



GREAT HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 JUNE 2022 IN THE NEW VILLAGE HALL MEETING ROOM AT 7.30PM

Those present:

Cllr M Mead (Chairman)
Cllr C Arnold (Vice Chairman)
Cllr G Baker
Cllr L Taverner
Cllr L Williams
+ 1 member of the public

22/1 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Mead welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all those who organised events in the village for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

22/2 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

It was noted that Ms Wescomb-Cross had resigned from her position as Councillor on 8 June 2022.
Apologies were received from Cllr Ewing and County Cllr Lewis Barber.

22/3 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mead in paying an additional amount to the Village Funraisers for the publication of the Village News Jubilee Edition 22/8 (e).

22/4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

- (a) The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022 were agreed and signed as a correct record.
- (b) Consideration of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th January 2022 was deferred to a future meeting.
- (c) It was noted that the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 25th May will be approved at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

22/5 Have Your Say – Public Open Forum

No members of the public wished to speak.

22/6 Reports from Members and Officers of Other Authorities

Cllr Arnold reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group were meeting tonight to have a first discussion about a housing needs survey for the village. Cllr Mead reported on his attendance at a meeting of the Colchester and Tendring Parish Transport Representatives concerning Highways, Maintenance and Bus Transport.

22/7 Basketball Court and Social Areas for Older Children

An email from a resident concerning a lack of areas in the village for older children to socialise was considered. It was concluded that a suitable location for this needs to be identified and it may be possible for the Neighbourhood Plan group to include this as part of their housing needs survey.

22/8 Finance

- (a) Cllr Baker circulated a report of all the income and expenditure for April and May 2022. Approval of this report was deferred to the next meeting to give Councillors time to peruse it.
- (b) Invoices that had been received so far for June 2022 in accordance with the 2022-23 budget were **approved** for payment.
- (c) It was noted that the Council's insurance policy has been renewed for one year with Zurich with a start date of 1st June 2022, under Clerk's delegated powers.
- (d) **It was resolved** to release the end of year financial statements with other audit information to Jan Stobart, the appointed internal auditor. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and Cllrs Arnold and Baker for their work towards the audit.
- (e) Cllr Mead explained that the Village Funraisers had requested an additional £60 to cover the cost of printing the extra pages for the April edition of the Village News (Jubilee centre page pullout). Cllr Mead left the room while **it was resolved** to pay the amount.
- (f) **It was resolved** to upgrade the Clerk's mobile phone and phone contract.
- (g) **It was resolved** to renew the Clerk's membership with SLCC. The cost will be transferred from general reserves as it had not been included in the budget.
- (h) **It was resolved** to renew the Council's membership with RCCE.
- (i) **It was resolved** to cancel the HP Instant Ink Service subscription.
- (j) **It was resolved** that the Parish Clerk and Cllrs Arnold and Baker would attend training with Rialtas (the Council's accounting software).
- (k) **It was resolved** to approve the report on income and expenditure for 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022, provided by Cllr Baker at the previous meeting.

22/9 Village Hall

- (a) Proposals regarding the following were considered and agreed:
 - PAT testing electrical appliances – This will take place on Monday 27 June 2022.
 - Redecoration – Deferred to next meeting.
 - Defective guttering – Deferred to next meeting.
 - Replacing furniture – Deferred to next budget meeting.
- (b) **It was agreed** that the CCTV system for the Village Hall needs to be upgraded. Councillors discussed the need for higher definition cameras and a greater number of cameras to give better coverage of the area behind the Village Hall and the car park.
- (c) It was noted that the Fire Extinguisher Service took place on 30 May 2022 and that new extinguishers are likely to be provided next year (there is no cost for this). It was noted that a Fire Service Inspection took place on 27 May 2022 and it was suggested the Council should keep a monthly log of emergency light testing.
- (d) No action was agreed regarding the Caretaker position.

22/10 Planning Applications

- (a) The following applications were considered and there were no objections.

221161 & 221162 Highlands, School Lane (expires 15/06/2022)

Construction works to reinstate fire damaged Grade II listed dwelling plus 1st floor rear extension and internal alterations

(b) It was noted that no comments were made under Clerk's delegated powers on the following applications:

220778 18 Tile House Lane (Amended application)

Proposed loft conversion and porch

221142 Accorn House, 29 Coach Road

Construction of an hydrotherapy pool

221117 Highlands, School Lane

Construction works to reinstate fire damaged Grade II listed dwelling house on a 'like for like' basis

(c) The following application was received after publication of the agenda but prior to this meeting and, after consideration, no objections were raised:

221333 High Roof, Brick Kiln Lane

Two storey rear extension and internal alterations

(d) The Chairman updated the Council on the meeting with David Wilson Homes in May 2022 regarding the new Manor development. The Chairman explained that the developers had apologised for the way they went ahead with their original consultation, and they have changed the design in response to the concerns that were put forward about the original plans. The developers are making personal contact with residents on Ivy Lodge Road, who will be most affected by the new development. It was noted that a new planning application for the site had been received today and would be discussed at the next meeting.

(e) **It was agreed** that the Clerk will send the Council's response to National Grid's consultation on the East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (GREEN). The Council cannot possibly support the project without more detailed information on the feasibility and costings. The Council also supports the objections from neighbouring Parish Councils (Little Horkesley, Fordham, Boxted, Langham, Ardleigh and West Bergholt), Colchester Borough Council and the representative MPs involved in the Off Shore Electricity Grid Task Force (OffSET).

22/11 Highways

(a) It was noted that a resident had emailed the Clerk regarding overgrown hedges along Brick Kiln Lane and Councillors confirmed that as this is a private unadopted road, the Village Warden has no legal right to cut them back. County Cllr Barber confirmed by email that Highways also will not and cannot legally cut it back and advised that finding out who has ownership of the road is a matter outside of the scope of the Council. The resident will need to check their title deeds to see if reference is made and/or take legal advice.

It was noted that Cllr Barber has requested an automatic traffic count on the A134 Nayland Road near to Blue Owl.

(b) **It was agreed** that the Council would follow Cllr Barber's advice in his email concerning traffic data from Coach Road and wait until the new speed management policies have been adopted.

(c) **It was agreed** to notify Cllr Barber that the Council is still not satisfied with the work carried out on the A134 entering the village from the South, as leaks are still appearing along the road.

(d) It was noted that a resident's email concerning drain maintenance on Boxted Church Road has been forwarded to Borough Cllr Laws.

22/12 Register of Members' Interests

Councillors were reminded to update their Registers of Members' Interests and forward copies of them to the Clerk.

22/13 Clerk's Report

(a) The Clerk's report was noted and there were no questions. Cllr Arnold asked the Clerk to keep a note of how many hours worked each week to ensure that the number of contracted hours is suffice.

(b) It was noted that the Council's Google Account is no longer free for commercial use and will be automatically upgraded to Google Workspace by 27th June 2022.

22/14 Village Warden's Report

(a) The work carried out by the Village Warden in May 2022 was noted.

(b) **It was agreed** to invoice the owner of a property on the A134 for the hours the Village Warden had spent cutting back a hedge on their property overhanging the footway, as the residents had been asked to cut the hedge back several times, due to it causing obstructions on the highway.

22/15 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next ordinary meeting will be **on Monday 4 July 2022 at 7.30pm** in the New Village Hall, Tile House Lane.

It was confirmed that an extraordinary meeting will be called for **Wednesday 29 June at 7.45pm** in St John's Church, to approve the documents required for the External Audit and discuss the new planning application for the Manor development.

22/16 Resolution to Exclude Members of the Public

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

22/17 Letter from Mrs Ruth Butt

There were no updates, so no action was agreed.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

Signed.....