**Great and Little Leighs Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Thursday 20th June 2024 19:45pm

Present: Councillors Zeke Bekir

Brenda Young

Kay Barker

Jeff Thurlow

Gill Partridge

Steve Dowd

James Partridge (Vice-chair)

James Raven (Chair)

Also in attendance: Debbie Carey (Clerk)

**29 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Mike Steel

**30 Consideration of Minutes of May 2024 meeting**

Accepted as a true representation of last meeting

**31 Declarations of Interest**

James Partridge submitted Planning application 33.1

**32 Public Forum – To receive any representations from the public, members or police**

None in attendance

**33 Planning**

33.1 Reference: 24/00772/FUL

49 Shimbrooks Great Leighs Chelmsford Essex

Part conversion of detached garage

**James Partridge to leave meeting as Councillors discuss**

**No Objections**

33.2 24/00695/FUL – Site 7c – Bellway Homes

Increase from 109 homes to 115

**The Parish Council have the following concerns;**

* **The proposed site is close to the many older buildings/homes on the Main Road which, due to their age lack foundations and could be effected by the build.**
* **The access for the site through The Furlongs is narrow and will increase traffic and restrict current flow. There has the potential to be 100+ vehicles which would cause slow entering and exiting the development and to The Furlong residents**
* **One entrance would also mean there would be construction traffic including the debris being brought through the housing area.**
* **Great Leighs School currently running at one class per year – would they be able to consider additional children?**
* **Local amenities – Doctor Surgeries and Dentists are at full** **capacity in the area, additional residents would only add to this issue.**
* **The pumping station at Goodmans Lane is running at full capacity**
* **The Furlong has its own pumping station which is regularly blocked**
* **Con****cern over wildlife  
  - The PC would be interested to hear who would run the site – the management company for The Furlongs has not been successful$  
  - Concern with the footpath and where it would be relocated to**

**- No established trees to create a border**

**- The houses do not fit in well with neighbouring houses close by – aesthetically, how will it look once complete?**

**- Suggestion of a larger green area between housing developments**

**34 Planning Results**

34.124/00576/FUL – Application permitted (Long Croft Whites Lane Little Leighs – 2 storey side extension)

34.2 24/00501/FUL – Application refused (Land North East Of 103 Main Road – Chalet style dwelling)

**35 Essex County Council Correspondence**

35.1 Report from Mike Steel

National Grid – Norwich to Tilbury update – the motion by ECC was passed in May to oppose the proposal. Arranging for Kemi Badenoch, to meet with the PC and residents in July.

Updated Carriageway Defects, pavements and signs plan. Listed the proposed sites.

**36 Chelmsford City Council Correspondence**

36.1 Report from City Councillor

The Election has been the main focus over the last few weeks for the City Council. Pride March took place and the Food Festival was successful.

**37 General Correspondence**

37.1 Quote received from Eden Horticulture for an additional flower bed at the junction of Fuller St - £870.00

**The budget for 24/25 has been spent so this can be considered in December for next years budget. Budget Meeting in December. The initiative was run by volunteers and the area suggested is difficult to maintain.**

37.2 Councillor Bursary - 75% of the cost of the training course, to a limit of £240 in any one financial year per Councillor

**Discussed that the Councillors would be open to training but most are working during the week so cannot take days off.**

37.3 Risk Register required

**Updated and to be publish on website by Clerk**

37.4 Standing orders review

**Councillors agreed to Standing orders James Raven had previously circulated. Clerk to publish on website**

**38 Great Leighs Environment**

38.1 Pylon Consultancy extension

**Parish Councils response to be sent but as there is an extension, they have time to add further opposing comments/issues as they arise**

38.2 War Memorial update

**A wall has been erected around the memorial along with engraving.**

**Clerk to obtain quotes for Perspex cover. Chair to send over details.**

38.3 Fayrewood Drive Play Area Lease

**Discussed possibly taking over the lease from the management company. The park equipment is old and needs to be up-dated.**

**Playing Field Matters**

38.4 To discuss s106 balance - £3,105.43 & £3105.42 spending possibilities

**PC discussed different ideas of what the money could be used for to benefit the village best. Sports equipment, shelter to sit alongside 3G pitch or possibly some sculpture of art from a local resident.**

**Votes were taken and the shelter was of the most interest.**

**Clerk to look into quotes.**

38.5 CCTV for 3G pitch and rewire of lights quote

**Three quotes have been gathered and discussed the need for light/power to the containers once in place. Decision to be made.**

**Highways and Footpaths**

38.6 Review any overgrown areas

**Banters Lane – the entrance is over-grown. Clerk to get JCM to action.**

**Dog and Partridge hedgeway needs to be cut back.**

**The broken pavement near Shimbrooks has been reported**

**The hedge by Post Office needs some attention – resident has been contacted**

**Speed Watch**

38.7Dates to be confirmed, volunteers needed

**Possibly advertise on Facebook Great Leighs page but previously uptake has been poor as the volunteers need to attend a course**.

**39** **Clerks update**

39.1 JCM completed hedge cutting down School Lane and Boreham Lane

39.2 Broken railing on the green is due to be fixed next week

39.3 Annual audit started and information sent to Auditor

**Chair to review with Clerk**

39.4 Initial findings from audit recommend that 2 Councillors review bank reconciliations each meeting from previous month

**To be reviewed every quarter**

39.5 Clerk to attend New Clerks Course – July 31st – apply for Clerk Bursary that will cover 75% of cost - £25 for this course

**All agreed**

**40 Finance**

**40.1** Bank Reconciliations and Statements – May 2024

**To be reviewed every quarter**

Payments for approval of £3103.67 listed below



**Agreed to the payments as above.**

**41 Closure**

Date of next meeting: Thursday 18th July 2024

Signed.. …………….. Date 2024