

DRAFT

To be considered for approval at the meeting to be held on 13th December 2021

Minutes of the meeting of Great Horkesley Parish Council held on Wednesday 17th November 2021

Those present: Cllr Mick Mead, Chairman
Cllrs Arnold, Baker, Taverner & Williams

1. The Chairman welcomed two members of the public to the meeting.

2. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Duckworth, Ewing and Wescomb-Cross. The Chairman reported the reasons for absence; **it was agreed** that the absences were unavoidable and therefore acceptable. It was also reported that the parish clerk was unavoidably unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Arnold had agreed to take minutes.

3. Declarations of interest: No member declared an interest in respect of any item on the agenda.

4. Public open forum: Councillors and the members of the public discussed the anticipated planning application from Barratt David Wilson Homes and a plot of land within the parish which had recently been fenced and on which a touring caravan was parked. A resident reported that CBC enforcement was aware of the presence of the caravan and that it would require planning consent if it had not been removed by 22nd November.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October. It was agreed that the circulated draft minutes were a true and accurate record; they were duly signed by the Chairman.

6. Defibrillator: It was agreed to defer consideration of this until such time as the member leading on the proposal was able to attend a meeting.

7. Queen's Jubilee Celebration: Members expressed disappointment that although residents had been canvassed in the Village News and on social media, no suggestions as to how to celebrate the Jubilee had come to light. Cllr Williams stated that he would ensure that there were suitable events, though he would need help. Cllr Arnold reported that he was checking to discover whether a beacon would require planning consent. Cllr Baker reported that the PCC was also considering how to mark the event. It was pointed out that ideally, any event that would require significant financial support from the parish council should be identified before the budget meeting in January.

8. Electricity supply contract: Following discussion **it was agreed** that there would be no advantage in switching supplier as the present contract came to an end.

9. Village Hall

a. Security: Cllr Mead reported that he and Cllr Williams had met a representative from a second company to discuss extending and updating the hall's security systems which currently consisted of three elements which did not work together. More information was to be supplied and there would be a report to a future meeting.

b. \$106 contributions to village amenities: [minuted under item 12]

c. Hallmaster: **It was agreed** that until such time as the parish council was able to employ a caretaker to admit casual users to the village hall, members of the council would be allowed access to the user information held on the Hallmaster booking system. In the first instance, Cllrs Mead and Williams would be allowed the information.

d. Fire risk assessment: Cllr Mead reported that this was work in progress.

10. Flooding: Cllr Arnold reported that he was liaising with County Councillor Lewis Barber who was actively pursuing a number of complaints from residents. Sites included two in School Lane, the water emerging from the A134 surface south of the A12 bridge, the collapsed culvert in London Road near Knowles Farm, the emergence of sewage into residential gardens along The Causeway and the flooding of Nayland Road at the bottom of Terrace Hall Chase.

11. Financial matters:

a. Payments made under delegated powers: These were set out in appendix B to the meeting papers and were noted without discussion.

b. Payments requiring the approval of Council: There were none.

c. Village Hall payments and receipts: These were set out in appendix C to the meeting papers and were noted without discussion.

12. Planning:

a. Applications: The members considered applications 212910 and 212769, the details of which were displayed on the CBC website. In each case **it was agreed** that the changes proposed would have no impact on the appearance of the buildings when viewed from a public place so there was no need for GHPC to comment.

b. Late applications: No village applications had been notified by CBC after the meeting agenda was published.

c. Land east of Nayland Road: Cllrs Mead and Arnold reported that they had been invited to a meeting with four representatives of the potential developer. They had attended on the basis that nothing said would compromise the ability of the parish council to make formal representations on any future planning application. They had expressed disappointment that the developer did not intend to hold a public exhibition of their proposals which would have enabled residents to have been better informed. They had expressed concern at the relatively high density of housing behind the existing houses in Ivy Lodge Road. They were also concerned that the roundabout access to the site, favoured by CBC's Planning Committee when it considered the outline application, had been dropped in favour of a simple T-junction. They had stressed the need to provide significant traffic calming on Nayland Road in order to ensure that residents, including children, could cross the road safely at all times of day.

Towards the end of the meeting they were informed that an online public consultation would go live within hours and would consist of the papers discussed at the meeting. The consultation material would therefore take no account of the councillors' views put forward at the meeting. 900 houses would receive posted notifications of the web address of the consultation.

d. \$106 contributions to village amenities: Cllr Arnold explained that developers were becoming ever more resistant to the planning policy which required them to contribute to general pots of money held by CBC as planning authority for eventual spend in the area in which the development occurred. It was easier for such funds to

be secured if a specific project could be identified within the §106 agreement attached to the planning consent. Parish councils were therefore being encouraged to identify likely projects and notify them to CBC planners in advance of applications being received. It was particularly important that was done in rural areas where there are many parishes in each ward to avoid the possibility that development in one village provides amenity improvement in another village.

The village hall security system and improved play equipment were mentioned as proposals likely to meet the planners' criteria.

13. Highways:

a. Action required by ECC Highways: Cllr Arnold reported that he was liaising with County Councillor Lewis Barber who was actively engaging with the ECC Highways to secure improvements at a number of sites in the parish. These included the allegedly substandard junction between The Causeway and Boxted Road, the very uneven footway between Coach Road and Tile House Chase, the displaced kerbstones in Keelers Way, Malvern Way and adjacent streets, the need for siding of the narrow footway between Old House Road and the entrance to Geantree, poor sightlines at the Tile House Land mini-roundabout, the lack of signage and lighting on the southern approach to the Blackbrook Road mini-roundabout, the excessive number of lorries still using Boxted Road and Ivy Lodge Road to travel between the A134 and the Severalls employment zones and careless parking outside the Bishop William Ward School which frequently caused blockages of the footways and/or Coach Road and Malvern Way.

b. Siding south of Old House Road: Cllr Arnold reported that following a site visit, Cllr Barber was now pursuing the refusal of highways to tackle this work with the relevant ECC Cabinet member.

c. Speedwatch: Following discussion it was agreed that it seemed likely that a new Speedwatch team would need to be formed. Volunteers would be invited through social media and the January 2022 Village News. The whereabouts of the equipment would be investigated.

14. Reports from Members:

a. Parking by parents during football coaching: It was reported that the St John's Church car park had been made available for this to relieve the congestion on Tile House Lane on Saturday mornings. The possibility of making the village hall car park available was discussed but a review of future lettings of the village hall on Saturday mornings revealed that more often than not the hall car park would be required by hall users.

b. Cllr Arnold reported that Cllr Barber had been investigating both the delay in providing the new **Trinity secondary School** in Chesterwell and the possibility of changing its admissions policy to ensure that all Great Horkesley children would have a right to attend it. MPs Bernard Jenkin and Will Quince were also involved.

c. Cllr Arnold also reported that Cllr Barber and Borough Councillor Darius Laws were trying to ensure that the **cycleway** to be provided between the village and Chesterwell would be separate rather than shared with pedestrians.

d. Cllr Mead reported that on 18th November he had attended the licensing of the new priest-in-charge of the parishes of All Saints with St John Great Horkesley, Langham with Boxted, Little Horkesley, Mount Bures, West Bergholt and Wormingford, the Revd Heather Wilcox.

15. Open space at western end of Keelers Way: Members had received copies of the explanation obtained by Cllr Laws from CBC Parks and Recreation as to why the damaged picket fence around the CBC-owned open space had been replaced with wooden bollards. This was because the only need for a boundary treatment was perceived to be preventing cars from parking on it. Following discussion it was agreed that if the resident who complained wished to pursue the matter, it would be for Cllr Laws to take up the cause with CBC.

16. Clerk's report: this was noted without discussion.

17. Village Warden's report: this was noted without discussion.

18. Future meetings and business:

a. It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be changed to Monday 13th December to enable the maximum number of members to attend. An additional meeting might need to be held for the council to consider the Barratt David Wilson Homes planning application, depending on when it was submitted.

b. Meetings in 2022: Cllr Mead reported that canvassing of members had revealed that a substantial majority would prefer to meet on Mondays. The hall was vacant on enough Mondays in 2022 to make this possible. It was agreed that the Council's regular meeting night would be changed from Wednesday to Monday from January 2022. The new list of meeting dates would be published as soon as possible.

c. Finance working group: It was anticipated that two or more meetings of the group would be needed before the January meeting of the council. No formal decisions would be made and there would be a full report on recommendations for the 2022 precept and budget.

19. **Exclusion of the public:** **The Council resolved under the Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960 that members of the public should be excluded from the meeting to enable discussion of a matter involving a confidential contract.**

20. Following thorough discussion **it was unanimously agreed** that a hypothetical future employee of the council whose duties would include admitting casual users to the hall, ad hoc extra cleaning, minor repairs and systems oversight including security would need to reside within the parish or very close to it.