

# *Little Oakley Parish Council*

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## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 In the Millennium Room, St Michaels Church, Ramsey Meeting Start Time 7.00**

**Present:** Cllrs Attrill (Chairman) Griggs (Vice Chairman), Bush, Hunnaball, Lane and Nicholls

**Also Present:** Jeanette Sands (Clerk/RFO)

### **19/167**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Coats, McNee and County Cllr Erskine

All agreed to accept the apologies.

### **19/168**

#### **Declaration of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests**

No interests were declared

### **19/169**

#### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was noted that County Cllr Erskine's name had been omitted from the Minutes. This has now been added and a note made to explain this on the signed Minutes. After agreeing the Minutes were now correct it was **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting and these were duly signed

### **19/170**

#### **Urgent Matters**

##### **Self-Isolating**

Councillors discussed the best way forward to help any residents who may need to self-isolate and need help with shopping etc. Cllr Nicholls will enquire about community supports groups at the next Health England meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that a notice will be placed on the noticeboards advising that should anyone require help they could contact the Clerk who will contact various other agencies on behalf of the resident for additional help. Also Cllr Lane will contact Harewood Surgery and the Clerk the Mayflower Medical Centre to advise as to what the Parish Council can do to help. Cllr Bush advised that TDC are now providing weekly updates and he will forward these onto the Clerk for distribution.

### **19/171**

#### **Report from District Councillor Bush**

District Cllr Bush reported that there is still funding available for various projects. However the CIF fund has now been cut to £10,000. The Micro grant is up to £500 and there is also an emergency fund but all these have time restrictions and the next funding will be available after April. District Cllr Bush mentioned that the grants/funding available would all be useful should the playing field be made available to the Parish Council.

### **19/172**

#### **Report from County Councillor Erskine**

County Cllr Erskine was unable to attend the meeting therefore there is no report.

## **19/173**

### **Clerks Report**

**Micro Grant for Kiosk** – having received quotes for electrics and painting the micro grant will be applied for.

**Training** - the booking forms for the course for grants and funding and the GDPR online course have been sent to EALC.

**Litter Pick dates poster** – these are on the two main noticeboards and just need adding to the one at the bus stop near Seaview Avenue

**Playground Report** – the latest report has no major problems just some very low risk or low risk items mentioned. However the bench appears to be rotting quite badly. Councillors were advised that £5000 of S106 money is available. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should obtain brochures and quotes for a new stainless steel bench with perforations

**Village/Road Signs** - the damaged and rotting sign at The Hornbeams has now been replaced. The welcome sign for Little Oakley is now missing and a replacement will need to be looked into. The Parish Council is responsible for the cost of the replacement sign and also the style of the sign. The Chairman will look at other Parish Council signs and then contact the Clerk to look into in more depth.

## **19/174**

### **Planning**

No new planning Applications or Determinations have been received.

## **19/175**

### **BT Kiosk**

All quotes for the renovation work have been received making a total cost of £1059 excluding VAT. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will apply for a Micro grant to help towards the cost of the project. (See Minute 19/173). The insurance policy will need to be looked into as it may need to be increased once the kiosk is finished. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will contact the Insurers for information.

## **19/176**

### **Litter Pick**

Cllr Bush reported that ten people had attended the recent litter pick and that 23 bags of rubbish had been collected. The litter pickers kindly donated by Exchem have been collected and the donation from both Little and Great Oakley Parish Councils had been forwarded to Catherine Cocker who will order more equipment. The equipment will then be shared between the Parish Councils. The next litter pick will be on the first Sunday in April in Great Oakley starting at the Village Hall.

## **19/177**

### **Finance**

#### **Account Balances**

1<sup>st</sup> March the accounts balances were

Current Acct £1262.45

Savings Acct £28273.77

These figures include the new reserve values

#### **Expenditure for March**

This is £895.62 – some of these items have already been paid having been agreed at the last meeting. This includes the cost for building of the website with the exception of the additional invoice due to problems changing from 1 & 1 Ionos. The payment for the two invoices will be taken from the website reserve account as we were given the grant to build the new website. The donation from both Little and Great Oakley towards litter picking equipment has been sent to Katy Cocker. Katy will forward receipts when available. Cllr Attrill has been reimbursed for the thank you gift for the street tidying.

#### **Precept**

The first instalment of the Precept is due to arrive in the account on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Instead of transferring most of the balance into the savings account the bulk of the precept could be kept in the current account to save having to keep

transferring money across each month. The precept will be in the account before the next meeting and the April payments going out.

**Expenditure for April (this is subject to change)**

£524.26

**Year End Figures**

The accounts will be closed on 4<sup>th</sup> April for the financial year 2019 – 2020 and preparation for the internal audit will begin. The figures should be available in their draft form for the April meeting. The same auditor from previous years will be asked to carry out the internal audit of the accounts but it is hoped we can get a dispensation for the external audit this year.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve all payments and expenses.

**19/178**

**Website**

The new website is up and running and all agreed it looked very professional. It was suggested that fundraising events or other village events could be added. Also local services/groups such as the Scouts and opening times for the Post Office would be useful. Any ideas for village events and/or fundraising events are welcome. The cost of the website was £150 for the build and £50 for the first quarter hosting. There has been an additional invoice for extra work carried out due to problems with the previous website. The Chairman thanked Cllr Griggs for the work on the Header for the website. VCS have offered training and the Chairman, Clerk and Vice Chairman are to attend a training session.

**19/179**

**Waste/Dog Bins**

The bin on the corner of Bay View Crescent is missing the main body of the bin. It was proposed to replace this bin but have it moved onto the corner near Foulton Hall. It was noted that no dog bins exist between the Memorial Club and the old Post Office if walking along the road. Another location for an extra bin would be near the fence at the entrance to the Memorial Club car park. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact TDC for a new bin adding photos to show the extent of the damage and also get confirmation as to who will empty the bin if the location is moved.

**19/180**

**United in Kind**

Cllr Nicholls attended a United in Kind meeting which looked at social isolation in rural areas. The group is also going round looking at charities with links to the community. Kindness Cafes have been set up in some residential homes and school children visit these to mix with the elderly residents. This has proved very successful. Cllr Nicholls is looking at a possible one off café at the Rainbow Centre at Two Village School and is speaking to Barnardos regarding this. Cllr Nicholls will keep the Chairman updated.

**19/181**

**Rural Community Councils of Essex**

The recent Essex Rural Strategy survey carried out by RCCE has been completed by a number of Councillors. It was **RESOLVED** to join the organisation for one year to see how useful it is to the Parish Council. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will set up the membership.

**19/182**

**Policy Review – Standing Orders**

The Standing Orders were reviewed and amended. Councillors will be sent the updated version which will then be discussed for approval at the next meeting

### **19/183**

#### **Condition of Footpath between Oakridge and Little Oakley Memorial Club**

The footpath has areas which need refilling as at present they fill with water when it rains. To maintain the footpath will need materials and volunteers. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact County Cllr Erskine for the process needed to obtain road planings.

### **19/184**

#### **Public Speaking**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

### **19/185**

#### **Energy Efficiency Schemes**

This looked at carbon emergencies and what needed to be done locally. There are no requirements for the Parish Council to look into this as it does not own any buildings such as village halls or council offices.

### **19/186**

#### **Playing Field**

Cllr Bush advised that this is still ongoing but that it now needs the backing of a County Councillor to help move this along. It was **RESOLVED** to set up a working party which will work towards getting the project ready to apply for funding. Also there needs to be a survey/some research as to what residents would like to see at the playing field, however items will need to be moveable should the playing field need to be used by the school for expansion. Councillors who volunteered to join the working party are Cllrs Attrill, Hunnaball, Griggs, Lane and Nicholls.

### **19/187**

#### **Disability/Mobility Grants**

These are available from Essex County Council but it was felt that many residents are not aware of these grants. They can be used for ramps, stair lifts etc. Residents should apply on the ECC website, this is then reviewed and passed onto Tendring District Council. A link from the new website to ECC will be looked into.

### **19/188**

#### **Items for the next Agenda**

Playground Bench

Little Oakley Village Sign

Footpath between Oakridge and the Memorial Club

BT Kiosk

Playing field

Policy Reviews

Website

### **19/189**

#### **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April starting at 7:00. This may be subject to change depending on the latest government advice regarding the Covid-19 virus.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:05**

