

Little Oakley Parish Council
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**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 9th January 2019
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) and a member of the general public

18/140

Apologies for Absence

Apologies have been received from Cllr Cullen and County Cllr Erskine.
It was **RESOLVED** to accept these apologies.

18/141

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests

No interests were declared.

18/142

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

18/143

Urgent Matters

There were no urgent matters

18/144

Casual Vacancies/Co-option

Mrs Margaret McNee attended the December meeting with a view to taking up one of the Casual Vacancies. Mrs McNee told Councillors a little about herself. Various Councillors explained the role of the Councillor and how they had found their time on the Parish Council. Cllr Griffiths mentioned how the Parish Council works and the results of some of those decisions. At this point Mrs McNee left the room for Councillors to discuss the Co-option. It was **RESOLVED** that Mrs McNee be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Mrs McNee came back into the room and was given the decision made by the Councillors. The Acceptance of Office form was filled in and signed and Mrs McNee was welcomed onto the Parish Council.

18/145

Clerks Report

Owing to problems over the past month the Clerk explained that there was a backlog of work to catch up with. These items will be dealt with over the coming weeks. However the Clerk had emailed the planning department of TDC with the decisions taken regarding 17 Mayes Lane and had also contacted the Playground Inspection Company. The Playground Inspection Company require 60 days notice to cancel their contract. It was **RESOLVED** that before cancelling the contract the Clerk would write to Mr Mayman to get confirmation of his offer to carry out inspections at the

playground and the costs if any involved. The annual inspection could then be done using the TDC offer.

18/146

Playground Inspections and Repairs

The Clerk advised that despite contacting three companies for quotes for a new bench for the play area only one company had sent in their quote. It was decided to wait until the February meeting to make a decision. Cllr Hunnaball offered the services of his company to fix the bench in place as a donation. Cllr Hunnaball was thanked for his offer. The Clerk will also look into what the bench stands on for the next meeting.

18/147

Finance

As of 1st January the balances on the current account stood at £435.60 and the savings account at £23173.81. Interest of £23.70 was received in December into the savings account but the service charge of £18 was taken from the current account which left a balance of £5.70. Expenditure for January is £598.60 and the approximate expenditure for February is £354.16. The RFO requested a transfer of £700 from the savings account into the current account to cover all expenditure for January and February leaving a buffer of £244.44 which would cover March direct debits in case of any unforeseen problems. After payments have been made the unallocated funds for the current account is £244.44. Unallocated funds in the savings account stand at £15336.25. Councillors were advised that the precept for 2019-2020 has been applied for, the full value of the precept is £16392, however there is a LCTS scheme grant of £219 to be taken off the value leaving £16173 which has been requested as the precept for the coming financial year. A finance report can be found at the end of the Minutes on the website.

Cllr Bush mentioned the recent litter pick in the village and asked if the Parish Council would make a donation towards the cost of litter pickers, hoops and high visibility vests. A sign to place on roads warning drivers that people are litter picking in the verges was also discussed. Costings for these items are to be looked into plus the possibility of sharing this with Great Oakley Parish Council. The use of the Chairmans Discretionary fund was discussed and this will be used to fund these items. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the finance report and payments.

Proposed: Cllr Bush

Seconded: Cllr Griggs

18/148

Planning

18/01772 and 18/01773 17 Mayes Lane - this is now to be decided by a delegated decision.

18/02057/DETAIL – 21 Mayes Lane - amendment to Plot 2 single garage to double garage, extend vehicular access to the double garage, reposition adjacent parking for Plot 2 garage, to amend soft and hard landscaping and timber fencing works to accommodate amendments to alter soft and hard landscaping along the boundary adjacent to the land. Plans were looked at and discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to send a decision of Neutral to TDC.

21 Mayes Lane Communal area for refuse and recycling bins. According to Section 9 of the Conditions on the Delegated Decision Officers Report this should have been ready for use prior to the first occupation of the development but there is no communal area on the development. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should contact the planning department at TDC and query this.

18/149

Social Media

Cllr Attrill has amended a social media policy from SLCC making it applicable to the Parish Council. Cllr Attrill explained the role of an admin on a Facebook page and why it would be better for the

Parish Council to have a page rather than a closed group. Cllr Attrill will be one admin along with Cllr Griffiths. The amended policy was accepted by Councillors and Cllr Attrill will now begin the Facebook page.

Proposed: Cllr Hunnaball

Seconded: Cllr Bush

18/150

Playing Field

This is still ongoing.

18/151

Notice Boards

Cllr Griffiths advised Councillors that the weather has not been dry enough to oil the noticeboard on Oakridge. Cllr Attrill asked if the noticeboard outside the old post office could be removed and renovated with a view to relocating this at the bus stop at Seaview. Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Attrill will try to remove this to see if this is possible.

18/152

Website

Cllr Griffiths advised that the old website has now gone and he is updating the new website with notices and other items. The re-development notice has been removed. Cllr Bush enquired as to whether Councillors could have an email address on the website that would stop any queries going to personal email addresses. Cllr Griffiths will look at how these can be set up and then diverted.

18/153

Footpaths

Cllr Griggs is measuring the footpaths which may need the extra cuts and will report back as and when these are done. The Clerk had received an email from a company at Great Oakley offering grass cutting and maintenance services. It was **RESOLVED** the clerk would email back advising we already have someone to cover this but will keep details in case anything changes.

18/154

Overgrown Hedges

This is still ongoing. The Clerk will contact Mr Pile to see if the Oakridge Hedge can be cut back.

18/155

Report from District Councillor Bush

Little Oakley Litter Pick – District Cllr Bush reported that this had been successful and that over 30 bags of rubbish had been collected including 5 bags around the area of Two Village School plus some carpets. Members of the Scouts and Beavers also helped. The Litter Pick had been organised by Katie who organises the same at Great Oakley. There is now a schedule to cover future litter picks in both Great and Little Oakley plus the possibility to go into Wix and do the same. It was thought a thank you note to Katie would be a nice gesture.

Crime – District Cllr Bush reported that there has been an increase in crime in the area with Great Oakley suffering many shed and garage break ins. The area in general has also seen a rise in domestic abuse, drug related crimes and burglaries. There is a meeting at the end of January in Great Oakley to look at the costs and possibility of taking on a Police Special Constable. It was hoped that if this is feasible the presence of a PSC would deter criminal activity. It may also be possible to look at this as a joint venture with Great Oakley Parish Council. District Cllr Bush will look into the costings and report back. Essex Police have set up many projects to help people with home security and general safety.

NHS Essex – District Cllr Bush advised that a ten year plan has been released and includes Section 106 money for primary care hospitals. Details are to be sent to the Clerk to then send out. The use of cottage style hospitals is being looked into to help lessen the strain on beds in the main hospital. There is also a move towards super surgeries, if there are 50+ properties there would be a super surgery. It was thought this would mean patients may not see the same doctor every visit. However there is also another model being looked at.

Local Plan- the local plan was discussed (2014-2031). The inspectorate want a sustainable plan and methods to study this are being worked out. District Cllr Bush advised Councillors that he is now a member of the local planning committee at TDC. Garden cities were discussed and the problems they could cause the local infrastructure were considered. This can be seen at Manningtree and Lawford where increased housing is causing problems due to the increase in traffic. It was thought more studies are needed but the next local planning meeting is at the end of January and they do not meet that often.

18/156

Report from County Councillor Erskine

County Cllr Erskine was unable to attend so no report was available

18/157

Public Speaking

No members of the public attended therefore no public speaking took place.

18/158

Items for the next agenda

No items were put forward.

The meeting closed at 20.35

Current Account balance - 1st January 2019	£435.60
Transfer from Savings	£700.00
Total Income for	£1,135.60

Expenditure January 2019	
A & J Lighting D/D	£41.26
Hire of Hall	£20.00
SSE D/D	£63.75
1 & 1 Internet D/D	£11.99
Wages - Clerks wages	£200.00
Ashley Thomas - grass cutting/maintenance	£200.00
Total expenditure	£537.00
Total in Main Account end of January	£598.60

Saving Account balance - 1st January 2019	£23,150.11
Income into Savings Account January	£23.70
Outgoings form Savings Account January	£700.00

Total in Savings Account end of January	£22,473.81
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Overall total in Current and Savings account	£23,072.41
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Proposed Expenditure for February	
A & J Lighting D/D	£41.26
Hire of Hall	£20.00
SSE D/D (approx)	£49.71
Clerks Wages	£200.00
1 & 1 Internet D/D	£11.99
Clerks Expenses (Mileage and Parking approx)	£42.00
Total Proposed Expenditure	£364.96

Reserves

Playground	£5,022.00
Website	£860.00
Street Lights	£500.00
Office Equipment	£500.00
Chairmans Discretionary Fund	£500.00
Total Reserves	£7,382.00

Unallocated Funds Available

Current Account	£233.64
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Savings Account

£15,091.81

Total Unallocated Funds Available

£15,325.45