



GREAT HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH JUNE 2025
IN GREAT HORKESLEY NEW VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Those present:

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

25/019 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25/020 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

All members were present.

25/021 Declaration of Interests

No member declared an interest with respect to any item on the agenda.

25/022 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 8th May 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

25/023 Have Your Say – Public Open Forum

One member of the public shared their concerns about the Draft Local Plan, EV fires and garden communities. The Chairman said that local councillors voted against putting the Draft Local Plan out to consultation as they did not feel that there is suitable infrastructure in place to support the plan, and the Fire Service review and comment formally on every major planning application.

The members of the public left the meeting.

25/024 Reports from Members and Officers of Other Authorities

Cllr Mead reported that he had attended a CALC meeting where there was a presentation on the Local Government Reform & Devolution. They are still unsure exactly how the county of Essex will be broken up into unitary authorities, but Colchester, Braintree and Tendring will remain together. There will not be another election of councillors, so some City and County Councillors may end up doing a seven-year term, and from next year the elected Mayor will have huge responsibility and pressure.

Cllr Mead also reported that the lease on the current EALC office has come to an end, so EALC will be moving to a new admin centre at the RCCE offices in Feering, and training will take place in various venues around Essex going forward.

Cllr Sudbery reported that National Grid and local campaign groups are gearing up for the next stage of the Pylons Proposal. Cllr Sudbery will speak with MP Bernard Jenkins to advise

him of National Grid's proposal to remove all the traffic calming measures along the A134; the Chairman will remind Cllr David King of the issue.

The Clerk will ask County Cllr Lewis Barber for an update on the speed limit change along the A134. Councillors may decide to contact local newspapers if there is still no further progress.

25/025 Audit of the Council for Financial Year 2024/25

- (a) The Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25 as completed by Jan Stobart on 9th June 2025 was received and noted, and it was resolved to thank the Clerk for all her hard work in completing the accounts required for audit and congratulate her on once again receiving positive comments from the auditor.
- (b) The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was considered, approved and signed.
- (c) The Accounting Statements (Section 2) of the AGAR was considered, approved and signed.
- (d) The bank reconciliation for 2024/25 was considered, approved and signed.
- (e) The explanations of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements were considered, approved and signed.
- (f) It was noted that the period for the exercise of public rights will be for 30 days (including the first 10 working days of July) and will commence on Thursday 19th June 2025 and end on Wednesday 30th July 2025. Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, this information will be published on the Great Horkesley Parish Council website along with Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR.

25/026 Finance

- (a) The Statement of Accounts as at 30th April 2025 were noted and Cllr Sudbery checked and signed to say that balances reconciled with those shown on the April bank statements. The Statement of Accounts as at 31st May 2025 were noted and Cllr Banks checked and signed to say that balances reconciled with those shown on the April bank statements.
- (b) The April & May payments lists were approved and signed in accordance with the 2025/26 Budget.
- (c) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Baker) to move £25,000 from the CCLA Deposit Fund to the Unity Trust bank account.

25/027 Planning & Highways

- (a) The draft minutes from the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 5th June 2025 were noted.
- (b) Members considered whether to make a request under Section 31 of the Highways Act for a public right of way to be created on the popular footpath that runs northwards from opposite the northern (Coach Road) end of Footpath 37 to meet Footpath 36 near the Village Hall, as recommended by the Planning & Highways Committee. However, the Council resolved to take no further action at this stage having been informed that the current landowner has already taken steps to block this. If the current outline planning application on the land is successful, the matter could be pursued at the 'reserved matters' stage.
- (c) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Baker, seconded Cllr Banks) that if an application to divert Footpath GH2 were made, the Council would support it, as recommended by the Planning & Highways Committee.

- (d) (i) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) to release from reserves the balance of £642, from the grant paid to support neighbourhood planning into the current year's budget.
- (ii) **It was further agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) to delegate to the Highways and Planning Committee, or the Parish Clerk as appropriate, the power to make relevant payments from that balance.
- (e) The following Planning Applications were discussed, and it was unanimously agreed to notify the Planning Authority that GHPC does not wish to comment on the proposals:

251151 **Knowles Cottage, London Road** **(expires 01/07/2025)**
Alterations to internal layout, removal of annexe entrance

251152 **Knowles Cottage, London Road** **(expires 01/07/2025)**
Alterations to internal layout, removal of annexe entrance

- (f) Cllr Burns-Langton mentioned that EV bikes available for public use were being left in dangerous positions along the edge of the A134, and one had almost caused an accident. The Clerk reported that she had also received complaints from residents about how untidy the bikes look when they are left. The Clerk will ask Cllr Barber for details on who to contact regarding the matter.
- The Clerk reported that the invoice for the traffic surveys on Coach Road and the A134 has been paid, so they should be carried out soon.

25/028 Village Hall

- (a) The draft minutes from the Village Hall Committee meeting held on 3rd June 2025 were noted.
- (b) Cllr Burns-Langton advised members that the Village Hall Committee have obtained quotes and are considering installing air conditioning units in the Village Hall. This would be at a cost of approximately £10,000, which would need to come from reserves unless grants can be found or S106 funding can be used. The Committee are now waiting to receive quotes for connecting the existing three-phase supply to the new equipment.
- (c) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Burns-Langton, seconded Cllr Arnold) to delegate authority to the Clerk to purchase three stainless-steel water bowls for dogs, to be left near the water fountain outside the Village Hall, as recommended by the Village Hall Committee.
- (d) Cllr Arnold reported that the Village Warden recently removed two ash trees and some laburnum from the hedges around the car park. Regular checks will need to be carried out to ensure these do not grow back – this task can be added to the list of ongoing maintenance once the Parish Council has ownership of the Jubilee Green.

25/029 Public Spaces

- (a) The draft minutes from the Jubilee Green Committee meeting held on 3rd June 2025 were noted.
- (b) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Tempest, seconded Cllr Baker) to anticipate expenditure of approximately £10,000 per year for ongoing maintenance of the Jubilee Green, to be funded from general reserves. **It was further agreed** to delegate authority to agree which maintenance contract to accept to the Jubilee Green Committee.
- (c) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Tempest) to rescind the decision made in item 24/118 (f) to purchase a new net for the climbing frame and to allow

the Jubilee Green Committee to pursue alternative options, as recommended by the Jubilee Green Committee.

- (d) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Tempest) to set up a Jubilee Green Ear-Marked Reserves fund within the accounts, and to delegate authority to spend from it to the Jubilee Green Committee. **It was further agreed** to move £10,000 from general reserves to the Jubilee Green Ear-Marked Reserves.
- (e) Quotes received for legal representation for the handover of the Village Green were considered and **it was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Banks) to engage Tamasin Curtis to act as the Legal Representative for GHPC during the process of taking over ownership of the Jubilee Green.
- (f) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Jarvis) to remove the Parish Council noticeboard on Blackbrook Road.
It was also agreed (proposed Cllr Arnold) to remove and replace the Parish Council noticeboard on the A134 near to the Half Butt, subject to it being set further back from the road. The Clerk will look to obtain quotes for a new noticeboard.
- (g) Cllr Tempest reported that he had met with the Clerk for Boxted Parish Council to discuss how they run their village green and will provide a full update at the next Jubilee Green Committee meeting.

25/030 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.

25/031 Village Warden

The Village Warden's report to date was noted.

25/032 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 15th July 2025 at 8.00pm in Great Horkesley New Village Hall.

These minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed
(Parish Council Chairman)

Date