

# Little Horkesley Parish Council

meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 20 March

**Present:** Chris Exley (Chair)  
Hannah Taylor  
Chris Jacobs  
Roger Drury (Cllr/Clerk)  
with Michael Scales.

**Apologies** Were received from Maria Oats, Hannah Taylor and Nigel Chapman (CBC Rural North).

**No Pecuniary or Non-pecuniary Interests were declared in relation to agenda items.**

## 1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 February, as amended in JRD's email of 02/03/19, were approved as an accurate record.

## 2. Affordable Housing

Chris Exley reported on the initial thoughts by Barefoot & Giles/Hastoe HA on potential sites in the village on which he had provided an editorial input.

The next step was to confirm the services available at these sites before discussions with CBC Planning Services on the way ahead. Now the locations under discussion should be regarded as confidential to prevent expectations from the site owners.

There was a discussion on whether this Affordable Housing initiative offer any protection from Developers seeking to build in the village. It was thought that existing planning laws with their protections against building in rural areas probably offered more protection.

## 3. Clerk's Report

### a. Emergency Assistance Plan

Chris Jacobs reported that most of the plan had been updated although in certain areas she awaited confirmation.

She hoped to complete the exercise and report to the next Parish Council meeting.

### b. Playing Field

The clerk reported that:

- he had scheduled with Danny Page cutting the grass on a three-weekly basis from 15 March to 9 October at a cost of £660 + VAT but this could be increased to fortnightly if growth demanded it;
- RoSPA had confirmed that the playground inspection would be scheduled for May;

The Clerk was directed to invite Hayden to conduct a survey on the oak tree on the north east boundary of the field at a cost of £222.50

There was a discussion on the abusive behaviour that had occurred in the playing field – it had not been reported to the Police as the identity of the individual had not been named. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek guidance from the Police on the procedure for making a complaint.

### c. Roads and Verges

No contact had been made by BSC over the proposed meeting to discuss damage to the verges during the recent sugar beet season – Maria Oats was requested to follow up.

### d. Superfast Essex

The latest update from Superfast Essex was noted.

e. Parish Council Website

It was agreed that the Clerk should approach Jenny McBride on the GOV UK Make your Public Sector Website or App Accessible.

The questions which need answering are:

- What actions are necessary to allow those with visual impairment, hearing difficulties and physical disabilities to access the Little Horkesley Parish Council website?
- What order of costs would be involved in achieving such accessibility?

Given that information it may be possible to demonstrate that the costs are prohibitive for a small parish council.

It was again repeated that the lead on such an issue affecting all parish councils should be taken by Essex Association Local Councils and they are clearing failing to offer guidance necessary.

f. Local Council Elections 2 May 2019

The briefing pack prepared by the Clerk was noted and the fact that responsibility for completing and delivery of the various nomination papers was that of those standing for office.

The Consent to stand form could be witnessed by anyone on the Electoral Roll not necessarily the Clerk.

Michael Scales had decided, in view of his commitments to work and a young family, he could not devote the time necessary to the role as Parish Councillor and, therefore, he did not wish to stand on 2 May.

Roger Drury restated his desire to step down, at the next elections he will be 83, but, unless a new name is brought forward, he will stand to avoid the embarrassment of not been able to elect a full Council.

**4. Planning**

a. Application No: 190228 Thrift Farm Barns, Horkesley Hill, Great Horkesley

The Council's original objection to this application appears to have been noted as a new application 190576 has been lodged which appears to tidy up the site.

The appalling state of the adjoining property, Thrift Farm, has, yet, not been addressed.

b. Application No: 183108 Westwood Park, London Road, Little Horkesley

This application for internal alterations has been approved.

**5. Finance**

There were no financial issues to discuss.

**6. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was noted:

- DV & SV AONB February Update – the forum on 21 June was highly recommended to all.
- RCCE Essex Warbler;
- EALC March Legal Update.

**7. Items for the Next Agenda**

Chair) ..... (Chris Exley – Vice

..... (Date)

**Date of the next Parish Council Meeting 17 April.**