

Little Oakley Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th October 2020

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The Meeting started at 7.05 pm

Present: Cllrs Attrill (Chairman) Griggs (Vice Chairman), Bush, Coates, Lane and Nicholson

Also Present: County Cllr Erksine and Jeanette Sands (Clerk/RFO)

Members of the Public: No members of the public requested details to join the meeting.

20/083

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hunnaball and McNee. It was **RESOLVED** to accept these apologies.

20/084

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests

No interests were declared.

20/085

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the September required an amendment as the concern over the filling in of the pond (Minute number 20/079) had been omitted. With this added it was **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Attrill

Seconded: Cllr Lane

20/086

Urgent Matters

Two items were thought urgent and needing discussing at the meeting. Their details were received too late to include as individual agenda items and are time sensitive.

Digital Demand Transport Consultation – this is a survey for anyone to complete including members of the public. The Digital Demand Transport service is a shared “uber” style service. The survey is open until November 1st and has been uploaded to the website.

Covid Restrictions – Essex moving to Tier 2 – Following an email from ECC to advise that Essex would be moving up to Tier 2 County Cllr Erskine advised this was due to an increase in Covid cases and Essex wishing to be proactive regarding this increase. A discussion followed concerning the pros and cons of this. The distribution of leaflets from ECC was discussed. ECC are to send leaflets to District Councils who in turn arrange for Town and Parish Councils to collect their leaflets and distribute, possibly without extra funding. County Cllr Erksine shared a standard email which will be sent out from ECC in reply to any queries. This will be put onto the website for members of the public to see. Finally District Cllr Bush advised that the move to Tier 2 will cause problems when the planning application for the proposed poultry farm at Wix is discussed which in turn could result in this being decided undemocratically.

20/087

Public Speaking

No members of the public had requested to join the meeting therefore there was no public speaking.

20/088

Report from District Councillor Bush

District Cllr Bush reported that the Local Government Reform (LGR) has now been deferred.

The Essex County Council elections will still go ahead next year.

District Cllr Bush advised that the scrubland proposed for the new playing field has not moved forward. The Portfolio Holders at Essex County Council were contacted but there has been no response for them. So far this has taken two and a half years and has not moved forward. It might be possible to use the Public Right to Contest Lane recently highlighted by the EALC.

20/089

Report from County Councillor Erskine

County Cllr Erskine also mentioned the LGR being deferred, and also the 'planning for the future' white paper being deferred. A general discussion on each followed.

Pot holes – the top 50 potholes for the area including Stones Green have now been put onto the system.

Local Community Allowance – County Cllr Erskine advised he has an allowance which he can spend on community projects. This can be for any community project that the Parish Council is involved with. Any requests should be sent to County Cllr Erskine.

20/090

Clerks Report

Essex Playing Fields Association – membership has been applied for and now awaiting bank details in order to make payment.

Unlit Street Light Bayview Crescent – County Cllr Erskine was contacted and has now forwarded this onto TDC as the light belongs to them. There is no time scale as to when this will be repaired, at present it is still unlit.

Special Expenses – these have been updated and returned to TDC

Overgrown Willow Trees – The Clerk has written to Mr Stock explaining the situation. This item is still ongoing.

Trees covering overhead cables - UK Power Network have been contacted to request the checking of closeness of trees to power lines on Harwich Road following a recent fire.

Street Light blocked by branches – Seaview Avenue

The branches covering the street light at the bottom of Seaview Avenue have been reported. Cllr Bush will follow this up with TDC.

20/091

Finance Report

1st October the accounts balances were

Current Acct £5517.16

Savings Acct £28182.68

These figures include the reserve values in the savings account

Confirmed Payments - September

Payment to	Details	Net	VAT	Gross
VCS Website Ltd	Hosting for Sept to November	50.00	0.00	50.00
A & J Lighting	Monthly maintenance	34.38	6.88	41.26
SSE	Electricity Supply	61.76	3.08	64.84
Realise Futures	Bench and fixings	710.02	142.00	852.02
Accent Stationers	Printer Paper	4.15	0.84	4.99
Auto print	Playground Signs	20.00	4.00	24.00
Mr D Attrill	Reimbursement for Zoom x 2 months	23.98	4.80	28.78
Bank Service Charge		18.00	0.00	18.00

Mrs J Sands	Clerks Salary	200.00	0.00	200.00
Totals		1122.29	161.60	1283.89

Income Received – October

The second instalment of the precept of £8413.00 was paid into the savings account on 8th October. Propose that this is transferred to the current account. It was **RESOLVED** to transfer the precept to the Current Account

Proposed: Cllr Attrill

Seconded: Cllr Coates

Expenditure for October paid to date and expected payments

Payment to	Details	Net	VAT	Gross
A & J Lighting	Monthly maintenance	34.38	6.88	41.26
SSE	Electricity Supply	63.82	3.18	67.00
Mr A Thomas	Grounds Maintenance	200.00	0.00	200.00
Signs Made Easy Ltd	2 x Village Signs	432.00	86.40	518.40
Essex Playing Fields Assoc	Awaiting bank details	30.00	0.00	30.00
Accent Stationers	Printer Cartridges	49.99	10.00	59.99
The Playground Inspection Co	Playground inspection awaiting invoice	52.50	10.50	63.00
Mr D Attrill	Reimbursement for Zoom	11.99	2.40	14.39
Mrs J Sands	Clerks Salary	200.00	0.00	200.00
Totals		1074.68	119.36	1194.04

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the payments list

Proposed: Cllr Attrill

Seconded: Cllr Griggs

Proposed Expenditure for November – subject to change

At present expenditure for November is £320.49, this includes the monthly direct debits plus Clerks Salary.

Computer Equipment (Proposed Purchases)

The Clerk requested to purchase an adjustable stand for the laptop and a wireless keyboard as the laptop keyboard is difficult to use for long periods of time. On Amazon they are £16.99 for the stand and £23.99 for the keyboard which includes a wireless mouse. It was **RESOLVED** to order both items

Proposed: Cllr Attrill

Seconded: Cllr Griggs

VAT Reclaim

The VAT for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 is £253.23 and will be reclaimed during October.

S106 Money for Bench

An application for this has been sent to TDC. This is still ongoing.

2019-2020 Accounts Public Rights to View

The time scale for this has now passed and the notice removed from the website. No requests to view were received.

Reserves

The Reserve figures for the financial year April 2020 to March 2021 are unchanged from last month

20/092

Planning

Determinations – 20/00883/FUL 18 Rectory Rd. The extension was given full approval on 9/9/20. This had conditions applied to the window on the north side which must be obscure glass before occupation and maintained afterwards.

Hammond Drive - 20/00342/FUL. 5 bungalows given full approval on 6/10/20. None of the properties were classified as affordable housing. The opening of the public right of way will not take place as this was seen as unreasonable and unnecessary.

Applications Received. 31 Oakridge - 20/01263/TPO. This is to cut back an oak tree as per previously carried out in 2016. It was **RESOLVED** to Support this application. All agreed

36 Harwich Rd – 20/01301/FUL. First floor rear extension and porch. This is to be built on top of the ground floor extension originally built in 2016. It was **RESOLVED** to Support this application. All agreed

15 Bayview Crescent - 20/01207/FUL. New detached two storey house, garage and hard standing for two cars. The garden of 15 Bayview Crescent will be halved and a new property built on the area. Although it was felt this wouldn't look out of place concerns were noted regarding the closeness to number 42 which could result in some loss of light. Also this makes the area look a little over developed. It was **RESOLVED** to send in a decision of Neutral for this application but also quoting the concerns mentioned above.

Proposed: Cllr Attrill

Seconded: Cllr Coates

20/093

Rectory Road Main Sewage System

Properties along Rectory Road from the allotments towards Saltwater Bridge are not on mains sewage. Due to the very wet weather there have been many problems with their septic tanks which if waterlogged fail. Residents have applied to Anglia Water to be attached to the main sewage system and Cllr Coates asked if the Parish Council would support this application should the need arise. It was **RESOLVED** to support this application. All agreed.

20/094

Village Signs

The new signs have been delivered. The Chairman has met with the residents of the house near the Mayes Lane sign who have agreed for the vegetation can be cut back to help with installation. Mr Strachen has also been consulted and the placement of the sign when entering the village from Clacton has been decided. The quote of £200 + materials for installation was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** by all to accept this.

20/095

Remembrance Service

As Essex is now in Tier 2 it is uncertain whether the Remembrance Service will go ahead. However the Parish Council will still lay a wreath. It was also discussed that the Parish Council will offer to lay other residents wreaths if they are unable to do so due to shielding or being in a vulnerable category. Cllr Nicholson offered to publicize this when delivering meals to those shielding. Social media and the Parish Council website will also publicize this.

20/096

Playground

A new inspection report has been received and advised that the gate is no longer closing in time. The company who repaired the gate were contacted and advised to try oiling the gate, this has been done but did not solve the problem. It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would arrange the repair and check if this can be done under warranty. Problems with having two swings were mentioned, although one swing had been taped back to prevent use this was often loose, it was **RESOLVED** that one swing be removed whilst social distancing restrictions are in place. Cllr Hunnaball advised the base for the new bench will be starting soon and fencing will be put around the existing bench whilst this is carried out.

20/097

BT Kiosk

The Clerk has been contacted by TDC and advised the planning application wasn't necessary and a refund should be issued. However an application for the listed building consent will need to be resubmitted as previously this was part of the planning application. Once this has been approved the Parish Council will need to have a lease drawn up with the owners of the land which the kiosk is situated on. Cllr Coates will look into this and liaise with the Chairman.

20/098

Footpaths and Horse Manure Heap

Footpath 19 remains uncut, County Cllr Erskine advised that this has been inspected by an Essex Public Rights of Way Officer and a winter cut has been applied for but the date for the cut is not known. County Cllr Erskine will monitor this. Cllrs also advised that the fence is now leaning, it was **RESOLVED** to contact the Clerk at Ramsey Parish Council to ask if the landowner could be contacted to repair this.

The horse manure heap situated in the area of a pond is still showing as a pond on the Essex Footpath map. Concerns were raised as the pond no longer exists having been filled in and now covered over by the manure heap. The rules regarding placement of manure heaps also state they should not be near the boundary with any footpaths. It was **RESOLVED** to contact the Clerk at Ramsey Parish Council to see if they are aware of this and ask if they would look into the concerns.

20/099

MHCLG White Paper

Although the MHCLG White Paper has been deferred the Chairman enquired about the possibility of the Parish Council setting up a Neighbourhood Plan alongside Great Oakley and Wix. Cllr Bush advised this would require a lot of work but felt this was needed. Before starting it was felt beneficial to have a meeting with Great Oakley and Wix. Cllr Bush will speak to Wix Parish Council.

20/100

Loud Noise Complaint

An unsubstantiated complaint from a resident via a third party had been received concerning a recent event held during the afternoon at Little Oakley Memorial Club. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would not reply to the resident as the email was anonymous plus the Memorial Club is a private members club and any complaints should be directed to the Trustees.

20/101

Items for the next Agenda

Any ongoing items from the meeting

Appraisal policy

Finance Committee budget and precept report

20/102

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11th November starting at 7.00 – this will be held remotely via the Zoom platform. The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:10