

Little Oakley Parish Council
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**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 12th December 2018
In the Millennium Room, St Michaels Church, Ramsey
Meeting Start Time 19.00**

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

Also Present: Jeanette Sands (Clerk/RFO) and a member of the general public

18/119

Apologies for Absence

County Cllr Erskine has sent in his apologies.
It was **RESOLVED** to accept these apologies.

18/120

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests

No interests were declared.

18/121

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 Bush

18/122

Urgent Matters

Cllr Griffiths discussed the Christmas gift to Terry for picking up litter over the past year. It was usually £75 but has been this for many years. It was decided to increase this to £100. This was agreed by all and Cllr Griffiths will arrange to give Terry the money. The Clerk will put an expense form in for Cllr Griffiths to reimburse him for this as the Parish Council has no way to withdraw cash from the bank account.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Griffiths arranges the gift and the Clerk will arrange the expense form for reimbursement to Cllr Griffiths.

18/123

Clerks Report

Surveys - The Clerk reported that the surveys regarding the raising of the precept for the police, the EALC Strategic planning survey and the TDC Fear of Crime survey have all been completed.

Casual Vacancies – notices are on the noticeboards but the H & M Standard have still to be contacted.

Zebra Crossing – the Clerk asked for clarification of where the zebra crossing is to be placed as the details available suggested across Mayes Lane, however the actual request was for a crossing between the bus stops on Harwich Road. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will go ahead and contact County Cllr Erskine with the request and also copy in the Clerk for Ramsey and Parkeston as a courtesy as one of the bus stops is in their Parish.

Planning Applications – the Clerk advised that the objections were sent to TDC for both applications as individual items.

Bench for the Playground – quotes are being requested, three companies have been contacted by telephone. This is for a perforated steel bench fixed to the ground. Earth Anchors have been the only one to come back with a quote and this is for £1100 inc VAT. All benches come as a flat pack and would need building and installing. This is still ongoing.

Playground – as requested the Clerk advised that inspections for the playground occurred in April, August and November 2018.

18/124

Playground Inspections and Reports

Chris Mayland from Great Oakley Parish Council attended the meeting to discuss future playground inspections and repairs. He explained that he is fully qualified to carry out these duties and is responsible for the playing fields and playground area in Great Oakley. At present he is waiting for a list from TDC which gives details of companies who are able to repair playground equipment and will pass this on when he receives it. The annual inspection for 2017 for Little Oakley playground appears to not have been carried out. It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would look into this and advise Councillors. Annual Inspections can be carried out by TDC in May at a much reduced cost. Mr Mayland has offered to carry out the weekly, monthly and quarterly inspections for the playground, he advised times and days do vary for these inspections. A further discussion followed with questions from Councillors regarding various items of equipment and qualifications. The paving slab under the gate was discussed as this is a trip hazard, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the Memorial Club and see if they will replace this as it is outside the play area. It was also **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will look into the notice period for the playground company currently carrying out the inspections for the Parish Council. Mr Mayland was thanked by Councillors for coming along and they will contact him in the future regarding any decisions.

18/125

Finance

Councillors were advised that the balance of the current account on December 1st was £1001.03 and the Savings account £23400.11. Expenditure for December is £697.43 and the RFO requested a transfer of £250 from Savings to the current account to act as a buffer in case of any other expenses during January. At present the approx. expenditure for January stands at £322.96. Expenses to agree were for 2 x Cilca course days (mileage and car park – total £85.10) There were no expenses to claim for the Elections course as the Clerk car shared with another clerk for this. A cheque for £63.75 has been received being the bursary payment from previous courses attended by the Clerk. This is not included in the above figures as the cheque has not yet been sent to the bank for processing.

Precept – the RFO advised that the Ready Reckoner is now available and to receive a precept of £16392.00 would involve an increase of 1.1%. It was **RESOLVED** that this figure should be used and that the Precept request be sent to TDC.

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

Proposed Cllr Cullen

Seconded Cllr Hunnaball

It was also **RESOLVED** to accept the Finance Report and the expense claims.

Proposed: Cllr Griffiths

Seconded: Cllr Bush

18/126

Planning

Determinations – 18/01657/OUT 21 Mayes Lane. Visibility, and access road kerb radius change, this was given Outline Permission on 21 November.

18/01528//FUL – St Clares, Rectory Lane. Full approval was given on 15th November.

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

There have been changes for 18/01772, the plot is now smaller than on the original application but plans are still to build 2 semi-detached bungalows on this plot. It was decided to send a decision in as an Objection as it is felt that this is still an overdevelopment especially as the plot is now smaller.

18/01773 – the original application to build 2 semi-detached bungalows at the rear of the plot have now been changed to just one bungalow. A decision of Neutral was reached with regards to the change of 2 semi-detached to 1 detached bungalow but it was still felt that both applications for 17 Mayes Lane should be looked at together as even with the proposed changes the plot would still be overdeveloped for its size. It was **RESOLVED** that the above decisions should be send to TDC and as two separate items.

21 Mayes Lane – 418/01657/OUT – it was brought to the attention of Councillors that one condition of the development was that there would be a communal refuse area for all the bungalows 25 metres from the highway. This is now Condition 9 on the plans. This was felt necessary to prevent the refuse vehicle having to wait whilst bags and recycling boxes were collected from individual properties. This would prevent the road being blocked for quite a length of time during the time the road is busy with school and commuter traffic. Since the development has been built no communal space has been allocated. It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would contact TDC and bring this to their attention.

18/127

Social Media Policy

Cllr Attrill has amended the SLCC Social Media Policy to be used by the Parish Council. After a discussion it was decided that Cllr Attrill will amend the policy in full and sent out copies to Councillors prior to the next meeting. The amendments can then be looked at with a view that they are adopted by the Parish Council. It was requested that this item be put onto the next agenda.

18/128

Tendring Community Safety Partnership Days of Action

Cllr Bush advised that these are individual days of action to be hosted by each area. The group looks at the environment in the area and how to get the community to work together. This is funded by TDC. There will be local meetings were talks will be given by groups such as the Community Police Group. Cllr Bush will bring more details to the next meeting.

18/129

Litter Picking Action Day

Cllr Bush advised Councillors that Friends of Little Oakley have organised a litter pick on Sunday 6th January meeting at the Memorial Club at 10.30 and finishing around 12.30. Litter pickers, hoops and bags will be provided and Veolia will removed all bags from the Memorial Club. This has been arranged with Great Oakley and it is hoped that this will lead to a bigger community group in both areas with the possibility this can be moved out to other areas such as Wix etc. The local Cubs/Scouts and Brownies will be contacted to see if they wish to help. It was hoped that this may become a regular event, Great Oakley carry out their Litter Picks every 2 months.

18/130**Special Constables**

Cllr Bush brought it to the attention of the Parish Council that HTC and TDC are paying for Special Constables. It was mentioned that the lack of police has led to an increase in crime in both Great Oakley and Wix. There is to be a meeting in the Maybush at Great Oakley at 11.30 to look at a proposal to have Special Constables patrolling Great Oakley/Little Oakley and Wix part time. Councillors were asked if they were interested in helping fund this and it was agreed that there was interest. More details will be looked at regarding this.

Presently the Essex PPN are running Project Meteor in Essex. They are looking at areas which have a high crime rate and are going door to door to explain to people how to keep their property safe, this includes advice on doors and windows etc. They have also produced a leaflet which includes advice on cybercrime, vehicle crime and Christmas safety.

18/131**Casual Vacancies.**

As mentioned in the Clerks Report (18/123) the H & M Standard have still to be contacted. We have had one resident interested in joining the Parish Council and they are attending the meeting to get more information as to the role of a Councillor.

18/132**Playing field**

Cllr Bush advised that this is a very slow process as having to work with different departments at ECC. At the moment he is looking into funding. There followed a discussion as to whether it would be worth putting together a working group to look at other areas and what the land could be used for i.e. Outdoor gym and moveable equipment, also what could be combined to make the area appeal to different age groups.

18/133**Notice Boards**

Cllr Griffiths has now sanded and oiled the notice board near the Memorial Club and will do the same with the one at Oakridge once the weather is drier.

18/134**Website**

The site has been updated and items no longer relevant have been removed. Cllr Griffiths will check over the old website to make sure there is nothing required to be moved across before this finishes in January.

18/135**Footpaths**

This item is still ongoing, it has been calculated that one footpath running along the sea wall is approx. 1.35 miles. Cllr Griggs is still looking into the distances covered by the footpaths in the Parish and Cllr Cullen will work out the costings for undertaking this work.

18/136**Report from District Councillor Bush**

Overgrown hedges – the problem with the overgrown hedge on Rectory Road is still ongoing, one problem has been who has the responsibility for this, Highways or Rangers, the road has the national speed limit so it is felt that this should be looked at by Highways. Unless the hedge is cut back by the resident a survey will need to be completed.

Bayview Crescent – there have been complaints that cars are parking on the green spaces. TDC have been contacted and signs erected to stop future parking.

Legionella at Walton on the Naze – District Cllr Bush informed the Councillors that legionella had been found at Walton on the Naze and at the moment he has a meeting with the leisure department at TDC. The problem has occurred due to the way the site has been constructed and the maintenance has been carried out. District Cllr Bush is helping with the solution to the problem in an independent capacity.

Car Rally – this is now booked for Sunday 29th April and has a larger route than last year which includes Wix as there needs to be 3 x 20 mile laps. Problems noted so far as that this is along a bus route and The Wagon at Wix will not be able to open that day therefore losing potential revenue. As legislation allows rallies and the application has been put in it would be difficult to stop the rally. The rally does support some charities but the Councillors were advised that the charities supported are self-decided by the Rally organisers rather than local charities being supported. This is still ongoing and reports will be given as and when more details become available.

18/137

Report from County Councillor Erskine

Unfortunately County Councillor Erskine was unable to attend therefore no report was given.

18/138

Public Speaking

None

18/139

Items for the next agenda.

The following items were requested to be added to the next agenda, other items can be added by contacting the Clerk prior to the publication of the agenda for the next meeting.

Social Media Policy

Notice boards

Playing Field

Casual Vacancies

Playground Inspections and Maintenance

The Meeting closed at 21.08 hours