

Little Oakley Parish Council

littleoakleypc@gmail.com

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 2019

In the Millennium Room, St Michaels Church, Ramsey

Meeting Start Time 19.00

Present: Cllrs Attrill (Chairman). Griggs (Vice Chairman), Bush, Hunnaball and McNee.

Also Present: Jeanette Sands (Clerk/RFO)

19/038

Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received

19/039

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests

No interests were declared

19/040

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting and these were signed by the Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Hunnaball

Seconded: Cllr Attrill

19/041

Urgent Matters

As mentioned as last months meeting many Councillors are unavailable for the August meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to cancel this meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Bush

Seconded: Cllr Attrill

19/040

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Seconded: Cllr Attrill

19/042

Clerks Report

Merchant Navy Day – the Clerk at Gt Oakley has been emailed. If they have an event to mark the day an offer to help publicise this has been given.

BT Kiosk – The Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC) have been emailed for advice about leasing.

St Mary's Churchyard – an email had been received mentioning how long the grass was, this has now been cut back.

Footpath from Bayview Crescent/Lodge Road – having looked on the online map it appears there is a footpath which runs down the side of the flats and bungalows. The Clerk will get the map details to Cllr Attrill as it's not certain this path is still public.

Playground Repairs – Apart from the gate these have been carried out. I am waiting for the quote for the gate. Dunninghams have been contacted and will go and look at the railings and send in a quote to carry out those repairs.

Overgrown Hedges – two emails have been received, they are concerned with the hedgerow opposite the Cherrytree as this is blocking drivers vision when turning onto Rectory Road plus cars coming in the opposite direction cannot see cars turning. The other concern is the height of the hedgerows on The Maltings. ECC will send out an inspector to look at the problem on The Maltings. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will make contact and ask if the hedge facing the Cherrytree can be trimmed back. ECC advised this can be carried out when there is a danger to traffic.

Fly tipping – there has been fly tipping of a fridge on The Maltings. It was **RESOLVED** to contact TDC to have this removed.

Street Lights - a street light on Harwich Road near the terrace houses is on all day. It was **RESOLVED** to report this

19/043

Co-option of New Councillors

Cllr Attrill has spoken to the member of the public who attended last month meeting and they wish to join the Parish Council.

19/044

Finance

Balances at 1st July are: Current Account £1204.24 and Savings Account £27020.88

Expenditure for July is higher than usual as it includes playground repairs and grounds maintenance.

Expenditure for July is £1539.63

A transfer of £1500 was requested to keep the balance in the black and allow for any unexpected additional expenditure. It was **RESOLVED** that the transfer be increased to £2500 to cover expenses over the month of August.

Insurance has now been renewed with Came and Co offering a reduced figure which will stay the same for the next 3 years.

The contract for the supply of electricity has been renewed.

Annual Return – almost complete. The external auditors have granted an extension.

Change to finance reports and addition of Payments list – finance reports will be prepared as usual for meetings and checked at month end, if any adjustments are required (i.e. bank charges added) they will be updated and new reports sent out. Both will be kept together

for auditing purposes. Payment lists for approval will be available to be signed off. This is being changed to make the next end of year quicker.

External Audit 2019-20 it may be possible to get an exemption next year if we have the relevant documents on the website. The RFO has a list and will be working through this.

Financial Regulation Review

These need to be reviewed. It was **RESOLVED** that the current regulations be sent out to Councillors to prepare to review at the next meeting.

Bursary cheque for Website Accessibility Course has been received but is incorrect so another will be sent out. This will be banked once it arrives.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the figures for transfer, expenditure and payments.

Proposed Cllr Attrill

Seconded Cllr Bush

The RFO reported that the Reserves section of the report will need adjusting and will be done this month.

McAfee. This has been cancelled and AVG anti-virus software has been downloaded. This gives an approximate saving of £89 for the year.

Electrical Supply The contract with SSE ends at the end of June. This month has seen an increase in the price. Cllr Bush requested copies of the statements and contracts and will look into this. It was also **RESOLVED** that the RFO would obtain other quotes.

Annual Return and Year End Figures

Unfortunately these are still ongoing. The external auditors have been contacted and an extension has been requested. Once completed they will be sent to the internal auditor then an EGM will be called for Councillors to sign off the accounts prior to being sent to the external auditors.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the payments and expenses.

Proposed: Cllr Attrill

Seconded: Cllr Griggs

19/045

Planning

Cllr Attrill reported that Determinations for Plot 2 Mayes Lane 18/02057/Detail single garage to double had been given full approval on 12th June 2019

Application 19/00921/DISCON this is for land behind 17 Mayes Lane and is a discharge of condition 10 to construct, washing of vehicle wheels and vehicle parking.

It was requested that the Clerk follow up the communal refuse area problem as no application has been seen to request a change to the original plans. Also to look at whether or not planning permission is required for a front porch.

19/046

BT Kiosk

No update at present regarding adoption/lease but BT have visited the box and have spoken to the landowner. The light can be fixed therefore the electricity supply is still on. They also advised as to the colour the box can be painted.

19/047

Oakridge Sign and Little Oakley Village Sign

The Clacton Road sign has snapped off and has been reported by Cllr Bush. Other signs reported are Oakridge, Cherrytree Close and Clacton Rd. The village sign will need to be replaced and paid for by the Parish Council. At present all villages are having signs checked and any fallen down will be repaired/replaced.

19/048

Playing Field

Cllr Bush has a meeting with Ian Taylor at the proposed site. This would be a wellbeing/community space and funding is also being looked into. It was noted that Little Oakley has no green space.

19/049

Playground

This has already been covered in the Clerks Report, Minute number 19/042

19/050

Website and Social Media

The website is still faulty at the moment due to updates from the provider. Once running again it will be checked to see which items still need adding. The new regulations will have to be in place by September 2020. The Facebook page is still having updates posted

Website

19/051

Report from District Cllr Bush

District Cllr Bush advised that TDC had now run out of extra recycling boxes for cardboard, plastics and food. More are expected at the end of the month. Since the roll out of the wheelie bins more people have been wanting extra boxes. It was reported that the area is very poor when it comes to recycling. The wheelie bin issue is still causing problems with regards to access for some residents.

Hedge cutting and fly tipping are still ongoing. The recent litter pick noticed more fast food packages. Bags now are having stickers placed on them to mark them as part of the litter pick.

Libraries – Objection and petitions have been received by ECC over the possible closure of some libraries. Some community groups have offered to run their own library however these take quite some time to set up. District Cllr Bush explained how libraries need to be seen as changing from the lending of books to being a community hub. This will give space for other groups/activities to take place. Also mentioned was the use of the computers by members of the public and how this would affect them if the library were to close. It was felt that the consultation about libraries had been flawed due to it only looking at lending and the number of people using the service.

19/052

Report from County Cllr Erskine

County Cllr Erskine mentioned problems another Parish Council had faced which he is helping with. An attempt to remove a substantial amount of money from the Parish Council account had been noticed and prevented. It was felt that this is a problem when Councils are too open about their finances.

Local Highways Panel (LHP) the fund matching hasn't happened due to issues between TDC and ECC. Resurfacing at Jaywick had taken place but it was found the roads resurfaced where private not public. As this has caused some overspending other projects will now have to be left.

Footpaths

Fixing of footpaths is still on going. They are being marked and should be fixed by the end of the year. Pavements disintegrating due to overgrown hedges and vegetation have been causing problems and getting a team to clear these to help prevent the pavement problems is being looked into.

19/053

Public Speaking

No members of the public attended

19/054

Items for the next Agenda

Financial Regulations

Many of the items on this agenda will also be carried forward to the next meeting

19/054

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th September at 7.30

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.47

Signed (Chairman) Date