

21LHPC012b

Little Horkesley Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th January 2022

Present: Maria Oats
Chris Exley (Vice Chair)
Hannah Taylor
Chris Jacobs
Susie Goldring
Jo Petersen (Clerk)

Apologies

Darius Laws

Lewis Barber

There were no declarations of Pecuniary or Non-pecuniary interests.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th December 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

2. Public Questions

Tracy Le Grys and Jonathan Eddis were present

3. Parish Council

- a) The clerk had forwarded an email from Amanda Brown at the EALC which confirmed that the number of councillors is determined by the number of households and size of the parish. The District Council would be the authority to talk to about increasing the numbers. It was agreed that the clerk would speak with Darius Laws about increasing the number from 5 to 6 councillors.
- b) Maria Oats and Chris Exley will facilitate the handover of the Chair role to Chris Jacobs and will involve her in the upcoming discussions about end of year finance. It was agreed that Chris Exley will deal with any issues relating to the Clerk's employment moving forward.

4. Broadband

- a) Chris Jacobs is still to hear from County Broadband about their timetable for the rollout of superfast broadband to Little Horkesley, although it was noted that Gigaclear are currently laying cables along School Road and Holt Road so perhaps they are providing to more of the village than previously indicated. It was agreed that this is potentially good news.

5. Playground

- a) The monthly inspection checklist was approved and has already been used by Hannah Taylor.
- b) The clerk is still to receive a response from Michael Devine at Amphora about the issues relating to the renewal of the playing field lease. Darius Laws has confirmed that he has made a formal inquiry on behalf of the Parish Council over the need to conclude this matter.
- c) Clarification on the issue of the fence at the rear of Orchard Cottages will hopefully be received from Michael Devine now that Darius Laws has raised the issue. The clerk will ask CBC whether there are plans to remove the rubbish on the parking spaces next to the playing field.
- d) Maria Oats will arrange a date to meet with Marion Drury at the new bench dedicated to the memory of Roger so that we can take a photograph and publicise the new bench and acknowledge the grant from The National Lottery.
- e) Maria Oats has started work on an outline plan for the future of the playground. The starting point will be to find out from Ruth Newcombe at CBC about affordable housing and then make plans subject to the outcome of these discussions. In the meantime, MO will make a list of all the things that need to be addressed over the next year.

6. Roads, Verges & Footpaths

- a) It was noted that one of the potholes on Crabtree Road has been filled, and the other looks like the road has subsided as is yet to be repaired.

Hannah Taylor has reported a pothole by Tudor Cottage.

The Clerk will report a broken tree branch that is hanging over the road at the double bend on School Road.

- b) The Clerk will follow up with Lewis Barber about replacing the “Children Playing” sign near the bus shelter.

The clerk also suggested that she would do an audit of all the road signs in the parish.

7. Planning

- a) There were no planning issues to discuss

8. Bus Shelter

- a) Chris Jacobs will install the new cork when the weather permits.

9. Affordable Housing

- a) Chris Exley has spoken with Ruth Newcombe at CBC and informed her that the parish council is interested in hearing the proposals for Affordable Housing in Little Horkesley and whether they will move forward with a plan.
It was suggested that it would be helpful if she could come and speak with the parish council and tell us if the concept of Affordable Housing is feasible as we need to make plans for the playground including the potential purchase of new play equipment.

The Parish Council confirmed at the meeting that it would like Colchester Borough Council (Through Ruth Newcombe) to progress CBC's feasibility study to the provision of affordable homes in the centre of the village. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting would be forwarded to Ruth in confirmation.

10. Emergency Assistance Plan

- a) Maria Oats made a number of amendments to the proposed advert for the Vulnerable Persons list. The clerk will make the changes and circulate to all councillors for approval before submitting for publication in the next issue of the parish magazine.

It was agreed that a summary of the Emergency Assistance Plan would be placed on the website. Chris Jacobs agreed to write the summary.

11. War Memorial

- a) It was agreed that all councillors would meet at the war memorial and then move on to the playing field before the April meeting to discuss maintenance work required on both.

12. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- a) It was agreed that the Parish Council would organise a community event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The clerk will inform Mark Healy at CBC of the plans.
Chris Jacobs will make enquiries about a venue in the centre of the village.
The clerk will speak with the insurance company to check the terms of the public liability policy.
The clerk will draft an advert for the parish magazine.

All councillors agreed that it would be a lovely idea to participate in the The Queen's Green Canopy initiative that is being run in conjunction with the Woodland Trust. This is however dependent on the plans for the playing field.

13. Finance

- a) All councillors agreed the final draft of the budget.
- b) It was agreed that the Parish Council would allocate £500 of reserves towards the precept request.
The clerk will submit the final precept request to Diane Gentile at CBC before 24th January 2022.
- c) Chris Exley signed the Quarterly Report.

Invoice Approval.

The following invoices were approved:

- CALC £35.00
- Little Horkeley Village Hall £100.00

14. Correspondence

Emails forwarded by the Clerk

There were no comments on the emails forwarded by the clerk.

Hard Copy

There was no hard copy correspondence to circulate.

16. Items for the Next Agenda

- It was agreed that the next meeting would be in March 2022

..... (Maria Oats - Chair)

..... (Date)

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday 21st March 2022 (Little Horkesley Village Hall)