

GREAT HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2023
IN GREAT HORKESLEY NEW VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00PM

Those present:

Cllr C Arnold (Chairman)	Cllr M Sudbery (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr A Banks	Cllr J Burns-Langton (arrived late)
Cllr M Mead	Cllr P Tempest
Cllr D Laws (City)	Cllr L Barber (County)
+ 12 members of the public in attendance	

23/088 Chairman's Welcome

After welcoming everyone to the meeting, the Chairman reported that following the Remembrance Day service at All Saints' Church he had laid a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the Parish Council.

23/089 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Baker. On the advice of the Chairman, it was agreed that the absence was unavoidable.

23/090 Co-Option of Councillors

It was unanimously agreed (proposed Cllr Arnold) to co-opt Mrs Sam Jarvis onto the Council, following which the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by the new member.

23/091 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Jarvis declared an interest in item 23/098, as the Head of the community group organising the Great Horkesley Summer Fayre.

23/092 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th October 2023 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

23/093 Have Your Say – Public Open Forum

Mrs. Williams notified the Council that a group of residents had raised money for a wooden bench to be placed near to the village sign at the end of Keelers Way. The Chairman confirmed that the council did not own the land and was not involved in the undertaking. He remarked that when consulted about the installation of the village sign, the highway authority had raised no objection.

One resident donated six millenium plates to the Council, to be kept at the New Village Hall.

One resident asked whether the Council would consider having a defibrillator situated in the village. Cllr Tempest confirmed that the Council is in the process of moving the defibrillator currently situated in the New Village Hall to an external position.

Many residents attended to voice objections to Planning Application 232206, which was discussed under item 23/094.

23/094 Planning

- (a) (i) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery, seconded Cllr Banks) to rescind the decision (contained in minute 23/080) not to comment on Planning Application 232206 - Lodge Farm, Boxted Road.
- (ii) **Planning Application 232206** was considered afresh. After listening to the views of residents, members discussed various aspects of the proposal at length. **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) to object to the application for the reasons set out in the appendix to these minutes.

Cllr Burns-Langton joined the meeting.

- (b) **Planning Application 230625 – Land, to the east of, Nayland Road (land around Great Horkesley Manor)**: The Chairman reported that he had been advised by the applicant that the Highway Authority is insisting on action which may lead to the removal of a number of trees along Nayland Road between Keelers Way and Coach Road. He had made strong representations to the Highway Authority and had been told that removal of the trees would be avoided if a way could be found to create a shared use cycleway and footway whilst leaving them in place, which was the preferred approach. The Council accepted the Chairman's advice that further lobbying on the issue was unlikely to be effective.
- (c) It was noted that decisions have been made for the following planning applications:
- | | | |
|---------------|--|----------------------------|
| 231824 | 22 Exeter Close
<i>Two storey rear extension in place of existing conservatory</i> | Approve Conditional |
| 223183 | Dedham to Great Horkesley
<i>Proposed Anglian Water Pipeline Scheme</i> | Approve Conditional |
| 231236 | Ivy Lodge Road
<i>Two new build houses</i> | Approve Conditional |
- (d) New applications that were received after publication of the Agenda but prior to this meeting, will be discussed at a meeting of the new Planning Committee formed under item 23/094 (f).
- (e) **232375 72 Keelers Way**
Replacement and modernisation of front of property and extension to rear
At its previous meeting the Council had deferred considering this proposal to enable members to undertake a site visit. The Clerk then consulted members as to their view and using delegated powers, made an objection on behalf of the Council to the Planning Authority.
- (f) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) to form a Planning & Highways Committee and appoint Cllrs Arnold, Sudbery, Burns-Langton and Mead to the Committee. **It was also agreed** that the Committee be given the power to consider, review and comment on any planning applications in the parish, on behalf of the Council. Its other Terms of Reference would be discussed at the first Committee meeting and reported back at the next meeting of Full Council for adoption.

23/095 Reports from Members and Officers of Other Authorities

County Cllr Barber reported that he would be picking up local views regarding traffic in the village and asked for ideas on what to spend the limited repair budget on. The speed limit between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell will be discussed at a meeting with the County Cabinet member with responsibility for highways on 21st December; Cllr Arnold was invited to the meeting.

All members of the public and Cllrs Barber and Laws left the meeting.

23/096 Finance

- (a) The Statement of Accounts as at 31st October 2023 were noted, and Cllr Sudbery checked and signed to say that balances matched those on recent bank statements.
- (b) The payments for October 2023 were approved in accordance with the 2023/24 Budget.

23/097 Public Spaces

- (a) Cllr Tempest gave an update from the Open Spaces & Facilities Working Group. The Chairman advised that a report from the Working Group, including the outcome of the Public Consultation held on 4th November, was destined to become a part of the Neighbourhood Plan and meanwhile would be ready for when the Council is asked for suggestions for S106 expenditure. The report will also need to be shared with CCC Parks and Recs who own the Jubilee (Village) Green. The Parish Council had already told CCC that it would like some of the money from the Manor Land Development to be spent on improving facilities on the Green, for which a formal development plan would be needed.

It was unanimously agreed (proposed Cllr Tempest) that the Clerk appoint residents to the Working Group who signed up at the Public Consultation. Planning Officer Lucy Mondon at Colchester City Council should be asked what Leisure Services said when they were told that the Parish Council wanted the S106 money from the Manor Land Development to be spent in Great Horkesley, not Highwoods Country Park.

- (b) Once the Clerk has appointed residents to the Open Spaces & Facilities Working Group, a date for the next meeting will be arranged for early 2024.
- (c) There were no reports of any other urgent matters regarding Public Spaces.

23/098 Great Horkesley Summer Fayre

- (a) Cllr Jarvis talked through her report on the plans for the Summer Fayre. Cllr Mead expressed concern over parking and advised that Colchester City Council should be asked if the northern part of the Jubilee Green can be used for parking.

Cllr Jarvis left the meeting.

- (b) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) that a skip can be placed in the Village Hall car park for use at the Summer Fayre.
- (c) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) that the following conditions be in place for the use of the Village Hall during the Summer Fayre:
 - Anything electrical that will be run from the Village Hall needs to be signed off by a qualified electrician.
 - The Village Hall toilets can be used.
 - The use of the Village Hall and garden area will not be charged.
 - Tables and chairs from the Village Hall can be used, but only indoors and in the garden area of the Village Hall.

Cllr Jarvis rejoined the meeting.

23/099 Highways

- (a) The email received from Cllr Barber regarding the A134 footway between Geantree and Old House Road was noted; it would be discussed at a Planning & Highways Committee meeting.

- (b) There were no reports of any other new urgent Highways matters.

23/100 Village Hall

- (a) The draft minutes from the Village Hall Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 1st November 2023 were noted.
- (b) It was noted that the Village Hall Committee would like to start reviewing income and expenditure from the current financial year and would work up recommendations for income and expenditure, including hire charges, for the next financial year. These could be considered by the Finance Committee and then Full Council.
- (c) It was reported that there are Ash trees growing in the border of the Village Hall that will need to be removed.
It was noted that the Council would like to thank the Caretaker for the redecoration of the Village Hall that has been recently carried out.

23/101 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report for October 2023 including a list of resolutions agreed at earlier Parish Council meetings and any progress to date was noted.

23/102 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the scheduled December meeting of Full Council would not take place. Three Committees would meet before the scheduled January meeting. Should any urgent matter require a decision by Council before that date, an Extraordinary Meeting will be called.

23/103 Exclusion of Press & Public

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

23/104 Staff Hours & Salaries

- (a) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) that the Caretaker be paid for the redecoration of the Village Hall.
- (b) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) to increase staff salaries in line with employment contracts and the new NALC Pay Scales 2023-24.
- (c) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery) to amend the conditioned hours of work for the Village Hall Booking Manager so that they can be more flexible.

The meeting was closed at 10.07pm