

21LHPC09b

Little Horkesley Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th September 2021

Present: Maria Oats (Chair)
Chris Exley (Vice Chair)
Hannah Taylor
Jo Petersen (Clerk)

Apologies

Chris Jacobs
Susie Goldring
Darius Laws
Lewis Barber

Hannah Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 8a

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair

2. Public Questions

No members of the public were present.

3. Parish Councillor

- a) The Chair suggested that to try to facilitate the appointment of new councillors (which may assist with the issue of appointing a new Chair next May) she could resign as a member of the council as and when a new candidate for councillor is identified. She is happy to continue as Chair (assuming that is permitted) until the next annual meeting. The clerk will check the legal position with the EALC. The Chair will make contact with a parishioner who previously expressed an interest in joining the Council.
- b) There was no news from Councillors on potential candidates.

- c) Prior to the meeting, the clerk circulated a brief description of the role of Chairman and Maria Oats gave further details of the role to ensure that all Councillors are aware of all that the role entails. She emphasised that the role is not as time consuming as some councillors seem to think, and that the majority of the work is done by the Clerk.

4. County Broadband

- a) In her absence, Chris Jacobs sent an email to Maria Oats with an update from County Broadband. The new representative for Little Horkesley hopes to visit the village this week and will arrange a meeting with Chris Jacobs.

5. Planning

- a) At the request of a member of the Parish, the Parish Council investigated the planning status of the barn at Thrift Farm.
Chris Exley, confirmed that permission was granted in 2017 for a long barn parallel to the contours and that on inspection he saw one long barn which conforms to the plan. Having looked at the approval drawings he could not see anything that is non-compliant. Little Horkesley Parish Council had objected strongly to this application even though Thrift Farm is in the parish of Great Horkesley. Any parishioner with further concerns can take the matter up with Colchester Borough Council Planning and / or Great Horkesley Parish Council.

6. Playground

- a) The clerk has spoken with Mortimer Contracts who hope to carry out repairs to the play equipment in the next three weeks
- b) The clerk is still waiting to hear back from Michael Devine regarding the renewal of the playing field lease
- c) Hannah Taylor and Susie Goldring have been carrying out inspections of the play equipment. It was agreed that they would continue to perform the inspections rather than recruit a new playground inspector. They will liaise with Adrian Jacobs to ensure they are inspecting the equipment correctly.
- d) It was agreed that the Parish Council would investigate the cost of replacing the missing fencing at the rear of Orchard Cottages.
The clerk and Chair will liaise with Michael Devine about the type of fencing required and ensure that it complies with the terms of the lease.
- e) It was noted that Mr Bill Watson has removed the fencing from the Wildflower Patch to enable mowing of the area. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Mr Watson for his continued maintenance of the area. The clerk will ensure that the area is strimmed short.

7. Footpaths

- a) Chris Jacobs and the Chair have set out their findings on footpaths by email. It was agreed that all Councillors would add their findings from the footpath inspections to that email chain. Hannah Taylor will then follow up with the Council.

8. Roads & Verges

- a) The hedges on Water Lane were discussed after a member of the Parish had contacted the clerk. Maintenance of all hedges is ongoing, and the hedges have been trimmed in line with the new Agricultural Bill which came into effect in November 2020. The flat has been trimmed back, and it has not been cut low in order that it is not cut below the flowering point. The Bill encourages councils and landowners to let hedges grow for numerous environmental reasons as well as to prevent glare from the sun in winter months.
- b) It was confirmed that the pot hole on the double bend at School Road had been repaired (ref: 2705854)

9. Bus Shelter

- a) The clerk assured the Parish Council that she would make best efforts to complete renovation of the notice board before the next meeting.

10. Affordable Housing

- a) Chris Exley confirmed that he will write an article to be published in the Parish Magazine with an update on the situation regarding Affordable Housing.

11. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

All members of the Parish Council agreed that it would be very positive for the village to hold a celebration to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June 2022. It was however also agreed to delay the start of planning until the situation of the playing field lease had been resolved.

12. Finance

The clerk informed that Council of a further invoice from Danny Page Landscapes for the grass cutting earlier in the year. The clerk is waiting for an updated invoice reference from Mr Page before paying the invoice.

13. Correspondence

14. Items for the Next Agenda

- *Emergency Assistance Plan :*

Review Vulnerable Persons Form

To receive an update from Chris Jacobs on an updated Emergency Assistance Plan

To discuss advert for the Parish Magazine

..... (Maria Oats - Chair)

..... (Date)

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday 18th October 2021 (Little Horkesley Village Hall)