

22LHPC09b

Little Horkesley Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 26th September 2022

Present: Chris Jacobs (Chair)
Chris Exley (Vice Chair)
Hannah Taylor
Susie Goldring
Tracy Le Grys
Jo Petersen (Clerk)
Jonathan Eddis

Apologies

Lewis Barber

Darius Laws

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

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2022 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

2. Public Questions

Jonathan Eddis was present

3. A Tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Chris Jacobs read the following statement on behalf of Little Horkesley Parish Council:

“Her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II was one of the greatest leaders the world has ever known, serving fifteen countries as head of state and as a unifying force across the Commonwealth. Her words of wisdom gave us strength in the most testing times and during the darkest moments of the pandemic, she gave us hope that we would meet again.

Her promise made on her 21st birthday to dedicate her life to serve was a promise completely fulfilled. She came to the throne in a country that was emerging from the shadow of war and seventy years later bequeathed a modern, dynamic nation that has grown and flourished under her reign.

We send our deepest sympathy to members of the Royal Family and offer loyal service to the new King.”

4. Parish Council

- a) Chris Jacobs gave notice that she will tend her resignation immediately after the meeting and then the formal process to elect a new Chair will begin. Voting for a new Chair will be held at the next meeting.
- b) The process for co-opting Jonathan Eddis will begin at the next meeting.
Chris Exley gave notice via email that he intends to step down as a Parish Councillor on 30th March 2023. The clerk will start to prepare an advert for a new Councillor which will be placed in the Parish Magazine, the website, the facebook page and the noticeboard.

5. National Grid “GREEN” Pylons Scheme

- a) Susie Goldring reported back on recent communications from the campaign group which involved details of a meeting with Ofgem and also the funds raised so far to enable the advice of a barrister.

6. Affordable Housing

- a) Chris Exley reported back on the findings from the RCCE Affordable Homes Survey which was completed by residents of the parish. There was a good response to the survey and the RCCE assessment concluded that it would be appropriate to try and build two units. A summary of the report can be found on the Parish Council website at www.littlehorkesleypc.com/affordable-housing (CE will write a summary)

Ruth Newcombe in her last email noted that the newly adopted policy DM17 – Retention of Open Space and Recreation Facilities, my put a halt to the whole process. Chris believes that we are a long way from having a decision and that the process will stall unless a private landowner offers up land (previous “call for sites” have not produced results).

Chris Exley also noted that Ruth Newcombe has left Colchester Borough Council and that she is not expecting a replacement to be in position until October.

7. Broadband

- a) It was noted that TG Ram are currently installing cables on Water Lane. This means that almost all of Little Horkesley will then be covered with superfast broadband although it is still unclear who the provider will be.

8. Playground

- a) The clerk confirmed that the lease for the playground has been returned to Colchester Borough Council
- b) It was agreed that the clerk would instruct Mortimer Contracts to fulfil the work highlighted by the ROSPA report at a cost of £100 +vat. The clerk will arrange to meet Mortimer Contracts on site to discuss reducing the size of the playground and moving the swings.

- c) The clerk has not received an update from CBC regarding repair to the damaged fence. It was agreed that she will contact Lewis Barber and Darius Laws to see if they are able to help in securing agreement that the work will be carried out by CBC.
- d) It was agreed that the clerk will obtain quotes for the removal of the oak tree that was surveyed by Paul Cutler. The clerk will obtain quotes for the work from three contractors. The clerk will also research an application for a replacement tree through the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.
- e) It was agreed that the clerk would speak with Danny Page about whether he is able to add weed control in the playground to the work that he carries out in the parish.
- f) It was agreed that as a decision on Affordable Housing appears to be some way off, the clerk would start to put together a plan for the development of the playground; to include reducing the size and applying for a grant for new equipment.

9. Roads, Verges & Footpaths

- a) The clerk updated the Councillors on the flooding on footpaths 14 and 15. This was due to a burst pipe of "Raw" water (untreated water from rivers and reservoirs). Anglian Water have now repaired the pipe and are due to make good damage to the footpath and hedges.
- b) It was noted that footpath 25 has not been marked, footpath 11 is overgrown and footpath 5 has hedge trimmings restricting access. Hannah Taylor will report these to Essex County Council. The clerk suggested that she asks Lewis Barber and Darius Laws if there is a more direct way to request work to footpaths through Colchester Borough Council rather than through Essex County Council.

10. Planning

- a) The only planning application to note was Application 222202 which was submitted by the Parish Council with respect to removing the black paint from the railings of the war memorial, treating for rust and applying new paint.

11. Bus Shelter

- a) It was agreed that the clerk would apply for a grant to replace the bench at the bus shelter as the current bench is showing signs of rot. The current bench commemorates the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II so it seems fitting that it should be replaced in 2022.

12. War Memorial

- a) As detailed in Point 10 (Planning), Chris Exley has had the planning application validated for work to the War Memorial. We will wait to hear if the Parish Council requires planning permission to renovate the railings.

13. Finance

Invoice Approval

The following invoices have been approved and paid:

- J Petersen (Salary July) £177.00
- EALC £71.20

The following invoices were approved and payment will be arranged by the clerk:

- CALC £35.00
- Essex & Herts Air Ambulance £50.00
- RCCE (Housing Needs Survey) £100.00

14. Correspondence

Hard Copy

Dedham Vale Society magazine

14. Items for the Next Agenda

- New Chairman
- New Councillor
- Affordable Housing
- War Memorial
- Pylons
- Bench by the bus shelter
- New “no dogs” sign for the playground
- Dates for next years meeting
- Emergency Plan

..... (Chris Jacobs - Chair)

..... (Date)

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday 17th October 2022 (Little Horkesley Village Hall)