

23LHPC01b

Little Horkesley Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th January 2023

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

Apologies

Lewis Barber

Darius Laws

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

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19th December 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) The Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons group will be holding an online event on 25th January to discuss the campaign process, fund raising, spending, and next steps.

There will be another “in person” event at the Royal Hospital School on 9th March with speakers including Lord Deben, Sir Bernard Jenkin and Simon Morrish.
It was agreed that the clerk will put notification of the event on the website and facebook page.

b) David Burns has asked if the Parish Council would agree to assist the campaign group in holding another meeting at the village hall in order to ensure that all those residents without access to social media are informed of the campaign and action to be taken.
It was agreed that the Parish Council would be happy to coordinate the meeting and drop leaflets to all residents, as well as advertise the meeting on the website and the bus shelter.

Susie Goldring will reallocate the leaflet drop areas to ensure all households receive the information.

4. Affordable Housing

- a) Chris Exley is waiting for the RCCE to send a summary of the Housing Needs Survey to thank parishioners for their participation. The clerk will post the article to the website and Facebook page as soon as it is received.

5. Playground

- a) Mortimer Contracts have been instructed to repair the swing and are currently sourcing the necessary parts.
- b) Further to an email received by Mr Devine it was agreed that the Parish Council is not prepared to settle the issue of the gate at 7 Orchard Cottages with the issue of a licence. It was agreed that the clerk will contact Mr Devine and suggest instead that Colchester City Council issue a side letter to the contract stating that the Parish Council will not be in breach of contract if the fence is not reinstated.
The clerk will draft an email to be read by all councillors before it is sent to Mr Devine.
- c) Mr Devine confirmed that he has asked the owner of 7 Orchard Cottages to remove the rubble at the entrance to the playing field. As he has failed to do so, Mr Devine has requested the help of Legal Services to ensure that the area is cleared.
- d) It was agreed that Johnny Eddis will ask a local farmer to quote for pollarding the oak tree, ensuring that he is happy to complete a risk assessment.
- e) The clerk reported that she had received two responses to her Facebook post asking for opinions and ideas for the future of the playground from members of the parish. Both were very keen to see dramatic improvements to the area and were very disappointed when the previous climbing frame was removed.
The clerk has spoken with Enover who provide grants for local communities and feels optimistic that Little Horkesley will be successful if they apply for a grant. The clerk has already contacted three potential suppliers (Creativeplay, Wicksteed and Proludic) and is arranging for quotes to be drawn up.

6. Roads, Verges & Footpaths

- a) Essex Highways ref 2813086 – No action to be taken on the potholes reported on Workhouse Road. It was agreed that the clerk will respond and state that the Parish Council believes the road is dangerous to the many cyclists that use that route in its current state.

Street Cleaning Request ref CBC-375381-B2V6W8 CRM:002000315197 Fishponds Hill reported by a local resident as the mud and leaves on the road are creating dangerous driving conditions.

7. Planning

- a) Planning application 223113. The Parish Council submitted their support to the application.

8. Bus Shelter

- a) The clerk asked Cllr Darius Laws and Cllr Lewis Barber if they could pledge a portion of their locality budget to assist in the purchase of a new bench.

Cllr Lewis Barber will make a donation and suggested that the Parish Council speak with Colchester City Council as they are able to provide benches for £800 including installation, which is considerably cheaper than the Glasdon bench and installation which will cost approx. £1400.

The clerk has asked Cllr Lewis Barber to put her in contact with the relevant department so she can discuss requirements for the bench.

9. War Memorial

- a) The clerk has requested quotes for the work required for the railings at the War Memorial from Mortimer Contracts, Get It Done and Waltham Forest Engineering. She is waiting for responses.

10. Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council is required to hold an Annual Meeting in May and a minimum of 3 further meetings each year. The Parish Council currently meets every month except February and August.

It was agreed that from January we will meet once every two months.

11. Budget

- a) The 2nd 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 3% from the 2022/23 figures to £65.98

The clerk will submit the precept notification which is required by Colchester Borough Council no later than 25th January 2023.

13. Finance

It was noted that the VAT Reclaim figure so far this year is £220.97

Invoice Approval

The following invoice was approved:

None

14. Correspondence

None

15. Items for the Next Agenda

- Elections – JP to give feedback following course in February
- Pylons
- Affordable Housing

..... (Jonathan Eddis - Chair)

..... (Date)

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday 20th March 2023 (Little Horkesley Village Hall)