

Little Oakley Parish Council
Email: littleoakleypc@gmail.com

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 14th June 2017

Present: Cllr Griffiths (Chairman), Cllr Hunnaball, Cllr Griggs, Cllr Cullen

Also Present: District Cllr Bush, County Cllr Erskine, Members of the Public

Start Time 19:20 hrs

17/059 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Attrill (holiday) and Cllr Steer (illness)
Cllr Griffiths mentioned that Cllr Steer is unable to attend due to illness although would have liked to attend. A Get Well Soon card from the Parish Council has been sent to Cllr Steer.

17/060 Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Cllr Cullen has an interest in item 17/065

17/061 Signing of the Minutes

The Minutes from the meeting on 10th May were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Hunnaball

Seconded: Cllr Griggs

17/062 Urgent Matters

There have been two applications for the position of Parish Clerk, interviews are still to be arranged which will be organised by Councillors later.

17/063 Councillors Portfolios

Cllr Griffiths went through the list of Councillors Portfolios and asked if everyone would like to keep the same Portfolios from the previous year. Everyone agreed to this. Portfolios are as follows:

Planning Cllr Attrill

Footpaths Cllr Griggs

Playgrounds Cllr Hunnaball

Emergencies Cllr Cullen

Proposed: Cllr Griffiths

Seconded: Cllr Hunnaball

17/064 Finance

Cllr Griffiths advised that the Annual Return had been sent in on time. This was achieved by employing a retired accountant to do help with this. All the accounts now have an audit trail and the accountant has also set up an account system for the year 2017-2018. Cllr Griffiths presented last month's accounts (see attached sheet). Cllr Griffiths also advised that the bank had been contacted regarding changing details for making and authorising bank payment but there had been an error which has left payments due to be made in May having to be paid in June. Cllr Griffiths mentioned that this should be noted as it will need to be mentioned to the accountant/auditor for the next Annual Return.

The hire of the hall also needs to be looked into, Cllr Griffiths advised that we have not received an invoice from the Rector and that they should be contacted and advised of the new email address for invoices to be sent to. A request for a copy of invoices remaining unpaid at the present time should also be requested.

Cllr Cullen thanked Cllr Griffiths for all the recent work he had undertaken and explained how busy this time had been due to problems caused by the many changes such as with the bank etc.

With regards to both the current and savings account it was noted that the savings account was high due to the half new year precept. At present it was felt there was no need to transfer any monies from the savings account to the current account. Expenses were then submitted by Cllr Griffiths which were approved and signed off by Cllr Cullen. An invoice for admin services for May has also been received from Jeanette Sands.

Proposed: Cllr Cullen

Seconded: Cllr Griggs

17/065 Planning

Cllr Attrill had forwarded details prior to going on holiday. There were four items in total.

Cllr Griffiths advised that two of the applications - 17/00485/Ful and 17/00529/Ful had both received full approval.

17/00782/FUL - Ramped access to 25 Harwich Road, Little Oakley

This is to give disabled access to the property. It was agreed to support this application.

Proposed: Cllr Griggs

Seconded: Cllr Hunnball

Cllr Cullen then left the room as per his declaration in item 17/060.

17/00835/OUT

Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the development of up to five dwellings with associated access and landscaping.

Land South East of Harwich Road, Little Oakley, CO12 5JA

Cllr Griffiths read out the email from Cllr Attrill giving reasons why the Parish Council should object to this application, these being:

- 1) It is considerably outside the Settlement Development Boundary of Little Oakley
- 2) It is within an existing Coastal Protection Belt (2007 Local Plan and the current draft plan)
- 3) TDC's 5 year housing supply has been proven therefore any presumption in favour of sustainable development as details in the application planning statement should be dismissed.

It was agreed to follow Cllr Attrills recommendations.

Proposed: Cllr Hunnball

Seconded: Cllr Griffiths

As members of the public had attended in order to discuss this application Cllr Griffiths brought forward the Public Speaking section of the meeting. Cllr Griffiths advised there would be 15 minutes allowed for this.

17/069 **Public Speaking**

Members of the public attended to raise concerns regarding the proposed development of five properties which would back onto properties in Seaview Avenue. The main concerns focused around access, future development, safety, services and affects the development would have on a rural area.

Some of the residents of Seaview Avenue were concerned as the properties would back onto their houses which would cause a loss of light. At present they are not overlooked and have a view over open fields to the sea, this would no longer be the case once the properties were built. Another concern was that their properties would lose value and it would be more difficult to sell them. It was also felt that the development was not in keeping with the rural area.

Access - it was felt that the proposed access road to the development being on a sharp bend was not suitable and could be dangerous. There was also concern raised as there would be an increase in traffic from service vehicles such as refuse collections and van deliveries. Cllr Griffiths mentioned that the that the Highways department sees the access as acceptable as it has 90 yards visibility.

This part of the road has poor lighting and one side does not have a pavement.

There is also an ongoing problem with flooding following heavy rain. When this happens many vehicles use the other side of the road to avoid driving through the floodwater which could pose problems if vehicles are leaving the development.

Members of the public were concerned that this could lead to more accidents. There is also a large oak tree which people were concerned would be removed for access, Cllr Griffiths advised that the tree did not have a preservation order on it.

Access from Seaview Avenue

Residents mentioned that there is access to the site from the bottom of Seaview Avenue itself. They were unhappy that if this is used the road would no longer be a cul de sac and they would see an increase in traffic - both domestic and service vehicles. A resident at number 17 gave an open invitation for councillors to visit to see the difference the building of these properties would make to his home.

Other concerns

These focused on whether the local services could cope with the development. It was mentioned that the Doctors Surgery is already under pressure due to large numbers of patients and the local school may also see an increase in child admissions. However Cllr Griffiths advised that at present ECC have said that the school numbers are not a problem.

The power supply problems the village has was also mentioned as the village has many problems with power cuts. It was thought that an increase in the size of the village due to future developments may increase the loss of power at times.

Residents also were worried that if this development is allowed then the size of this could increase in future with more houses being added.

Cllr Griffiths concluded by advising members of the public that if they had any objections to the planning application they should send these to TDC before June 22nd.

Speeding

Members of the public were concerned that there appears to be a number of vehicles speeding through the village at speeds in excess of 30mph. Cllr Griffiths advised that a survey had been done and the number of vehicles found travelling through the village over 30mph was very low. If residents were worried about this a speed gun could be obtained but it would need someone to offer to do this and they would need to undergo training.

Cllr Griffiths closed the public speaking session after 20 minutes.

Cllr Cullen returned to the meeting.

17/066 Replacement Bus Shelters

Details regarding replacement bus shelters have been received from Adrian Summers. The shelters are the same style ones as the shelter opposite Seaview Avenue which is metal and includes a small seat. These shelters would replace the shelter at the bottom of Seaview Avenue with new shelters added to Mayes Lane and the bus stop opposite Mayes Lane. A discussion took place and it was decided to ask if the Mayes Lane replacement could be put so it is facing the other way round which will prevent people waiting from getting wet which is a problem at the moment due to the direction of rainfall. The shelters will be replaced free of charge and it was agreed to accept this however it was not clear if the removal of the old bus shelters would also be free of charge. A letter is to be sent to ask about both the positioning of the shelter and the removal of the old shelters.

Proposed: Cllr Cullen

Seconded: Cllr Hunnball

17/067 Report by District Councillor Mike Bush

District Cllr Bush reported that the draft local planning proposal for housing is now to go before the cabinet and then to go through to the Inspectorate. A discussion regarding the new housing proposals which affect Colchester and Tendring were discussed with regards to how the new housing developments would affect the infrastructure of the areas - education, schools transport, social services etc.. Locally District Cllr Bush discussed the problems of potholes, since February some of these have now become very deep especially on Lodge Road and Bayview Avenue.

The hedge problem on Rectory Road is ongoing but the hedge is being cut back at present.

District Cllr Bush also reported that there was one anti social behaviour problem on Mayes Lane but this was being addressed by Social Services.

17/068 Report by County Councillor Andrew Erskine

County Cllr Erskine reported that with regards to the pothole problems the criteria for these has been challenged because the small pot holes are getting bigger very quickly. The criteria needed to be changed so that smaller road potholes were repaired quicker than at present and that ECC are the ones who should be challenged on this.

County Cllr Erskine also reported that most of the roads in Tendring had now been resurfaced making them waterproof.

17/069 Public Speaking

This item was moved to join item 17/065 by the Chairman due to members of the public attending the meeting with regards to one of the planning items in 17/065. Please see item 17/065.

17/070 Items for the next meet and Update/Correspondence

No items were received. A letter to Lucy Ballard thanking her for her recent help has been sent.

Cllr Griffiths thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 20:10 hours.