

Minutes of the Little Horkesley Parish Council

meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 15 November 2017

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 18 October were approved as an accurate record.

2. Low Cost/Affordable Housing

After a very useful presentation from Ruth Newcombe, CBC Affordable Housing Officer, which resolved many of the doubts of the Council, it was agreed to proceed with a Housing Needs Assessment and Chris Exley agreed to coordinate the project.

It was also agreed that, before launching a questionnaire on the Parish, a trailer should be included in the January edition of the Parish Magazine.

Ruth agreed to produce a detailed summary of the scheme, not yet received, which will be attached to these minutes as a permanent record of her briefing and forwarded to the Council.

3. Clerk's Report

a. Superfast Essex

No progress to report

b. Playing Field

The playing field had had its last cut of the year and was in good shape for the winter. There would be a need for a weeding exercise before Spring.

c. Roads/Verges

There were no major issues to report except:

- Damage being done to the verge opposite to the Beehive by the school bus – the Clerk would investigate;
- The appalling state of the hedges/verges from Kings Farm up to the Church triangle.

(Post Meeting Note: Nigel could you advise us of the progress of the Highway Panel's deliberations on the safety of London Road.

d. Defibrillators

It was decided not to proceed with this project given the low likelihood of its use and the availability of first responders locally and defibrillators in surrounding villages.

e. Mobile Library

No new information on the consultation has been received but the library has failed to appear in recent weeks due to mechanical failure – the reason why ECC are questioning the future of the service.

f. Data Protection

It was agreed that Chris Exley should produce a questionnaire to all those nominated in the Emergency Plan for discussion at the next meeting.

Maria Oats would progress examining what parish records are held with the Clerk.

g. Little Horkesley PC Website

It was reported that the website was fully up to date and a Winter farming article was being sought from David Lewis.

h. Community Special Constables

The Clerk's response to the Great Horkesley proposal was noted and he also reported on a lukewarm response from other Councils.

i. Remembrance Sunday

It was agreed that for 2018 the Parish Council wreath should be laid by one of the younger generation and the Clerk should seek out a bugler to sound the Last Post. Rosemary Prince, Old Ley Cottage, Water Lane, an Army Territorial who has served in Afghanistan, was suggested as a Parish Council wreath layer for 2018.

4. Planning

a. Application No: 172702 Broadacres, London Road, Great Horkesley

It was agreed that the application would not affect the village and the new owner was likely to have a positive impact on the Vale.

b. Application No: B/17701128 (Babergh) Harpers Hill, Nayland

The Clerk reported that he had attempted to research applications on and around Harpers but like everybody else found information on Babergh DC applications difficult to access.

However, an application for nine homes at New Farm on the junction of Wiston Road with the A134 appears to have aroused considerable opposition but, as far as it was possible to ascertain, no objection from Nayland Parish Council.

It was generally agreed that, as Babergh DC had no approved Local Plan in place to protect the Dedham Vale AONB, this and other applications in Nayland and Suffolk were likely to be approved on appeal if not at the local district council level.

The Clerk also reported on the Koning, a Belgium firm, plan to build a major bottling plant within in the AONB at Polstead in the apple orchards which was subject to much opposition. Again it is feared that this will eventually gain approval on the "economic growth" argument.

c. Application No: 170419 South Lodge, Nayland Road, Great Horkesley

It was noted that this South Lodge was not the property related to Westwood Park and, therefore, have no impact on Little Horkesley

d. Low Cost/Affordable Housing

Covered under Item 2.

e. Local Plan

The public consultation ran from 16 June to 11 August and was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for approval on 9 October. As Cllr Chapman reported at the last meeting CBC are keen to gain approval before increased housing targets are demanded.

5. Finance

a. The following expenditure was approved:

- J R Munson £360 – grass cutting;
- J R Drury £50 – repairs to the Parish Council computer;
- J R Drury £20 – RBL Wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

b. The acknowledgement from the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance for the donation of £50 was noted.

6. Correspondence

The correspondence received from various sources during the month was noted.

7. Items for the Next Agenda

..... (Steve Clarke – Chair)

..... (Date)

The next Little Horkesley Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 December