

Little Oakley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

**Held on Wednesday 16th May at 7.00 in the Millennium Room, St Michaels Church,
Ramsey**

Present: Councillors Griffiths, Cullen, Bush, Hunnaball and Griggs

Others Present: Jeanette Sands – Clerk/RFO

18/001A

Introduction

Cllr Griffiths welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

18/002A

Apologies for Absence

Apologies have been received from Cllr Steer and County Cllr Erskine.

18/003A

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests

No declarations were made.

18/004A

Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting

Due to administrative problems these minutes were unavailable for this meeting but will be available for the next Parish Council meeting in June.

18/005A

Chairmans Report

Cllr Griffiths gave his report for his previous year as Chairman. The first priority of the Parish Council last year was to employ a new Clerk/RFO which resulted in Jeanette Sands taking up the position. Courses are being taken for her to obtain the Clerks qualifications. Cllr Griffiths thanked the Clerk for her help over the year.

In December of 2017 the final four street lights where changed over to LED.

Potholes are still causing problems but ones on the B1414 Clacton Road have been repaired however the ones on side roads are still waiting to be repaired. The drainage at Foulton Hall corner caused problems due to blockages but these were cleared after the Clerk contacted ECC.

The Parish Council were offered two new bus shelters. One at the bottom of Seaview Avenue has been installed but due to a mix up with the contractors the one originally to go at the bottom of Mayes Lane was installed on the wrong side of the road. We are hoping the one near Mayes Lane will be replaced this year.

The Parish Council are looking into funding for an outside gym similar to the one in Dovercourt but on a smaller scale. We are considering sighting it on the greensward at Oakridge and will be carrying out a consultation with parishioners later this year.

The Council finances are in order, expenditure was lower than budgeted for. The replacement bus shelter meant we did not spend as much on bus shelter maintenance and for a period we did not have a Clerks wages and pension to pay. The savings are going to be put into the reserves for the childrens playground and street lighting, these items incur the highest expenditure.

The General Data Protection Regulation which takes effect on the 25th May this year has taken up a lot of the councillors and especially the Clerks time, the “took kit” prepared by the National Association of Local Councils is 63 pages long and the fines for not meeting the requirements are heavy. A major problem has been the requirement for a Data Protection Officer, as it was deemed that the Clerk was the person handling the data so could not take on this role. In most cases the Clerk is the only paid employee and works part time. Various options were put forward by different Councils but they all involved extra expenditure. At the beginning of May the Government proposed an amendment to its own Bill, now passing through the House of Lords to exempt Parish Meetings, and Parish and Town Councils from needing to appoint a Data Protection Officer. However Councils will still have to abide by the regulations.

Cllr Griffiths thanked all the Councillors and the Clerk for their contributions and help in running the Council during the year.

18/006A

Finance Report

Jeanette Sands gave the financial report. As mentioned in the Chairmans report expenditure for the year was lower than the Council had budgeted for. The Council had prepared a budget for the financial year 2018-2019 which was slightly lower than the combined precept and grant received from TDC for this year. The Council applied for a precept of £15772.00 for the new financial year with the grant being £548.00 giving a total of £16320.00. When planning expenditure for the new financial year the Council had taken into account possible increases in costs. Reserves were also included in the budget with the largest amount being reserved for the childrens playground as this area can have very high maintenance costs involved. The Council had also appointed an internal auditor for the 2017-2018 accounts.

18/007A

Public Speaking

No members of the public attended the meeting.

The Meeting Closed at 19.20