

22LHPC12b

Little Horkesley Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th December 2022

Present: Jonathan Eddis (Chair)
Chris Exley (Vice Chair)
Hannah Taylor
Tracy Le Gry
Jo Petersen (Clerk)

Apologies

Susie Goldring

Lewis Barber

Darius Laws

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

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

2. Public Questions

a) There were no members of the public present.

3. National Grid “GREEN” Pylons Scheme

a) It was noted that David Burns’ help with the completion of the form for The Planning Inspectorate was invaluable and the Parish Council were exceptionally pleased with the response that was submitted.
Jonathan Eddis noted that the campaign group are still asking for financial support to help fund the barrister, and that there will be a great deal of campaigning required in 2023.

4. Affordable Housing

a) Chris Exley reported that Colchester Borough Council have stated that they will not support loss of any part of the recreation ground for affordable housing. In his view, this has stymied the only possible route to enable affordable housing within the parish.

The RCCE have offered to write a summary of the Housing Needs Survey to thank parishioners for their participation and have suggested that we could use it as a final plea to local landowners for land. All Councillors agreed that this is a good idea and that we would seek to have it published in the parish magazine.

5. Playground

- a) It was agreed that the clerk would ask Mortimer Contracts to complete the repairs to the swing.
- b) The clerk confirmed that the issue of the damage to the fence has been forwarded to Andrew Weavers at CBC by Darius Laws, and that she is still awaiting a response.
- c) The clerk has again been in contact with Darius Laws who is still chasing the issue of the flytipping at the entrance to the playing field on our behalf.
- d) The insurance were unable to comment on the tree report from Paul Cutler and suggested contacting the company that carried out the survey for clarification of the required works.
- e) It was agreed that the Parish Council would start to put together a plan for the future of the playground as it is unlikely that the space will be used for Affordable Housing. The clerk will compose an article for the website and facebook page asking parishioners for their thoughts on what they would like to see in the space.

6. Roads, Verges & Footpaths

- a) Hannah Taylor has reported footpaths 5 and 25 again (ref 2799592)

7. Planning

- a) Chris Exley confirmed that he submitted his response to CBC about the consultation of their Supplementary Planning Guide on Affordable Housing.

8. Bus Shelter

- a) Tracy Le Grys has the measurements of the current bench and will pass these on to the clerk so she can begin to research an appropriate replacement.

9. War Memorial

- a) It was agreed that the clerk will begin the process of obtaining quotes for the renovation of the war memorial railings in the spring.

10. Emergency Assistance Plan

- a) Tracey Le Grys confirmed that she has updated the Emergency Assistance Plan. She queried who would be the new keyholder for the village hall? It is currently held by Chris Jacobs but she is moving out of the parish so there will need to be a new keyholder. Chris Exley confirmed that he is happy to remain as a contact on the Emergency Plan after he has left the Parish Council.

11. Elections

The clerk received an extremely helpful email from the clerk of West Bergholt Parish Council regarding the election process.

The clerk has booked herself onto an EALC "Election Briefing" course on 21st February.

12. Budget

- a) The 1st draft of the budget was discussed, and the figures were agreed.
- b) It was agreed that the Parish Council would use £500 from reserves which will only increase the Council tax for Parish Purposes by 1% from the 2022/23 figures, despite a 1.9% increase in the total gross expenditure to be incurred by the Parish Council.

The precept notification is required by Colchester Borough Council no later than 25th January 2023. It was agreed that the clerk would wait until after the January meeting of the parish council on 16th January before submitting the request in case any amendments were required.

13. Finance

Invoice Approval

The following invoice was approved:

- J Petersen (EALC Election Briefing) £54.00

14. Correspondence

15. Items for the Next Agenda

- Pylons
- Bench by the bus shelter

..... (Jonathan Eddis - Chair)

..... (Date)

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday 16th January 2023 (Little Horkesley Village Hall)