

Little Oakley Parish Council
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**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 19th September 2018
In the Millennium Room, St Michaels Church, Ramsey
Meeting Start Time 19.00**

Present: Cllr Griffiths (Chairman), Cllr Cullen (Vice Chairman), District Cllr Bush, Cllr Griggs and Cllr Hunnaball

Also Present: County Cllr Erskine and Jeanette Sands (Clerk/RFO)

18/072

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Attrill

18/073

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests

No interests were declared

18/074

Signing of the Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting and these were duly signed.

Proposed: Cllr Griggs

Seconded: Cllr Cullen

18/075

Urgent Matters

The Clerk has received a letter from Cllr Steer offering his resignation for personal reasons and wishes this to take immediate effect. Cllr Griffiths has organised a thank you card for Cllr Steer and will take this to him on Friday. Councillors were saddened to hear of the resignation but understood why Cllr Steer had stepped down. Cllr Steer had been a member of the Parish Council for many years and will be greatly missed. An evening out with Cllr Steer is to be organised, Cllr Griffiths will mention this when visiting on Friday. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will announce a Casual Vacancy and this will be put in place as soon as possible.

A severe weather warning has been received and the details are to be put on the website.

Proposed: Cllr Griggs

Seconded: Cllr Cullen

18/076

Clerks Report

Overgrown Hedge opposite the Cherrytree

The Clerk received an email from Roger Pile shortly after the last meeting advising he had permission to trim back the hedge. This has now been completed and an email to thank Mr Pile has been sent from the Clerk.

Operation London Bridge

Reverend Rosie Tallowin has contacted the Clerk to advise that they are working with Harwich Town Council and that during Operation London Bridge all three churches will be open, each one will have a book of condolence for the public to sign.

Replacement Bus Shelter

The replacement bus shelter for the corner of Harwich Road and Mayes Lane has now been completed and an email thanking Highways has been sent.

Remembrance Sunday

The Clerk has received details from a resident regarding the names of the Servicemen on the War Memorial. They have offered further help if the Parish Council would like this. The Clerk has checked the names against the list the Parish Council has and they are the same. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would email and thank the resident for the offer but explain that the Parish Council already has these details.

114 Rectory Road

The Clerk has now emailed the resident who queried the building at 114 Rectory Road giving the details received from TDC

Riders Using Footpaths

The Clerk has emailed Essex Police with details and is waiting for a reply

Playground Repairs

This is still ongoing. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact two local companies for quotes to carry out the repairs.

Soiling of Footpath

There has been a reoccurrence of the soiling of the footpath between Oakridge and The Memorial Club. This is to be monitored and if it gets more frequent the Clerk will contact the police again.

Notice Boards

The Clerk mentioned that the doors of both notice boards were sticking and also that the top part of the boards appeared to be a little loose. She also requested a handle be added to both to help open the doors and prevent the possibility of the key snapping in the lock. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Griffiths will have a look at these.

18/077

Finance

On September 1st the current account balance was £1568.87 and the savings account was £16471.71. These balances include reserves of £860 in the current account and £7382.00 in the savings account. Expenses for the month are £18.96 for Microsoft software. Expenditure for the month is £482.86 and proposed expenditure for October is £521.64. The clerk requested a transfer of £296 from the savings account into the current account to keep the reserve in place.

Microsoft Software

The Clerk is to arrange for the changeover of the Software to one in which the Parish Council makes a one off payment instead of monthly payments once Martyn Andrews is available.

Annual Return

The auditors have been in contact regarding a few queries. These were due to large differences in expenditure and income from 2015-16 and 2017-18. These were explained as being due to grants for playground refurbishment and the cost of the refurbishment. The increase in Precept was explained as having to cover the lower grant being given and also to cover for any increases in services etc. The fixed asset register was also discussed.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the expenses, transfer and payments.

Proposed: Cllr Griffiths

Seconded: Cllr Cullen

18/078

Planning

18/01430/HHPNOT – single storey rear extension. 5 Bay View Crescent.

After looking at the plans for the extension it was **RESOLVED** to give a Neutral decision for this application.

18/01253/TPO – Determination. 1 No Birch. Remove limbs back to trunk and balance remaining tree. 52 Harwich Rd.

This has been given full approval 27th August

10 Harwich Road (The old post office) – This had been queried as no planning application had been seen for the removal of the up and over garage door and the replacement of this by a window and door. The site has been visited by the Planning Department who were advised that the change of doors and addition of a window had been done in order to allow more light into the garage. The Parish Council were advised that the works have been carried out under and in accordance with Permitted Development Rights so no further action is necessary. At a later date should the owners wish to convert the garage into an additional room they could do so under the above legislation without needing planning permission.

18/079

Special Expenses

The list of Special Expenses were read out and no changes were thought necessary. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Special Expenses and to contact TDC with this decision.

Proposed: Cllr Cullen

Seconded: Cllr Griffiths

18/080

Footpaths/P3 Meeting

Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Cullen attended the meeting held with Shirley Anglin regarding Parish Councils taking over the cutting and maintenance of footpaths. The meeting was held with Ramsey and Parkeston Parish Council as the boundaries between both Parishes are very close. Another meeting with Ramsey and Parkeston PC is going to be arranged. Shirley Anglin outlined the scheme which would see the first cut of the year done by ECC, the rest would be done by the Parish Council. Shirley Anglin also mentioned that when a Parish Council does take over the footpath cutting they need a P3 representative to be a contact with ECC, this can be either a volunteer or a Councillor. Concerns were raised that if the first cut was scheduled for June/July and there was a warm/wet spring the footpaths would soon get overgrown very quickly. Also the type of machinery needed to keep the footpaths clear would need to be very strong. Other concerns raised were the use of volunteers, this would only be feasible as long as there were people who would volunteer and if any stepped down others would be able to take their place. The use of contractors could work but if the contractor stopped working for the Parish Council ECC would not take up the cutting of the footpaths again.

Email from EALC (Joy Darby CEO) Devolution and Public Realm/Highway Services

An email had been received from Joy Darby discussing how, in future, Parish Councils would be able to arrange for certain types of work to be done without going through many different channels. This would cut down on the time it takes to arrange anything and would take some pressure off District and County Councils. Some of the items listed were, weed control, grass cutting, installing and maintaining signs, winter salt bag schemes and bus stop and bus stop flags maintenance. County Cllr Erskine explained that if the Parish Councils picked up the smaller jobs such as reporting of damaged road signs, they could report this directly to the relevant department therefore quickening the process. There will be a team responsible for being the contact for Parish Councils (this is being trialled at the moment and the team is working under Ringway Jacobs). The Maintenance of Highways and LHP budgets are being used to cover this. This is being seen as bringing a lot more work down to Parish Council level. Also in the case of grass cutting if the cost to employ teams to cut grass etc. went over the allotted 7 pence per metre paid by ECC to the Parish Council then the Parish Council would need to meet the rest of the cost out of their precept. It was felt that this could lead to an increase in precepts and therefore an increase in Council Tax. County

Cllr Erskine advised that it would be necessary for the Parish Council to look at what is being proposed in more detail and compare this against what is being done now and what could be done. Joy Derby has asked for several Parish Councils to put their names forward to help trial this. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact Joy Derby and advise that it was felt that Little Oakley Parish Council is not a big enough Parish Council to take part in this trial.

18/081

Website

Cllr Griffiths reported that more items have now been added to the new website including previous years Agendas and Minutes. Cllr Griffiths would like to put a Hit Counter onto the site and will find out how this can be added. The website does not appear to be working that well with mobile phones and Cllr Griffiths will find out if anything can be done to change this.

18/082

Report by District Cllr Bush

Litter Picks

District Cllr Bush reported that more litter picks have taken place in Great Oakley and have been very successful. They are finding that since the litter picks started less litter is being dropped. As the litter picks were going really well it was discussed as to if they could extended to include both Little Oakley and Stones Green. These would be every couple of months. Notices advertising the litter picks could be put up onto the website. They are seen as a good way to bring communities together.

Playing Field

This is still ongoing and different scenarios were being put forward. District Cllr Bush is to have a meeting to discuss what can be done as at present the village has little/no facilities.

Defibrillator

District Cllr Bush has now been trained to use a defibrillator and asked if the Parish Council would be interested in joining with Great Oakley Parish Council in a training session. The Parish Council advised that they would be interested.

Prospective New Councillor

District Cllr Bush advised that he has been approached by a resident interested in becoming a Councillor. An invite to the next meeting will be sent out by District Cllr Bush.

18/083

Report by County Councillor Erskine

County Cllr Erskine reported that some of the roads in Great Oakley were now being resurfaced and pot holes filled in. However there were still some pot holes which were very large requiring filling in, these have been measured and reported. Many of the back roads are in need of repair/resurfacing and these are now being done or will be done in future. Pavements are also being looked at.

18/084

Public Speaking

No members of the public were present therefore no time was given to public speaking

18/085

Items for the next agenda.

No items were put forward but Cllr Griffiths requested that should any items need to go onto the next agenda Councillors should email these to the Clerk

The Meeting Closed at 08.45

