

GREAT WAKERING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th December 2011, in the Parish Council Offices, Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering. Commencing at 7.30pm

Present:- Councillors V. Brandon, B. Efde, R. Green, M. Pearmain, A. Porter (Chairman), L. Rodger, L. Street (Vice Chairman) and B. Wilkins

In Attendance:- J. Watson (Parish Clerk).

94/55 The Chairman to declare the meeting open.

The Chairman declared the meeting open and welcomed the members of the Public.

95/55 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T. Goodwin (working away) and Councillor J. Misell (holiday). The apologies were accepted. Apologies had also been received from District Councillor Colin Seagers and County Councillor Roy Pearson.

96/55 To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and with section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Declarations of Interest were received from Councillor R. Green (Personal – Allotments), Councillor L. Street (Personal – Allotments) and Councillor B. Wilkins (Personal – Governing Body of Great Wakering School).

97/55 Great Wakering School Sports Facilities Project

- a) Hayley O'Dea (Headmistress), Julie Hindley (Financial Officer) and Lisa Jefferys (Leisure and Cultural Services Manager at Rochford District Council) gave a presentation to the Council on a project to develop the Great Wakering Primary School sporting facilities to allow greater community and wider access.
- b) The Parish Council unanimously agreed that the project had their full support.

98/55 To receive the Chairman's report, to include,

- a) Councillor Co-options – Unfortunately and due to an administrative error two Councillors who had been co-opted on to the Parish Council had been required to stand down. The Parish Clerk would be starting the new co-option process tomorrow.
- b) 2012/2013 Precept – The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Parish Clerk had prepared their recommendations and the Parish Clerk would be putting the detailed proposals to the Council later in the meeting.
- c) Standing Orders/Financial Regulations – The working party reviewing these had held their first meeting and had made good progress. Unfortunately one of the members of the working party (Richard Loding) was one of the Councillors who had been required to stand down. The Chairman would like the Council's permission to co-opt Richard on to the working party as a member of the public. Proposed Councillor Efde, seconded Councillor Street, carried unanimously.
- d) Use of Parish Notice Boards – It had been the intention to issue a fortnightly "Parish Update" to go on the Notice Boards. This had been delayed but it was hoped to issue the first "Update" in the New Year.
- e) Adoption of Footpath between High Street and Conway Avenue – signatures were now being obtained on the forms to be submitted to Rochford District Council requesting that they adopt this footpath.

- f) Extension to Parish Burial Ground – We have signed the conveyancing documents and are waiting for the other party to sign so that we can exchange.
- g) Maintenance of the Churchyard – a meeting is being arranged with the Vicar and Wardens of St Nicholas to discuss re-negotiating the agreement whereby the Parish Council are responsible for the upkeep of St Nicholas Churchyard.
- h) Highways – The Clerk is in touch with Essex County Council in respect of various Highways matters.
- i) Public Toilets – We are still awaiting further information from Rochford District Council before we can make a decision as whether the Parish Council take over the Public Toilets.

99/55 The meeting will stand adjourned to permit parishioners of Great Wakering to address the Council.

Parishioners addressed the Council on:-

- a) Footpaths outside Great Wakering.
- b) The ivy in the trees at the Parish Burial Ground.

100/55 To receive reports from the County Councillor and the District Councillors for the area on any matters of interest.

District Councillor Wilkins reported that the Core Strategy had been decided at the last full District Council meeting.

101/55 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 16th November, 2011.

Subject to:-

- a) The name Lisa Jefferies being inserted in place of Julie Hindley in minute 77/55 j),
- b) It being noted that Councillor Wilkins reported that the signage for New Road is in hand in minute 79/55 d) and
- c) It being noted that Councillor Wilkins did not leave the meeting prior to agreeing the Clerk's Contract of Employment.

Proposed by Councillor Rodger, seconded by Councillor Efde, carried unanimously.

102/55 To receive reports from those persons representing the Council on outside bodies and to receive reports on seminars and conferences attended, to include,

- a) Emergency Support Group – Councillor Street reported that, as with the Standing Orders/Financial Regulations Working Party, one of the members of the working party (Richard Loding) was one of the Councillors who had been required to stand down. Councillor Street would like the Council's permission to co-opt Richard on to the working party as a member of the public. Proposed Councillor Efde, seconded Councillor Brandon, carried unanimously.
- b) Parish Plan – Councillor Street reported that the Parish Plan questionnaires were ready to be distributed.
- c) Community Association – Nothing to report.
- d) Village Memorial Hall – Councillor Street reported that the Memorial Hall was losing money and thought was being given as to how this could be rectified.
- e) Roach Group – Councillor Street reported that a meeting had been arranged for 10th January, 2012 at which Peter Mackenzie the Rochford District Council Emergency Planning office would be speaking. This was open to other Parish Councils and numbers were needed as to who would be attending.
- f) Allotments – Councillor Street reported that, in the New Year, the Parish Clerk would be writing to allotment holders who were not looking after their plots requesting that they either tidy them up or surrender them.
- g) Planning Working Party – Councillor Street reported that the Appeal against the

first application in respect of York Bungalow had been withdrawn. The second application was very much the same as the previous application and the planning working party had advised Rochford District Council of their objection to the plans. The working party had also considered the proposed extension to a property in Barling Road and felt that the proposal was out of keeping with properties in the area. Rochford District Council had been advised. Finally, one of the members of the working party (Brett Telford) was one of the Councillors who had been required to stand down. Councillor Street would like the Council's permission to co-opt Brett on to the working party as a member of the public. Proposed Councillor Street, seconded Councillor Green, carried 7 for, 1 abstention.

- h) Bus User Group – Councillor Rodger reported that she had still not received the minutes in respect of the last meeting.
- i) Doctors – Nothing to report.
- j) Footpaths – Councillor Green gave a brief report.

103/55 To approve

- a) Cheque Schedule – Proposed Councillor Green, seconded Councillor Rodger that the cheque list be accepted. Carried unanimously.
- b) Financial Statement – Proposed by Councillor Rodger, seconded by Councillor Efade that the Financial Statement be accepted. Carried 7 for with one abstention.

104/55 To consider the Precept Calculations circulated by the Parish Clerk and to approve The precept calculation for the financial year 2012/2103.

Subject to the following, namely:-

- a) The provision of £800 in respect of the Newsletter in "General Administration" be taken out of proposed expenditure but the precepted amount remain the same.
- b) The provision of £500 in respect of Office Interior Refurbishment in "General Administration" be taken out of proposed expenditure but the precepted amount remain the same.
- c) Consideration be given as to whether the work on the burial ground extension be done in the 2012/2013 financial year but the precepted amount remains the same.
- d) The decision as to whether include an amount of £7,500 in the precept for the Public Toilets be deferred until more information as to the use of the toilets was available. If it is decided not to proceed with the toilets the total precept would be reduced by £7500.
- e) If it is decided not to proceed with the Public Toilets the provision of £2,550 in respect of the odd job man in "General Administration" and the provision of £150 in respect of Staff Advert in "General Administration" be taken out of the proposed expenditure but the precepted amount remain the same.

Proposed Councillor Rodger, Seconded Councillor Street, carried unanimously that the precept for the 2012/2013 financial year be set at £69,500.

105/55 Sea Defences.

It was agreed to carry this item over to the next meeting.

106/55 At the Chairman's discretion, to exchange information during any other business.

- a) Councillor Wilkins reported that the Farmers Market had made £700 for local charities.
- b) Councillor Brandon suggested that a representative from the local police be invited to speak at the next meeting.

Members of the public left the meeting

107/55 To consider tenders received in respect of decorating the exterior of the Parish Offices.

Proposed Councillor Pearmain, seconded Councillor Green and carried unanimously that Keith Appleyard's quotation be accepted.

108/55 To consider tenders received in respect of erecting new fencing to the allotments.

Proposed Councillor Rodger, seconded Councillor Efde. Carried 7 for with 1 abstention that Lemon Fencing's quotation be accepted.