



GREAT HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2025
IN GREAT HORKESLEY NEW VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Those present:

Cllr Arnold (Chairman)	Cllr Baker
Cllr Banks	Cllr Mead
Cllr Sudbery	Cllr Tempest

25/072 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25/073 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jarvis and Cllr Wescomb-Cross.

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Burns-Langton.

25/074 Declaration of Interests

No member declared an interest with respect to any item on the agenda.

25/075 Minutes of Previous Meeting

(a) The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th September 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

(b) The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 29th September 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

25/076 Have Your Say – Public Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

25/077 Reports from Members and Officers of Other Authorities

No members had any reports in respect of their allocated responsibilities.

25/078 Finance

(a) The Statement of Accounts as at 30th September 2025 were noted, and Cllr Banks, who is not a bank signatory, checked and signed that balances reconcile with those on the September bank statements and carried out a spot check of the bank reconciliation. Cllr Arnold pointed out that the Village Hall expenditure was already at nearly 100% of the budgeted amount for the year, due to the unexpected cost of the urgent new Village Hall doors. Cllr Baker stated that, had the doors not been required, the current Village Hall expenditure would be under budget at this point of the financial year.

(b) The September payments list was approved in accordance with the 2025/26 Budget.

25/079 Planning

(a) The following application was noted and no member wished to propose any representation be made to the Planning Authority:

251976 **Little Beeches, Brick Kiln Lane**
Single storey side extension

(b) It was noted that decisions have been made on the following Planning Application:

251681 **1 Keelers Way** **Approve Conditional**
Application to vary Condition 9

(c) Cllr Arnold gave an update on the meeting with Bloor Homes on 15th October 2025, regarding the outline planning application for land north of Coach Road.

The representatives from Bloor Homes stated that a community contribution of approximately £430,000 in S106 funding will be available to the parish council. They attempted asking for a 20mph speed limit to be enforced outside the primary school, but this request is being blocked by Essex Highways. The representatives also said they asked to put in cycle lines on the main road, but this has also been blocked as Highways said they would be too costly to maintain. After reviewing the results of their own traffic survey, they do not believe that parked cars along Coach Road have any effect on the speed of vehicles traveling through, but they are willing to make improvements to the current speed table, the height of which has decreased in recent years, and would take back to Essex Highways the Parish Council's request to put a crossing in there.

During the meeting, Cllr Arnold talked through the Parish Council's further comments on the application, recently sent to the Planning Authority. The Bloor Homes representatives were not interested in attempting to stagger developments within the parish, so it is likely that they will be building at the same time as the development around the Manor. They are sticking with Keelers Way as their preferred option for the cycle way and were surprised to hear that children from Great Horkesley are only guaranteed a space at St Helena secondary school, not Trinity, even though it is within walking distance. The representatives were also seemingly unaware that a gas supply was mentioned in the plans, but did seem to take notice when Cllr Arnold stated that local residents and possible new buyers would be incredibly angry should the development cause raw sewage to be deposited into the River Colne, due to Anglian Water being unable to cope with the additional sewage produced from the development.

The Clerk will send Bloor Homes all the information from the Parish Council's consultation with residents about ways to enhance the Jubilee Green, to help give ideas for items that the S106 leisure contributions can be spent. The Clerk recently received an email from Mark Healy at CCC, asking for more specific plans for spending the S106 community contribution for this planning application. Members will look to get approximate costs and design ideas for a possible extension to the Village Hall.

(d) Cllr Sudbery reported that the Planning Inspectorate has agreed to accept the planning application from National Grid regarding the pylons proposal. There do not seem to be any changes to the plans within the parish since the last consultation.

- i. **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) to register with the Planning Inspectorate to confirm that Great Horkesley Parish Council wishes to become an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation in the next Pre-Examination phase in the Development Consent Order planning process.
- ii. **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) to delegate authority to the Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Sudbery, to make relevant representation in writing directly to the Planning Inspectorate, detailing the concerns previously discussed by the Parish Council and included in objections made to other pylons-related proposals. The response will emphasise that construction traffic within the village is a particular concern and will also request that newer technology and cabling is

considered, so that narrower trenches can be dug to reduce the impact on the local environment.

- iii. **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) that the Clerk will make contact with other Local Authorities impacted by the proposals, including Myland Community Council, CCC and Cllr David King, to check they are aware of the traffic proposals within the planning application.
- (e) There were no reports of any other new urgent Planning matters.

25/080 Highways

- (a) Cllr Arnold reported that the speed limit change on the A134 between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell has passed all the officer stages and has now reached the CMA (cabinet member approval) stage.
- (b) Cllr Arnold reported that Essex Highways have confirmed that Ivy Lodge Road was not considered for funding to put in measures to reduce the speed of vehicles using the road. They could not say when any new funding would be considered as they will wait to hear more of how local highway improvements will progress once we have been through the devolution and local government reform processes.

Members discussed the results of the recent traffic surveys on The Causeway and Coach Road. The survey on Coach Road did not show any major concerns, however the figures for The Causeway were horrendous, showing that 75-80% of vehicles travel over the 30mph limit, with some recorded as traveling at over 70mph in the early evening and up to 100mph overnight. This is the same stretch of road where the footway has almost disappeared, so it cannot be left like this with cars traveling at these speeds. The Clerk will respond to CCC and Essex Highways pointing out that the combination of excessive vehicle speeds and footway narrowed to a one-person width through lack of maintenance is highly dangerous and will be drawn to the attention of local media if swift action is not taken by the highway authority.

25/081 Village Hall

- (a) The draft minutes of the Village Hall Committee meeting on 14th October 2025 were noted.
- (b) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Mead) to close the Village Hall to any new one-off hirers for 23rd to 26th December inclusive.
- (c) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Mead) that Great Horkesley Manor can list the Village Hall as a safe place in the event of an emergency in their continuity plans.
- (d) Members discussed whether to display a set of plates in the Village Hall that are currently held by the WI, but members could not think of a safe place to display them in the current building. The decision will be deferred until a suitable area can be found, or the hall is extended so would be able to accommodate them.
- (e) There were no reports of any other urgent matters regarding the Village Hall.

25/082 Public Spaces & Jubilee Green

- (a) The draft minutes of the Jubilee Green Committee meeting on 14th October 2025 were noted.
- (b) Cllr Tempest and Cllr Jarvis are meeting a representative from a play equipment company to discuss possibilities for replacing the climbing frame pole.

25/083 Staff & Personnel

The draft minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting on 14th October 2025 were noted. Cllr Sudbery reported that members expressed thanks to the Clerk during her appraisal.

25/084 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 to date.

25/085 Village Warden

The Village Warden's report to date was noted.

25/086 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 7.30pm in Great Horkesley New Village Hall.

These minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed
(Parish Council Chairman)

Date