



GREAT HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2024
IN GREAT HORKESLEY NEW VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Those present:

Cllr Arnold (Chairman)	Cllr Burns-Langton (Vice- Chairman)
Cllr Baker	Cllr Banks
Cllr Jarvis	Cllr Mead
Cllr Sudbery	Cllr Tempest
+ 2 members of the public in attendance	

24/068 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed every to the meeting.

24/069 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

All members were present.

24/070 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Jarvis declared an interest in respect of item 24/077 (d) as a member of the Great Horkesley Community Events Group.

24/071 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th September 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 30th July 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

24/072 Have Your Say – Public Open Forum

Both members of the public were present to hear the discussion on item 24/073 (a).

24/073 Planning & Highways

(a) Cllr Arnold reported that some councillors had attended a meeting with Sandra Scott and Bethany Jones, Senior Planning Officers at CCC, to discuss the Land North of Coach Road and the scoping request that has been submitted by Bloor Homes. They confirmed that there is nothing that the Parish Council can do at this stage as the scoping request just requires a technical decision to be made by the Planning Officers, but they made it clear that the line that CCC will follow is that there is a Local Plan in place for Colchester, currently going through a five-year review, and this is what will be adhered to.

Cllr Arnold asked the Planning Officers about the housing data retrieved as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process, and they confirmed the data will be used in any way it can and that it is still worth pushing ahead with getting a Neighbourhood Plan in place.

Representatives from Bloor Homes have asked to meet with councillors and have booked the hall for a public consultation event on 21st November.

It was unanimously agreed (proposed Cllr Sudbery, seconded Cllr Arnold) for the Clerk to reply to the representative for Bloor Homes and book a meeting to take place after the public consultation.

It was also agreed (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Burns-Langton) to comment on the scoping request that has been submitted.

- (b) The following Planning Application was discussed, and it was agreed to notify the Planning Authority that GHPC does not wish to comment on any of the proposals:
- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 241976 | Homelea, The Crescent | (expires 24/10/2024) |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
- Modification of existing conservatory to orangery
- (c) Cllr Arnold reported that at the end of September, a team from Anglian Water visited the parish to look at the ditches near to the Yew Tree Pub and check the nearby culverts. They also offered to clear the blockage in the sewers at the Yew Tree pub. This visit was then discussed at the Flood MAG10 meeting held on 8th October, where it was agreed that Cllr Arnold will send a map of ditches in the parish that are in dire need of maintenance to a member of the County Council's flood team, so they can get in touch with the landowners and advise that they need to be cleared. It is also believed that storm water is getting into the sewers and Cllr Arnold's piece in the next village news discusses this. Essex County Highways are still refusing to attend the meetings.
- (d) Cllr Barber and the Clerk are still chasing for the speed limit to be changed on the section of the A134 between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell as previously agreed.
- Work on the surface water issues along the same stretch of the road should be carried out in November or December.

24/074 Reports from Members and Officers of Other Authorities

Cllr Arnold reported that a wreath had been purchased from the Chairman's purse for the remembrance service in November.

Cllr Sudbery reported that she was setting up a meeting with the village Speedwatch team to discuss speeding issues in the parish. Agreeing to pay for a speed survey on Ivy Lodge Road is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

24/075 Finance

- (a) The Statement of Accounts as at 30th September 2024 was noted, and Cllr Sudbery checked and signed to say that balances reconcile with those on the bank statements.
- (b) The September payments list was approved in accordance with the 2024/25 Budget.
- (c) Quotes received for the redesign of the Parish Council logo were considered.
- It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Burns-Langton) to accept the quote for £100 to have the current logo redrawn so that the Council has a copy in high resolution, suitable for use on the Council website and official documents.

24/076 Public Spaces

- (a) Cllr Tempest gave an update regarding research he has carried out on potential maintenance costs for the Jubilee Field. He will now start seeking quotes for the list of maintenance items identified.
- Cllr Arnold reported that Mark Cory, Portfolio Holder for Resources at CCC, has agreed to meet to discuss the Parish Council taking ownership of the Jubilee Field. It was confirmed that one or two councillors, as well as the Clerk, will also join the meeting.
- (b) Discussing options for repairing the play equipment on the Jubilee Field was deferred until it is known whether the Parish Council will be taking over ownership of the land.

24/077 Village Hall

- (a) Councillors discussed that there would need to be a sudden rise in the precept to cover maintenance costs for the Jubilee Field if the Parish Council does take over ownership, and that one way to offset these costs could be to install more solar panels at the Village Hall to reduce the amount spent on energy.

It was unanimously agreed (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Tempest) to adopt that in principle the entire roof of the Village Hall could be used to hold solar panels and batteries would be installed to store energy.

It was also agreed that the approximately £6,000 currently held in the S106 community fund could be used to help fund the project.

- (b) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Burns-Langton, seconded Cllr Baker) to accept the quotes from Inside Electrical for:

- The installation of an outdoor socket for £210.
- The installation of a flood light on the porch of the Village Hall for £160.

Money to cover these works will be taken from Village Hall Reserves.

- (c) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Jarvis, seconded Cllr Arnold) that based on the fire safety calculations worked out by Cllr Jarvis, the following capacity figures be used for the Village Hall.

Room	Type of hire	Capacity
Main Hall	Seated event with tables and chairs	120
	Standing /seated event with no tables	199
	Exercise group with equipment	25
	Exercise group with no equipment	80
Meeting Room	Event with tables and chairs	16

Cllr Jarvis left the room.

- (d) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Banks) for the Community Events Group to hire the Village Hall free of charge for the Great Horkesley Summer Fayre on 28th June 2025.

Cllr Jarvis returned to the room.

24/078 Personnel

The draft minutes from the Personnel Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 were noted.

24/079 Clerk's Report

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

24/080 Village Warden

The Village Warden's report to date was noted.

24/081 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 19th November 2024 in Great Horkesley New Village Hall. The Clerk will confirm the start time when the summons is sent.