



## GREAT HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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### Minutes

**Minutes of the virtual meeting of  
Great Horkesley Parish Council  
held at 10:30am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
Members Present: Councillors Mead (Chairman)  
Arnold, Baker, Duckworth, Ewing,  
Taverner, Wescomb-Cross and Williams**

**Visiting councillors: Cllr Nigel Chapman, CBC**

**1. Chairman's Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed members to the second virtual meeting of Great Horkesley Parish Council.

The meeting opening with tributes to former councillor Derek Webber, who had died. He had served the village as a C of E Lay Reader for 52 years and had been an outstanding head teacher of the Bishop William Ward School, where he inspired many young people. In the days when the village had no public open space he had fought to keep part of the school field open for use by village children and as a parish councillor he had been a firm supporter of the Council's decision to work with a developer to create a village green, new village hall and more social housing. He was an extraordinarily caring man who had been a massive force for good.

**2. Apologies:** Councillor Flores sent his apology.

**3. Declarations of Interest:** In response to the Chairman's invitation no members declared an interest in items on the meeting agenda.

**4. Public Open Forum:** No members of the public were present at the meeting.

**5. Minutes of previous meetings:** The circulated draft minutes of the meeting which took place on 8<sup>th</sup> April were amended to include a record of Cllr Baker's comments on the Barnfield Road – Brick Kiln Lane link and then adopted as a true record of that meeting.

#### **6. Planning**

**a. Applications notified on the agenda:**

200777 Blackbrook Stud Farm: The Council agreed to make no representation.

**b. Late applications:**

No applications had been notified to the Clerk after publication of the Agenda.

#### **7. Highways**

**a. Street Lighting:** The Clerk reported that Essex County Council had announced its intention to convert street lighting in the residential areas of the village to LED operation.

**b. A134 surface:** Concern was expressed that while ECC intended to close parts of The Causeway during August to enable remedial resurfacing to take place, there was no news of their plans for the rest of the A134. This would be raised with Cllr Brown.

**c. Footway width, Geantree to Old House Road:** Several members reported having received complaints from residents that on this section of A134 footway the hedges and accumulation of detritus beneath them were now obstructing the footway to such a degree that pedestrians were now having to make a double crossing of the road to avoid them. During discussion it was pointed out that social distancing on this well-used path was now quite impossible and the double crossing of the road increased the danger to pedestrians. Whilst the village warden had been effective in clearing the A134 footway elsewhere, it was felt that the scale of the problem on this section would require professional attention, possibly including closing a carriageway to ensure safe working and access to ECC records to establish the position of the rear boundary of the footway.

It was pointed out that the ECC Highway Rangers had tackled similar problems on the A134 between Keelers Way and Coach Road and achieved a much-admired improvement. **It was therefore agreed** that Cllr Brown should be asked to submit a bid to the Local Highway Panel for the Rangers to tackle the Geantree to Old House Road section.

## **8. Reports from members and members and officers of other authorities:**

Cllr Baker reported that he was continuing to receive, albeit slowly, evidence forms to support the designation of the Barnfield Road – Brick Kiln Lane link as a Public Right of Way.

Cllr Arnold, speaking as Ward Councillor, offered to answer questions arising from the material relating to the CBC Local Plan and other planning matters that he had already distributed to GHPC members. There were no questions.

**9. GHPC Asset Register:** **It was agreed** to approve the revised asset register in which valuations had been increased by 3% to meet the requirements of the insurance company.

**10. Clerk's Report:** Members noted the clerk's report which had been distributed with the meeting papers and a copy of which is attached as appendix A to these minutes.

## **11. Finance**

**a. The Council noted** without discussion the schedule of payments and receipts made since the last meeting which had been circulated with the meeting papers and which forms Appendix B to these minutes.

**b. Other approvals:** No payments required approval by the Council.

**c. Village Hall payments and receipts:** **The Council noted** the transactions set out in appendix D to the meeting papers as displayed on the Council website.

**d. Budgetary control:** **The Council noted** the 2019-20 fourth quarter financial report which was distributed with the meeting papers and displayed on the Council website; **it was agreed** that the report should be signed by the Chairman.

**e. Insurance renewal:** Various options for renewal, including with the existing insurer, had been circulated to members before the meeting. It emerged that some members

had not had time to study the documents, which were extensive, whilst others thought the case for change at increased cost had not been made.

**It was agreed** to defer this item to allow Cllr Ewing time to study the various proposals and report to fellow members. It having been pointed out that a decision was required before the next scheduled meeting of the Council in June, **it was also agreed** that when Cllr Ewing's report was ready, there would need to be an extraordinary meeting of the Council to decide how to proceed.

**g. VE Day celebrations:** **It was agreed** to await advice from CBC before deciding what to do with the £200 grant awarded by CBC to support the now-cancelled events.

**12. Future meetings and business:** **It was agreed** that the next ordinary meeting of the Council would take place by Zoom on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

### **13. Salary review**

*Item deferred pending receipt of advice from NALC.*

**Meeting closed**

## **APPENDIX A: Agenda Item 10**

### **Parish Clerk's Report**

#### **Great Horkesley Parish Council Meeting 6 May 2020**

1. Community 360 offered Easter Eggs to the parish council I took up the offer for 80 eggs, for the volunteers and the residents that have required assistance.

One of the volunteer areas kindly donated the eggs to the staff and children at Tiddlywinks. My daughter wrote a message on every Easter Egg.

All the volunteers have been brilliant with assistance for the residents.

2. After receiving complaints regarding speeding in the village. I contacted the police regarding a speed check, at the time of writing this was completed last week.

3. The large damaged 30mph speed limit sign on the A134 near to Green Lane has now been replaced.

4. There are brown tailed moths in the boundary hedge at the village hall, we have organised treatment to remove them, as if touched they can cause skin irritation.

5. I contacted Colchester Borough Council and requested that they cut the grass at the village hall at the same time when the open space grass is cut, this has now been completed.

6. New GHPC website was completed on the 31 March 2020.

7. The Chairman is continuing to regularly check and sign the invoices and payments made by bacs remotely.

8. The Causeway is to be closed on the 24 August 2020 for 6 nights 8pm – 6am while Essex County Council undertakes machine surfacing.

9. Anglian Water (Wave) have suspended billing until June 2020. I have read the meter and sent this over.

10. The parish council have a face book page which is updated with relevant information.

## Appendix B: Agenda Item 11a

### Financial Payments & Receipts

Account Dates: 1 April 2020 – 30 April 2020				
ID	TO/FROM	DETAILS	REF:	PAYMENTS/ RECEIPTS
1	HMRC	Tax & NI Contributions	Bacs	£354.00
2	Essex Pension Fund	Contributions	Bacs	£468.17
3	Colchester Borough Council	Precept & RS Grant		£17,969.50
4	VCS Websites	GHPC Website	Bacs	£422.50
5	EE	Mobile Phone	DD	£14.18
6	EALC/NALC	Annual Subscription	Bacs	£569.60
7	Clerk	Salary & Expenses	Bacs	Left Blank