

meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 18 January 2017

**Present:** Steve Clarke (Chair),  
Maria Oats,  
Chris Exley,  
Hannah Taylor,  
Roger Drury (Clerk)

With Cllr. Anne Brown (ECC Constable) and Cllr. Nigel Chapman (CBC Rural North).

No pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests were declared.

### **1. Minutes**

It was agreed that the second para of Item 6a. should be amended to read “ It was agreed that for **significant** work on the playground equipment .....

The Clerk was requested to seek guidance on what is a significant sum from EALC.

Subject to this amendment the minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2017 were approved as an accurate record.

### **2. Clerk's Report**

It was agreed that items relating to Flooding and Internet Services should be dropped from the agenda until there were developments to report.

#### **a. Annual Parish Meeting**

It was agreed that the Parish Council Meeting planned for 17 May should be rescheduled to 1900 on Wednesday 3 May followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 2000 and that the Clerk would use the Parish Magazine to inform the village of the APM and produce a flyer to be circulated – both should use the opportunity to promote the website.

Nigel Chapman observed that APMs across CBC Rural North were generally poorly supported.

#### **b. Playing Field**

The Clerk reported that he had confirmed to Jerry Munson that the Council wish to renew the grass cutting contract for 2017 and had asked him to dig out the bark as there was sufficient quantity of bark but it had become impacted over the years.

It was agreed that the playing field was generally in good condition but the following was required before the RoSPA Inspection in May:

- Various fence posts required replacing;
- The gate mechanism to be repaired;
- The bark in the playground needed to be dug out.

It was agreed that the pile of grass cuttings should be left to compost themselves.

The Clerk reported that:

- An additional tree would be delivered on, or near, 27 January, to assist in pollinating other trees;
- 7 shrubs/trees for the Pollinator Patches project would be delivered on, or near, 2 February. They would be planted at the back of the School Road bungalows.

The Parish Council volunteered to assist in the planting.

c. Roads

Noted the closure of Cockrells Road and Little Horkesley Road for five days from 23 January and the Clerk reported that Highways appeared to be taking an increased interest in Workhouse Road.

Cllr. Brown outlined the discussions she had had with residents on safety issues along the length of London Road and the Clerk was requested summarise all the actions discussed at the last meeting, which were summarised in JRD's email of 5 January, in a letter to Cllr Brown which could then be progressed with ECC Highways.

The Clerk was urged to seek information from ECC Highways on when School Lane would be repaired given the horrendous state of the road.

d. Composition of the Council

It was agreed to defer consideration of this item until the Chair had had the opportunity to discuss possibilities with potential volunteers.

e. Little Horkesley Website

The Clerk noted that few, if any, of the local parish council websites seemed to meet the requirements of the Transparency Code but EALC had reported that there was no procedure in place to enforce compliance with the Code.

To date 38 individuals had logged onto the site but, how any of these were from the Little Horkesley community, cannot be determined.

The absence of mobile phone signals in the centre of the village was raised – Cllr. Brown urged the Council to keep in contact with SuperfastEssex over all website and communication issues.

f. Colchester Walk-in Centre

The letter from the Clerk to the North East Essex CCG was noted. The importance of this facility was re-emphasised although the problem of getting there for some was discussed. Cllr. Brown discussed a number of options being considered by ECC to improve access to transport in rural communities.

### **3. Planning**

a. Application No: 163191 Priory Farm Cottage, School Road, Little Horkesley

Although the design quality of extension was questioned it was agreed that there was no basis on which the Council could realistically objection.

b. Application No:163105 Spring House Barns, Spring House, London Road, Great Horkesley

Noted that no decision has been made and ECC Highways have raised no objection to potentially increased vehicular access to London Road.

c. Application No: 163191 Thrift Farm Barns, Nayland Hill, Great Horkesley

It was felt that the proposal was completely unacceptable and the site was developing into an industrial sprawl immediately adjacent to a listed barn and within the Dedham vale AONB – Chris Exley would write a letter of objection on behalf of the Council.

The Clerk stated that the Dedham Vale Society would also object.

Cllr. Chapman agreed to take up with CBC/ECC Highways the proliferation of vehicles being parked on the verge of the A134 opposite the property.

d. Thrift Farm

It was noted that none of the conditions attached to various planning applications had been implemented and Cllr. Chapman agreed to take up possible enforcement action with CBC.

e. Colchester Local Plan

The January Local Plan Newsletter in which the way ahead was reported was noted.

Cllr. Brown reported that before the consultation on the four possible routes for the A120 could be finalised, agreed action on the A12 was required.

**4. Finance**

- a. It was noted that the Precept agreed at the last meeting had been forwarded to CBC.

It was accepted that the increase was high but regarded as necessary as the implementation of local referendum to agreed increases in the Village rate created an uncertain future for parish council finances.

- b. Approved £37.87 J R Drury Stationery items.

**5. Correspondence**

- a. The AONB December Update was noted.

The Clerk reported that he had written an article on behalf of the Council advocating that parish councils in the Vale should be contributing funds to support the DV&SV Project.

Cllr. Brown said she would take up the issue of Dedham Parish Council’s failure to support the Project.

- b. There was a lengthy discussion on care of the elderly in our community and Cllr.Brown outlined the work of the Community Agents in supporting the elderly particularly after release from hospital.

The Clerk would investigate.

- c. Cllr. Anne Brown reported on the demise of the P3 Footpath Scheme under which ECC has supported councils in maintaining footpaths.

- d. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to the CBC Consultation on “Meetings and Ways of working.

**6. Items for the Next Meeting**

..... (Steve Clarke – Chair)

..... (Date)

**Next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 1930 on Wednesday 15 February.**