

23LHPC05b (acm) Little Horkesley Parish Council**MINUTES**

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15th May 2023

Present: Jonathan Eddis (Chair)
Susie Goldring
Tracy Le Grys
Jo Morris
Jo Petersen (Clerk)

1. Election of the Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Le Grys and seconded by Cllr Goldring that Cllr Eddis is elected as Chairman. Cllr Jonathan Eddis was duly elected.

2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Eddis read and signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office

3. Election of Vice Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Goldring and seconded by Cllr Eddis that Cllr Le Grys is elected as Vice Chairman. Cllr Le Grys was duly elected.

4. Co-option of Councillor

It was proposed by Cllr Le Grys and seconded by Cllr Goldring that Joanne Morris be co-opted to the Parish Council.

5. Apologies

Hannah Taylor
Lewis Barber
Darius Laws

6. Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-pecuniary interests in relation to items on the agenda

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

7. Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st March 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

8. Public Questions

- a) Chris Jacobs, a resident of Little Horkesley was present.
Mrs Jacobs asked for an update of the future of the “Coronation” bench at the bus stop in the village. The clerk informed Mrs Jacobs that it had been decided at the last meeting of the Parish Council that to replace the bench was expensive and could cost up to £1000. The current bench is also of historical interest as it commemorates the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The Parish Council will therefore look to repair and renovate the existing bench (Minute ref 23LHPC03b 8(a))

9. National Grid “GREEN” Pylons Scheme

- a) It was noted that the clerk has sent emails to Five Estuaries, National Grid and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy under the guidance of David Burns, on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the clerk will invite David Burns to the next meeting of the Parish Council to give an update.

10. Playground

- a) The fence at the rear of Orchard Cottages was discussed at length. It was agreed that there are two possible solutions to the problem: either to erect a fence along the edge of the playing field to replace the one that was removed by the owner of 7 Orchard Cottages, or to proceed with the proposal to have a licence drawn up by Colchester City Council which would give 7 Orchard Cottages permission to have access to the playground through the gate they installed.
It was agreed that the licence agreement would be the simplest and most cost effective option of the Parish Council.
It was therefore agreed that Chair Eddis would send a letter to the owner of the property and ask if they would be happy to enter into a licence agreement with Colchester City Council.
- b) The clerk confirmed that an email from Caroline Law (CCC) dated 10th May confirmed that the rubbish on the hardstanding at the playing field would be removed by the following week.
- c) Chair Eddis confirmed that a local farmer would be happy to remove the oak tree at no cost to the Parish Council once the field adjacent had been harvested.
- d) All Councillors were very impressed with the presentation from Annabel Brown at Proludic which showed a proposed plan for the replacement play equipment along with total costings.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would try and proceed with a grant application to finance the project.

- e) The clerk presented three separate quotations to Councillors for the contract to cut the grass at the war memorial, the bus shelter and the playing field.
It was agreed that the contract would be given to JC Gardens.

11. Roads, Verges and Footpaths

- a) It was noted that there is a large pothole at The Beehive crossroads. Councillors were concerned that this might be cause problems for the RideLondon Peloton which is due to pass through the village on Friday 26th May.
It was agreed that the clerk would email Cllr Lewis Barber and Cllr Darius Laws to see if they could speed up repair of the defect (ref 281405)
- b) Cllr Le Grys has been approached by a number of residents who have asked if the 30mph limit could be extended along the length of Water Lane. The clerk will make enquiries.
- c) Cllr Le Grys also wondered if it would be possible to obtain litter picking equipment for the parish so that litter picking could be organised. The clerk will make enquiries.
- d) It was agreed that the clerk would send an email to all landowners reminding them that the Crossfield footpaths should be maintained during the summer months.

12. Planning

- a) There were no planning issues to discuss.

13. War Memorial

- a) It was agreed that previous quotes for work to the renovation of the railings at the war memorial involved structural work which is unnecessary – the planning consent (222202) required that the black paint be removed, the rust treated and new paint applied.
Chair Eddis will obtain a quote from a contractor he uses and the clerk will obtain two further quotes for the work
- b) The clerk will arrange for the Remembrance Day wreaths to be removed from the war memorial.

14. Bus Shelter

- a) Cllr Eddis will obtain a quote from a contractor he uses for the minor repairs to the bus shelter.

15. Coronation of King Charles III

- a) All councillors agreed that the Coronation Big Lunch organised by the Parish Council had been a great success with a large number of residents, of all ages attending the event. It was noted that a number of people suggested that an annual village party might be a nice idea.
- b) The total cost of the event was £638.90

16. Finance

- a) The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) documents for 2022/23 were circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting and reviewed at the meeting.

APPROVED: Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Report – signed by the Chair and the Parish Clerk

APPROVED: Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Report – signed by the Chair and the Parish Clerk

APPROVED: Exemption Certificate.

- b) It was agreed that the Asset Register would be updated to reflect an increase of 5% due to inflation.
- c) It was agreed that the clerk would renew the Insurance with Gallagher at a cost of £811.93

17. Finance

Invoice Approval

The following invoice was approved:

None

18. Correspondence

19. Items for the Next Agenda

- Emergency Assistance Plan

..... (Jonathan Eddis - Chair)

..... (Date)

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday 17th July 2023 (Little Horkesley Village Hall)