

23LHPC07b

# Little Horkesley Parish Council

## MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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

### **Apologies**

Lewis Barber

Darius Laws

There were no declarations of Pecuniary or Non-pecuniary interest.

### **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

### **2. Public Questions**

There were no members of the public present

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

- a) It was noted that there is a new Energy Secretary and that people had been encouraged to send an email.

### **4. Playground**

- a) Cllr Eddis confirmed that the owner of 7 Orchard Cottages has not responded to the letter sent in May, asking if they would be happy to enter into a licence agreement with Colchester City Council giving them permission to access the playground through the gate they have installed. The alternative is for the Parish Council to reinstate a fence across the gateway restricting the unauthorised direct access to the playing field.

Cllr Eddis emailed Michael Devine on 6<sup>th</sup> September asking if he would begin the process of drafting a licence to send to the owner of 7 Orchard Cottages. This is still the preferred option as it prevents the Parish Council bearing the cost of reinstalling the fence. We are still awaiting a response from Michael Devine.

- b) The clerk confirmed that she has almost completed the application for the Enovert grant to assist in the purchase of new playground equipment.  
It was agreed that there was no need for Councillors to review the completed application and so the clerk will submit once it is completed.
- c) It was agreed that the Parish Council would not send a delegate to the Routine Playground Inspection Course & Exam at this time.

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

- a) The Parish Council discussed the issue of flooding at School Lane after a request from Christopher Orme. It was noted that the flooding had been significantly improved since the works carried out in September 2020.  
It was agreed that Chair Eddis would speak with Christopher Orme and that the Parish Council would be happy to help where possible in highlighting further issues to Highways and Colchester City Council.
- b) The ditch at the top of Water Lane was discussed at length. It was noted that the top half of the pipe has been installed but there is still a half moon pipe which feeds into the larger pipe and so there is still a smell at either end of the pipe. The Environment Agency are now working with Anglian Water to resolve the issue.  
It was agreed that the clerk would write to the Environment Agency on behalf of the Parish council to reiterate that the issue has not been resolved. Cllr Taylor will pass the contact details to the clerk.
- c) The junction of Vinesse Road and what is known locally as “Piggy Lane” was discussed as it has been noted that there have been a number of near accidents at that location. It was agreed that the clerk will ask Cllr Barber and Cllr Laws to investigate to see if the road markings could be improved and appropriate road signs installed.
- d) The clerk confirmed that she has received the litter picking equipment from the Litter Warriors initiative. She will put details on the website and Facebook page to encourage residents to join in picking litter.

## **6. Planning**

- a) Planning application 231986 (extension to Old School House, School Road) was discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Council did not object to the proposals. The clerk will lodge the Parish Council’s response to the application on the planning portal.

## 7. War Memorial

- a) As R Griggs declined the Parish Council's request to carry out the work to the War Memorials, it was agreed that the work would be offered to Get It Done. The clerk confirmed that the GID quote of £800 was still valid and that she would request that the work is commenced as soon as possible.

## 8. Bus Shelter

- a) Again, as R Griggs declined the request to renovate the bus shelter it was agreed that the clerk would ask Get It Done to provide a quote.
- b) It was agreed that the Parish Council would go ahead with the proposal to install a "book library" in the bus shelter.  
The clerk will work out the measurements and begin the search for a suitable cabinet.

## 9. Hedgehog and Swift Project

- a) The Hedgehog and Swift Project was discussed. Cllr Taylor noted that swift boxes are very difficult to install as they have to be at a certain height.  
It was agreed that the clerk would put details of the scheme on the Parish Council website and Facebook page in the hope that residents will join the project.

## 10. Remembrance Service

- a) It was agreed that the clerk will purchase a wreath for the Remembrance Service at the church.
- b) Cllr Taylor offered to attend the service on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Taylor will ask a resident of the village who served in Iraq if she would like to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

## 11. Emergency Assistance Plan

- a) All Councillors reviewed the Emergency Plan. Chair Eddis has since emailed a couple of minor amendments to the clerk. The clerk will make the changes and circulate to all members of the Parish Council.  
It was agreed that the clerk would send an advert about Vulnerable Persons to Cllr Le Grys which will be published in the parish magazine.

## 12. Parish Council Admin

- a) Next year's meeting dates were confirmed as:

15 <sup>th</sup> January	15 <sup>th</sup> July
18 <sup>th</sup> March	16 <sup>th</sup> September
20 <sup>th</sup> May	18 <sup>th</sup> November

- b) The clerk brought the Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct to the attention of new councillors. She reminded everyone that these documents are available on the website and that Councillors should familiarise themselves with them.
- c) It was agreed that the clerk would review all policies and highlight any potential alterations to Councillors.
- d) The Councillor responsibilities were reviewed, and amendments agreed. The clerk will update the website to reflect the changes.
- e) The clerk will send the new Councillor Training Course dates to the Cllr Le Grys
- f) The Clerk will update the Councillor Profile page on the website and has requested photos from Cllr Taylor, Cllr Le Grys and Cllr Morris.

**13. Finance**

- a) The clerk gave the Quarterly Report to Chair Eddis for review.

**14. Correspondence**

None

**15. Items for the Next Agenda**

..... (Jonathan Eddis - Chair)

**02.10.23**

..... (Date)

**Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (Little Horkesley Village Hall)**