



GREAT HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 18TH JUNE 2024
IN GREAT HORKESLEY NEW VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Those present:

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

24/019 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported that the outline planning consent for the Manor land development has been agreed subject to the conclusion of a §106 agreement and all the comments from the Parish Council had been taken into account, which is a big step forward.

24/020 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Baker.

24/021 Declaration of Interests

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

24/022 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 21st May 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

24/023 Have Your Say – Public Open Forum

Two residents from Nayland Road expressed their disappointment in the overgrown verge along the eastern side of the A134 from Boxted Church Road northwards, and asked if the Village Warden could clear it properly. The Chairman answered that the walkable verge is not supposed to be a pavement and the Village Warden would be putting his life at risk clearing it in that location without temporary traffic lights, which is beyond the Parish Council's resources. The Clerk would pass on Cllr Barber's email address to the residents so they can provide him with the exact location to see if anything further can be done.

The members of the public left the meeting.

24/024 Reports from Members and Officers of Other Authorities

Cllr Barber confirmed that there has been no further progress with reducing the speed limit along the A134 between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell, as we are still waiting to receive the official TRO. Members emphasised that this was supposed to be in place before September last year, and the volume of children walking from Great Horkesley to the Trinity School will increase by approximately 30 again this September. Members also stated that the overgrown vegetation and overhanging branches along the side of the footway are narrowing the width of the pavement. Cllr Barber will ask for this to be cut back.

Cllr Barber confirmed that he would help look at options for installing a light underneath the A12 bridge if needed.

24/025 Finance

- (a) The Statements of Accounts as at 30th April and 31st May 2024 were noted, and Cllr Banks checked and signed to say the balances reconcile with those on bank statements.
- (b) The April & May payments lists were approved in accordance with the 2024/25 Budget.

24/026 Audit of the Council for Financial Year 2023/24

- (a) The Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24 as completed by Mrs J Stobart on 5th June 2024 was noted and it was resolved to thank the Clerk for all her hard work in completing faultless accounts for the last financial year.
- (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 2023/24 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 Monday 24th June 2024 and end on Friday 2nd August 2024. 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.

24/027 Planning & Highways

- (a) The draft minutes from the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 10th June 2024 were noted.
- (b) The Parish Council has received many complaints from residents regarding traffic issues and damaged and uneven footways on Malvern Way, and it was also mentioned during the Annual Parish Meeting last month.
It was unanimously agreed (proposed Cllr Arnold) that the Parish Council would try again to have parking restrictions, or at least KEEP CLEAR, applied opposite the bus stop, to stop the road being blocked when buses are parked there, and ask for the bus stop lines on the road to be repainted and the oil patches to be cleaned. The Clerk would first try to engage with the bus companies and also see if there are any groups at the County Council involved with promoting safe routes to school.
- (c) Communications from Colchester City Council regarding the ongoing revision of the Local Plan were considered.
It was unanimously agreed (proposed Cllr Arnold) that the Parish Council would respond to the consultation with comments as appended to these minutes.
It was also agreed that the Parish Council would like the boundary of the parish to be brought in line with the A12. The Clerk will notify Myland Community Council of this.
- (d) The Chairman, Clerk and any other members available will meet Colchester City Council planning policy officers on Tuesday 25th June at 11am.
- (e) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) that the list of areas in the parish prone to flooding as appended to these minutes, be shared with the Flood MAG at the next meeting.

24/028 Village Hall

- (a) The draft minutes from the Village Hall Management Committee meeting held on 4th June 2024 were noted.
- (b) The quotations received for a new bottle filling station and its installation on an external wall at the Village Hall were considered.

It was unanimously agreed (proposed Cllr Banks) to purchase the Oasis Versafiller Combo unit priced at £1,249 +VAT and delivery and engage TAPS Plumbing to complete the installation at a cost of approximately £348 as soon as possible.

24/029 Public Spaces

- (a) Cllr Arnold reported that Borough Cllr Laws has spoken with the Deputy Chief Executive for Colchester City Council regarding the Parish Council taking on ownership of the Village Green. The request is being considered within an ongoing capital review. At the next full council meeting Cllr Laws will ask the portfolio holder for a progress report so the matter will be documented in the minutes of that meeting. Cllr Laws is also chasing for the broken fence around the Jubilee Green to be repaired promptly.
- (b) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Burns-Langton) that the Parish Council would not support the installation of a flagpole by a local community group within the parish.

24/030 Councillors

- (a) The Clerk advised that the best quote received for eight gov.uk councillor email addresses was £49.99, and it was agreed in principle that this should be pursued once more information is obtained.
- (b) Cllr Jarvis gave feedback on the councillor training sessions she attended.

24/031 Clerk's Report

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

Cllr Tempest reported that the geocache that had been put in position was too close to another, so he is looking to move it to a different position.

24/032 Village Warden

The Village Warden's report to date was noted.

24/033 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 16th July 2024 at 7.30pm in Great Horkesley New Village Hall.

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

Signed
(Chairman)

Date

Appendix 1

Comments to be included in the response to the Local Plan consultation:

- There are approximately 1200 households, not 1000, in the parish.
- There are approximately 202 children on roll at Bishop William Ward Primary School.
- There is a concern that as Chesterwell grows, more children from Great Horkesley will be allocated a place at St Helena secondary school. Members believe that Trinity School should be the default secondary school for addresses in Great Horkesley.
- There will be a cycle link that connects Great Horkesley to the Colchester cycle network.
- The rural north end of the village has very limited bus services, and it is thought that there are less than seven buses serving the village altogether.
- There are two village halls.
- The north of Great Horkesley lies within the Dedham AONB.
- The woodland described in the Local Plan is privately owned.
- The open green space should be described as either the Jubilee Village Green or, more properly, the Queen Elizabeth II playing field.

Appendix 2

List of areas within the Great Horkesley parish that are prone to flooding:

- The lowest point of Green Lane (south)
- Old House Road
- School Lane (both ends)
- London Road
- Tog Lane
- The junction of Boxted Road with the A134
- The junction of Terrace Hall Chase with the A134