

# Little Horkesley Parish Council

## Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 15 February 2017

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

**Apologies** were received from Cllr. Nigel Chapman (CBC Rural North) and Hannah Taylor.

No pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests were declared.

### 1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January were approved as an accurate record.

### 2. Clerk's Report

#### a. Annual Parish Meeting

It was noted that an invitation to attend had been included in the March Parish Magazine and it was agreed to circulate the flyer in the week before the APM – the Clerk to remind all of the commitment.

#### b. Community Agents

As requested by Cllr. Anne Brown the Clerk had contacted the Community Agents expressing an interest but, to date, had received no reply.

#### c. CBC Review of Meeting Procedures

The Clerk reported that he had responded on behalf of the Council broadly stating that the current procedures were satisfactory except to the limited number allowed to comment on planning applications.

#### d. Playing Field

The Chair reported that the playing field for the time of year looked in a good state and that it had been decided that the pile of grass cuttings from last year did not require moving on as they were rotting away nicely.

Jerry Munson had confirmed that he would be cutting the grass for 2017 and would dig out the bark in Spring. Other works required before the RoSPA inspection would be carried out by the Chair.

The Chair also reported that he own a ride-on mower that could be used for additional cuts if required.

The Clerk reported that an additional apple tree had been planted in the scattered orchard to guarantee cross fertilisation and that eight shrubs/trees had been planted in the Pollinator Patch. They were mainly "whips" and it would be some years before they would attain a useful size.

#### e. Roads

The extensive road works in the village over recent weeks was welcomed – Workhouse Road had been fully resurfaced and work was in hand on School Lane.

It was noted that the Council's comment on measures to improve safety on London Road was with the LHP and it was noted there was a serious accident at the Coach Road/Park farm junction in w/c 30 January which had involved the Police.

f. Little Horkesley PC Website.

No comments had been received on the given Clerk's email address but 49 people had viewed the site although how many from the village could not be determined.

It was agreed to ask David Lewis to produce a Spring comment for the farming section.

g. Footpaths

It was agreed to walk all the footpaths and report back to the March/April meeting on problem areas. Cllr. Brown's comments at the last meeting that ECC were withdrawing from their role in maintaining footpaths was noted with concern.

h. Internet Services

It was agreed that Superfast Essex email of 30 January was totally unacceptable in that it implied that those properties in the areas classified as "under review – existing deployment" should individually contact County Broadband to clarify whether County Broadband could provide a signal and, if they did not, would be excluded from the Phase 3 Update. Many of these home owners were elderly and unlikely to approach County Broadband and, thereby, the reliance on "Existing deployment" would continue.

The true situation is **that the County Broadband service reached only the central area of the village and properties to the north, down Water Lane, and to the west and south, School Road, Holt Road, Crabtree Lane, Workhouse Road and Vinesse Road, could not receive an adequate signal** due to the fact that the repeater on the church was lower and surrounded by trees.

It was agreed that Maria Oats would produce a flyer requesting those in the non-signal area to contact County Broadband and the Clerk would send a copy of this flyer accompanied with a letter explaining the problem to Anne Brown.

**This was urgent given the timescale Superfast Essex were working in.**

3. Planning

a. Application No:163191 Priory Farm Cottage, School Road, Little Horkesley

The application had been approved but with measures to prevent overlooking neighbouring properties.

b. Application No: 163191 Spring House Barns, London Road, Great Horkesley

The application has been approved – no reference to access problems onto London Road.

c. Application No:163168 Thrift Farm Barns, Nayland Hill, Great Horkesley

It was noted that works had started before approval had been given, the proposals were unacceptable and the Council would be unlikely to support any further development at the site.

d. Colchester Local Plan

No additional information available although the alternative routes for the A120 vital to the West Tey option were out for public consultation. It was agreed that routes joining the A12 as far south as Kelevdon were not ideal for traffic from the Colchester area.

e. Thrift Farm, Nayland Hill, Great Horkesley

The Chair reported that information indicated that the owner was seeking ground works to be started on the barn for which planning permission was granted in May 2014. It was agreed that no action should be taken until after May.

**4. Finance**

a. Contracts

Although guidance had been sought from EALC on the monetary value above which a full tendering process should be gone through, no advice had been received to date. This probably reflects that the EALC are currently in a state of flux due to staff turnover.

The Clerk was advised to seek information from CBC Legal Department.

b. The following expenditure was approved:

- Lorraine Brooks £47.50 – website maintenance;
- Little Horkesley PCC £100.00 – Parish Magazine;
- Little Horkesley Village Hall £82.50 - Village Hall Hire.

c. The Clerk reported that the VAT Reclaim2016/17 was £270.05 and in future years the value of the VAT Reclaim should be used to offset the Precept.

**5. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was discussed:

- DV&SV Project January 2017,
- DV&SV Walk 22 April,
- EALC Legal Update – Maria Oats to review.

**6. Items for Next Agenda**

The Clerk was requested to investigate the timing of verge cutting but it was essential that any changes should give priority to road safety issues at junctions and blind bends and focus on Holt Road, Crabtree Lane, Workhouse Road, Vinesse Road (Park Road to concrete patch).

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

**Next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 1930 on Wednesday 15 March**