

**Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 19 April 2017**

Garry Cole outlined the new recycling and rubbish collections from June 2017 which are clearly set out in the flyer contained in people's Council Tax demand for 2017/18 – the Clerk would put this on the Village Noticeboard to remind people of the changes.

The aim being to increase the current levels of recycling within the Borough.

The key element is that black bag collections in future will be two weekly and limited to three bags.

There would be exceptions on the basis of age or medical/personal requirements and the Parish Council agreed to assist in identifying those in need of special care.

The Chair raised the issue that those who were required to deliver rubbish to the roadside where several properties may be involved would create difficulties in identifying those not complying with the new regulations.

Our Zone Manager is Casey Harrison, [casey.harrison@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:casey.harrison@colchester.gov.uk), who should be contacted on any related issues including fly tipping.

**Present:** Steve Clarke (Chair),  
Maria Oats,  
Chris Exley,  
Hannah Taylor,  
Roger Drury (Clerk)

With Cllr. Nigel Chapman (CBC Rural North).

No pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests were declared.

**1. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March were approved as an accurate record.

**2. Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2016/17**

Section 1 was reviewed, approved and duly signed by the Chair and the Clerk/RFO.

**3. 2016//17 Parish Council Audit**

- a. The Summary of Income/expenditure and Asset Register were reviewed and agreed as a complete summary and the key figures carried forward to the Accounting Statement were agreed.
- b. Section 2 Accounting Summary 2016/17 was duly signed by the Clerk/RFO.
- c. The following expenditure was agreed:
  - J R Drury £44.38 – Stationery supplies;
  - EALC £63.57 – Annual Affiliation Fee;
  - CPRE £39.00 – Annual Affiliation Fee.
- d. The Vat Reclaim for 2016/17 of £270.05 was noted.

**4. Clerk's Report**

- a. Superfast Essex

It was reported that all the properties that had reacted to the flyer had been recategorized as "white" meaning that they were eligible for Phase 3 although exactly what that meant was as yet unclear.

Speeds from County Broadband in the centre of the village 8mbs to 15mbs had also been reported to Superfast Essex – CB should be delivering 30mbs.

## b. Playing Field

The Clerk reported on the playing field/playground:

- The grass had had its first cut and looked splendid;
- The Scattered Orchard and Pollination Patch all were moving into leaf and looked health although the lack of rain was a concern;
- The WFM was in good shape although additional planting had been delayed by the lack of rain;
- There was little weed in the playground area but additional bark was urgently needed;
- The eastly post supporting the gate needed replacement.

The play equipment had not been inspected.

The annual inspection by RoSPA had been confirmed and the parish entered on the register for automatic future inspections.

It was agreed that:

- The netball posts should be removed but the goal posts retained;
- New bark and replacement of all the vertical fence posts should be replaced after comments from the RoSPA Inspection were received.

The Chair also reported that the steps on the play frame would need strengthening.

## c. Roads/Verges

It was agreed that after recent ECC Highways activity in the village, the roads were in an excellent state.

The Clerk had reported the broken road sign at the Beehive Xroads yet again.

It was agreed that the plan to log verge damage discussed at the last meeting would achieve little in view of the attitude of the agricultural industry in the area and this proposal should be dropped.

The Clerk reported that ECC Highways had refused the Council's request for a late June cut of verges in the village on the basis that their prime consideration was road safety e.g. visibility.

## d. Footpaths

The Clerk has registered with ECC Highways the number of damaged footpath signs in the village and hopefully they would be replaced.

It was agreed that there were no grounds on which to object to the diversion of Footpath 4 in Great Horkesley.

## e. Little Horkesley PC Website

There were no significant developments to report although David Lewis had produced a Spring Farming Focus which the Clerk would circulate.

## f. Community Agents

No response had been received to the Council's expression of interest.

g. Licence to plant the Highway

The Clerk reported that “all tubs/troughs/planters/planting in verges need to be licenced” and that applications could only be made through Parish Councils.

It was agreed that the objective was to limit the number of “hard” objects placed on the verge and was not aimed at individual soft landscaping e.g. planting of daffodils etc.

h. Fire Hydrants

Hannah Taylor reported on the problems that the Fire Brigade had in identifying the location of Fire Hydrants at the recent fire in Water Lane. She had produced a plan of where hydrants were in the village and it was agreed that this should be included in the Emergency Plan and put on the Noticeboard for information.

A water supply to the Holts area is comparatively recent, within the last 25 years, and it is possible that no new hydrants were installed.

## 5. Planning

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

Concerns were raised on activities at Joscelyns which are discussed further below.

b. Application No: 170692 Old School House, School Road, Little Horkesley

No objections were raised in relation to this application.

c. Application No: 170820 Ashfield House, Holts Road, Little Horkesley

No objections were raised in relation to this application.

d. Application No: 170981/2 Rose & Crown, Nayland Road, Great Horkesley

An application had been lodged from the people running the Blue Owl café/craft shops in West Bergholt and Nayland to convert the Rose & Crown into similar organisation – there appeared to be no reason to object.

e. CBC Enforcement Issues

Concerns were expressed on the lack of enforcement action by CBC on:

- Thrift Farm – their 3 year condition on the erection of a hay barn expires in May and no attempt had been made to start work on this or to tidy up the site. The intensity of animals grazing on a small patch of land was another concern.
- Thrift Farm Barns – works were being carried out without the required planning permission.
- Joscelyns – the manner in which work was being carried out on Old Barn Cottage, a listed property, was causing alarm.

It was agreed to re discuss these issues at the next meeting and Cllr Chapman was asked to take these issues up with the Planning Department.

f. Colchester Plan

There were no developments to report – the final proposals are expected to go before the Local Plan Committee on 17 May.

## 6. Finance

Covered under items 2 and 3.

**7. Correspondence**

- a. EALC March Legal Update – Maria Oats reported that those Councils who have received funding for the Transparency Code can apply for recurring costs – the Clerk to progress this.
- b. DV&SV March Update was noted – Hannah Taylor, Chris Exley and Roger Drury would attend the Forum in June.
- c. ECC Notices of County Council Elections – all relevant notices have been posted on the Village Noticeboard.
- d. Invitation to Essex & Suffolk Gliding Club Open Day was noted.

The following information was circulated:

- Letter from the Chair of EALC;
- CPRE Countryside Voice/Field Work;
- EALC County Update – April;
- Came & Co Parish Council Update.

**8. Items for the Next Agenda**

Planning enforcement issues at Thrift Farm, Thrift Farm Barns and Joscelyns.

..... (Steve Clarke Chair)

..... (Date)

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 1900 on Wednesday 3 May followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 2000.**