

# Little Horkesley Parish Council

meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 17 January 2018

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

Apologies were received from Cllr. Nigel Chapman (CBC Rural North).

No Pecuniary or Non-pecuniary Interests were declared.

## 1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 December were approved as an accurate record.

## 2. Clerk' Report

The Clerk reported the deaths of two stalwarts of the local community, John Burnett, a former term long term Parish Clerk, and Jeremy Cohen, who in the 1970s defeated the plans to expand Nayland Airfield which would have impacted Little Horkesley.

### a. Superfast Essex

The Parish Council event being run by Superfast Essex on 22 January in Chelmsford was noted but no Councillor was available to attend.

### b. Playing Field

It was reported that the Playground was looking tired and it was agreed to organise a tidy up in early April to weed and generally spruce up the area – the Clerk to promulgate via the Parish Magazine.

Paul Cutler intends to start on the tree cutting back in the Playing Field next Monday/Tuesday 22/23 February - though that may be delayed by the strong winds of that night.

It appears that no one in CBC has assumed the responsibility for the supply of bark – the Clerk is chasing.

### c. Roads/Verges

There was a discussion of what the Highway Rangers could do for Little Horkesley suggested areas:

- Repair of signposts at the Beehive X Roads, A134 and Water Lane and A134 and London Road;
- Cleaning the village sign on Fishponds Hill;
- Painting the kerb at the junction of Water Lane and A134.

### d. Data Protection

The “inspection” of the Clerk’s retention of information would take place on Thursday 18 January.

#### e. Affordable Housing

The RCCE questionnaire was reviewed and it was agreed that 8a. should be amended to read (“typically 2-3 homes in a smaller village)”

The notice informing the parish of the survey would go into the February edition of the Parish Magazine.

The anticipated cost would be in the order of £90 to cover return postage.

#### f. Litter in the Village

The initiative by CBC to litter pick in the Borough 2 – 4 March was welcomed. It was felt that in Little Horkesley there was not a significant problem, except Vinesse Road. This was due to the efforts of certain members of the community notably Kate Charlton-Jones.

Litter was an ongoing task for the whole community but this year it was felt the playground was the priority.

#### g. Parish Council Elections

It was noted that the next elections for the Little Horkesley Parish Council will take place in May 2019.

#### h. Royal Wedding 19 May

The proposal by Chris Jacob for a village party to mark the royal wedding on 19 May was welcomed.

The Chair agreed to organise a B-a-Q and organise necessary supplies.

The Clerk would get the parties together.

### **3. Planning**

#### a. Motts Workshop

It was noted that CBC would be reviewing developments at the site but only after completion of existing approved works.

#### b. Thrift Farm

The enforcement order taken out by CBC for the field to the north of the farm to be cleared of unauthorised structures expired in w/c 15 January and, as no action had been taken, CBC would be seeking a court order for the clearance.

### **4. Finance**

#### a. FY 18/19 Precept

EALC had confirmed that the 6% cap on increases to Council Tax did not apply to Parish Councils. Therefore, a precept of £3,292 had been applied for giving rise to a Village rate of £36.02 +7.0%

#### b. Quarterly Report

The Quarterly Report to 29 December showing a reserve of £7,437.45 was agreed as being acceptable although some £1,500 of expenses, primarily due to tree trimming work of £1,250, were expected for the remainder of the year.

c. The expenditure of £50.00 to J R Drury for computer repairs was approved.

d. Changes in the system for reclaiming VAT were noted.

## 5. Correspondence

The following Correspondence was noted:

- DV & SV Project December AONB Update,
- Acknowledgement of the Parish Council donation to the DV & SV Project;
- Essex Warbler.

## 6. Items for the Next Agenda

..... (Steve Clarke Chair)

..... (Date)

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 1930 on Wednesday 21 February – the Chair would not be available for this Meeting).**