

24LHPC09bSeptember

## Little Horkesley Parish Council

### MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th September 2024

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

### **Apologies**

Cllr Lewis Barber

### **Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-pecuniary interests in relation to items on the agenda**

#### **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **2. Public Questions**

None

#### **3. National Grid “GREEN” Pylons Scheme**

- a) There were no updates. The Parish Council did note the position of the Labour government on this issue.

#### **4. Playground**

- a) Cllr Eddis spoke with the resident of 7 Orchard Cottages about the issue of the gate at the rear of the property which does not comply with the current legal requirements concerning access to the playing field. The resident noted that without this access at the rear of the property there is a significant fire hazard: if there were to be a fire at the front of the property, there would be no escape if the gate is replaced with 6 foot fencing. All Councillors acknowledged this concern and it was agreed that Cllr Eddis will discuss the issue with Mr Devine (Colchester City Council) and propose that the gate, which also serves as a fire exit, is granted permission to remain.

- b) The clerk and Cllr Morris met with Russell Dyer (Project Manager, Proludic) on 10<sup>th</sup> September at the playing field to discuss the groundworks and proposed start date of the play equipment project. Mr Russell aims to have work started by the end of October. Cllr Eddis will speak with Mr Adrian Mills, the contractor engaged to prepare the area, to ensure that the site has been levelled and grass seeded by the middle of October at the latest.

It was also agreed by all Councillors that it is not necessary to install a gate as the playing field is not directly on the road, and as the road is very quiet so the risk to children is minimal. A gate to the playing field would also impede the movement of larger equipment and make maintenance of the area difficult.

- c) It was agreed that the clerk would investigate whether the tree at the rear of 9 Orchard Cottages needs pruning and make arrangements for the work if necessary

## **5. Roads, Verges and Footpaths**

- a) The Parish Council has been asked about the timescale for the rollout of black wheelie bins in the village. The clerk has emailed Caroline Law, Neighbourhood Warden Colchester City Council for information and will update Councillors and residents when she has a response

## **6. Bus Shelter**

- a) The Parish Council discussed reports that items other than books had been left at the Book Swap. There was a concern that the bus shelter could become a place for people to dump their rubbish. Cllr Le Grys noted that she had mentioned the issue in the latest article for the Parish Magazine.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would monitor the situation and decide what action to take if the problem persists.

## **7. War Memorial**

- a) All Councillors agreed that they are happy for the clerk to begin renovation the railings at the War Memorial. The clerk will aim to have the work completed before the Remembrance Service in November (weather dependent)
- b) Cllr Eddis agreed to attend the Remembrance Service at the Church if his diary allows. If he is not available, then the clerk will be happy to represent the Parish Council in his place.

## **8. Christmas**

- a) The Parish Council discussed how they might involve the community with a Christmas event.

It was agreed that the clerk would contact David Lewis and Sally Bramhall to see if the Church were planning on an event, and if so, that the Parish Council would be keen to get involved.

Councillors also discussed the possibility of putting up a Christmas tree at the bus shelter. Councillor Le Grys agreed to ask Filpots if they would be willing to donate one to the Parish Council.

## **9. Parish Council Admin**

- a) Councillor Le Grys informed the Parish Council that she will have to step down from her position as she is moving out of the village.

The Chair, Councillors and clerk thanked Tracy for her commitment to the Parish Council. Tracy has made huge contributions to the village, not only in her role as a First Responder, but also as a regular Litter Warrior, an enthusiastic volunteer at all Parish Council events and the author of Parish Council articles in the Parish Magazine. She will be missed by all Councillors and we wish her luck with her move.

The clerk will inform Councillors of the procedure for filling the vacancy by email, as by law the Parish Council requires a minimum of 5 Councillors.

- b) The dates for meeting in 2025 were agreed as:

20 <sup>th</sup> January	21 <sup>st</sup> July
17 <sup>th</sup> March	15 <sup>th</sup> September
19 <sup>th</sup> May	17 <sup>th</sup> November

The clerk will inform the Village Hall Committee and make booking for the meetings

- c) It was agreed that the Emergency Assistance Plan and list of Vulnerable Persons would be reviewed and updated at the next meeting once a new Councillor has been co-opted
- d) The clerk will give all Councillors a list of policies that need reviewing.  
They will inform the clerk of any amendments before updating and uploading to the website.

## **10. Finance**

- a) All Councillors approved the increase of £28.96 in insurance premium due to the new play equipment. The Clerk will arrange payment.

## **11. Correspondence**

Hard Copy publications were circulated between Councillors

## **12. Items for the Next Agenda**

- "Beehive Sign"
- Drainage at the village hall

..... (Jonathan Eddis - Chair)

..... (Date)

**Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (Little Horkesley Village Hall)**