

23LHPC03b

Little Horkesley Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st March 2023

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

Apologies

Chris Exley

Lewis Barber

Darius Laws

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

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

2. Public Questions

- a) Jo Morris, a resident of Little Horkesley was present.
David Burns was present for part of the meeting.

3. Elections

- a) In his absence, all Councillors and the clerk joined the Chair in thanking Chris Exley for his many years of service to the Parish Council in the role as Vice Chair. His experience and particular expertise in the Planning sector has been invaluable and very much appreciated.
- b) Jo Morris expressed an interest in the vacancy for Parish Councillor. The clerk will discuss next steps with her.
- c) Following her attendance at a course about the election process, the clerk explained the timetable and requirements for the election in May.

It was agreed that Susie Goldring would take the completed Parish Councillor Nomination Packs to the Town Hall, and Tracy Le Grys would ensure that all notifications are placed on the noticeboard in the bus shelter at the required times.

- d) All councillors completed their Parish Councillor Nomination Packs ready for submission by Susie Goldring.

4. National Grid “GREEN” Pylons Scheme

- a) David Burns from the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons group attended the meeting and updated Councillors on the state of play.

National Grid will hold a second consultation in May.

5. Coronation Event

- a) The following arrangements for the Coronation were discussed:
- Time of event changed from 2pm to 1pm (Clerk to update advertising material)
 - The Village Hall will be booked
 - The clerk will speak with The Beehive Pub to see if they are happy for residents to park in their car park
 - Arrangements will be made to close School Lane for the duration of the event so children’s games can be played safely outside the Village Hall
 - Prizes and crafting items to be purchased by the clerk
 - Lunch and refreshments to be discussed further
 - Games to be provided by the clerk and Susie
- b) The clerk will estimate the costs and apply for a grant from the National Lottery although the Parish Council does have funds available in its reserves.
- c) The clerk will finalise the flyer and put this on the website and Facebook page. She will also arrange to have flyers printed and Susie Goldring will arrange distribution.

6. Affordable Housing

- a) It was agreed that there is currently no route to realising homes to meet the assessed need, unless a landowner brings forward an offer to sell a small area close to the village centre. Colchester City Council has probably ruled out sacrificing any of the recreation land we lease, so the field behind it appears to be the only well-located and ‘exception rules compliant’ land. Locations were previously looked at and discounted and/ or got no positive reaction from the landowners. RCCE remain the best re-start point if land comes forward. The decision was made to remove this item from future agendas unless a plot of land becomes available as all avenues have been explored with no positive outcome.

7. Playground

- a) Further to correspondence from Michael Devine (CCC) it was agreed that the best course of action is to confirm with Michael that Little Horkesley Parish Council are in breach of contract if the fence is not replaced.
If this is the case, then the only option will be to reinstate the fence at the rear of 7 Orchard Cottages. The clerk and Johnny Eddis will draft a letter to both Michael Devine and the owner of 7 Orchard Cottages.
The clerk will start the process of obtaining quotes for the installation of a new fence.
- b) Caroline Law (Neighbourhood Warden CCC) confirmed that she has delivered letters to all residents on the bungalows that back on to the playing field. No one has yet contacted her regarding the items, so all items will be removed from the hard standing area at the end of March 2023.
- c) Johnny Eddis will speak with a local farmer to see if he is happy to pollard the oak tree, assuming he is happy to complete a risk assessment.
- d) The clerk shared the updated plan for the playing field. She is currently waiting for quotes for new play equipment so that she can apply for a grant from Enover to cover the majority of the costs.

7. Roads, Verges & Footpaths

- a) It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the “20s Plenty” scheme which is asking for 20mph limits to be available to all residential areas and not just those with schools.
- b) It was noted that the replacement of the signpost at the junction of the A134 and Water Lane (Essex Highways Enquiry 2727046) is a positive move as signposting Little Horkesley is very important for ambulances and other emergency services.

8. Planning

- a) There were no planning applications to discuss.

9. Bus Shelter

- a) It was agreed that Councillors would attempt to renovate the bench at the bus shelter rather than replace it. A new bench would be costly and the current bench is an interesting historical item as it commemorates the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.
- b) It was agreed that the bus shelter would benefit from cleaning and painting. There is also a board at the rear which has come loose. Councillors agreed to make plans to carry out repairs over the spring and summer.

10. War Memorial

- a) The quotes for work to the railings at the War Memorial are very expensive. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the Conservation Officer and see if we can get permission to simply paint the railings.

11. Parish Council Meetings

- a) The clerk circulated a reminder about the differences between an Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and an Annual Parish Meeting.
- b) The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council must be held within 14 days of the new Councillors taking office which will be Tuesday 9th May. As our Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is schedule to be held on the 15th May 2023 we meet that criteria.

12. Finance

- a) It was agreed that Johnny Eddis will take over the checking of the Quarterly Financial Reports from Chris Exley.

13. Finance

Invoice Approval

The following invoice was approved:

None

14. Correspondence

- *The Dedham Vale Society Magazine*

15. Items for the Next Agenda

- AGAR Audit Process
- Playground
- Co-option of Jo Morris

..... (Jonathan Eddis - Chair)

..... (Date)

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday 15th May 2023 (Little Horkesley Village Hall)