

*Little Oakley Parish Council*  
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**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
In the Millennium Room, St Michaels Church, Ramsey  
Meeting Start Time 19.00**

**Present:** Cllr Griffiths (Chairman), Cllr Attrill, District Cllr Bush, Cllr Griggs and Cllr Hunnaball

**Also Present:** Jeanette Sands (Clerk/RFO)

**18/102**

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Cullen  
It was **RESOLVED** to accept these apologies.

**18/103**

**Declaration of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests**

No interests were declared.

**18/104**

**Signing of the Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting and these were duly signed.  
Proposed: Cllr Attrill  
Seconded: Cllr Griggs

**18/105**

**Urgent Matters**

Cllr Griffiths discussed the recent survey sent from the Police Community Messaging service which asked if people were in favour of raising the precept on their Council Tax to cover an increase in police numbers/services. The survey is for individuals to complete and Cllr Griffiths asked if Councillors agreed for this to be put onto the website for residents to complete should they wish to do so. There is also a survey from TDC names Fear of Crime which will also go onto the website. EALC have sent out a questionnaire concerning Strategic Planning, this is to be completed by the Clerk.

All agreed for the two surveys to go onto the website.

**18/106**

**Co-option onto the Parish Council**

It was mentioned that a couple of people have shown an interest in joining the Parish Council. As there are 3 casual vacancies it was decided to contact the Harwich and Manningtree Standard and put up notices on both notice boards to see if any other people wished to put their names forward. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact the Harwich and Manningtree Standard and put notices onto the notice boards.

**18/107**

**Clerks Report**

The Clerk reported that there have been no more reports of scrambler bikes riding on the footpaths.

ECC have been contacted with regards to the installation of a zebra crossing, a reply has been received and in order to progress this County Cllr Erskine is to be contacted. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact County Cllr Erskine.

Damaged Way Sign Post – the Clerk reported that this has now been replaced. Cllr Attrill was thanked for making the damaged post safe by taking off the spiked top.

War Memorial Cleaning – the Clerk reported that this had been completed ready for the Remembrance Service.

Playground - a voice mail message had been left by the Clerk but there had been no reply. Cllr Cullen had also left messages previous to this and once again no call back had been received. Cllr Hunnaball suggested another company. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact the company suggested by Cllr Hunnaball and get a quote for the repairs to the following items; the small gate, the Multi Play (toddler), the tractor and the Spring Horse. There is also a railing but the Clerk had been unable to find this. This is to be checked again.

The dates of the inspections were queried, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will check the dates and the frequency of the inspections and report back next meeting.

The bench in the playground also needs repairs but it was decided that it would be more cost effective to replace this with a stainless steel bench. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would find out more details and costings and report back next meeting.

## **18/108**

### **Finance**

The RFO reported that there is still a healthy bank balance which after December expenditure will be £18000.85, this may vary depending on any extra expenditure which comes in after this report. A request to transfer £350.00 from the Savings account to the Current account was agreed. This will ensure that payments for December will be covered. With the transfer of the website grant to the savings account all reserves are now held in one place.

Expenses claimed are for the final payment of the Microsoft Software, training course expenses (mileage and car parking), maintenance of the noticeboards and the wreath for the Remembrance Service.

Councillors were then given copies of the proposed budget from the finance committee. It was decided to put the Bus Shelter repairs and maintenance budget into the reserves. Changes to the budget were discussed and a provisional precept figure of £16392.00 was reached. This can be finalised once the details are received from TDC. It was also decided to look at costings for replacing bus shelters. It was **RESOLVED** that the finance report and expenses were accepted.

Proposed: Cllr Griffiths

Seconded: Cllr Hunnaball

It was **RESOLVED** that the provisional precept figures of £16392.00 be accepted.

Proposed: Cllr Bush

Seconded: Cllr Attrill

## **18/019**

### **Planning**

Determinations – 18/01611/FUL 79 Mayes Lane, disabled access to front of property. This was given full approval on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018.

Planning Applications – 18/01772/FUL and 18/01773/FUL both for 17 Mayes Lane.

It was explained that the above two applications are for the same plot of land, 17 Mayes Lane.

Application 18/01772/FUL is to demolish the existing bungalow and replace this with two semi-detached bungalows. Application 18/01773/FUL is to build a further two semi-detached bungalows at the rear of the plot. Having looked at the proposed plans it was **RESOLVED** to OBJECT to these planning applications for the following reasons.

Overdevelopment of the site - a single property per plot would be more in keeping with the area as opposed to 2 semi-detached properties per plot.

The development is out of keeping with Hammond Drive.

The two separate applications should be viewed together and not as individual applications.

District Cllr Bush advised that he will also be taking this up at District level.

### **18/020**

#### **Social Media/Facebook Course**

Cllr Attrill reported back after taking a course at EALC about the use of Social Media by Parish Councils. Most of the day concentrated on Parish Councils having their own Facebook page. It was felt a Facebook page could be useful for keeping residents updated with traffic problems, road closures, litter picking days and other events/campaigns. Although items such as Minutes and other reports would not be posted onto a Facebook page a link could be made with the Parish Council website for people to follow. Links could also be made to other Parish Councils. Cllr Attrill advised that the page couldn't not be set up as a group as this could lead to limited access but as an open page with admins to look after it. A Social Media Policy document is also required, SLCC have a model Social Media Policy which Cllr Attrill will look at using. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Attrill will look into setting up a Facebook page and that the Social Media Policy be discussed at the next meeting.

### **18/021**

#### **Playing Field**

Cllr Bush advised that this is still ongoing with meetings with EEC. One problem with the area in question is that this has to be kept in case the school needs to expand in the future. However looking at the 10 year forecast for schools they show a decrease in many of the primary schools. If successful in obtaining land for a new play area there would be a possibility of grants from Sport England but this could only be done if the play area were available long term. There was a discussion as to whether there are other areas within the Parish which could be used, the area would have to be low cost and have a low impact on that space (goal posts and benches) and be available to be used by all the community. As this item is still ongoing it was **RESOLVED** to add this to the next agenda.

### **18/022**

#### **Notice Boards**

Cllr Griffiths reported that the oil has now been purchased and once the notice boards are dry he will be able to apply this which will save the need to sand and re varnish every year.

### **18/023**

#### **Website**

This is still a work in progress, there is now a hit counter which was showing 100 hits last time it was checked. Most is not all items which need to be transferred from the old website should be moved onto the new site by the end of the month.

### **18/024**

#### **Footpaths**

The damaged signpost has now been replaced. Cllr Attrill was thanked for making the damaged post safe.

The length of the footpaths within the Parish Boundary were discussed with a view to estimating the cost of cutting these if the Parish Council were to take over this from ECC/Rangers. Cllr Griggs has offered to measure these paths.

**18/025****Report from District Councillor Bush**

Overgrown hedge Rectory Road – this is still ongoing. District Cllr Bush has spoken to the Rangers but the road has the national speed limit applied this has to be taken to ECC. This is still ongoing and will be added to the next agenda.

New Waste Collections – this will go ahead in May 2019 and details are now on the TDC website. If anyone has any queries they can contact TDC via the website. It was mentioned that some houses will still have fortnightly black bag collections where as others in the same road will have wheelie bins, this is due to access problems for some properties.

Waste and Fly tipping – District Cllr Bush advised the Councillors that the Keep Oakley Tidy volunteers were taking part in another litter pick on November 25<sup>th</sup>. They would also like to widen the area and are looking to build this by advertising what they are doing via social media. TDC have hoops and litter pickers in stock to share and Veolia will take away the bags of litter collected.

Crime Presentation – This is a new group where Essex Police are offering advice to residents as to how they can help to protect their property against burglaries during the winter months (doors, locks, lights etc) District Cllr Bush will keep the Parish Council up to date with this.

Potholes and Repairs – this is still being done but not to a very good standard

Salt Stocking – it was decided against this as no easily accessible area for storing salt could be found plus this would also need volunteers to put this out.

**18/026****Report from County Councillor Erskine**

County Cllr Erskine was unable to attend therefore no report is available

**18/027****Public Speaking**

No members of the public attended the meeting therefore there was no public speaking

**18/028****Items for the next Agenda**

Social Media Policy

Playing field

Footpaths

The meeting closed at 20.57