



GREAT HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk

Minutes

**Minutes of the virtual meeting of
Great Horkesley Parish Council
held at 7:30pm on Wednesday 10th June 2020
Members Present: Councillors Mead (Chairman)
Arnold, Baker, Duckworth, Ewing,
Taverner, Wescomb-Cross and Williams**

Note: Owing to connection difficulties, the chairmanship of the meeting occasionally switched between Cllr Mead and Cllr Arnold, the vice-chairman, during the course of the meeting.

1. Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed members to the second virtual meeting of Great Horkesley Parish Council. He reported that the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Cllr Flores had been reported to CBC Electoral Services and duly advertised. If no competing applications to fill the vacancy had been made within 28 days, the Council would be able to fill it by co-option.

2. Apologies: All members of the Council were present at the meeting but the Clerk was unable to attend and offered her apologies, which members accepted. Cllr Arnold would minute the meeting.

3. Declarations of interest: Cllr Williams sought advice in relation to item 6(a) on the agenda. No interests were declared.

4. Public Open Forum: No members of the public had contacted the clerk to request that they be able to take part in the meeting.

5. Minutes of the last meetings: The published draft minutes of the meetings held on 6th May 2020 and 20th May 2020 were **unanimously agreed** to be an accurate record.

6. Planning

(a) 201401: 20 Keelers Way

Following an extended discussion, **it was agreed** that the Council would advise CBC to refuse this application owing to the adverse visual impact on neighbouring properties, particularly as viewed from their gardens. Cllr Williams abstained.

(b) No applications had been notified to the Council since the publication of the agenda.

7. Highways

Cllr Arnold reported that he had yet to receive a response from ECC Highways regarding the various issues raised in connection with the A134. In discussion it was agreed that the reduction of the width of the footway between Geantree and Old House Road owing to accumulated vegetation and overgrown hedging had got to the point where pedestrians were in danger from passing vehicles, particularly if trying to maintain social distancing from one another. Cllr Arnold reported that the employment of the Highway Rangers, who had dealt with a similar problem between Coach Road

and Keelers Way, had recently been transferred to Colchester Borough Council from Essex County Council in order that all 'street services' would come under one authority. This had revealed a backlog of some 90 sites in the Borough at which they were due to carry out work, so it was unlikely they would be able to tackle the Causeway footway soon. They would still be managed by the Local Highways Panel. **It was agreed** that County Councillor Anne Brown be asked to take up the cause and stress the urgency of the work at the next LHP meeting.

8. Barnfield Road – Brick Kiln Lane link

Cllr Baker reported that he had now received the final witness statement from a resident about the usage of the link and was now ready to submit the application to register it as a Public Right of Way to Essex County Council.

9. Query from CBC re §106 Contributions

Cllr Arnold explained that when planning consent was granted for a new dwelling, planning policy required that the developer should make a financial contribution towards the cost of enhancing local community and leisure facilities. In the past these had not been linked to particular projects but could be drawn on as needs arose. However, developers were increasingly likely to insist that projects be identified at the time a consent was granted so there was a need to compile a list of such projects for each parish. The best way of doing this would be through forming a Neighbourhood Plan but that would take time and the process had in any case been suspended for the duration of the pandemic. There was no particular deadline for reply but a relevant planning application could come at any time and the village could miss out if no list had been compiled.

Cllr Duckworth volunteered to start the process rolling through the village's Community Facebook page. **It was agreed** that members should give the matter more thought before the next meeting.

10. Village Hall

(a) Reopening the hall: It was agreed that the hall could not be reopened until such time as the Government permitted indoor meetings, at which time their advice regarding precautions and safety procedures would need to be followed.

Members confirmed that given the space taken up by Council meetings when all members and residents were present, future meetings of the Council should take place in the main hall once the regulations permitted.

(b) Finance: It was agreed that there would need to be a meeting of the finance working group to consider the impact of the closure on the hall budget for the year.

(c) Car park: Cllr Arnold reported that he had explored with CBC Leisure Services the possibility of using the accumulated §106 funds for the village to pay for upgrading the village hall car park – there had been a contribution from the developers of David May Gardens which would cover this. On the basis that the car park was also used by visitors to the Jubilee Green, which was owned and maintained by Leisure Services, they had agreed to this in principle. Members had already been sent details of one estimate for the work which had been obtained by the Clerk; two more would be required to satisfy Leisure Services.

(d) Maintenance: It was agreed that it would now be possible for the grounds maintenance contractor to resume work around the Hall, subject to a risk assessment. It was remarked that both the contractor and the caretaker had removal of weeds around the wall on their to-do list, a confusion that needed to be resolved by the clerk. The contractor should be told not to touch the hedge, which had been treated with insecticide.

11. Clerk's report: The Council noted the Clerk's report, which is appended to these minutes.

12. Financial matters

(a) The Council noted without comment the schedule of payments authorised at the last meet, those made under the Clerk's delegated powers since the last meeting and any receipts, which had been distributed with the meeting papers and published on the GHPC website.

(b) There were no invoices for goods or services not covered by the Clerk's delegated powers.

(c) The Council noted without comment the schedule of payments and receipts relating to the Village Hall which had been published on the GHPC website.

13. Village warden

Cllr Mead reported that under revised Government lockdown regulations it was now possible for the Village Warden to resume work, subject to a risk assessment being prepared. This was in hand and the warden would start work again soon.

14. Personnel matters

It having been pointed out that no supporting financial information had been provided, **it was agreed** that the items set out at 14 (a) and (b) on the agenda would need to be considered at a future meeting.

15. Next meeting: It was agreed that this would take place by Zoom on Wednesday 22nd July at 1930h.

It was also agreed that the possibility of re-opening the village hall should be an item on every agenda until it happened

Appendix A

Clerk's report

- I have reported information regarding the anti-social behaviour and the teenagers in the play area on the Jubilee Green to Colchester Borough Council Neighbourhood Services.
- Victor Flores has resigned as a parish councillor; Colchester Borough Council Electoral Services have been informed and notices were put out on noticeboards and on the website on the 8 June 2020.
- Last month I rang and checked with the Manor and Kacee Lodge that they had adequate supplies of PPE Equipment.
- I have reported to Essex County Council Highways the speed limit sign that is leaning over into the hedge on the A134 heading south just before the Old House Road Junction.
- The parish council have been contacted regarding the Salt Bag Partnership 2020/2021. As the two previous winters have been mild we do not need further rock salt provision at this time.

Appendix B: Financial Payments & Receipts

Account Dates: 6 May 2020 – 2 June 2020				
ID	TO/FROM	DETAILS	REF:	PAYMENTS/ RECEIPTS
8	HP Ink UK Ltd	Ink Supplies	Debit Card	£7.99
9	HMRC	Tax & NI Contributions	Bacs	£343.25
10	Essex Pension Fund	Contributions	Bacs	£495.39
11	Great Horkesley Girl Guides	Grant from GHPC	Bacs	£700.00
12	Zurich Insurance	Insurance 2020-2021 (40%)	Bacs	£430.96
13	Clerk	Salary & Expenses	Bacs	Left Blank
14	EE Ltd	Mobile Phone	DD	£16.26
15	Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual Membership	Bacs	202.00

Duly approved at the parish council meeting held on the 22 July 2020

Chairman's signature.....