

21LHPC04b

Little Horkesley Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 25th April 2022

Present: Maria Oats
Chris Exley (Vice Chair)
Hannah Taylor
Chris Jacobs
Susie Goldring
Darius Laws
Jo Petersen (Clerk)

Apologies

Lewis Barber

Laura Atkinson (RCCE)

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

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

2. Public Questions

Ruth Newcombe was present for the first part of the meeting at the Playground.

Tracy Le Grys was present

Jonathan Eddis was present

3. Affordable Homes

- a) Councillors met Ruth Newcombe (Affordable Housing Strategic Officer, CBC) at the playground to discuss the possibility of using part of the space for affordable housing. It was agreed that the first step would be to consult with the community again, as the last housing needs survey was carried out in June 2018.
Chris Exley will speak with Laura Atkinson (RCCE) and take the next steps in this process.

4. Parish Council

- a) Maria Oats confirmed that she has met with Chris Jacobs and passed all the Chair's files to her in preparation for her taking over the role of Chair.
The Clerk's personnel files have been given to Chris Exley who will deal with all employment issues in the future.
- b) It was confirmed that the meeting in May will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

5. Broadband

- a) Chris Jacobs had no developments to report.

6. Playground

- a) The clerk confirmed that the lease for the playing field has been agreed. She is waiting for a hard copy which will need to be signed.
- b) The clerk has informed Mr Devine of the damage to the fence in the playing field as is waiting for a response.
- c) The clerk has requested a contract from Danny Page in respect of the grass cutting schedule for the year and is waiting for a response. It was noted that the grass has already been cut twice.
- d) The clerk confirmed that the ROSPA playground inspection has been booked for May, although a specific date has not been given.
- e) The clerk will arrange for Paul Cutler to perform a tree inspection of the oak tree to the west of the green space in June.
- f) Any plan for the future of the playground is dependent on knowing more about the potential for affordable housing in the space. It was agreed that an interim plan for the playground would be created.

Maria Oats shared an email about Stanway Parish Council and the grants they were able to secure for new play equipment.

- g) All councillors read a note of thanks from the Drury family which was received after they had visited the bench that has been dedicated to the memory of the former Clerk, Roger Drury.

7. Roads, Verges & Footpaths

- a) It was noted that potholes have been repaired on Water Lane and Crabtree Lane.

Hannah Taylor has reported fallen finger posts again as they still have not been repaired.

It was also noted that the Crossfield path on Footpath 27 needs to be cleared by the farmer. The clerk will write a letter to all farmers reminding them to keep cross field paths clear.

8. Planning

- a) There were no planning applications to discuss.

9. Bus Shelter

- a) Chris Jacobs noted that the improvement in weather should allow for the new cork to be installed in the noticeboard. The clerk offered to assist.

10. Emergency Assistance Plan

- a) The clerk encountered technical issues with the Wix website while updating the Emergency Assistance Plan page and will try again this week.

11. War Memorial

- a) All members of the parish council met at the war memorial prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the railing needs repairing. Chris Exley will speak with the conservation officer and make an enquiry about whether we need permission to repaint the railings.

12. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- a) Tracy Le Grys has approached local supermarkets to see if they are willing to donate scones, jam and clotted cream and has worked out the costs for 70 people.

The clerk will design a flyer which will be distributed by councillors.

- b) The application for funding from the National Lottery Community Fund had been turned down and so all costs will be paid for by the Parish Council

13. BT Digital Voice

- a) It was noted that this issue is receiving much attention in the media, especially from Ester Rantzen who has been campaigning against the proposals.

It was confirmed that the project will only go ahead once communities have moved to superfast broadband. The Parish Council will monitor the situation.

14. Defibrillator

- a) The issue of a defibrillator in the village was discussed by the parish council about four years ago. At the time it was decided that the benefit to the village was not worth the cost as

there are only a few residents within walking distance of any potential site. After discussion, it was agreed that the situation is unchanged.

It was noted that there are now two First Responders in the village who are able to help in a medical emergency. It was agreed that it would be more useful to put an article in the parish magazine highlighting the presence of First Responders and also that first aid training can be given.

15. Finance

- a) It was agreed that the signing of the AGAR documents would be delayed until the May meeting. The clerk will spend time before the meeting showing the new Chair the figures and explain the AGAR forms and process.
- b) The updated Asset Register will be approved at the next meeting once inflation figures have been received from the Insurance Company.
- c) The Quarterly Report was approved and signed by Chris Exley.
- d) The clerk has not yet received an Insurance Renewal

Invoice Approval.

The following invoices were approved:

Parish Magazine	£200.00
CPRE	£39.00

15. Correspondence

Emails forwarded by the Clerk

There were no comments on the emails forwarded by the clerk.

Hard Copy

There was no hard copy correspondence to circulate.

16. Items for the Next Agenda

- AGAR Forms
- Asset Register
- National Grid “East Anglian Green Energy Enablement (GREEN)”

Before the close of the meeting, Maria Oats informally ended her term as Chairman and was presented with a tree from the Councillors and Clerk as a mark of thanks for her sixteen years of hard work as Councillor and Chair.

Maria Oats emailed all Councillors the following day and gave formal notice of her resignation as a councillor and Chair of Little Horkesley Parish Council.

..... (Maria Oats - Chair)

..... (Date)

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday 16th May 2022 (Little Horkesley Village Hall)