



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council
held in the Village Hall, St Osyth
on Thursday 19th January 2017 at 7.15 pm



PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr. Sonia Grantham, Vice-Chairman:
Cllr's Alma Blockley, David Cooper, Ray French, Mandy Kelly,
Tony Smith, Michael Talbot, Michele Thomas & Julie Ward

Martin Walsh (Responsible Financial Officer (RFO))

Cllr. John White
(Arrived at 8.20 pm having attended a District Council meeting)

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (Arrived at 8.25 pm)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Colleen Peverell (Illness)
Cllr. Jean Smith (Illness)

MINUTES:

Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Three

G-16-183 CHANGE OF AGENDA ORDER:

The Chairman requested the permission of the Council to move public participation, so that any comments were heard before planning applications were discussed. All agreed.

G-16-184 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

The Chairman advised Councillors, that under Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, they had a responsibility to declare any Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests in any matter to be discussed.

Cllr. T Smith declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 16/01978/FUL.

Cllr. Kelly declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 16/01985/FUL.

G-16-185 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:

Current a/c	£ 72,347.77
Deposit	£ 49,780.82
Special Project	£ 3,016.15

- c. The Minutes of the Finance meeting of 7th December 2016, having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments from the Council. None were forthcoming.
- d. The Minutes of the Finance meeting of 11th January 2017, having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments from the Council. None were forthcoming.

G-16-186 APPROVAL OF BUDGET AND PRECEPT:

At the request of the Chairman the RFO gave an overview of the proposed budget, including recommendations as laid out in the Management Plan, the latter having previously been approved by the Council on 17th November 2016. The RFO explained that whilst the proposed budget showed a 5% increase to the Precept, changes to the Tax Base and Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) would show an actual increase of 2.1% or £1.28 to the Precept from the previous year, giving an annual sum payable for 2017/2018 of £62.92 for a Band D property.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council ratify the recommendation of the Finance Committee, by setting the Precept for 2017/2018 at £62.92 for a Band D property. This was proposed by Cllr. Kemp and seconded by Cllr. Talbot. All agreed.

The RFO departed the meeting at 7.30 pm.

G-16-187 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- a. Mrs Claire Cowler addressed the Council in respect of Planning Application 16/01978/FUL, giving an overview of the Preschool, a Community Interest Company (CIC), detailing numbers attending, age groups and capacity.

G-16-188 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a)	16/01591/FUL Mr & Mrs Gill Wensley Stud, Rectory Road Weeley Heath	Proposed manege, lunging ring, horse walker and conservation/drainage pond. No objections.
b)	16/01831/FUL Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners Brightlingsea Creek	Saltmarsh restoration works for four sites in Brightlingsea Creek. No objections.
c)	16/01926/FUL Mr Richard Bower Mill House, 93 Mill Street St Osyth	Change of use from bed and breakfast and tea room use to residential dwelling. No objections.

Having declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 16/01978/FUL, Cllr T Smith left the meeting whilst that particular application was discussed.

d)	16/01978/FUL Mr Mark Carter-Tufnell St Osyth C of E Primary School Norman Close St Osyth	<p>Construction of a single storey pitched roof building to provide a new pre-school nursery including associated external landscaping works and provision of staff car parking.</p> <p>Objections on the basis that the application would see a considerable increase in traffic. It is worthy of note that residents have already submitted a petition to the District Council in December 2016, signed by 97 residents, in respect of traffic related complaints, especially that of parking, given that the Primary School is located within a cul-de-sac. The Parish Council deem the implementation of a traffic plan to be an absolute priority before any further development of the site.</p> <p>Additionally, Councillors believe that the building itself would be too close to residential dwellings which would overlook an area frequented by young children, and the sound to the neighbours could be intrusive.</p>
e)	16/01985/FUL Mr M Skeels 138 Colne Way Point Clear Bay	<p>Proposed replacement dwelling following demolition of existing.</p> <p>Objections on the basis that the application as submitted is considered to be of poor design and is not in keeping with similar dwellings in the vicinity. Additionally, the proposed site plan would suggest overdevelopment of the site, given that the new dwelling would seemingly extend to the physical boundary of the property.</p>
f)	16/02040/FUL Mr R O'Dell Land adjacent 96 Spring Road St Osyth	<p>Erection of one detached dwelling with associated garage and parking.</p> <p>Whilst the Parish Council does not object to the design of the house, there are reservations as to the design of the garage roof. Councillors would request that if minded to approve the application, the District Council recommend the change of design to incorporate a pitched roof for the garage/guest accommodation. It is felt that the building would look out of character, especially as the garage would be almost opposite a 17th century cottage, added to which there are no flat roofs in this area.</p>
g)	16/02117/CMTR Essex County Council (c/o Caulmert Ltd) Land at Martins Farm Closed Landfill Site St Osyth	<p>Replacement of existing landfill gas extraction plant (flare) and the installation of a gas powered electricity generator.</p> <p><i>Noted - for information only</i></p>

h)	17/00003/FUL Ms J Cullip 2 Stanmore Way, St Osyth	Extension and alterations. No objections.
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Two members of the public departed the meeting at 8.15 pm.

G-16-189 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 15th December 2016 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.

G-16-190 UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. G-16-173 a. The Clerk informed the Council that he had forwarded a copy of Cllr. Thomas' Future East report to Cllr. Goggin.
- b. G-16-176. The Clerk informed that he had written to the District Council in respect of St John's Plant Centre and that it was understood a planning application was pending.
- c. G-16-182 c. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to several residents in respect of logs on the greensward, which had since been removed.

G-16-191 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) Notification of Decisions (Determinations) 9th December 2016 to 6th January 2017.
- b. Correspondence between St Osyth Parish Council and Essex County Council regarding Street Lights.
- c. Correspondence from Essex County Council in respect of the Joint Replacement Waste Local Plan Public Consultation.

G-16-192 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman informed the Council that together with Cllr. Ward, she was trying to find a contractor/gardener to maintain a number of flowerbeds throughout the village.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** The Chairman reminded the Council of the ongoing concern in respect of street lights, as noted under item G-16-191 b.
- c. **Martins Farm Country Park:** The Chairman informed the Council that the next meeting was scheduled for 16th February 2017.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** Cllr. Ward informed the Council that matters were in hand for the installation of the new play equipment at Cowley Park.

G-16-193 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.25 pm due to attending the Ordinary meeting of Brightlingsea Town Council, Cllr. Goggin informed the Council of the following:
 - i) That the County Councils budget was to be issued on 20th January 2017 and would be formally approved at the meeting to be held on 14th February 2017. It was likely that there would be a 2% increase, with a further 2% ring-fenced for social care, over three years, however, there was a possibility that this could change to a 3% increase over two years.
 - ii) That of the £911 million spent by the County Council, the amount raised through Council Tax (approximately £500 million) covered social care only. He continued that approximately 1,000 children under the age of 16 were effected by domestic abuse, and that 41% of the population were effected by mental health issues within their respective households.
- b. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for November 2016.
 - i) Cllr. Kelly informed the Council of offences within Point Clear by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.
 - ii) Cllr. Cooper informed the Council of offences within St Osyth by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.
- c. **Footpaths:** No report given.
- d. **Planters & Litter Bins:** Nothing to report.
- e. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. French informed the Council that together with the Chairman, he would be meeting Mr Peter Spurrier, Consultant to Essex County Council, on Friday 20th January 2017, to discuss the planting of three new trees at the Clacton Road entrance to the village.
- f. **TDALC:** Cllr. Talbot reported that the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) had met on 18th January 2017, during which time the main discussion had been the perceived differences in decisions issued by TDC Planning Officers. A concern was that when, on behalf of their Parish, a speaker make some points of concern, nobody seemed to take any notice of what was being said, either to say they were wrong or even perhaps right! Members also complained that the planning items on the website were not updated. A complaint was received from Harwich Town Council that £8 million has been spent on installing new street lights, the lights from which was too concentrated and did not spread the beam.

Complaints were also received about travellers' and the time it took for them to be moved on. Many members thought that their type of trespass should be a criminal rather than a civil offence

The Essex Association meeting had taken place in Great Dunmow at 10am on 19th January 2017. The meeting had a wide ranging agenda, which included:

- i) The late increase in Officers' pension contributions to the County from the present 16.8% of salary to 17.8% this year and to 18.8% next year, and the request for a sum to reduce the present deficit.
 - ii) That Essex is still short of housing provision, 179,640 homes being the target with only 137,650 presently planned.
 - iii) That 79,000 jobs are supposed to be created in the Local Plans of Essex.
 - iv) A consultation document is on the County website about improvements to the A120 from Marks Tey to Braintree. Five different routes are planned. All Parishes are requested to respond showing the government an overwhelming need for this improvement to give it some priority.
- g. **District Council Report:** Cllr. Talbot reported that members of the Parish Council would have seen in the Gazette some very critical articles about the District Council's Planning Department, which totally ignored the Government edicts about how the District Council should deal with applications. The District was continuing to suffer the consequences of not having an agreed and signed Local Plan. The Government wanted plans to include the provision of many more housing sites than most authorities would have included in their plans, so in March 2012, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), at the heart of which was a presumption in favour of sustainable development. In authorities where the development plan was absent, silent or where the relevant policies were out-of-date, permission should be granted subject only to sustainability. Tending was in the position where the 'development plan is absent'. Many people were of the understanding that this overriding provision in favour of sustainable housing development was a deliberate pressure from Government on Local Authorities to encourage/force them to produce new Local Plans with more housing provision than they would otherwise have agreed.

The consequence for Tending was that many developers had jumped on the bandwagon with 'outline' applications for housing development, in places where the local population as well as the Local Authority would not support the application, which in many cases after being refused, was then appealed by the applicant. An increasing number of decisions were being overturned by the Inspector in favour of the appellant, meaning that the decision of the District Council stood for nothing! It was not as the local paper continued to report, the fault of Tending District Council.

- h. **Parish Website:** Cllr. Talbot reported that he was unable to report any website statistics as the link to the old NSE server had now been removed, due to the change of host from NSE to Naglotech, in the village.

Cllr. Talbot continued that he had been getting the site 'up to date' for the end of 2016, as he thought that his involvement with the website, since February 2000, would soon cease. He added that this was his own choice as he did not particularly want to learn a new system, after using 'Edit Live' for 16 years and accumulating all of his own shortcuts.

- i. **Community Speed Watch:** Cllr. Kemp informed the Council that a meeting was scheduled for 8th February 2017 with representatives of Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, to discuss changes to the administration of the Speed Watch.

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk provided statistics for 2015/2016:

Between June & December 2015, 289 letters were sent out by the Police.

Between January & June 2016, 334 letters were sent.

Between July and December 2016, 380 letters were sent.

The following statistics were noted:

Between 5th December 2016 and 16th January 2017, there were 56 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 38.7 mph.

1. Clacton Road:
12 recordings with an average speed of 38.9 mph
2. Mill Street:
37 recordings with an average speed of 38.6 mph

Total for St Osyth: 49 recordings (average speed of 38.7 mph)

3. Point Clear Road (near Beacon Way):
7 recordings with an average speed of 38.7 mph

Total for Point Clear: 7 recordings

G-16-194 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED TRUSTEESHIPS REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. White informed the Council that the tenure of Mr George Gibbs as a member of the Almshouses Charity was due to end and that the Council would have to discuss a replacement. The Clerk informed all present that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- b. **Bradwell Power Station:** Nothing to report.

- c. **Colne Estuary Partnership:** Owing to a lack of information as to the status of the partnership, Cllr. Goggin suggested that the Clerk liaise with Brightlingsea Town Council and Alresford Parish Council, both of which were members of the partnership, in an attempt to obtain further information.
- d. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Blockley informed the Council that she was investigating an issue in respect of title deeds for Dumont Hall, which she would report at the next meeting.
- e. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Kemp informed the Council that the next meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for 23rd January 2017. The Chairman requested that a number of points be raised, which included:
 - i) That as a number of village halls had been broken into, the Parish Council would be adding additional security measures.
 - ii) That a new bollard was required at the entrance to the hall.
 - iii) That the area around the recycling bins needed to be tidied.

G-16-195 PRIORY COSTS CLAIM:

The Chairman informed the Council that Afqar Dean and Carina Patterson were still trying to meet with Malcolm Goodwin, who it was believed had met with his clients to discuss their invoices.

G-16-196 ST OSYTH PRIORY: The Chairman informed the Council that the Clerk had written to the Sargeant family informing them that the Parish Council would not meet with representatives of the family until such time as the costs claims were settled.

G-16-197 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. At the request of the Chairman the Clerk addressed the Council in respect of the recent tidal surge. Councillors received a copy of correspondence to the District Council, in which concerns were raised as to the clarity of information on the Environment Agency website as well as the apparent lack of concern over areas such as Seawick and Point Clear Bay, both of which were at the same elevation as Jaywick.

The Clerk gave an explanation as to the types of warnings issued by the Environment Agencies Floodline. The Clerk acknowledged that whilst Cllr. Kelly had acted in the best interests of residents of Point Clear Bay, many of who had received contradictory information as to the possibility of flooding expected, as the nominated single point of contact between the Parish and District Councils, the he be notified of any future intentions to implement the opening of locations such as Dumont Hall or the Village Hall, so as to be able to keep the District Emergency Response Centre (DERC) fully informed.

- b. Cllr. Goggin suggested that one area of consideration for the Councils Emergency Plan was the ability to be able to request that the County Council override the Part Night Lighting scheme, so as to ensure that the street lights remained on in an emergency situation. The Clerk stated that he was preparing a Flood Plan and that he would include this recommendation.
- c. The Clerk informed the Council that he had received written confirmation from Essex Highways that repairs to Beach Road were scheduled for 2017.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45 pm.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 19th January 2017		
G-16-192 a	Contractor/Gardener for Flowerbeds	Chairman & Cllr. Ward to discuss
G-16-194 a	Volunteer/Nomination for Almshouse Charity	Agenda item for February 2017
G-16-194 c	Colne Estuary Partnership	Clk to liaise with Brightlingsea Town Council & Alresford Parish Council
G-16-194 d	Dumont Hall	Cllr. Blockley to brief at February meeting
G-16-197 b	Flood Plan	Clk to compile.

Signature: Signed on Original
 SW Grantham
 Chairman