



**GREAT HORKELEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 20 MARCH 2023**  
**IN THE NEW VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM**

**Those present:**

Cllr M Mead (Chairman)  
Cllr C Arnold (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr G Baker, Cllr M Sudbery, Cllr L Williams  
+ 6 members of the public

**22/129 Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending.

**22/130 Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

All councillors were present.

**22/131 Declaration of Interests**

No members declared an interest in respect of any item on the Agenda.

**22/132 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

**22/133 Co-Option of New Members**

The Chairman briefly explained who can stand for election and what the role of a councillor entails. No new members were co-opted due to there being only one remaining meeting of the council prior to the elections taking place.

**22/134 Have Your Say – Public Open Forum**

One resident asked for an update on the Manor Development (item 22/137).

**22/135 Council Documents**

- (a) Approving the Standing Orders was deferred to next the meeting.
- (b) Approving the Financial Regulations was deferred to the next meeting.
- (c) Approving the Internal Control System was deferred to the next meeting.
- (d) Approving the council's updated Asset Register was deferred to the next meeting.
- (e) Approving the council's updated Risk Assessment was deferred to next meeting.

**22/136 Reports from Members and Officers of Other Authorities**

County Cllr Lewis Barber had reported to the Clerk prior to the meeting that he had visited Ivy Lodge Road and is concerned by the dangerous driving witnessed during the visit. This will be put on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Council.

## **22/137 The Manor Development**

It was noted that Planning Application 213363 (Land to the east of, Nayland Road, Great Horkesley) has been withdrawn. Cllr Arnold explained that the Council has received an email from the architects stating that the landowner will be submitting a new outline planning application for 100 dwellings in the near future, as a viability assessment carried out found that the 80 dwelling scheme, with all the S106 contributions and agreed highways works, would be unviable.

## **22/138 Planning Applications**

(a) It was noted that the Clerk had received an email regarding developing the land off Coach Road. After consultation with the Councillors, the Clerk replied to the email advising that the Parish Council is working in partnership with residents to create a Neighbourhood Plan. As part of this process a village-wide survey is currently being conducted, and the results from this will be used to inform any discussion that the Council may have, concerning the future of the village.

(b) It was noted that the following planning applications had been received, but no comments were made under Clerk's delegated powers:

**230011                      The Bungalow, London Road**

*Side and rear extension*

**230366                      Preen View, Holly Lane**

*Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a single family dwelling*

**230372                      Brendon, 41 Coach Road**

*1 ½ rear extension to form additional living space*

(c) It was noted that, after consultation with Councillors, the Clerk commented on the following planning application under delegated powers:

**223183                      Anglian Water Pipeline, Dedham to Gt Horkesley**

"The Parish Council notes that it passes through the AONB and is in close proximity to several listed properties and residencies and ask that all possible mitigation measures are taken."

(d) It was noted that decisions have been made for the following applications:

**223080                      Meadow Barns, London Road                      Approve Conditional**

*Single storey side extension*

**222316                      108 Keelers Way                      Approve Conditional**

*Garage conversion to proposed snug with proposed porch to front*

**223167                      South Lodge, Nayland Road                      Approve Conditional**

*Extensions and alterations to existing dwelling*

**230036                      Thorncroft, Nayland Road                      Approve Conditional**

*Patio and window*

**221893                      Shambles, 65 Coach Road                      Approve Conditional**

*Single storey rear extension (resubmission of 211257)*

(e) The Clerk sought the view of members on the following application, which was received after the meeting agenda had been published.

**230591                      Bear House, London Road**

*Single storey extension*

## **22/139 Finance**

(a) The Statement of Accounts as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 was noted.

- (b) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Mead) to approve payments for January and February 2023 in accordance with the 2022-23 budget.
- (c) Details of three different banks, with which an investment account for the Parish Council could be opened, had been circulated to members of the Finance Committee prior to the meeting. The Public Sector Deposit Fund with CCLA has instant access to savings and the best interest rate.  
**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Baker) to open a Public Sector Deposit Fund account with CCLA and move the remaining balance from the Barclays account to it, before closing the Barclays account.

## **22/140 Village Hall**

- (a) The most recent report from the Village Hall Bookings Manager was noted.
- (b) It was noted that the Clerk placed the Village Hall's electricity supply on a 2-year contract with Eon Next starting 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, under delegated powers. After an enormous hike in energy costs, energy companies were starting to offer fixed rate contracts again in January. Eon Next agreed to lower their original offer to a standing charge of 30p/day and unit rates of 44.9p/kWh, after the Clerk found a cheaper quote elsewhere.
- (c) Details of three possible new broadband contracts were circulated to members prior to the meeting.  
**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) that if there are no difficulties in changing providers, then the Clerk will place the Village Hall broadband on a contract with Gigaclear, as this is the cheapest option with the fastest speeds.
- (d) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Mead) to approve the new Conditions of Hire for regular and one-off hirers of the Village Hall, as circulated with the meeting papers.
- (e) The Clerk had received one quote for a revaluation of the Village Hall, which was £2,500 +VAT. The Clerk and Councillors will attempt to obtain more quotes.
- (f) The Village Hall Caretaker has sourced the products required to replace the defective guttering on the Village Hall. In accordance with the Council's Governing Constitution (Part 2 Section 5a ix), a motion was moved (proposed Cllr Arnold) and **it was unanimously agreed** that authority to approve up to £400 expenditure be delegated to the Clerk, the decision to be taken once the exact amount is known and in consultation with the Chairman.  
**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Mead) that a cigarette bin, up to a cost of £25, be purchased to go outside the Village Hall entrance.  
**It was unanimously agreed** to acquire nappy and sanitary bins at the Village Hall. Cllr Sudbery specified that there should be one bin per cubicle in the ladies' toilets. The Caretaker will be asked to empty them weekly for disposal via the residential waste collection service, as it is offensive waste produced from non-healthcare activities of less than 7kg per collection interval. The Clerk and Caretaker will research options and costs for the necessary bins.

## **22/141 Public Spaces**

- (a) Cllr Arnold reported that communication with Colchester City Council is continuing regarding streetlight charges. They have sent a list of streetlights that they believe the Parish Council own, which is incorrect and needs to be updated. Then the best course of action can be decided.

- (b) The Village Warden has reported that dog waste not being picked up is still a huge problem in the village. As Neighbourhood Services stated that this is an issue across Colchester, the Clerk will mention this at the next Clerk's Forum, and also ask Cllr Laws and Neighbourhood Services team if any more can be done.

#### **22/142 Highways**

- (a) The Clerk reported that Myland Community Council have been in contact regarding a proposal for a new foot bridge across the A12, linking the footpath connections between Great Horkesley, Myland and West Bergholt.  
**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) to actively support this project.
- (b) The Clerk will contact Cllr Barber to again highlight the water issues on the A134 under the A12 bridge. There are now many potholes and large puddles are forming at the bottom of the hill due to running water.  
Traffic island bollards along the A134 are very dirty. The cleaning of these will be added to the Village Warden's task list. Cllr Arnold reported that following an attempt by the highway authority to argue that the traffic island near the A134/Blackbrook Road junction was not a formal pedestrian refuge, Cllr Barber was working to have its status recognised and have it lit accordingly.  
Cllr Arnold will compile a list of all the current highway issues in Great Horkesley and send this to Cllr Barber.

#### **22/143 Clerk's Report**

- (a) The Clerk's report for January and February 2023 was noted and there were no questions. The Clerk also reported that under delegated powers, the Clerk authorised a payment for the printing of flyers to be delivered to all households in Great Horkesley, notifying residents of the deadline for the survey forming part of the Neighbourhood Plan. As this was an urgent decision only one quote was provided and accepted, and funds are to be taken from the Neighbourhood Planning ear-marked reserves.
- (b) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Mead) to pay the Clerk overtime for working an additional four hours in January (to produce the budget) and six hours in the first two weeks of March (to produce and update the council's documents listed in agenda item 22/135).
- (c) It was noted that the Clerk attended two training sessions with EALC (Committees & Delegated Powers and Understanding Annual Meetings & The Annual Report), after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

#### **22/144 Village Warden**

The Village Warden's report for December 2022 to February 2023 was noted.

#### **22/145 Date of Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting of the Council will be Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 8.58pm.

Signed .....

Date .....