

24LHPC05bMay(acm)

Little Horkesley Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th May 2024

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

1.Election of the Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Goldring and seconded by Cllr Le Grys that Cllr Eddis is elected as Chairman. Cllr Jonathan Eddis was duly elected.

2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Eddis read and signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office

3. Election of Vice Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Goldring that Cllr Le Grys is elected as Vice Chairman. Cllr Le Grys was duly elected.

4. Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Le Grys read and signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office

5. Apologies

Cllr Jo Morris

Cllr Lewis Barber

6. Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-pecuniary interests in relation to items on the agenda

Cllr Goldring declared a pecuniary interest in Item 12 (Planning)

7. Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on 15th January 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

8. Public Questions

Mr James Ryan and Cllr Laws were present

9. National Grid “GREEN” Pylons Scheme

- a) Mr James Ryan, NSIP Project Manager, Colchester City Council updated the Parish Council on latest developments in the City Council’s response to National Grid.

Mr Ryan is visiting all Parish Councils affected by the proposals to talk about the scheme and how we can assist in opposing the proposals.

He stressed that all residents need to demonstrate the harm that will be done to the countryside, homes, business and lives if National Grid are granted permission to construct the pylons. The Parish Council needs to engage with local residents to demonstrate the harm at this Statutory Consultation stage. Every letter that National Grid receive is evidence of the harm the scheme will do to the local area.

He reiterated that this is 1950s technology and that the pylons bring no benefit to East Anglia as all the power will be transported to London.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would liaise with David Burns to ensure we submit a sufficient response to the consultation.

Councillors also discussed ways in which residents could be encouraged to engage with the consultation and send their objections to National Grid.

10. Playground

- a) Cllr Eddis confirmed that he has not heard back from Michael Devine in response to his email of 29th November, which was chasing a response to the email sent to Mr Devine on 6th September.

Neither the clerk nor Cllr Eddis have received a response from Mr Devine.

Cllr Eddis will again contact Mr Devine to clarify whether CCC will issue a license for the gate at the rear of 7 Orchard Cottages.

- b) Councillors met at the Playing Field prior to the meeting to survey to play area and discuss the proposals for new play equipment.

It was agreed that the clerk would make the following amendments / queries to the quote from Proludic:

- Remove the see-saw

- Ask for clarification on the two prices for “top soil and turf” and “top soil and seed”. It was noted that as there is no water source at the playing field, the turf option is expensive and potentially ineffective
- Confirm how much could be saved if the Parish Council arranged to remove the existing play equipment and bark

Councillors agreed that a date should be agreed to remove the play equipment, bark and fencing. We would advertise a date and encourage residents to assist

The Clerk will speak with the insurance company to find out how much the new premium will increase by.

The Clerk produced a cashflow forecast which demonstrated that the Parish Council has sufficient reserves to cover the 10% 3rd Party Contribution to the grant, as well as pay the VAT on the total cost. The VAT will be reclaimed from HMRC.

- c) The Finance Agreement from Enovert for the funding of the play equipment was discussed at length.
Cllr Laws confirmed that he would donate £500 from his Locality Budget assuming it is still allocated. He will know later this week.

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask for clarification from Enovert on the following points:

Para 1.1: Whether the email from Mr Michael Devine at Colchester City Council dated 20.5.24 stating that the extension of the lease to a ten-year term has been authorised and the case is currently with the Council’s legal services team, is sufficient to meet the terms of the agreement?

Para 6.1.5: Request confirmation from Mr Devine that as the new equipment is replacing the current play equipment, we do not require new permissions.

Para 6.4.4 – 6.4.7: Ensure that Enovert is aware that only £500 of the £3,000 3rd Party Contribution is coming from an external source – the rest is being funded by the Parish Council itself.

Para 14: Termination – we need to confirm what constitutes the start the project? Does the removal of the existing equipment meet the criteria in case there is a delay from the supplier. Proludic have stated that they can be on site within 8 weeks of the date of the order and installation should take about 2 weeks.

*A vote was held on acceptance of the Finance Agreement from Enovert.
All Councillors agreed, that subject to clarification on the points details above, the agreement can be agreed and signed.*

11. Roads, Verges and Footpaths

- a) Christopher Orme sent an email to Cllr Eddis regarding a blocked manhole on School Road which has the potential to cause flooding. The Clerk emailed Lewis Barber about the matter

and will forward any response to Mr Orme along with a link to the Essex Highways Blocked Drain reporting website.

- b) Councillors agreed that knowing ownership / responsibility of ditches is one of the main issues faced by the Parish Council in trying to ensure flooding is prevented. Councillors studied a map of the Parish and added details of the ditch responsibility. The Clerk will work with Cllr Taylor to finalise the map and will then send an email to all landowners reminding them of their responsibility to keep ditches clear to prevent flooding. The Clerk will also email landowners to remind them to keep cross-field footpaths clear.

12. Planning

- a) Cllr Goldring left the room for this agenda item. Planning Application 240914 was discussed and all councillors agreed that the Parish Council would support the application

13. War Memorial

- a) It was agreed that the renovation of the railings at the war memorial would be postponed until next year as much of the Parish Council's reserves are being used to fund the new play equipment.

14. Bus Shelter

- a) Prior to the meeting, the Clerk circulated a document to all Councillors detailing proposals and expenditure for the Bus Shelter "Book Swap". These included the purchase of a cupboard, installation of Perspex to the windows and marine ply to one end of the shelter to offer increased protection from the weather. All expenses will be covered by the £500 grant from the Love Essex Fund.
All Councillors approved the proposals so the Clerk will continue with the project.

15. Dog Waste Bin

- a) Following advice from Mark Healy, the Community & Partnerships Officer at Colchester City Council, and a decision at the last Parish Council Meeting (24LHPC01b 7) not to fund a specific dog waste bin, the Clerk had suggested to the Village Hall Committee that the Parish Council would be prepared to fund a new general litter bin to be sited at the Village Hall. This proposal was rejected by the Village Hall Committee and so the Parish Council is not required to fund any additional bins in the vicinity of the Village Hall.

16. Parish Council Admin

- a) Susie Goldring kindly agreed to take on responsibility for planning issues in the parish.

- b) It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to meet every 2 months. Cllr Eddis is happy to agree decisions via email, or have smaller “working group” meetings if specific issues require discussion.

17. Finance

- a) The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) documents for 2023/24 were circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting and reviewed at the meeting.

APPROVED: Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Report – signed by the Chair and the Parish Clerk

APPROVED: Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Report – signed by the Chair and the Parish Clerk

APPROVED: Exemption Certificate.

- b) It was agreed that the Asset Register would be updated to reflect an increase of 5% due to inflation.
- c) It was agreed that the clerk would renew the Insurance with Gallagher at a cost of £821.59

18. Correspondence

Hard Copy publications were circulated between Councillors

19. Items for the Next Agenda

- Ditches – any updates from Anglian Water on the ditch on Water Lane.
- Community Defibrillator
- CPR training for the Community

..... (Jonathan Eddis - Chair)

..... (Date)

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday 15th July 2024 (Little Horkesley Village Hall)