



## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023  
IN THE NEW VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00PM**

### **Those present:**

Cllr C Arnold (Chairman)  
+ 11 members of the public  
(including 5 parish councillors)

### **1. Welcome from the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr Mead for his time as Chairman and bringing his wisdom to the role.

### **2. Minutes from the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

It was noted that the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held last year can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

### **3. Matters arising**

#### *Great Horkesley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG)*

The Chairman explained that the point of having a neighbourhood plan is that it gives the parish a legal input into the planning system. Colchester City Council considers the neighbourhood plan when a new planning application is received.

Two members of the NPSG gave an update on where they are in the process of forming a neighbourhood plan for Great Horkesley. Last year there was a well-attended open day at the Village Hall, and earlier this year a housing needs survey went out to all households in the village. The response rate was approximately 25%, which is average for this type of survey.

A report showing the headline findings had been received by the NPSG just a couple of hours prior to the meeting. The next steps would be to receive and analyse the full results from the survey and then begin to build a plan for which a referendum can be held.

The Chairman emphasised that having a neighbourhood plan cannot prevent all future development but gives residents more of a say in where development can take place.

#### **4. Village forum**

##### *Community Event Group*

One resident explained that, after seeing posts on the village Facebook page about a lack of events in the village, a new group has been formed to help organise community events. There are 15 members of the group and they will be holding their first meeting in June, with an aim to hold a summer fair in 2024. The Chairman offered the support of the Parish Council where possible. A previous problem has been the use of the village green for community events, as it is currently owned by Colchester City Council. It was suggested that now may be a good time to explore the possibility of the Parish Council taking ownership of the village green.

##### *East Anglia GREEN Pylons Proposal*

Cllr Sudbery gave an update on the pylon proposal. The statutory consultation has been delayed and instead, there will be another non-statutory consultation this summer.

##### *A134 from Great Horkesley to Chesterwell*

A number of residents expressed concerns about the footpath and the speed limit along the A134 between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell, especially when the new Trinity School opens in September and a large number of pupils will be walking this route. The Chairman explained that County Cllr Barber and Myland Community Council are lobbying Highways and Essex County Council to put a temporary 30mph speed limit in place (currently 60mph) in time for Trinity School opening. A full safe link for cyclists and pedestrians is expected to be built within the planning process for the manor development.

##### *Highways*

Many residents complained about the state of the footpaths and potholes in the village. One resident was particularly concerned with gravel from deteriorating pothole repairs on Keelers Way blocking drains and causing flooding issues. Parking opposite the bus stops on Malvern Way and Keelers Way, and overgrown shrubbery at the junction of Malvern Way and Coach Road were also mentioned.

The Chairman explained that County Cllr Barber has asked councils for suggestions of areas that need improvements and Keelers Way and other areas in the village are already on the list. The Chairman also stated that the Parish Council have enquired about the costs of hiring a machine to clear the worst part of the pavement along the A134 north of Geantrees, as it has not been cleared.

#### **Chairman's Closing Remarks**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.17pm.