**19LHPC11b Little Horkesley Parish Council**

**meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13 November 2019**

**Present:** Maria Oats

Chris Exley

Chris Jacobs

Susie Goldring

With Roger Drury (Clerk) and Jo Petersen (Clerk des.)

**Apologies** were received from Cllr. Nigel Chapman (CBC Rural North) and Hannah Taylor.

**No Pecuniary or Non-pecuniary interests were declared.**

**1. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October were agreed as an accurate record subject to a minor amendment in Item 2 Affordable Homes.

**2. Affordable Homes**

It was noted that the potential sites had be narrowed down to three by CBC/Hastoe HA and letters from Hastoe HA had been sent to the respective landowners but no response had been received to date.

It was agreed that the Council should not seek to intervene now.

**3. Emergency Assistance Plan**

Chris Jacobs had finalised the Plan and it would be circulated to Councillors with a view to finalising it at the December Meeting.

**4. Clerk’s Report**

a. Little Horkesley PC Website

Jo Petersen reported on progress to update Little Horkesley Website and it was agreed that Councillors should review the site before the next meeting with the aim of going live early in the New Year.

The overall costs would be £200+, primarily for a hosting charge + email address(es), but there would be no ongoing updating charge as this could be achieved by the Clerk.

Priority should be given to establishing a parish email address which Jo would be responsible for and email addresses for Councillors provided the price was not too high - this should be achieved by mid-December.

b. Playing Field

It was agreed that refurbishment of parish benches should be deferred until the new Financial Year.

The Clerk had requested Danny Page to give the Wild Flower Meadow a late cut in order to stimulate the growth of flowers for the Spring.

c. Roads and Verges

ECC Highways have ensured the removal of the barrels from Malting Farm verge – they have been replaced by wooden piles. It was agreed that the Parish council should not pursue other cases of obstruction of verges.

They have also repaired the dangerous pothole in Water Lane after intervention by Cllr. Anne Brown.

It was requested that dangerous potholes in Holt Road and the junction of the Bures Road and Crabtree Lane be reported.

The potential for further flooding at the junction of School Road/School Lane was discussed and ECC Highways had been alerted to the problem. This problem had been ongoing for more than 10 years and no satisfactory conclusion had been reached in spite of the involvement of all relevant parties.

It was emphasised that:

* Flooding issues are **not** the responsibility of parish councils, and
* The Parish Council would not fund any efforts to resolve the problem.

d. Standing Orders/Financial Standing Orders

It was agreed that Maria Oats and Jo Petersen should update both.

e. Rix Reservoirs

The Clerk had been advised to contact [Floods@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Floods@essex.gov.uk) who hold a brief on all flood issues in the County – they had referred the query onto ECC Minerals and Waste Depart. It appears that nobody is really interested in the issue.

f. VE Day 75th Anniversary

It was agreed that Jo Petersen should develop her ideas and report to the January meeting.

g. SuperfastEssex: Countywide Parish Engagement Event

Susie Goldring reported on a system that was providing 66mbs at a cost of £22/month and was providing an excellent service – she was requested to provide details of the service to the Council.

It was also agreed the Council should not actively seek to promote a particular service provider.

h. Creating Safer Rural Communities Together

It was felt that this was a useful initiative particularly as it provide contact details for a range of possible incidents. It was agreed that Councillors should review the pamphlet and discuss follow up actions at the next meeting.

i. Colchester Woodland Project

It was agreed that this initiative was aimed primarily at built up rather than rural areas and no further action should be taken.

**5. Planning**

a. Application No: 192082 Priory Farm, School Road, Little Horkesley

The revised application relocating the temporary building to the back of the main barn was noted. This would remove concerns that had been expressed on the potential for an access directly onto School Road.

b. Horkesley Park

There had been concerns expressed that the slowdown in building at Horkesley Park was a precursor to an attempt to amend the original planning application. However, Mersea Homes had stated that their plans had not changed but had been slowed down due to a shortage of skilled workers.

c. Local Plan – Local List

Reservations were expressed about the scheme as a property on the “Local List” could be treated as a listed property with all the planning restrictions thereby involved. In any case no property should be included without the prior permission of the owner.

d. Coach Road, Great Horkesley

This was a purely speculative venture by a developer and had been met by strong opposition from Great Horkesley village and the Parish Council. The basis of the opposition was traffic pressures in Coach Road particularly around the Bishop William Ward Primary School.

The Clerk pointed out that, if the CBC Local Plan with the “garden communities” meeting the housing demand in Colchester going forward were to be refused, this type of speculative application could severely impact the villages in north Colchester.

**6. Finance**

a. FY 20/21 Budget

The projected outturn for FY 19/20 was noted. The FY 20/21 budget, subject to amendment to reflect the cost of the website see Item 4 a., was agreed as the basis for applying for the FY 20/21 Precept.

It was agreed that the no contribution from reserves in order to minimise the % increase in Precept should be made in order to build up the reserves which had been significantly reduced in order to make provision for employing a paid Clerk. The situation would become clearer when CBC funding for FY 20/21 was established in December.

A VAT reclaim of £96.46 relating to FY18/19 had been made – the projected VAT Reclaim for FY19/20 is £400 + due to VAT being charged on grass cutting and CiCLA Enrolment fees.

b. Expenditure approval

Following expenditure was approved:

* J R Drury £71.49 Stationery items,
* J R Drury £20.00 RBL Wreath;
* J R Drury £49.99 AVG Internet security;
* Little Horkesley £177.00 Village Hall hire charges.

c. Online Banking

Hannah Taylor had signed the necessary mandate forms but the move to online banking would have to wait until the rewrite of the Financial Standing Orders see Item 4 d.

**7. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was noted:

* Oyster RCCE Autumn 2019;
* Essex Warbler November 2019;
* DV & SV October Update;
* County Update for November.

**8. Items for the Next Agenda**

**……………………………………………………………………. (Maria Oats – Chair)**

**……………………………………………………………………. (Date)**

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 December.**