

21LHPC03b

Little Horkesley Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st March 2022

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

Apologies

Darius Laws

Lewis Barber

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

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

It was agreed that in future, the clerk would wait until the Minutes have been approved at a meeting before publishing them on the website and Facebook page.

2. Public Questions

Tracy Le Grys was present

3. Parish Council

- a) It was agreed that there is no need to increase the number of councillors at this time. We require 3 councillors to be quorate which has not been a problem. If we have members of the parish who wish to be involved then we are able to have non-councillors on a subcommittee.

Maria Oats will tend her resignation immediately after the meeting in April and then the formal process to co-opt Tracy Le Grys will begin.

- b) Maria Oats and Chris Jacobs will meet to discuss the handover of the Chairman role. The clerk has been copying CJ in emails so she has an idea of the matters that arise between meetings.
- c) It was agreed that the April meeting will be moved from 18th April to 25th April. The clerk will update the website.

4. Broadband

- a) Chris Jacobs received a letter from County Broadband on 25th January informing her that they will begin to design and build the system over the next 18 months. Gigaclear is already available although some areas are still not covered by this provider. Chris Jacobs will circulate the Gigaclear contact number.

5. Playground

- a) All the lease terms have now been agreed.
Mr Devine has asked Mr Bird to confirm that he will permanently close the gate he has built with access to the playing field. If Mr Bird does this then Mr Devine is happy that the Parish Council will not be required to erect a fence along that portion of the playground boundary. He agreed that we should have a side letter confirming that we are not in breach of the lease by not having a fence if the gate is permanently closed. However, if Mr Bird refuses to block the gate then the Parish Council will presumably have to pay for a new fence. It was also noted that Mr Bird is still required to remove the rubbish which has been left on the parking spaces.
Maria Oats and the clerk will write to Mr Devine requesting his next steps.
- b) It was noted that part of the fence by the parking spaces was damaged during Storm Eunice. Hannah Taylor has made a temporary repair. Mr Devine does not consider the fence to be the responsibility of the Parish Council so the clerk will inform Colchester Borough Council that it requires work to repair.
- c) The playground inspection was received by the clerk.
- d) The outline plan for the future of the playground has been circulated but decisions are dependent on the outcome of the affordable housing discussions.

6. Roads, Verges & Footpaths

- a) It was noted that the repairs to Fishponds Hill (ref 2680532) have been completed.

Hannah Taylor received notification that the finger post on Footpath 3 had been repaired (ref 2759319) but the work does not appear to have been completed. HT will follow up.

Hannah will also report the rotten fingerpost at the junction of footpaths 27 and 12.

It was noted that Lewis Barber reported the following road closures due to repair work:

24th – 28th March Crabtree Road
 11th – 13th April Water Lane

- b) The LHP Scheme Request for “Children Playing” signs is now being considered under reference LCOL212047. The Parish Council is grateful to Lewis Barber for his help in enabling this request.
- c) The Government consultation on the Glover Landscape review was discussed, in particular the issue of whether the AONBs should be given powers to take action on recreational vehicles on AONB land. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the motion even though it does not directly affect this parish. The clerk will complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

7. County Lines

- a) It was noted that information from the local police states that there is a lot of County Lines activity in the area.

8. Planning

- a) There were no planning applications to discuss.

9. Noticeboard

- a) Chris Jacobs noted that the improvement in weather should allow for the new cork to be installed in the noticeboard. The clerk offered to assist.

10. Affordable Homes

- a) Chris Exley reported that he has emailed Ruth Newcombe and that she is happy to attend the April meeting to discuss affordable housing and the playground. She is waiting to hear whether Laura (RCCE) can also attend.
 All councillors will meet Ruth at the playground at 7pm before the April meeting to discuss the playground.

11. Emergency Assistance Plan

- a) The suggested content for the website regarding the Emergency Assistance plan was circulated to all councillors before the meeting. Chris Jacobs suggested a couple of amendments which were approved by all councillors. The clerk will wait until Maria Oats has stood down from the role of Chair before publishing on the website so that the most current contact details are available.

The issue of the Vulnerable Persons List was discussed, and it was agreed that it would be useful to periodically remind councillors who is on the list in case the clerk is not available during an emergency. The current list will be reviewed in April and arrangements finalised.

12. War Memorial

- a) The clerk circulated information about repairs to War Memorials prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Chris Exley will fill in a Listed Building consent application before repairs to the railings are arranged.
All councillors will inspect the railings before the April meeting.

13. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- a) It was agreed that the celebration would be held at the Village Hall. The Parish Council would like to thank Julia Orme for agreeing the hire the village hall to the parish council free of charge for the weekend of the Jubilee celebrations.
Chris Jacobs will apply to have the School Lane closed on Sunday 5th June.
A decision will be made about planting a tree for the Green Canopy later in the year when the future of the playground is confirmed.
- b) The clerk will apply for a grant towards the cost of the Jubilee celebrations. Chris Jacobs and Tracy Le Grys will help to agree an amount based on proposed expenditure for event.

14. Finance

- a) The clerk confirmed that she has circulated the preliminary end of year audit figures to the Chair. These will be finalised after 31st March
- b) The clerk is yet to receive the deadline date for AGAR
- c) The clerk confirmed that she has submitted a VAT reclaim and is yet to receive acknowledgement of the claim.

Invoice Approval.

The following invoices were approved: None

15. Correspondence

Emails forwarded by the Clerk

There were no comments on the emails forwarded by the clerk.

Hard Copy

There was no hard copy correspondence to circulate.

16. Items for the Next Agenda

- BT Digital Voice removal of analogue landline
- Defibrillator
- AGAR forms
- MO to sign minutes that are missing her signature

..... (Maria Oats - Chair)

..... (Date)

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday 25th April 2022 (Little Horkesley Village Hall), meeting initially at the Playground.