



## 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 July 2019

**Members Present: Councillors Arnold (Chairman)**

**Baker, Mead & Williams**

**County Councillor Anne Brown**

**Four members of the public**

#### 1. Chairman's opening remarks

Cllr Arnold welcomed those present to the meeting.

#### 2. Apologies and reasons for absence.

Cllr Harris was unable to attend and had offered her apologies.

#### 3. Declarations for interest

No councillors declared an interest in respect of any item on the agenda.

#### 4. Public open forum

**Mr Grahame Stehle** spoke about five matters: (a) Coffee with the Cops, (b) the Council's "Aspirations" adopted in September 2017, (c) the forthcoming closure of the Essex Infonet site, which hosts parish council websites, (d) the state of the A134 and (e) signage at the Tile House Lane junction.

(a) He reported that the Coffee with the Cops event had been well-attended and intelligence had been passed on, including by Parish Council Vice Chairman Cllr Mead. He urged all who could to attend the next event.

(b) The Chairman remarked that the achieving the Aspirations was heavily dependent upon vacancies on the Council being filled so that there were members to carry out the work. Given that even after the recent election the vacancies remained, for the time being the Aspirations would continue to be just that.

(c) The Clerk reported that she was aware of the announced closure and that the EALC was taking the lead in making alternative arrangements for the councils affected.

(d) The Chairman responded that in late April as soon as it was evident that the new surface had failed he had made sure that the highway authority at the highest level was aware of their contractor's performance. He was in regular contact with both Cllr Brown and the ECC cabinet member responsible Cllr Bentley. He had regularly been forwarding screenshots from the community website and elsewhere directly to Cllr Bentley.

(e) The Chairman reminded members that the signage at the A134 Tile House Farm junction was due to be changed as part of the Council's bid to the ECC

Local Highways Panel. The Panel's progress had been very slow, not least due to a staff vacancy which had recently been filled. He understood that the bid had been successful, £16k had been allocated for the work and the detailed design was under way.

## **5. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were approved.

## **6. A134 resurfacing**

The Chairman's actions in respect of the surface as discussed under item 4 were noted. The Council also noted that he was pursuing the matter of the water emerging through the surface of the road south of the A12 as a separate issue with the highway authority.

Cllr Mead reported that residents had complained about the excessive amount of gravel on the Ivy Lodge Road footway. Cllr Arnold, as ward councillor, responded that he too had been told about the gravel and had asked the Zone Team to sweep it away, though he had inspected the footway and it was his opinion that the gravel had come from residents' own drives, which sloped downwards towards the road.

## **7. Planning applications**

### **191645 Thrift Farm Barns**

After considerable discussion the Council decided that the planning authority should be urged to issue a permanent consent for the current activities on the site which did not appear to be harmful to their surroundings.

### **191760, 191761 Knowles Barn**

The Council decided that no representation need be made.

## **8. Reports from members of other authorities**

**Cllr Anne Brown** reported that she was in discussion with the Education Authority to try to obtain a contribution towards the cost of creating a shared footway/cycleway between the village and the new Trinity School in Chesterwell. The Chairman commented that whilst Cllr Bentley was personally keen, highway authority officers were sticking to the line that the rules under which the Department for Transport funded cycle facilities would not allow the highway authority to spend DfT money outside the urban core of Colchester. He intended to write to both MPs about this.

## **9. Site of former WI Hall**

WI President Mrs Ruth Dowie, supported by Mrs Jill Jones, addressed the Council, setting out the WI's concerns that given their organisation's limited resources it would soon be impossible for them to keep the site tidy. Following discussion it was agreed that a minimum of an annual visit should be made by

the Council's Village Warden, once appointed, to ensure that the site did not become an eyesore. Advice would be sought from the EALC.

## 10. Highways

**a. Nayland Road South LHP bid.** Cllr Brown reported that this had now been approved in principle with an allocated budget of £16k and a detailed design was under way. The appointment of a new officer to the LHP, Mr John Summers, was expected to result in faster turnaround of proposals in future.

**b. The Causeway LHP bid.** Cllr Brown had no news of this bid, which she had blocked officers from rejecting shortly before a serious accident occurred at the Boxted Road junction. Cllr Brown undertook to investigate and report back.

**c. Barnfield Road – Brick Kiln Lane alleyway.** Cllr Brown advised Cllr Baker, who had agreed to lead on the issue for the Council, to contact Jim Bradley, rights of way officer.

## 11. Chairman's report.

The Chairman reported that the 1-day EALC course on **Allotments** that he had attended was one of the most informative he had experienced. He had brought back material which he encouraged others members to borrow and read. He was now confident that when the time came to set up and run the new allotments on the Manor site, a wealth of information could easily be obtained from the National Allotments Association and there were experts within the region who were ready to advise. He intended to become an individual member of the Association and in due course would recommend that the Council also joined. The Association runs an excellent website and issues a quarterly magazine, both packed with useful information on legal and practical issues amongst others.

## 12. Clerk's Report

a. Following a report from a resident the broken fencing on the Braeburn Road boundary of the village green had been reported to CBC for repair.

b. A new, cheaper contract had been agreed for the booking manager's mobile phone.

c. The bollard on the traffic island near the A134/Coach Road junction which had been knocked over had been reported to ECC for repair on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Ref. 20418701.

d. The missing keep left sign from the pedestrian refuge in the A134 near Blackbrook Road which had been reported to ECC on 18 June **2018**, ref 2575845, had still not been replaced. More residents were complaining about this. Cllr Brown had been asked to investigate the delay.

e. Following a report that teenagers had been seen urinating on play equipment on the village green, David Carter (CBC) had been asked to arranging cleaning. The incident had been reported to the police as antisocial behaviour.

f. The next 'Coffee with the Cops' would take place in the village hall at 1415h on 14<sup>th</sup> August.

g. It had been announced at the Clerk's Forum that the Rural Policing initiative instigated by the former commander of Colchester Police had been withdrawn. A grant scheme for rural policing was being worked up along with a crime toolkit; more detail should be available in October.

### **13. Financial matters**

a. The transactions set out in appendix B to the agendas were noted. The council's attention was drawn to the duplicate payments items 35 and 36 which had been caused by the failure of the Council's laptop during an online payment. Recovery of the overpayment had started.

b. No approvals of payments not covered by delegated powers were needed.

c. The refunds of village hall deposits as set out in appendix C to the agenda were approved and cheques signed.

d. Cllr Mead duly signed the Quarterly Budget Control papers.

e. It was agreed that in order to enable her to hold and use the Council's debit card, the Clerk should be added to the panel of signatories for the Council's bank account.

f. The quarterly schedule of village hall financial transactions as set out in appendix D to the agenda were examined and noted.

g. Cllr Mead reported that at the most recent CALC Executive meeting it was suggested that any member council making a grant to its local church should make sure that the legal basis for the payment was sound. It was agreed that this would be done in respect of the All Saints' churchyard maintenance grant before the 2020 grant was paid.

### **14. Village Hall**

In the absence of Cllr Harris, it was agreed to defer consideration of village hall car park security until the September meeting.

### **15. Future business**

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the council would take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September as previously agreed.

### **16. Exclusion of the public**

All members of the public having left the meeting, this item was withdrawn.

### **17. Terms and conditions of service of a council employee.**

It was agreed to increase the Clerk's hours to 30 hours per week starting from the 1 July 2019.

## Appendix A Planning

Application No:	Details	Consultation Expiry Date
<a href="#">191645</a>	Thrift Farm Barns, Horkesley Hill, Great Horkesley Colchester CO6 4JP  For the office building to be 'retained as built' along with the adjoining storage containers	24/07/19
<a href="#">191760</a> <a href="#">191761</a> <a href="#">Listed</a>	Knowles Barn, London Road, Great Horkesley Colchester CO6 4BU  Erection of detached cart lodge and formation of new manège	30/07/19

## Appendix B: Financial Payments & Receipts

Account Dates: 18 June 2019 – 09 July 2019				
ID	TO/FROM	DETAILS	REF:	PAYMENTS/ RECEIPTS
28	Cllr Arnold	Chairman's Allowance	2525	£250.00
29	Contractor	Bus Shelter Maintenance	2528	£15.00
30	EE & T Mobile	Clerk's Mobile Phone	DD	£13.88
31	Clerk	Salary & Expenses	Bacs	Left Blank
32	Colchester Borough Council	Electricity for the parish lights	Bacs	£132.68
33	HMRC	Tax & NI	Bacs	£229.35
34	Essex Pension Fund	Contributions	Bacs	£390.48
35	Viking	Box of paper	Bacs	£24.92
36	Viking	Box of Paper (Awaiting Refund)	Bacs	£24.92
37	Viking	Stationery & Diary 2020	Bacs	£148.99

**Appendix C: Confidential material distributed separately to members of the Council.**

**Duly approved at the parish council meeting held on the 17 September 2019**

**Chairman's signature.....**