

Little Oakley Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of the Parish of Little Oakley,
held on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.00pm in the Millennium Room, St Michaels Church,
Ramsey.

Present: Cllrs Attrill (Chairman), Coates, Griggs, Harbour, Lane, and Sanderson.

Also Present: Emma Haward, Clerk/RFO and Cllr Dan Land (ECC).

24/020A Housekeeping, Chairman's Report and Agreement of the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Assembly held on 13th April 2023

It was noted that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2023 be agreed as a true record and duly signed.

The Chairman's Report:-

It gives me great pleasure in reporting that the Parish Council ends the year with a full complement of nine Councillors, something that many small councils throughout the country have difficulty in achieving, and I welcome our new Councillors, the more experienced Councillors and members of the public to this meeting. Thank you Councillors for your valued support, hard work and guidance over the past year ensuring that what we do at our local level benefits the community as best we can.

My special thanks go to Emma our Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer for her continued diligence in support of the Council.

In June 2023 we officially opened the Oakley Coronation Park with the help of Nigel Spencer MBE, the Deputy Lieutenant to the Lord Lieutenant of Essex. It was lovely to see so many people in the park enjoying the new open space. The Parish Council has worked hard since the opening to rectify bramble issues in the football area and will continue to do so if other issues arise. There are still some access issues relating to the site, but we hope to have these resolved soon.

Following the demise of the post box on Rectory Road in July 2020, Royal Mail was petitioned by the Council for it to be replaced. Despite them saying initially that it would not be, a new box was eventually installed close to the junction of Oak Ridge and Rectory Road in May. Whilst possibly not in the most ideal of locations (LOPC was not consulted on its new position), we are none the less pleased that one has been reinstalled at that end of the village, acknowledging the efforts of the Council.

Another successful petitioning by the Council was for the reconnection of a parish-owned street light on Rectory Road following its removal when the telegraph pole to which it was attached was replaced. UK Power Networks wanted to charge us £1100 + VAT for the privilege of doing this but it was reduced to zero when we complained to the Director of Customer Services at UKPN.

Whilst not a responsibility of the Parish Council, pot holes continue to be an issue in the village, as it does county and country-wide. We liaise with Essex Highways through their online reporting tool and our Essex County Councillor Dan Land to try to speed up repairs, but as ever, potholes often

have to get worse before they get better. I personally have already reported the fact that the three pothole repairs recently carried out outside the Cherry Tree are disintegrating already and Highways have confirmed they will get re-done in the next three months.

The road surface drainage ditches on Rectory Road have also been reported to Essex Highways who have a responsibility for keeping the grips (drainage channels) clear. Although they have accepted their responsibility, it is not on their priority list, but we will continue to raise this.

I'm pleased to report that the war memorial on Bay View Crescent green underwent cleaning and re-lettering of its inscriptions in June with the help of a £380 grant from the War Memorials Trust. The annual Service of Remembrance was held there in November to honour the Fallen, attended by a large number of residents.

Lastly, the sea wall realignment planning application at Irlam's was finally decided upon by the Local Planning Authority (TDC) in March. The application was approved subject to 23 conditions being met, including one for the permissive footpaths to the beach to be maintained free and unobstructed at all times to ensure that accessibility is maintained. Whilst we consider this a success (original plans was for public access to the beach to be denied), we are disappointed that the diverted public right of way around the new sea wall is still going to be at the base of the bund, subject to a footpath diversion order approval. I hope to have more information on this in the near future.

I would like to finish by reiterating my thanks to all our Councillors, old and new, and to our Clerk and thank you all again for your time this evening.

Councillor D Attrill

Chairman of the Parish Council

24/021A Questions and Answer Session

There were no questions.

The Annual Parish Assembly concluded at 19:10.