

Minutes of the Little Horkesley Parish Council

meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 2 August 2017

Present: Steve Clarke,
Hannah Taylor,
Roger Drury (Clerk).

Apologies were received from Maria Oats, Chris Exley and Cllr Nigel Chapman (CBC Rural North).
No Pecuniary or Non-pecuniary interests were declared.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 May were approved as an accurate record.

2. Clerk's Report

a. Superfast Essex

There had been no volunteer to attend Superfast Essex Parish Engagement Event on 25 July.

Chris Exley's email of 4 July in which the plans of Superfast Essex seemed to promise fibre installation for Water Lane in 2019 was noted as was the installation of fibre optics in West Bergholt. It was hoped that, if fibre optics were to be brought to Water Lane, the centre of the village would also benefit.

There was speculation on what Open Reach had been doing in the way of cable laying in Vinesse Road 31 July – 1 August.

Having put County Broadband and Duncan Brown in contact over the possible use of the Barn to reflect a signal to the village, he had received no further information.

b. Playing Field

It was noted that:

- Jerry Munson had the resources to continue cutting the playing field and would keep the Clerk advised if the situation changed;
- Hannah Taylor and family had been weeding the playground area and that Jak Jacobs had weed killed as well – it was agreed to ask him to repeat the process before the Autumn;
- Paul Cutler had contacted the Clerk and they would meet on site to discuss the requirements i.e. topping all the trees at the back and side of the field. The Chair agreed, if available, to join those discussions.

It was recognised that this would be an expensive operation £1,000 ++ and the Chair agreed to provide a competitive quote in view of the cost involved.

- The Clerk would chase up CBC on the question of bark deliveries.

c. Roads/Verges

No one had been able to discover what work Open Reach had been doing in Vinesse Road.

d. Little Horkesley PC website

The surprisingly high number of "hits" 180 was noted.

3. Planning

a. Application No: 170421 Joscelyns, Water Lane, Little Horkesley

The rejection of this application to convert agriculture buildings to residential use was noted.

At the last meeting the Clerk had been asked to draft a letter from Council to Peter Watson expressing their concerns over various planning issues. In view of this refusal and other issues, the Clerk had deemed an inappropriate time to approach him – this course of action was agreed.

b. Application No: 17100 Joscelyns, Water Lane, Little Horkesley

This roadway application had been approved but the decision noted that it led to the western side of the approved application for a hay barn (152424) where the doors were situated on the eastern side. Any change in the siting of the doors would invalidate 1524254.

c. Application No: B/17/01128 (Babergh) Harpers Hill, Nayland

Nothing to report.

d. CBC Enforcement of Planning Decisions relating to Motts and Thrift Farm

Thrift Farm

Work appeared to have started on the Hay Barn (140529) though it was difficult to relate work in hand to that set out in the application.

CBC have ordered that all structures between Thrift Farm and Water Lane be removed – the timescale in which this will take place is unknown.

e. Colchester Plan 2017 – 32

The consultation concluded at the end of July.

4. Finance

a. The summary of accounts to 29 June was regarded as healthy, with a reserve of £7,747.06, but that must be offset against potential high expenditure needed on the playing field over the next few months.

b. The following expenditure was approved;

- CBC £90.00 – playing field lease;
- Michael Foaks £100 – playing field maintenance.

5. Correspondence

The correspondence received in the month was noted.

6. Any Other Business

Hannah Taylor reported that they had had a number of incursions on their land believed to be “travellers” which had culminated in a pick-up being torched.

It was agreed to spread the word in the village although the threat seems to have moved on.

..... (Steve Clarke – Chair)

..... (Date)

Date of next Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 19 September.