

## ***Little Oakley Parish Council***

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in the Millennium Room, St Michael's Church, Ramsey starting at 7:15pm.

Emma Haward

Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

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

**Also in attendance:** Emma Haward (Clerk/RFO) and Cllr Dan Land (ECC)

**Members of the Public:** There were no members of the public present.

### **23/151 Public Announcements**

There were no public announcements.

### **23/152 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received by Cllrs Chris and Jill Aubrey and Pearce and accepted by all.

### **23/153 Declarations of Interests**

There were no Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Personal Interests.

### **23/154 Signing of the Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr Attrill, seconded by Cllr Griggs, and RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### **23/155 Public Speaking**

There were no public speakers.

### **23/156 Report from District Councillor Bush**

No report due to absence.

### **23/157 Report from County Councillor Land**

Cllr Land introduced himself to the new Parish Councillors.

Cllr Land noted that the main road between Great and Little Oakley was fixed including the pot holes as part of the ECC scheme allowing each County Councillor to fix 38 pot holes. Cllr Land suggested that the Parish Councillors think of another small project where Cllr Land can assist in funding the project. Following a delay in funding, National Highways plan to finalise the A120 between Wix and Horsley Cross by 2025. Cllr Land will keep the Parish Council informed of the progress of the works and road diversions.

Item 13 was brought forward for Cllr Land to advise.

### **23/158 Clerks Report**

Previously circulated.

**Electricity** - Clerk contacted several electricity providers where we are awaiting quotes. The Clerk also contacted Clerks of neighbouring parishes to seek more information around their own supply. Cllr Land noted that Great Oakley have also experienced an increased in costs, to liaise with the Clerk and other neighbouring parishes.

### **23/159 Finance**

Previously circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr Attrill, seconded by Cllr Coates, and RESOLVED to agree the increase of the Clerk's salary following review in line with the Local Government Pay Scale 2023/24.

It was proposed by Cllr Attrill, seconded by Cllr Harbour, and RESOLVED to approve the payments and expenses for April.

### **23/160 Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications.

### **Determinations**

See minute 23/161.

**23/161 Planning application 21/02144/FUL - Land to The South East of Foulton Hall Harwich Road Little Oakley Essex CO12 5JA** - *Proposed removal of vegetation, localised removal of topsoil, construction of a seawall, associated borrow dyke system and wave breaks and managed realignment of coastal flood defences by breaching of the existing seawall to create estuarine and coastal habitat comprised of approximately 76ha of intertidal mudflat, approximately 19ha of intertidal mudflat/saltmarsh transition, approximately 10ha of saltmarsh, approximately 5ha of sand and shingle and approximately 7ha of fresh/brackish water borrow dykes, together with associated engineering (including diversion of footpath), drainage and earthworks.*

Thanks, were expressed to Cllrs Coates who spoke on behalf of the Parish Council at Tendring's Planning Committee on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 5pm in the Committee Room of Clacton Town Hall. The footpaths to the beach will remain open as permissive paths. It was requested that the footpath diversion order consultation include Parish Councils.

### **23/162 Oakley Coronation Park**

A letter was received from the land agents at ECC, the accessway is to be reinstated and no land swap will take place.

It was proposed to write to the Land Agent for Essex County Council stating that the Parish Council has been treated unfairly, should not be expected to cover any associated costs and that the land is now worth less than previously agreed.

Cllr Coates to write to Ellisons, to raise the concern about the Parish Council not being advised of the accessway and request that they cover any additional costs as a result and request a reduction in fees from them.

**Heras Fencing, Oakley Coronation Park** – The Clerk received a response from the developer who advised that fencing will be erected in the coming days and requesting the code to the gate. The developer also requested a larger access area.

Cllr Attrill to obtain quotes to rehang the gate to allow easier access for the developer.

It was agreed to arrange for a risk assessment to be completed.

Little Oakley Cubs each wrote a letter to the Parish Council (as circulated) requesting that disabled play equipment be installed in the park.

Clerk to write back to advise that there is a delay in installing further equipment. The Parish Council acknowledges their correspondence and plans to install inclusive equipment when funds and permissions are available.

### **23/163 Footpath Little Oakley FP8 from Memorial Club to Oak Ridge**

Cllr Griggs to contact Andrew Cullen to request advice on repairing/improvement of the footpath.

Cllr Land has received a few concerns regarding footpaths, TDC no longer offer the use of road planings. Cllr Land to advise what help is available.

Hedge Maintenance at the end of Oak Ridge – Clerk wrote to the occupier of the property to request that the hedge is cut back to clear the footpath.

### **23/164 Governance and Policy Documents**

#### **Review of Code of Conduct Policy**

The Essex Association of Local Council's is offering a Code of Conduct training session on 18<sup>th</sup> October around the recommendation by the Local Government Association.

It was proposed by Cllr Attrill, seconded by Cllr Lane and RESOLVED to adopt the current Code of Conduct and to review in 2025.

#### **Review of Lone Worker Policy**

The Clerk looked into the Community Clerks Network Facebook page for advice on how other parish councils deal with risk assessments and lone working. Clerks within the group advised that parishes must have a Lone Working Policy, particularly for Clerks. It is good practice to reference both Councillors if they are entering residents' homes and volunteers i.e litter pickers.

Self-employed workers must also have Public Liability insurance as they are not covered by the Parish's insurance and take the necessary actions/precautions required in terms of Health and Safety.

It was proposed by Cllr Attrill, seconded by Cllr Griggs, and RESOLVED to defer the Lone Worker Policy to the next meeting.

### **23/150 Items for Next Agenda**

- Oakley Coronation Park
- Dog Pens on Rectory Lane Bridleway
- Footpath Signs

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

Finance Committee Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024, Millennium Room, St Michaels Church, Ramsey at 7.00pm

Annual Council, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Millennium Room, St Michaels Church, Ramsey at 7.00pm.

Full Council, Wednesday 8th May 2024, Millennium Room, St Michael's Church, Ramsey at 7:15pm.

Meeting concluded at 20:48 pm.