

Minutes of the Little Horkesley Parish Council

meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 21 June 2017

Present: Steve Clarke (Chair),
Maria Oats,
Hannah Taylor,
Roger Drury (Clerk).
With Cllr. Nigel Chapman (CBC Rural North).

Apologies were received from Chris Exley.

No Pecuniary or Non-pecuniary interests were declared.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 May were approved as an accurate record.

2. Dedham Vale & Stour Valley Forum, 16 June

Nigel Chapman and Roger Drury reported on the Forum which as usual gave an excellent review of activities aimed at improving the whole area, including facilities for visitors, whilst supporting the diverse wild life in the area.

There were keynote speeches from:

- Howard Davies, CEO of the National Association for AONBs – AONBs: A benefit to Society;
- Jules Pretty, Essex University – Links between the Environment and Good Health;
- Lord Gardiner, DEFRA – The View from Government.

It was encouraging that the importance of Parish Councils was a recurring theme.

3. Clerk's Report

a. Superfast Essex

The Clerk reported Duncan Brown had agreed to talk to County Broadband on siting a reflector on the Barn with the caveat that it must not interfere with existing signals from the barn used for agricultural activities.

The Parish Council were not directly involved but would no doubt be informed of the outcome – there would be a potential cost implication to the Council.

It was noted that both Wormingford and Great Horkesley had fibre to their respective BT cabinets but Little Horkesley appeared to be in a dead area.

Maria Oats reported that Jeff Bailey's solution to the access to broadband problem using EE 4G whilst effective was very expensive.

b. Playing Field

Steve Clarke reported that the playing field looked in excellent state having had repairs completed to the fence around the playground area.

The Council considered the RoSPA Inspection Report with its medium risk assessment primarily because of criticism of the climbing frame and exposure of various concrete bases. The following actions were agreed – the Clerk would contact:

- Adrian Jacobs to invite him to spray the weeds in the playground;
- CBC, after the spraying had been done, to obtain 2 x 1 sqm bails of bark;
- Paul Cutler/Neil Catchpole to obtain an estimate for trimming the back hedge and topping trees in the Autumn

The illness of Jerry Munson was discussed and the Clerk was requested to contact him to discuss his short term plans. It was agreed that local resources, e.g. Steve Clarke, could cope with the playing field but not the War Memorial Green and Bus Shelter.

c. Roads/Verges

It was noted that a considerable amount of work has been done on village roads often without ECC highways informing the Council and that Park Farm Road and Vinesse Road would again be closed on 31 July for three days to allow BT to install new cabling.

It was also noted that verges had been cut in the first week in June, earlier than requested by the Council. It was felt the cut was unnecessary at that time because the sheep's parsley was less dense than normal and did not present a road hazard.

d. Footpaths

It was agreed that the village footpaths were generally in a good condition.

e. Little Horkesley PC website

The Clerk reported that discussions were ongoing with EALC on annual payments for updating.

f. Fire Hydrants

In discussions with ECC Fire Brigade the absence of fire hydrants in Holt Road, Workhouse Road and Vinesse Road had been noted and assurance given that a water tanker would always be available for fires in these areas.

g. Anglian Water Pumping Stations

The request had only referred to pumping stations for sewage not domestic supply to properties.

h. Date of next Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed to defer the next meeting to **Wednesday** 2 August – Maria Oats would not be available.

i. Nayland Post Office

It was agreed that the Council could only offer moral support and could not get involved in any financial arrangements.

4. Planning

a. Application No: 170421 Joscelyns. Water Lane, Little Horkesley

This application refers to converting agricultural buildings to a residential dwelling. There are letters of objection from the Parish Council, DVS and local residents but more importantly a letter from Natural England referring CBC to S115 NPPF requiring them to protect the Dedham Vale AONB

b. Application No: 170692, Old School House, School Road, Little Horkesley

Noted approval of this application.

c. Application No: 170820 Ashfield House, Holt Road, Little Horkesley

Noted approval of this application with various caveats to protect plant life and PRoW.

d. Application No: 171000 Joscelyns, Water Lane, Little Horkesley

This application for a new road access linked to the planned barn was lodged under Prior Notification and is virtually impossible to object to.

However, it is understood locally that plans for the rose garden and horse breeding/stabling are on hold and, if the barn were not to be used for such agricultural purposes, the justification for the barn could be questioned.

It was agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter for the Chair to the owner seeking to clarify the long term plans for the site.

e. CBC Enforcement of Planning Decisions

CBC are working with the owner of Motts to come up with a plan for the site more in keeping with its location within the Dedham Vale AONB.

The field at Thrift Farm filled with animal pens was also being investigated. The 3 year limitation on the planning approval for the barn on the site expired on 24 May.

f. Colchester Local Plan

The Clerk reported that the draft Local Plan had been approved for consultation and;

- Developments planned in Boxted, West Bergholt and Great Horkeskey would not impact on the village;
- Protections for the Dedham Vale AONB had, if anything, been strengthened;
- Mention of“Dark Skies” was included in the Plan.

The various consultations were noted and the Clerk had a copy of the full documentation.

5. Finance

a. The audit papers were currently with PKF who had raised a couple of queries.

b. The following expenditure was approved:

- CALC Affiliation Fee - £35.00;
- Michael Foaks Playground repairs - £568.07;
- RoSPA Playground Inspection - £84.00;
- RCCE Annual Affiliation Fee - £52.80

6. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- AONB Monthly Update June2017;
- Making the Links
- EALC Legal Newsletter June – Maria Oats pointed out that there were relevant sections on Transparency Code and Co-opting Councillors.
- EALC County Update;
- RCCE AGM 5 July.

7. Items for the Next Agenda

..... (Steve Clarke -Chair)

..... (Date)

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 August.