

# Little Horkesley Parish Council

meeting Held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 18 July

**Present:** Maris Oats (Chair)  
Hannah Taylor  
Roger Drury (Councillor/Clerk)

**Apologies** Were received from Cllr. Nigel Chapman and Chris Exley.

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

## 1. Minutes

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

## 2. Management of the Parish Council

a. The Clerk advised the Council that CBC had received no “valid request for an election to be held and so it falls to the Parish Council to co-opt a replacement councillor. The appointment should be made as soon as is practical”.

It was agreed to invite Christine Jacobs to join the Parish Council as co-opted member and the Clerk would discuss with Michael Scales if he had any relevant interest/speciality that he could report on to the Council with a view to joining the Council in May 2019.

Roger Drury would step down as Councillor in May 2019 but continue as Clerk.

All future plans depended on whether the May 2019 election was contested or non-contested.

b. It was agreed to defer consideration of Parish Councillor Responsibilities until after the co-option of Christine Jacobs and the availability of Chris Exley.

## 3. Clerk’s Report

### a. Affordable Housing

It was agreed to defer consideration of this item until a more detailed analysis was received from RCCE and Chris Exley was available to comment.

The suggestion that a RCCE Representative should be invited to the next meeting to explain their findings and advise on future steps was agreed.

### b. Data Protection

The Clerk reported that the Little Horkesley PC Website had been amended to include a tab on Policies & Procedures including:

- Freedom of Information;
- Complaints Procedure,
- Privacy Policy;
- Retention of Documents Policy.

Issues remaining include:

- Register of Proceeding activities;
- Maria Oats to review Parish Council Insurance Policy;
- Emergency Plan to be reviewed at September Meeting.

#### c. Playing Field

Generally the Playing field looks OK but is very brown and dried out – the Scattered Orchard is standing up well but some of the Pollinator Patch are distressed.

CBC have taken no action to clear the entrance or car parking area. However, Cllr Nigel Chapman has determined that a contractor has been briefed to do the workin w/c 15 July.

The playground itself is looking very good, no weeds and new bark. However, it was pointed out that the bark continues stripped pieces of wood which could be dangerous but, as the bark had been provided by CBC, it was assumed it met the necessary safety standards.

Hannah Taylor has identified a handyman, Stuart Mosely, who the Clerk is meeting on site at 5.00 pm on Friday 20 July with Jake Jacobs – issues to be raised:

- Clearance of the pile of grass cuttings;
- Support leg which requires attention;
- Provision of an estimate for repainting the play equipment.

#### d. Superfast Essex Broadband

The Clerk has followed up on Superfast Essex email of 28 June:

- Questioning the difference between “Gigaclear commercial work planned” and “Superfast Essex Phase 3 –Gigaclear planned”,
- Challenging certain apparently “sharp” practice by County Broadband, and
- Challenging the coverage claimed by County Broadband.

He has also forwarded on complaints from Fiona Rogers, Kings Farm, and Zoe Brown and will continue to follow up on all comments received

#### e. Little Horkesley PC Website

It was noted that a new tab, Policies and Procedures, had been incorporated to include;

- Freedom of Information;
- Complaints Procedure;
- Privacy Policy;
- Retention of Documents Policy.

In all other aspects the website is up to date.

#### f. Roads and Verges

The closure of Footpath 2 Wiston Mill Footbridge 2729 was noted.

Hannah Taylor reported that Dorset CC had not cut verges this year in view of a long term weather forecast for dry weather – our verges having been cut and are a tinder box of dried grass and a fire hazard.

The Clerk would report these facts to Cllr. Ann Brown.

#### g. Mayor's Reception on 12 July

The Clerk's email of 28/06 apologising for non-attendance from Little Horkesley was noted.

#### h. September Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed in view of the Clerk's absence on 19 September, to change the date to 12 September.

#### 4. Planning

a. Application No: 181347/8 Old Barn Cottage, Water Lane, Little Horkesley

The re-submission of this application was noted and no further need for Parish Council comment was agreed.

b. Application No: 180894 Westwood Park, London Road, Little Horkesley

The Conditional Approval of this application was noted.

c. Colchester Local Plan

The Clerk pointed out that the Planning Inspectorate had raised a number of question marks over the planned “garden communities” to the south of Colchester. If approval of the Colchester Local Plan was refused, the impact across the villages of the Borough, including in the Dedham Vale, could be highly damaging.

d. Colchester Skip Hire

Plans to expand the size of CSH operation at Fordham are being discussed at county level. Local opposition from West Bergholt is based on the traffic levels on the Bures Road.

#### 5. Finance

a. Quarterly Report to 29 June 2018

The Quarterly Report was reviewed and the reserves of £7,179.27 was agreed as sufficient to meet all anticipated expenditure – the only outstanding expense was the work on the playground carried out by CBC Zone 3 + bark £750+

b. Expenditure Approval

The following expenditure was agreed:

- RCCE £52.80 – Annual Affiliation Fee;
- CBC £90 – Playing Field Rent.

c. It was agreed that the Clerk should process any invoices received over the next to months prior to approval at the September Meeting.

#### 6. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

- Membership of RCCE;
- RCCE 2018 Annual General Meeting;
- RCCE Warbler;
- DV&SV June Update.

#### 7. Items for the Next Agenda

- Affordable Housing;
- Data Protection – Emergency Plan.

..... (Maria Oats – Chair)

..... (Date)

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 September.**