



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 15th June 2017 at 7.15 pm

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Sonia Grantham, Vice-Chairman: Cllr. John Kemp
Cllr's Alma Blockley, David Cooper, Mandy Kelly, Jean Smith,
Michele Thomas & Julie Ward

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (Arrived at 8.15 pm)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. French (Holiday)
Cllr. Peverell (Post Surgery Recuperation)
Cllr. Michael Talbot (Tendring District Council (TDC) meeting)
Cllr. John White (Tendring District Council (TDC) meeting)

MINUTES: Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: Three

G-17-036 a 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. Grantham declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Applications 17/00826/OUT and 17/00842/FUL.

Cllr. Kemp declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 17/00826/OUT.

Cllr. Kelly declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 17/00730/LUEX.

G-17-036 b ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION:

RESOLVED: That having received formal notification of resignation from Cllr. Tony Smith, the Council accept his resignation and request the Clerk liaise with Tendring District Council in respect of the Casual Vacancy.

G-17-037 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- a. A member of the public voiced objections in respect of planning application 17/00846/FUL, stating that the design was similar to that previously refused by the District Council. Concerns were also expressed as to the current lack of sufficient parking, which would be exacerbated if the development were to go ahead, together with objections as to the proximity of the proposed bungalow to neighbouring properties, which would impact of both privacy and light.

- b. A second member of the public addressed the Council, in respect of planning application 17/00846/FUL, reiterating the objections previously heard, as well as voicing concern at to the appearance of the plot, which was being allowed to become so overgrown that the County Council had recently refused to install a new street light, until such time as the owners of the plot cut back existing vegetation.

The Clerk informed all present that the County Council were looking to commence enforcement action if vegetation overhanging the footpaths was not cut back by the owners of the plot.

G-17-038 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a)	17/00730/LUEX Ms Jane Easey 52 Colne Way Point Clear Bay	Use as a permanent sole residence. No objections on the basis that the resident is known to have resided in this property since 2001.
b)	17/00825/OUT Leisure Fame Ltd Land North of 782 to 828 St Johns Road Clacton On Sea	Residential development of 84 dwellings. Whilst the Parish Council appreciate that the proposed site for development is a brown field site, there are objections on the basis that the development will intensify traffic problems, which already exist at the entrance to the plant centre. Additionally, there are serious concerns that the development will have an effect on both medical and educational provision within the area.

Having declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 17/00826/OUT, at 7.35 pm Cllr. Kemp left the meeting whilst the application was discussed.

c)	17/00826/OUT Lord & Hunt Land Forming Part of Earls Hall Farm Earls Hall Drive Clacton On Sea	Hybrid application consisting of: outline planning application for residential development of 34 dwellings and full planning application for the creation of new access road. Strong objections on the basis that the proposed development is located on agricultural land. Additionally, the development would have an effect on both medical and educational provision within the area.
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Cllr. Kemp returned to the meeting at 7.40 pm.

d)	17/00842/FUL Mr D Wallis 1 St Cleres Cottages St Cleres Hall Lane, St Osyth	Proposed first floor extension, forming ground floor car port. No objections.
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e)	17/00846/FUL c/o Stanfords Land adjacent to 17 Withrick Walk St Osyth	Proposed bungalow. Objections on the basis that this application is deemed as overdevelopment of the site. It is in cul-de-sac, which is already considered by residents to be lacking sufficient parking for residents and visitors. The Parish Council has concerns as to the proximity of the proposed garage to several neighbouring properties, which would have a detrimental effect on residents.
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At 7.45 pm all members of the public departed the meeting.

f)	17/00863/OUT Balkerne Gate Developments Land South of Plough Lodge Rectory Road Weeley Heath	Use of land for residential development. Strong objection on the basis that this application is deemed to be overdevelopment of a green field site.
g)	17/00881/FUL Mr M Waite 310 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Demolish existing 2 bed chalet and erect 3 bedroom replacement bungalow. No objections.
h)	17/00885/TCA Mrs H Frost Chapel Cottage Chapel Lane, St Osyth	1 No. Sycamore - crown reduction. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
i)	17/00911/TCA Mr D Ward 33 Mill Street St Osyth	Reduce Walnut by 40%. Conifers by fish pond - fell. Various conifers - reduce. Conifer and Spruce by side gate - reduce. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.

G-17-039 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council of 18th May 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. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.

G-17-040 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 18th May 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. Kemp and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.

G-17-041 UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. G-17-004 e. The Clerk informed the Council that he had yet to make the typographical corrections to the Emergency / Flood plans.
- b. G-17-008 a iii. The Clerk informed the Council that he would include the Police explanation of crime related phrases on the crime statistics on quarterly basis.

- c. G-17-008 b. The Clerk informed the Council that owing to the absence of Cllr. Peverell, there was no update in respect of footpaths 5 and 25.
- d. G-17-008 d. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the County Council in respect of the trees along Colchester Road, but had yet to receive a response.
- e. G-17-008 h iv. The Clerk informed the Council that he forwarded information about the new fines for speeding to the Parish magazine.
- f. G-17-012. The Clerk informed the Council that he had responded to the Police & Crime Commissioner for Essex public consultation in respect of Joint Governance of Essex Police and Essex Fire & Rescue Services.

G-17-042 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	£ 64,355.30
Deposit	£ 49,789.81
Special Project	£ 3,016.15
- c. The following documentation as directed by the Internal Auditor, on 19th May 2017 was received:
 - i) Internal Audit Report for 2016/17 - Noted
 - ii) Scope of Internal Audit for Parish & Town Councils - Agreed
 - iii) Audit Plan - Approved
- d. Having been previously circulated, the Council agreed the end of year figures as per the Independent Internal Audit of 19th May 2017, in preparation for submission of the report to the Audit Commission:
 - i) Accounting statements & Annual Governance Statement
 - ii) Balance Sheet for Year Ending 31st March 2017
 - iii) Supporting Reserves Reconciliation as at 31st March 2017
 - iv) Trial Balance for Current Year
 - v) Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31st March 2017
 - vi) Income & Expenditure Account for Year Ending 31st March 2017
- e. Audit Commission Annual Return:
 - i) **RESOLVED:** That the Council approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2016-2017. The Chairman duly signed the Annual Governance Statement for the Year Ending 31st March 2017. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Kemp and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed

- ii) **RESOLVED:** That the Council approve the Accounting Statements for 2016-2017. The Chairman duly signed the Accounting Statements for the Year Ending 31st March 2017. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Kemp and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed

G-17-043 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) Notification of Decisions (Determinations) 12th May 2017 to 2nd June 2017.
- b. Correspondence from the Police & Crime Commissioner for Essex to the Home Secretary regarding Joint Governance of Essex Police and Essex Fire & Rescue Services.
- c. Documentation from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) regarding Parish & Town Council Elections.

G-17-044 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman informed the Council that the blooms were looking good.
- b. **Highways Working Party:**
 - i) The Council reviewed an article for inclusion in the Parish magazine, submitted by Joe Hazelton, Highways Liaison Officer, Essex County Council.
 - ii) The Clerk informed the Council of recent emails between Cllr's Talbot, Goggin and a resident of Point Clear Bay, concerning vehicles driving against the one-way circuit in Church Square. The Clerk continued that Highways would be carrying out repairs in Church Square, at which time, all lines, markings and signs would be correctly reinstated.
 - iii) The Clerk reminded the Council of the request for a new deer sign at the junction of the B1027 and Dead Lane. He continued that the sign would be actually be relocated from outside of Oakland's Holiday Park and that together with the deer sign near Lamb Farm, would have a sub-plate indicating the distance for which the warning was in effect.
- c. **Martins Farm Country Park:** The Chairman informed the Council that the notes of the meeting of 8th June 2017 would be received at the next Ordinary meeting of the Council.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** At the request of the Chairman the Clerk informed the Council of his attendance at a Routine Play Equipment Inspection course. He continued that results of the weekly inspections would have to be retained for 21 years.

G-17-045 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** The Clerk informed the Council that the Crime statistics for April 2017 had yet to be published.
- b. **Footpaths:** In the absence of Cllr. Peverell, the Clerk gave an overview of the request for establishing a cycle path from the village into Clacton. He continued that having explained the liabilities involved to the landowners over whose land the cycle path would run, he had been informed that they were not willing to progress the matter, as it could put them in a potentially libellous position. The Clerk stated that he would write to the resident who had suggested the cycle path and inform them of the outcome of the liaison with the land owners.
- c. **Planters & Litter Bins:** Cllr. Ward informed the Council that the planters and bins were all looking good.
- d. **Tree Warden:** No report given.
- e. **TDALC:** The Clerk narrated the report as submitted by Cllr. Talbot:

The last meeting of the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) had taken place on 24th May, in Beaumont cum Moze village hall. It had been a good meeting during which subjects including fly-tipping, speed watch, the highway feature in planning applications and road safety around schools at start and finish times. There had been a strongly held comment that Tendring District Council took little or no notice of planning comments submitted by Parish Councils.

Cllr. Talbot had addressed the meeting with regard to the 8 party groups with Tendring District Council and the difficulty in allocating seats proportionately based on a group's numbers.

After the meeting Cllr. Talbot had been approached by members of Little Clacton Parish Council concerning Speed Watch. Cllr. Talbot informed them of the success of the St Osyth group and suggested that they contact the Clerk for further information.

- f. **District Council Report:** The Clerk narrated the report as submitted by Cllr. Talbot:

Due to the County and General elections there was little to report.

The District Local Plan, which was at its final stage, had been given priority, and presented to the Local Plans Committee on Monday 12th June, at which it was agreed unanimously. Subsequently, on Tuesday 13th June, a special Cabinet was held to consider the Plan. That too was agreed unanimously.

At the Full Council meeting to consider the Plan, being held on 15th June, it was hoped to get the unanimous support of all 60 members, to enforce the view with the Planning Inspector that this is not a Political Party Local Plan, rather the view of all elected Councillors, irrespective of their Party affiliations.

g. **Community Speed Watch:**

i) Cllr. Kemp informed all present that during a recent Speed Watch session, some 30 vehicles, all of which were travelling in excess of the speed limit, had been recorded in 40 minutes.

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

Between 15th May 2017 and 12th June 2017, there were 99 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 38.4 mph.

1. Clacton Road:
33 recordings with an average speed of 37.9 mph

2. Mill Street:
66 recordings with an average speed of 38.9 mph

Total for St Osyth: 99 recordings (average speed of 38.4 mph)

G-17-046 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED TRUSTEESHIPS REPRESENTATIVES:

a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** No report given.

b. **Bradwell Power Station:** No report given.

c. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** A meeting of the St Osyth Playing Field Charity having taken place prior to the meeting of the Council, no report given.

d. **Point Clear Community Association:** Nothing to report.

e. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Kemp informed the Council that the Chairman of the Committee was researching suitable bollards / signs for the front of the Hall. Cllr. Kemp added that due to problems with one of the Annex doors, a new door was to be fitted.

G-17-047 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES (ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL):

Having arrived at 8.15 pm due to attending the Ordinary meeting of Brightlingsea Town Council, Cllr. Goggin informed the Council of the following:

a. That due to a change of Portfolio Holder at Essex County, there were a number of changes to the Local Highway Panels, which would see the membership of the panel being 4 County Councillors and 4 District Councillors. He continued that the meetings would now commence at 2 pm as opposed to 5 pm, members of the public would have to have a formal invitation to attend and that any questions would have to be submitted at least 7 days prior to the meeting, which in the case of Tendring District had been postponed from 8th June to 29th June 2017.

- b. That having been elected as the County Councillor for the next 4 years, he would very much like to meet with the Parish Council to discuss and plan for accordingly, issues with which he could assist the Parish Council.

G-17-048 LENGTH OF REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS AND REPRESENTATIVES:

The Chairman informed the Council that during several recent meetings of the Parish Council, a number of reports by Councillors had been deemed by those present to be too lengthy and of little relevance to the actual Parish. Following a discussion, during which time all present were asked for their opinion, it was agreed that for a trial period of 3 months, Councillors reports be limited to 2 minutes. Reports by District and County Councillors would be limited to 3 and 5 minutes respectively.

RESOLVED: That Councillors reports be limited to 2, 3 and 5 minutes for Parish, District and County Councillors respectively, and that in all cases there would be the opportunity for questions to be asked and for responses to be given.

G-17-049 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT – ST JOHN’S PLANT CENTRE:

The Chairman informed the Council of the recent meeting with Chris Stathers, Enforcement Team Leader, Tendring District Council, during which it had been agreed that Mr Stathers would write to the agent acting on behalf of the owner of the garden centre giving them 21 days to submit an application or risk enforcement action. The Chairman concluded that if not such application was received by 23rd June, TDC would commence enforcement action.

G-17-050 POINT CLEAR BAY:

The Clerk informed the Council of recent correspondence from a resident of Point Clear Bay, in which dog fouling and the use of bicycles along the sea wall were raised. The Clerk informed the Council that the Parish Council had facilitated the posting of notices with regard to dog fouling and that the Chairman had liaised with the District Council Dog Warden. The Clerk continued that the matter of bicycles being used along the Public Right of Way along the sea wall had been brought to the attention of the County Council and Environment Agency, authorities which were responsible for the Public Rights of Way and sea wall respectively.

G-17-051 VILLAGE CAR PARK:

The Chairman informed the Council that although both village surgeries had submitted Expression of Interest forms to the Clinical Commissioning Group. The Clinical Commissioning Group suggested that the Parish Council contact them in 3 months.

G-17-052 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL – YOUTH BUS:

The Chairman informed the Council that although there had been plenty of younger children in Cowley Park on the day of the Youth Bus visit, there had not been any children of the age group sought by the County Council. The Chairman continued that the visit had at least facilitated a meeting between representatives of the County Council and a resident interested in restarting the village Youth Club.

G-17-053 PRIORY COSTS CLAIM:

The Chairman gave an overview of the costs claim hearing of 7th June 2017, together with the total amount to be paid by the Parish Council in respect of the costs claim:

Partial costs awarded against St Osyth Parish Council by Planning Inspector:

Total amount paid (inclusive of VAT and interest): £25,210.87

Legal costs claimed against St Osyth Parish Council:

Total amount paid in respect of High Court hearings: £3,734.76

Total amount paid by St Osyth Parish Council: £28,945.63

The Chairman then informed the Council of the invitation to the St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust stakeholder's presentation, to be held on Tuesday 4th July 2017, received by the Clerk. Following a discussion between Councillors, it was agreed that there should be no Council representation at the 'closed' stakeholder's presentation, however, it was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr's Kemp and Talbot meet to decide if they should attend the public session.

G-17-054 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. The Chairman informed the Council that she had yet to hear from Cath Bicknell, Head of Planning, Tendring District Council, in respect of the Section 106 agreement pertaining to the Priory.
- b. Cllr. Kelly informed the Council that a hoax incident, which required the presence of the emergency services, had occurred earlier that day at the Orchards Holiday Park.

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 15th June 2017		
G-17-041 d	Colchester Road Trees	Clk to write to ECC
G-17-045 b	Cycle Path	Clk to write to resident
G-17-048	Length of Cllr's Reports	3 Month trial period

Signature: Signed on Original
SW Grantham
Chairman