

Little Oakley Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of the Parish of Little Oakley,
held on Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 7.00pm in the Millennium Room, St Michaels Church,
Ramsey.

Present: Cllrs Attrill (Chairman), C Aubrey, J Aubrey, Coates, Harbour, Lane, Pearce and Sanderson.
Also Present: Emma Haward, Clerk/RFO.

25/022A Housekeeping, Chairman's Report and Agreement of the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Assembly held on 10th April 2024

It was proposed by Cllr Attrill, seconded by Cllr Harbour and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting held on 10th April 2024 be agreed as a true record and duly signed.

The Chairman's Report:-

It gives me great pleasure in reporting that the Parish Council has maintained its full complement of nine Councillors throughout the year, something that many small councils throughout the District, County and country have difficulty in achieving. I welcome our Councillors here, our Clerk, and members of the public to this meeting. Thank you, Councillors, for your valued input and support the past year ensuring that the community we serve benefits positively.

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

The Parish Council finances remain healthy and this coming year our precept is rising by just 1% which equates to 62 pence per annum or just over a penny a week for a Band D property. We are slowly building our reserves in many areas including the Coronation Park to enable us to install more play equipment. Our accounts are audited annually and open for public inspection by prior arrangement from the end of June for approximately six weeks.

Oakley Coronation Park continues to be maintained by our contractor and used by the community. As mentioned above, we do want to get more equipment installed in the park as permissions and finances allow and to that end we are always looking out for new grant opportunities. There are still some outstanding accessway rights in the park which we are actively addressing.

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. Following the recent crash at Saltwater Bridge, Rectory Road is currently closed for through traffic to enable the extensive repairs to the bridge barriers and replacement of our 'Welcome to Little Oakley' sign. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Essex Highways in their prompt response time for dealing with this – I think it has surprised us all.

The 'Keep the Oakleys Tidy' group continues to litter pick regularly in the village. The group is run by a resident in Great Oakley and I wish to express my thanks to her and to the members of the public and Councillors that support the initiative. We are still getting incidences of fly-tipping in the village and these are reported to TDC. They are usually promptly cleaned up if they are not on private land.

The annual Service of Remembrance was held at the War Memorial in November to honour the Fallen and was attended by a large number of residents, one of whom honourably stepped in at short notice to play the cornet. I am extremely grateful to a resident who has shared with me the history he has researched of each of those named on the memorial which I hope we will be able to incorporate at the service this year.

The TDC Local Plan consultation that is currently underway could see an increase in house building in the village or on its parish boundary but the Parish Council will continue to scrutinise and comment on planning applications that affect the village as necessary.

The on-street parking around Little Oakley Football Club on Junior match days was raised in 2024 with a number of residents and representatives of the club attending one of our meetings. With the steps taken by the club since then to improve matters, I hope the major issues have been amicably resolved, but they continue to be monitored.

Lastly, the public footpath between Oakridge and the Memorial Club which for years has suffered from grass encroachment and water puddling has recently been given a makeover making the path wider and hopefully drier. Whilst not up to the pristine standard of a tarmac'ed path, and remembering what a quagmire it was before the initial works were done on it some 15 years ago, it is a vast improvement.

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

Councillor D Attrill

Chairman of the Parish Council

24/023A Questions and Answer Session

There was one question asked concerning the use of the park and further discussion followed.

The Annual Parish Assembly concluded at 19:12.