk asked permission to transfer £1000 from the savings account to the cheque account. It was resolved to give the clerk permission to do so.

**Proposed:** Cllr Griffiths

**Seconded:** Cllr Wrycraft

**All agreed**

## **15/045 End of year accounts**

The clerk had circulated the accounts to all councillors. It was resolved to approve the end of year accounts for 2014/2015.

**Proposed:** Cllr Hunnaball

**Seconded:** Cllr Griffiths

**All agreed**

## **15/046 Report by District Councillor Tom Howard**

See appendix 2

## **15/047 Report by County Councillor Andrew Erskine**

There was no County Councillor report sent

## **14/048 Public Speaking – there are 15 minutes for public speaking.**

There was no public speaking

## **14/049 Items for next agenda and information only**

A new website is being worked on for the Parish Council

**NB. No decisions can be made under this agenda item.**

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## Appendix 1 – Finance Report

Balance from 1st February 2015		<b>£815.95</b>
<b>Less cashed cheques:</b>		
	<b>Total out</b>	<b>£388.80</b>
<b>Plus Income to cheque account</b>		<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Less Direct Debits:</b>		
Eon		£68.58
A & J Lighting		£41.26
	<b>Total D/D</b>	<b>£109.84</b>
<b>Balance in cheque account as of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015</b>		<b>£317.31</b>
Income to Savings Account		<b>£1261.34</b>
<b>Balance in Savings Account as of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015</b>		<b>£6851.53</b>
Less Uncashed Cheques Listed Below		<b>£100.00</b>
Overall Balance as of 31st January 2015		<b>£7068.84</b>

<b>Uncashed Cheques</b>		
Oonagh Stein - Internal Audit		£100.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£100.00</b>

## Cheques tonight

Ray Rowley – Bus Shelter	£150.00
J D Signs – Playground Sign	£12.60
Accent Stationers	£50.91
EALC – Course	£25.00
Clerks Salary (6 Months)	£1453.88
Clerk Expenses (phone & Stamps)	£85.89
Web Maintenance	£33.00
Hire of Hall	£20.00
Clerk Salary - CiLCA	£93.45
Playquip	£54.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1978.73</b>

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## **Appendix 2 District Councillor Report**

### **Parking**

I have been contacted by a resident with concerns about the ongoing parking problem on the blind bend on the B1414 Harwich Road near the old Methodist Church.

The resident wrote:

"It is not unusual to have up to 12 cars and vans parked on this stretch of the road. It is impossible to drive towards Harwich and see around the bend. Once committed there is no exit strategy available and drivers must trust to luck that any oncoming traffic will slow or stop to avoid a head-on confrontation.

This is a daily occurrence and it is only a matter of time before there is a serious collision and someone is injured or killed. [A resident] recently witnessed an aggressive stand-off between two motorists on this section of road causing long tail-backs in both directions and a heated argument between the two drivers.

If there were to be road repairs that encompass a small fraction of the area covered by these parked cars, a risk assessment would require a measure of traffic control on health and safety grounds. It is therefore unsafe for vehicles to be parked in this manner.

The residents would no doubt argue that they have nowhere else to park. When the speed limit was 40 mph (a much safer situation) they had to find another place to park and it is a public highway and not someone's personal parking space.

Additionally, the parking near the entrance to Cherry Tree Close is equally dangerous, with cars parked all around this junction. It is the approach to a main road, an entrance / exit to the pub car-park in addition to the turning into the Close."

The resident continued to quote relevant sections for the Highway code including, DO NOT stop or park:

- **Opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space**
- **On a bend**

Unfortunately, this issue is well documented and despite efforts at all levels to identify solutions, no viable solutions that anyone will implement have come forward. Ultimately, it is a ECC Highways issue and ECC need to take the lead on identifying and implementing a resolution. I will be passing these latest comments on to ECC for them to respond to.

### **Broadband**

I am still awaiting the meeting with Cllr Kevin Bentley from ECC to discuss concerns that I have with the way that BDUK rollout is happening in Essex. Despite **two** requests for this meeting to take place from Bernard Jenkin MP, ECC have not responded.

As many of you will have seen, the area around Cabinet 4 on the corner of Cherry Tree Close appears to have been marked up for a new FTTC cabinet. No confirmation has been received of this and all normal contacts are refusing to comment on it. Given that these parties have previously told me that no new cabinet would be installed, it is perhaps a 'coincidence' that it looks as if one may appear when ECC are being pressed to have a meeting with me on the BDUK broadband rollout.

### **Community, Leadership & Partnership Committee**

A recent CLP scrutiny committee sat at TDC to question local health officials, including the leaders of CHUFT and the CCG amongst others. On behalf of this committee, I prepared and submitted a document with several pages of specific questions for the relevant officials to answer.

All those before the committee acknowledged how good the questions were, and they committed to supplying a written response to them all. To date that has not emerged, but they are still committed to responding.

In verbal responses to my questions on the night, they acknowledged that:

- they were making insufficient use of Harwich & Clacton hospitals and that they need to improve in that area, and
- that they needed to and are working to improve their staff retention rates.