



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 16th February 2017 at 7.15 pm

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Sonia Grantham, Vice-Chairman: Cllr. John Kemp
Cllr's Alma Blockley, David Cooper, Ray French, Colleen Peverell,
Jean Smith, Tony Smith, Michele Thomas & Julie Ward

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (Arrived at 8.40 pm)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Mandy Kelly (Illness)
Cllr. Michael Talbot (Illness)
Cllr. John White (Holiday)

MINUTES: Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

G-16-198 ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman began the meeting with several announcements:

- a. That it be formally recorded that the members of St Osyth Parish Council wish Cllr. Michael Talbot a speedy recovery following his recent surgery.
- b. The Chairman requested that Councillors complete the questionnaire by the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group in respect of the future of the Minor Injury Units at Clacton and Harwich.
- c. The Chairman showed Councillors the plaque carved in memory of the late Reg Arthur, which would be mounted at the Willow Tree plantation.

G-16-199 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. Peverell declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of St Osyth Priory.

G-16-200 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a)	16/01976/FUL Mrs Brenda Main 1 Bishops Gardens Belair Chalet Estate, St Osyth	Retrospective application for the erection of a replacement residential caravan. No objections.
b)	16/02097/FUL Mr Peter Bird Land opposite 9 & 10 Eastern Promenade, St Osyth	Construction of a boat house with upper level store. No objections.

c)	17/00046/FUL Mr Stuart Baker New House Farm, Heath Road Weeley Heath, St Osyth	Detached garage. No objections.
d)	17/00063/FUL Mr & Mrs Gill Wensley Stud, Rectory Road Weeley Heath, St Osyth	Proposed dwelling. No objections.
e)	17/00111/FUL Mr S Firmin 62 Dumont Avenue St Osyth	Proposed garage extension (following existing garage conversion). Whilst the Parish Council have no objections to this application, it is noted that the proposed extension is both forward of the principal elevation / side elevation of the property, in addition to being forward of the building line of the neighbouring properties.
f)	17/00112/OUT Mr E Greig Land at Heath Road Weeley Heath, St Osyth	Outline application for up to 4 No. dwellings. Notwithstanding that the current application is for four dwellings, the Parish Council has objections on the basis that an application for the development of a single property on this site under Planning Application 14/00122/OUT was refused and the subsequent Appeal under PINs reference APP/P1560/A/14/2219818 was dismissed on 12 th September 2014, on the grounds that the applicant had not demonstrated that the proposed dwelling would constitute a sustainable development, having regard to its location in the countryside. As such, it would have been contrary to LP Policy BE1, which at that time sought to protect the district's landscape character. It would also not accord with the countryside protections aims within paragraphs 17 and 55 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

G-16-201 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 19th January 2017 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.

G-16-202 UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. G-16-192 a. The Clerk informed the Council that the Chairman and Cllr. Ward had written to a number of local contractors in respect of the maintenance of a number of flowerbeds within the village.
- b. G-16-194 a. The Clerk informed the Council that the appointment of a representative for the Almshouse Charity was an agenda item which would be discussed during the meeting.

- c. G-16-194 c. The Clerk informed the Council that the Councils Administrator, Mrs Lynda McClure had contacted both Brightlingsea Town Council & Alresford Parish Council in respect of the Colne Estuary Partnership, however, to date no response had been received from either Council.
- d. G-16-194 d. The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr. Blockley would raise an issue in respect of Dumont Hall as part of her report to the Council.
- e. G-16-197 b. The Clerk informed the Council that he had updated the Emergency Plan and that was working on a new Flood Plan, both of which would be distributed prior to the March 2017 meeting.

G-16-203 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

G-16-204 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) Notification of Decisions (Determinations) 13th January 2017 to 3rd February 2017.
- b. Correspondence from TDC regarding Enforcement Matters.
- c. Correspondence from Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) in respect of the Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation.
- d. Correspondence from TDC regarding Councillors Planning Training.
- e. Correspondence from Cllr. Goggin regarding Recycling Centres.
- f. Correspondence from Superfast Essex regarding Broadband Coverage.
- g. Correspondence from UK Power Networks regarding Vulnerable People.
- h. Correspondence from Essex County Council (ECC) regarding Street Lights.
- i. Correspondence from Mr AH Kenny regarding Cycle Paths.

The Chairman informed the Council that having discussed the use of bicycles on footpaths with Jim Bartley, ECC Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Engineer, it had been established that the County Council would not give permission as there was '*no public right to do so*'. The Chairman added that permissive access could be granted by individual landowners, however, this could be withdrawn at any time without notice, in addition to having possible insurance consequences.

The Chairman stated that she would liaise with local landowners before any further discussion, as it would be futile to investigate the matter further if they were not willing to allow permissive access in the first instance.

G-16-205 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman reminded the Council that letters had been sent to a number of local contractors requesting quotations for the maintenance of the flowerbeds at Mill Street, the Village Hall and Colchester Road.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** The Chairman informed the Council that members of the Highways Working Party were due to meet with Ben Cook, Essex Highways Asset Strategy and Policy Manager on Monday 27th February 2017.
- c. **Martins Farm Country Park:** The Chairman informed the Council that a meeting had taken place earlier that day, the notes of which would be received at the March 2017 meeting.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** The Clerk informed the Council that the new activity tower and basket swing would be installed or certainly work commenced by 31st March 2017.

G-16-206 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for December 2016.
 - i) Cllr. Cooper informed the Council of offences within St Osyth by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.
 - ii) The Clerk then gave an overview of reported crimes for the months of October to December 2016. A discussion ensued during which the general consensus was that there should be an increased Police presence in and around the holiday parks. The Clerk was requested to write to Chief Inspector Cole, Essex Police, to ascertain the current strategy for proactive policing within the district.
- b. **Footpaths:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Planters & Litter Bins:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. French informed the Council that three new trees had been planted earlier that day at the Clacton Road entrance to the village.
- e. **TDALC:** No report received.
- f. **District Council Report:** No report received.
- g. **Parish Website:** No report received.
- h. **Community Speed Watch:** Cllr. Kemp gave an overview of the recent meeting held on 8th February 2017, at which representatives of Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service had been present.

Cllr. Kemp continued that the meeting had been productive and that group members had received an informative brief as to why Essex County Fire & Rescue Service was assuming responsibility for the administration of Community Speed Watch.

At the request of the Chairman, Cllr. Cooper gave a breakdown of the statistics:

Between 16th January 2017 and 6th February 2017, there were 24 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 39.2 mph.

1. Clacton Road:
6 recordings with an average speed of 39.3 mph
2. Mill Street:
18 recordings with an average speed of 39.1 mph

Total for St Osyth: 24 recordings (average speed of 39.2 mph)

G-16-207 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED TRUSTEESHIPS REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** No report received.
- b. **Bradwell Power Station:** No report received.
- c. **Colne Estuary Partnership:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Blockley informed the Council that the Community Association was in her view entering into an arrangement which could be in breach of the restrictive covenants referred to in the Title Deeds for the Hall, which stated that no business should be permitted on any part of the land.

Cllr. Blockley continued that she understood that an agreement had already been prepared and submitted to the intended tenant, for the rental and use of the land, at a cost of £200.00 per annum.

Cllr. Blockley stated that she wished the matter to be minuted, as she had voiced concerns over the matter and other issues.

- e. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Although Cllr. Kemp did not give a report, the Chairman and several Councillors reiterated the need for a bollard/reflective post at the entrance to the Hall, the previous reflectors having been damaged at Christmas.

G-16-208 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	£ 74,635.92
Deposit	£ 49,780.82
Special Project	£ 3,016.15

G-16-209 CEMETERY COMMITTEE:

Having been previously circulated the Minutes of the meeting of 18th January 2017, were noted. The Chairman invited comments from the Council. None were forthcoming.

G-16-210 ST OSYTH ALMSHOUSE CHARITY:

The Clerk informed the Council that former Parish Councillor George Gibbs had come to the end of his term of office as Trustee of the Almshouse Charity, and that the Council would need to appoint a replacement nominee. Cllr. Cooper stated that he was willing to be the Councils nominated representative. The Clerk stated that he would notify the Clerk to the Almshouse Charity.

G-16-211 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 & CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005:

The Clerk explained recent cases of street trading and requested the permission of the Council to write to Ian Davidson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the District Council in respect of street trading, specifically the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005. All agreed.

G-16-212 PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL PARISH REPORT:

The Clerk informed the Council that contributions for the Annual Parish Report were required by 28th February. He continued that articles should not exceed 80 words and that photographs would be beneficial.

G-16-213 VILLAGE CAR PARK:

The Chairman reminded the Council that the village did not have a formal car park, citing the District Councils 2010 Core Strategy Document, in which it stated that:

‘there is an identified need for a village car park to prevent on-street parking in the village centre. The Council will work with the Parish Council to identify a suitable location’

The Chairman continued that a local landowner had approached the District Council with a proposal which would, subject to the approval of both the Parish and District Councils address the lack of a village car park.

G-16-214 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES (ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL):

Having arrived at 8.40 pm due to attending the Ordinary meeting of Brightlingsea Town Council, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the County Councils budget which had been formally approved at the full Council meeting held on 14th February 2017.

G-16-215 MAINTENANCE OF PARISH STREET SIGNS:

The individual areas of responsibility having been previously circulated, the Chairman requested that Councillors return their respective inspection reports by 16th March 2017. Cllr. Peverell informed the Chairman that she would clean the bollards at the chicane on Colchester Road.

G-16-216 PRIORY COSTS CLAIM:

The Chairman informed the Council that the Sargeant family wished to participate in the meeting between the cost lawyers, and had suggested that both the Parish Council and Save Our St Osyth (S.O.S) do likewise. The Council were unanimous that the meeting should consist solely of the costs lawyers, so as not to deviate from the matter in hand. The Parish Council reiterated its stance that it would not meet with the Sargeant family or representatives thereof, to discuss the future of the Priory until such time as the costs claims were settled.

G-16-217 ST OSYTH PRIORY:

The Chairman informed the Council that the Sargeant family had submitted a draft Section 106 agreement to TDC, with the intention of having it approved by 31st January 2017. The Chairman continued that the agreement had yet to be approved by TDC and that she had been invited to view the agreement before it was agreed by the District Council. The Chairman added that a number of points for inclusion in the agreement had been raised during the public meeting on 28th November 2016. The Chairman stated that when invited to view the draft agreement she would wish to have the Clerk present. All agreed.

G-16-218 OP BEDALE (TIDAL SURGE):

At the request of the Chairman the Clerk informed the Council of the recent meeting at Weeley Council Offices, attended by the Chairman, the Clerk, representatives of the District Council, Environment Agency and several Town and Parish Councils, to discuss the January tidal surge.

The Clerk informed the Council that he had raised the concerns of both Cllr. White and Cllr. Kelly about the focus of the evacuation being that of Jaywick, and the misleading information displayed on the Environment Agency website respectively.

G-16-219 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. French informed the Council that there had been an increase in the amount of dog faeces in the area of Manfield Gardens. The Clerk was requested to prepare similar signs as to those used before, so that they could be displayed in the vicinity of Manfield Gardens.
Cllr. Thomas requested that she be given a sign to display outside her home, as dog owners frequently allowed their pets to foul outside her home.
- b. The Chairman thanked Councillors for their continued support, and input towards Council matters.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.55 pm.

**Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 16th February 2017**

G-16-204 i	Cycle Paths	Cllr. Peverell to ascertain location of footpaths Chairman to write to landowners
G-16-206 a ii	Strategy for Proactive Policing	Clk to write to Essex Police
G-16-2207 e	Reflector at Village Hall	Cllr. Kemp to raise with VHMC
G-16-210	Appointment of Cllr. Cooper	Clk to liaise with Almshouse Charity
G-16-211	Street Trading	Clk to write to TDC CEO
G-16-219 a	Dog Fouling	Clk to produce signs

Signature: Signed on Original
SW Grantham
Chairman