



GREAT HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes

**Minutes of the meeting of Great Horkesley Parish Council
held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 16 April 2019**

**Members Present: Councillors Arnold (Chairman)
Baker, Harris, Mead & Rennie.**

Councillor Nigel Chapman – Colchester Borough Council Rural North

1. Chairman's Welcome and Announcements

The Chairman welcomed members and Councillor Nigel Chapman to the meeting and thanked Councillor Rennie for all of his hard work on the parish council for the last four years.

2. Apologies and Reasons for Absence

No apologies

3. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

4. Public Open Forum (Have Your say)

No members of the public were present.

5. Minutes of the last Meeting.

It was agreed to approve the minutes of the parish council meetings held on the 19 March 2019 and 6 March 2019 as a true record.

6. Geantree

The parish council agreed that it had waited long enough for action to be taken regarding removal of the waste from the site, they agreed action should be taken. The Chairman is to source information as to who is the legal owner of the site.

7. Community Engagement

The parish council discussed the poor attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting and the absence of candidates standing for election to the Parish Council. It was suggested this might be due to work and family commitments and people cannot guarantee their time.

The clerk is to contact EALC and RCCE and source advice on community engagement. The Chairman will approach other village organisations to explore the potential for a village-wide consultation exercise similar to the one on which the 1995 Village Appraisal was based.

8. Planning Applications

a. There were no new planning applications to consider.

b. The clerk had not commented on any planning applications on behalf of the Council since the last meeting.

9. Reports from members of other authorities.

Cllr Chapman had no report to make.

10. Village Hall

The Caretaker has identified that the thermostat in the main hall is no longer communicating with the base unit. In addition the vessel which holds the warm water ready for use when required to heat the main hall is too small for the system: in his opinion it will need replacing with a larger vessel. The caretaker is to contact a heating engineer to quote on the required work for repair and to improve efficiency.

11. Highways

a. In the absence of Cllr Brown, it was agreed to defer reviewing the highway initiatives currently being pursued by the Council, including the two LHP bids and highways devolution.

The Chairman reported he and a resident had cut the vegetation back at the Keelers Way/A134 junction . The Highways Rangers have cleared the vegetation that was cut down and sided the footway on the A134.

b. It was agreed to pursue new initiatives including introduction of 30mph advisory limit through Rose & Crown bends, adoption of Barnfield Road – Brick Kiln Lane link as a Public Right of Way (Cllr Baker to pursue with ECC) and investigation of surface water on A134 carriageway and footway near A12 overbridge.

12. Manor Development

Cllr Arnold reported that it appeared that nothing had come from his raising the Cycle Way from Great Horkesley to Chesterwell with the ECC Cycling Projects officer. He had therefore asked CBC planning officers to set up a meeting with the ECC Highways development Control officers at which the possibilities for funding the project would be explored.

13. Financial Matters

a. It was agreed to note payments authorised at the last meeting, those made under the Clerk's delegated powers since the last meeting and any receipts, all as set out in Appendix B;

b. No payment of invoices in respect of goods or services not covered under delegated powers;

c. The refund cheques of hall hire retainers falling due before the next meeting as set out in Appendix C (circulated to members only) were duly signed.

d. Cllr Mead informed the meeting he had completed the financial check of the accounts and all were found to be in good order, he duly signed the 4th Quarter Budgetary control.

e. It was agreed to release grants to organisations whose requests for financial support in 2019-20 were successful.

14. Rural policing initiatives.

Due to Borough Council elections taking place in May there has been no further information received regarding the Rural Policing initiative. It was agreed this item would be deferred until the June meeting.

15. Clerk's report.

Caterpillars have been reported in the hedge around boundary of the village hall. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact the Colchester Borough Council Parks manager to ensure these were not an endangered species, before the contractor sprays the caterpillars.

The dog bin at the north-western boundary of the village green has been damaged. The Clerk has contacted Colchester Borough Council Zone for a repair or replacement

The Clerk has reported the black bin bags of rubbish on the A134 near the A12 bridge. These were the result of a litter-pick and should have been collected by the Zone Wardens on the same day.

The 'Any Time' parking restrictions sign at the junction of Malvern Way and Coach Road has disappeared. The Clerk has contacted North Essex Parking Partnership who informed her that the sign is not required: the double yellow lines no longer need the sign to be enforceable.

16. Parish Councillors' Reports.

Cllr Baker: Footpaths; Reported that the route through to Old House Road had now been sprayed out so it is now clear for walkers to enjoy.

Cllr Mead: Village Hall Management Committee (old), Colchester & Tendring Transport Representatives; Reported that he had attended the Annual general Meeting of the Old Village hall, it was reported as being financially sound the hall is being used regularly. The committee are now directing weekend hire enquiries to the new village hall.

Cllr Mead attended the CALC meeting where the issue of the Clerks' Forums that are organised by Colchester Borough Council were on the agenda as the number Clerks attending is very low. The Clerk reported she has attended every meeting and values the information and networking opportunities provided by the forum.

Cllr Rennie: BWW School, Emergency Planning, Speed Watch and Youth Issues; Reported that BWW school has a reduction in children joining the school, the Manor development may help to increase numbers. There has been an issue with bus passes. He is working on the draft Emergency Planning document with Colchester Borough Council . He reported that Great Bentley have a purchased a new speed camera with ANPR built in, the current equipment on occasions confuses cars heading in different directions, he is to continue as a volunteer with Speedwatch in the village.

17. Publicity

It was agreed a notice regarding Co-option onto the parish council should be posted on the Great Horkesley and Boxted Community Facebook Page.

18. Training

It was agreed the Chairman is to attend the EALC Allotments Course on 12th July at a cost of £110.00

Cllr Harris is to attend the Highways briefing run by the EALC on the 2 October 2019 which is free of charge.

19. Forthcoming meetings

a. It was confirmed that the Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th May at 7:30pm in the Braeburn Meeting Room.

b. it was agreed the following items are for the inclusion on the agenda for the June council meeting: the LHP bids and highways devolution.

20. Motion to exclude members of the public

No members of the public were present.

21. Employment Contracts

It was agreed a Staffing Committee will be set up at the Annual Parish Council meeting which is to be held on the 14 May 2019.

Planning Applications

Appendix A

Reference	Description	Consultation Expiry Date
	– none received –	

Financial Payments & Receipts

Appendix B

Account Dates: 26 March 2019 – 9 April 2019				
ID	TO/FROM	DETAILS	REF:	PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS
102	Contractor	Bus Shelters	2488	£30.00
103	EE & T Mobile	Mobile Phone	DD	£23.76
104	Clerk	Salary & Expenses	Bacs	Left Blank
	2019-2020			
1	Colchester Borough Council	Electricity for Parish Lights	Bacs	£136.99
2	Colchester Borough Council	Precept		£10,358.89
3	Essex pension Fund	Contributions	Bacs	£363.68
4	HMRC	Tax & NI Contributions	Bacs	£220.97

Duly approved at the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 14 May 2019

Chairman's signature.....