

GREAT HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH MARCH 2024
IN GREAT HORKESLEY NEW VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Those present:

Cllr C Arnold (Chairman)	Cllr G Baker
Cllr J Burns-Langton	Cllr S Jarvis
Cllr M Sudbery	Cllr P Tempest

23/136 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the meeting was being recorded so the Clerk could write the minutes as she was not present. The Chairman also thanked everyone involved in moving the defibrillator to outside of the Village Hall.

23/137 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Banks and Cllr Mead.

23/138 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Jarvis declared an interest in item 23/144 (b) as Chair of Gt Horkesley Community Events.

23/139 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th February 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

23/140 Have Your Say – Public Open Forum

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

23/141 Reports from Members and Officers of Other Authorities

Cllr Tempest reported that regarding item 23/129 (a) at the previous meeting, the Clerk completed two applications for funding of new defibrillators with the British Heart Foundation. As locations had to be stated on the applications, Cllr Tempest had spoken with the Yew Tree pub and the garage, and both agreed they were happy to be specified locations for installing an external defibrillator. We are yet to hear whether they were successful.

23/142 Finance

- (a) The Statement of Accounts as at 31st January 2024 and 29th February 2024 were noted.
- (b) The January and February 2024 payments lists were approved and signed in accordance with the 2023/24 Budget.

23/143 Planning & Highways

- (a) The following Planning Application was discussed at length, and **it was unanimously agreed** to make representation to the Planning Authority:

240356 9 North View Cottages, Coach Road (expires 19/03/2024)
Extension to rear and construction of enclosed porch and garage

"GHPC objects to the location of the garage in this application, on the basis of the impact on the openness of the street scene and the fact that if this application is approved, a number of other similar properties along Coach Road will also build garages at the front of their property and this will even further impact the openness of the street scene."

- (b) **It was unanimously agreed** to appoint Cllr Sudbery as a councillor representative to liaise with the Community Speedwatch Team.
- (c) The draft minutes from the Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 29th February 2024 were noted.
- (d) Cllr Arnold reported that one matter arising at the Colchester and Essex councillor advice surgery held on Wednesday 6th March was that residents requested streetlighting to be put up along the A134 between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell. Cllr Jarvis confirmed that at the meeting it was specifically requested one streetlight be installed under the A12 bridge (belonging to National Highways England), not along the stretch of road.
It was unanimously agreed to investigate whether the Parish Council can install a light under the bridge and what possible costs would be.
- (e) **It was unanimously agreed** to approve moving the superfluous GHPC streetlamp from the electricity supply pole to the south of the junction of Nayland Road and Ivy Lodge Road to the electricity supply pole to the south of the junction of Nayland Road and Blackbrook Road, subject to receiving agreement from the owner of the land where the electricity supply pole is situated.
- (f) The Chairman reported on the virtual meeting with Colchester City Council Planning Officers to discuss the revision of the Colchester Local Plan. The Chairman advised members which pieces of land in Great Horkesley had been put forward in the call for sites and will forward a link to the report from the meeting to all members. Planning Officers will be visiting every Parish Council and inviting members to go with them to inspect sites that they feel may be suitable for development. The Chairman asked Planning Officers to add two sites to the list of those being considered (land around the derelict Geantrees property and land North of Ivy Lodge Road), as the Neighbourhood Plan Group had identified those two as the least bad sites for possible development.
It was unanimously agreed that this was appropriate action to take.
- (g) **It was unanimously agreed** that speed data from the Speedwatch team be published on the Council website.

Cllr Laws joined the meeting.

23/144 Village Hall

- (a) **It was unanimously agreed** that the Village Hall continue to be named as a possible location for children to be evacuated to on Bishop William Ward Primary School's Emergency Plan.
Cllr Jarvis left the meeting.
- (b) **It was unanimously agreed** to waive hire fees for the Gt Horkesley Community Events group when booking the meeting room at the Village Hall to carry out on-site planning for the Summer Fayre.
Cllr Jarvis returned to the meeting.
- (c) **It was unanimously agreed** to delegate authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, to purchase up to 40 new chairs for the main hall, subject to calculating exactly how many chairs need to be replaced.
- (d) There were no further reports regarding the Village Hall.

23/145 Public Spaces

- (a) Members discussed the consultation currently being carried out by the Street Care & Safety Team at Colchester City Council. Cllr Arnold put forward that they should be doing more sweeping of streets and pavements in rural areas, to remove vegetation and therefore maintain the width of footways in the village. The Clerk will report this to the Street Care team.
- (b) Cllr Tempest reported that there will be a meeting of the Open Spaces & Facilities Working Group on Sunday 24th March at 7pm.

23/146 Policies & Procedures

- (a) The CCTV Policy & Code of Practice was reviewed and approved, subject to an amendment of delegating authority to the Clerk to approve access to data when required.
- (b) The Social Media & Electronic Communications Policy was reviewed and approved, subject to a minor change to the wording of the bullet point regarding copyrighted content and the addition of wording to state that people making inappropriate comments on Facebook will be reported to the relevant authority.

23/147 Clerk's Report

- (a) The Clerk's report to date was noted, including a list of resolutions agreed at earlier Parish Council meetings and any progress to date.
- (b) It was noted that a new laptop for the Clerk has been purchased with money that was allocated in the budget.

23/148 Village Warden

The Village Warden's report to date was noted.

23/149 Date of Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman advised that the date of the Annual Parish Meeting would be Tuesday 23rd April 2024, prior to the next Parish Council Meeting.

23/150 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at 7.30pm in Great Horkesley New Village Hall. Should any urgent matter require a decision by Council before that date, an Extraordinary Meeting will be called.

23/151 Exclusion of Press & Public

There were no members of the public present, so the resolution was not moved.

23/152 Contractors

It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk will post updates of work completed by the Village Warden onto the Council's Facebook page and advise people that should they wish to suggest work for the Village Warden to carry out, then this be directed to the Parish Clerk.

The meeting was closed at 8.52pm.