



**GREAT HORKELEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024**  
**IN GREAT HORKELEY NEW VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM**

**Those present:**

Cllr M Sudbery (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Jarvis
Cllr Baker	Cllr Mead
Cllr Banks	Cllr Tempest
Cllr Burns-Langton	

**23/153 Chairman's Welcome**

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Sudbery, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**23/154 Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Arnold. The Vice-Chairman continued to chair the meeting in the absence of the Chairman.

**23/155 Declaration of Interests**

Cllrs Baker, Jarvis and Mead declared interests in respect of item 23/159 (h) as members of organisations due to receive grants.

**23/156 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

**23/157 Have Your Say – Public Open Forum**

No members of the public were present.

**23/158 Reports from Members and Officers of Other Authorities**

There were no reports from members or officers of other authorities.

**23/159 Finance**

- (a) The Statement of Accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the end of the financial year, was noted and Cllr Sudbery checked and signed to say that balances on the Statement of Accounts reconciled with those shown on the March bank statements.
- (b) The March 2024 payments list was approved in accordance with the 2023/24 Budget.
- (c) The draft minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024, stating that the Fourth Quarter and End of Year Accounts for the 2023/24 financial year were reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee, were noted.
- (d) The list of Direct Debit payments to be made in the 2024/25 financial year was approved.
- (e) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) that the Clerk apply for a Unity Corporate MultiPay Card for the Council's Unity Trust bank account, in order to make payments for council items without having to use a personal bank card.
- (f) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) to add Cllr Tempest to the bank mandate, to authorise payments made by the Council.

- (g) Agreeing to renew the Council's insurance policy was deferred to the next meeting.
- (h) The Finance Committee had previously approved grants for village organisations as follows, for applications received for the 2024/25 financial year (F23/23).

**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) to release £1,000 to 1<sup>st</sup> Great Horkesley Scout Group.

**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) to release £1,000 to Bishop William Ward School Association.

*Cllr Jarvis left the meeting.*

**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) to release £1,000 to Great Horkesley Community Events Group.

*Cllr Jarvis returned, and Cllr Baker left the meeting.*

**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) to release £1,000 to Great Horkesley Parochial Church Council.

**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) to release £700 to Great Horkesley Youth Club.

*Cllr Baker returned to the meeting and Cllr Mead left the meeting.*

**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) to release £700 to Horkesley Village FUNraisers.

*Cllr Mead returned to the meeting.*

### **23/160 Planning & Highways**

- (a) The draft minutes from the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were noted.
- (b) Cllr Sudbery gave a thorough report on the current situation regarding the pylon proposal from National Grid, now called the Norwich to Tilbury project. The Council has previously responded to the Sea Link, North Falls and Five Estuaries consultations. North Falls and Five Estuaries offshore wind farms are now proposing to connect to the Sea Link instead of the EACN substation near Ardleigh. If Tarchon (an interconnector creating a direct power link between Germany and Great Britain) also decide not to connect to the Ardleigh substation, this would remove the need for the pylons to connect at Ardleigh or come through our area at all.

**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) that the Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Sudbery, will submit a formal response to the Tarchon consultation, opposing the need for a connection at Ardleigh substation and covering the three bullet points as set out in the explanatory document circulated by Cllr Sudbery prior to the meeting.

The current National Grid statutory consultation proposes that most of the new electricity transmission lines through the parish will now be underground. This means that 100m wide trenches will be dug through the parish in order to lay the lines, and there will be a large sealing end compound situated in a field northeast of the fishing lakes behind The Crescent, very visible from the Essex Way and likely seen from the AONB, where the lines transfer from overground pylons to underground. The main concerns now are that it is proposed for trenches to be dug across the A134, traffic islands to be removed along the A134 to accommodate construction traffic, and construction will be elongated over three years, rather than completed in smaller sections more quickly. Cllr Sudbery will write a draft response to the National Grid consultation, and approval of this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

- (c) There were no reports of any other new urgent Planning or Highways matters.

### 23/161 Village Hall

- (a) Quotes received for the replacement of the worktop in the Village Hall kitchen were reviewed and **it was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Mead) to accept the quote from Cube Installations for £1,855 and transfer money from earmarked reserves to cover this.
- (b) There were no reports of any other urgent matters regarding the Village Hall.

### 23/162 Public Spaces

- (a) Cllr Tempest reported that the Open Spaces & Facilities Working Group had met on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and was attended by three councillors and three members of the public. The group created an Action Log and came up with some new ideas such as installing geocaching points and extending the footpath around the Village Green.
- (b) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Burns-Langton) to purchase paint up to a maximum cost of £100, so that the Village Warden can repaint the village gates.
- (c) Cllr Jarvis asked if there was any progression on the Parish Council taking over ownership of the Village Green. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

### 23/163 Policies & Procedures

- (a) **It was unanimously agreed** to approve the Asset Register.
- (b) **It was unanimously agreed** to approve the Internal Control Procedures.
- (c) **It was agreed** to approve the Financial Regulations.  
Cllr Baker thought that some points in the Financial Regulations did not apply to this Council. He will summarise these points and circulate them to members so they can consider making amendments at the next meeting.
- (d) **It was unanimously agreed** to approve the Risk Assessment & Management Strategy.

### 23/164 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report to date was noted, including a list of resolutions agreed at earlier Parish Council meetings and any progress.

### 23/165 Village Warden

The Village Warden's report to date was noted.

### 23/166 Dates of Meetings for the Year Ahead

The dates of Parish Council meetings for the year ahead will be on the following Tuesdays.

#### Full Council (7.30pm):

21<sup>st</sup> May 2024  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
16<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
17<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
15<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
19<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
21<sup>st</sup> January 2025  
11<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
18<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
29<sup>th</sup> April 2025

#### Committees (7.30pm unless otherwise stated):

4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (Village Hall)  
9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (Finance – 10.30am)  
10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (Village Hall)  
8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (Personnel)  
12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (Finance – 10.30am)  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (Finance – 10.30am)  
4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (Village Hall)  
11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (Personnel)  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 (Finance – 10.30am)

*Planning & Highways Committee meets when required*