

# Little Oakley Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of the Parish of Little Oakley,  
held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.00pm in the Millennium Room, St Michaels Church,  
Ramsey.

**Present:** Councillors Attrill, Bush, Coates, Griggs, Hunnaball and Lane.

**Also Present:** Emma Haward, Clerk/RFO.

**Members of the Public:** There was one member of the public present.

## **23/018A Housekeeping, Chairman's Report and Agreement of the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Assembly held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

It was proposed by Cllr Griggs, seconded by Cllr Coates and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be agreed as a true record and duly signed.

Cllr Bush expressed thanks to the Cllr Attrill for his efforts in supporting the Parish Council during his term as Chairman.

### **The Chairman's Report:-**

*'Firstly, I would like to start by thanking the Councillors for all their hard work and input over the last year. Although we are a small band of volunteers, we have all been committed in our various ways with the skills we have to improving the village for the benefit of its residents.*

*My special thanks also go to Emma our clerk for all her diligent work in support of the Council, for all the training she has undertaking this year and for working towards her Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification, or CiLCA. This will lead to us eventually achieving the General Power of Competence.*

*Little Oakley has officially had a deficit of open play and recreational space for many years, so the biggest achievement this year has been the acquisition of a 20 year lease for the parcel of land between Lodge Road and the back of Two Village School to create an open, green recreational space for the village. The Parish Council has been trying to do this since the 1970's, firstly in Rectory Road and then off Harwich Road. On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank Essex County Council for agreeing to this lease, which although it has a limited life span, is hoped that in the decades to come it will be renewed when it is proven what a benefit it is to Little Oakley.*

*It was decided to call the new recreational space 'Oakley Coronation Park', though I imagine it will be shortened to 'The Park' by many of its users in the future. It is hoped to formally open it shortly after the coronation of King Charles III when the first phase of equipment will hopefully have been installed. This will include a junior football area, a basketball court with a practice goal and a 25m aerial runway or zipwire. There will also be a toddler's trim trail, bench seats and wheelchair accessible picnic benches. Some areas will be left to become wilder and attract wildlife, and a number of tree saplings have been planted to enhance screening from the bridleway.*

*There are still a couple of sticking points relating to access but it is hoped that agreements can be reached that benefits everyone.*

*Another source of pride has been the announcement that, following representation from the Parish Council, Royal Mail will after all reinstate the missing Rectory Road post box, after initially saying that they would not. It would be lovely to get a new King Charles III box when it is eventually reinstated, however this cannot be guaranteed, and we wait patiently for it to be done. No time scale has been indicated, but we will continue to press Royal Mail to uphold their promise.*

*The Book Exchange in the listed telephone kiosk outside the old Post Office on Harwich Road sees a steady flow of users and donations of books. My thanks go to the owners of the old Post Office who continue to look after it and keep it tidy.*

*In June 2022 we celebrated the late Queen's platinum jubilee with a 'Big Lunch' on the Memorial Club field. Although not massively attended, possibly due to all the other competing events in the area that weekend, a good time was had by all who did attend and thankfully the threatening rain held off. We also had a large planter installed on the greensward by the war memorial, which was partly funded by a grant from the Tendring District Council Jubilee fund awarded to all District Councillors.*

*Potholes and road surface degradation continue to be an issue in Little Oakley and the surrounding area. I personally and regularly make pothole reports to Highways via their online portal and copy them to our County Councillor, Dan Land. To give Highways their credit, the potholes do eventually get fixed, but they often have to get a lot worse before they get better.*

*There was a Remembrance Service held at Little Oakley's war memorial on Remembrance Sunday 2022. This annual service, organised by the Parish Council, seems to get busier each year and I am pleased to report that we have received a small grant from the War Memorials Trust to assist us in refurbishing the war memorial later this year.*

*The Parish Council continues to inspect all new planning applications in the Parish and pass comment to the Planning Authority, TDC as necessary. Our comments, whether in support of an application, objection against it, or a 'neutral' stance do not carry any more weight than a comment from a member of the public, so I urge residents to submit their own comments on any planning application they feel strongly about. That is exactly what happened with the main planning application that is still a major concern to us; the realignment of the sea wall at Irlams. The Council along with scores of other objectors were very unhappy with the plans by Hutchison Ports, but especially the proposed loss of the Right of Way to Irlams Beach and with the new diverted footpath being at the foot of the bund, not on the crest of it as it is now. Hutchisons have now come back with an amended scheme to allow 'permissive' access to the beach but have, in my opinion, failed to address our other concerns. The latest information we have is that the application is currently on hold with TDC Planners who are awaiting Hutchisons to submit further information.*

*I would just like to finish how I started in thanking everyone again for their hard work and for the support that I have received. As mentioned previously, we, the Councillors, are a small but dedicated group but we do have capacity for three more Councillors on the Parish Council. These are voluntary positions and full training is given as required. If you are interested in pursuing a position, please contact the clerk, Emma.*

*Thank you for listening and your time this evening.'*

Councillor D Attrill

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

**22/019A Questions and Answer Session**

There were no questions.

The Annual Parish Assembly concluded at 19:16.