



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 20th July 2017 at 7.15 pm

PRESENT:

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

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (Arrived at 8.30 pm)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Sonia Grantham (Holiday)
Cllr. Peverell (Post Surgery Recuperation)
Cllr. John White (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) meeting)

MINUTES:

Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

G-17-055 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

G-17-056 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a)	16/01985/FUL Mr M Skeels 138 Colne Way Point Clear Bay	Proposed replacement dwelling following demolition of existing. Amended Plans. The Parish Council would reaffirm its comments of 19 th January and 18 th May 2017, in that there are objections on the basis that the application as submitted is not in keeping with similar dwellings in the vicinity. Additionally, the proposed site plan would suggest overdevelopment of a small site, given that the new dwelling would seemingly extend to the physical boundary of the property, which it is believed would impede the vision of road users. The Parish Council would be minded to accept additional plans, if they address the issue of appearance and the proposed dwelling were moved back from the road.

b)	17/00937/FUL Mr Richard Barlow 41 Dumont Avenue St Osyth	Proposed single storey front extension and porch. No objections.
c)	17/01000/FUL Mr & Mrs K Gill Wensley Stud Rectory Road, Weeley Heath	Alteration to approved planning permission 17/00063/FUL. No objections.
d)	17/01017/FUL Mrs L Burgess 37 Tower Estate Point Clear Bay	Variation of condition 2 of TEN/148/1950 to change property use from holiday to full residential. No objections.
e)	17/01040/FUL Mr & Mrs B Chapman 11 Longfields, St Osyth	Single storey rear extension. No objections.
f)	17/01045/FUL Mr V Jordan Milldam - 14 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Proposed erection of a summer house outbuilding. Objections on the basis that the proposed outbuilding is deemed too large. Councillors expressed concern that the inclusion of kitchen and W/C facilities could allow for the outbuilding to be converted to a habitable dwelling, which in turn could lead to overdevelopment of the site.
g)	17/01079/OUT Mr I Harris 98 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Proposed erection of 3 no. detached single storey bungalows with associated garaging and parking, following demolition of existing dwelling. No objections.
h)	17/00993/TCA Mr S Sayer 49 Mill Street St Osyth	1 No. Beech - cut back. 1 No. yew - fell or prune. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
i)	17/00009/TPO Tendring District Council Land south of Plough Lodge Rectory Road Weeley Heath	Tree Preservation Order in accordance with Sect 198, Town & Country Planning Act 1990. The Parish Council fully supports the implementation of the Preservation Order.
j)	17/00010/TPO Tendring District Council Land adjacent to 17 Withrick Walk St Osyth	Tree Preservation Order in accordance with Sect 198, Town & Country Planning Act 1990. The Parish Council fully supports the implementation of the Preservation Order.
k)	17/00946/LUPROP Bourne Leisure Limited The Orchards Holiday Village Colne Way, Point Clear Bay	Static caravans on existing touring area. <i>For information only – no comment required.</i>
l)	17/00953/HHPNOT Mr M Dow 9 Withrick Walk St Osyth	Erection of a single storey conservatory, 4m in depth and 3.6m in height. <i>For information only – no comment required.</i>

m)	<p>Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/17/3175764 17/00112/OUT Mr E Greig Land at Heath Road Chisbon Heath</p>	<p>Outline application for up to 4 No. dwellings.</p> <p>The Parish Council reaffirms its comments of 20th February 2017.</p> <p>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 dismissed on 12th 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.</p>
n)	<p>Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/17/3176773 17/00357/OUT R Gibson and Sons Land to South of Heath Road St Osyth</p>	<p>Outline planning application for three detached dwellings.</p> <p>The Parish Council reaffirms its comments of 25th April 2017. Councillors raised a number of objections, which included concerns as to the size of the plot, which was considered to be too small in relation to the number of proposed properties. Following a vote, the Council voted 7 to 3 against, with 1 Councillor abstaining.</p>

G-17-057 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 15th June 2017 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Vice-Chairman as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Blockley. All agreed.

G-17-058 UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. G-17-041 d. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to Essex County Council concerning the removal of the vegetation/trees from along Colchester Road, but had yet to receive a response.
- b. G-17-045 b. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the resident in respect of the enquiry about a cycle path.
- c. G-17-048. The Clerk reminded Councillors that the length of reports was subject to a 3 month trial.
- d. G-17-050. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that the posting of notices with regard to dog fouling in Point Clear Bay had been very successful.

G-17-059 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

G-17-060 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) Notification of Decisions (Determinations) 9th June 2017 to 7th July 2017.
- b. Correspondence from TDC regarding Holiday Park Residency.
- c. Correspondence from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England concerning Electoral Review of Tendring (Final Recommendations).
- d. Correspondence from Essex County Council concerning Permitted Parking Amendment.

G-17-061 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Vice-Chairman reported that the blooms were looking good.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Martins Farm Country Park:** The notes of the meeting of 8th June 2017 having been previously circulated, the Vice-Chairman invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** The notes of the meeting of 8th June 2017 having been previously circulated, the Vice-Chairman invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming.

The Clerk informed the Council that the notes of the meeting of 13th July 2017 would be received at the Ordinary meeting of the Council scheduled for 17th August 2017.

G-17-062 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for April 2017.
 - 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.

The Clerk informed the Council that the statistics for May 2017 had yet to be published on the Police.UK website and would therefore be received at the Ordinary meeting of the Council scheduled for 17th August 2017.

- b. **Footpaths:** No report given.
- c. **Planters & Litter Bins:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. French reported that he would resolve several matters which had been brought to his attention.
- e. **TDALC:** Cllr. Talbot reported that the last meeting of the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) had taken place on 19th July 2017, during which the Chief Executive, Joy Derby and the President, John Gilly- Ross had been the guests during their Annual Visit to Tendring. Both had addressed the meeting and taken questions from representatives of the Parishes present. The main thrust of questions had been the state of the roads in Tendring with unattended pot holes and road cracks etc, being top of the agenda. One criticism of Essex County Council had been that their 'partner' Contractor seemed to be in charge of what was being done and not the County Council.

Cllr. Talbot continued that during the morning of 20th July 2017, he had attended the Executive meeting of the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) in Great Dunmow. It had been a busy agenda, but most of the reports centred on the finance report being prepared for the AGM on Tuesday 19th September 2017. Members had been encouraged to make sure that all Parish Council members were aware of the date and that Parishes send as many of its members as expressed an interest in attending. One of the recommendations to the AGM would be the increase of Essex subscriptions by 1.9% which would raise £1,500 across Essex. It was understood that the National Association would also be proposing an increase in subs of 1.9%, which would give an extra £3,000 in subscriptions which would be shared by the 292 Towns and Parishes in Essex.

- f. **District Council Report:** Cllr. Talbot reported that the District Council was still in a period of changed and abandoned meetings, which had made way for the two recent elections. During this 'catch up' period, the Council had experienced a number of clashes that had affected every member (as an example Cllr. Talbot added that on 19th July he had attended a meeting of The Big Society Fund at 6.00 pm then the TDALC meeting in Beaumont cum Moze at 7.30 pm)

Cllr. Talbot continued that there was a problem of confidentiality surrounding some reports received by Members. The word was treated with little respect by some members who were using private information on Twitter or Facebook with impunity, with some even giving interviews to the media, presumably to enhance their own personal position. This was, Cllr. Talbot stated, how it is going to be in future, as people came into public life without any respect for the public they purport to represent. Another example of changing times was that a member, annoyed no doubt that his view had not been taken seriously by an Officer, had complained to the Police that the Officer had given false information to a Committee to secure, what the member thought, was a wrong result.

Cllr. Talbot stated that he held the view that all Officers performed their role and duties role for the District Council in accordance with policy agreed in general terms by the Council and in detail by their respective Head of Department. The very thought of challenging the integrity or honesty of advice given to members by an officer at a Committee meeting was absolutely opposed to all he [Cllr. Talbot] stood for.

Cllr. Talbot continued that he was currently having a re-evaluation of Tendring's understanding of what was private or public land. The reason was that only the District Council could prosecute an offender and offer the alternative of a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN), instead of going before a Court. The issue for Cllr. Talbot was that fly-tipping was a criminal not a civil offence. The District Council maintained that they could only serve FPN's on public land and roads and not on private land, such as the Parish Cemetery, which was classed as private, despite being open 24 hrs per day. Cllr. Talbot added that land and buildings owned by a public authority such as a Town or Parish were as much public land as anything owned by the District Council. Cllr. Talbot gave an example using Great Bentley Village Green. He concluded by informing the Council that the District Councils legal department had been instructed to see why the present policy was in place and what could be done to change it.

g. Community Speed Watch:

- i) Cllr. Kemp reminded all present that during a recent Speed Watch session, some 30 vehicles had been recorded, all of which were travelling in excess of the speed limit. He continued that a representative of Essex Police had been in attendance on several occasions and that having used a TruCam device, a number of prosecutions were pending.

A conversation then followed as to the activities of the Speed Watch Group and the support now being given by Essex Police.

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

Between 12th June 2017 and 17th July 2017, there were 196 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 39.3 mph.

1. Clacton Road:
158 recordings with an average speed of 39.5 mph

1. Mill Street:
38 recordings with an average speed of 39.1 mph

Total for St Osyth: 196 recordings (average speed of 39.3 mph)

G-17-063 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:** Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that the area of and surrounding the practice nets was to be repaired in the near future. She continued that a second football team had expressed interest in using Cowley Park and that Music of the Meadow was being held on Saturday 22nd July 2017.
- d. **Point Clear Community Association:**
 - i) Cllr. Blockley enquired if the 'Capitation' Grant was going to be paid in October, as per previous years. The Clerk stated that he would clarify this for the August meeting.
 - ii) Cllr. Blockley then raised the concerns of a number of residents in respect of overgrown vegetation and parking in Dumont Avenue, which meant that residents were having to walk into the road. The Clerk stated that he would liaise with Essex Highways and Essex Police respectively.
- e. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Kemp informed the Council that there were issues surrounding the parking of vehicles in the car park, which on a number of occasions had meant that hirers of the hall had been unable to park. Cllr. Kemp added that a new door was due to be fitted in the Annex on 31st July 2017.

G-17-064 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	£ 62,041.12
Deposit	£ 49,789.81
Special Project	£ 3,016.15
- c. The Clerk informed the Council that the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 12th July 2017 would be received at the Ordinary meeting of the Council scheduled for 17th August 2017.
- d. The Clerk added that the Council should be aware that the Finance Committee had recommended the funding of the final repair to the War Memorial, which Councillors had discussed during the Annual Parish Appraisal on 28th June 2017.

G-17-065 CEMETERY COMMITTEE:

Having been previously circulated the Minutes of the meeting of 5th July 2017, were noted. The Vice-Chairman invited comments from the Council. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that the Chairman was continuing to press Essex Police for a prosecution in respect of the recent fly-tipping within the Cemetery.

G-17-066 NOTIFICATION OF MOTIONS FOR EALC AGM:

The Clerk informed the Council that any motions to be put to the EALC AGM, to be held on 19th September 2017 would be required by 17th August 2017.

G-17-067 ADOPTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:

The District Council's Social Media Policy, as approved by the Standards Committee on 28th June 2017, having been previously circulated, the Clerk informed the Council of the need to consider a similar policy.

RESOLVED: That St Osyth Parish Council adopts the Tendring District Council Social Media Policy. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All agreed.

Cllr. Talbot requested that the Clerk write to Lisa Hastings, TDC Legal Services Manager to inform her of the decision of the Parish Council.

G-17-068 ADVERTISING ON ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE:

The Clerk informed the Council of a recent request to advertise on the Councils website. He continued that following a discussion with the Chairman, the latter had requested that the Council discuss the matter with a view to adopting a policy. A discussion took place, during which Councillors agreed that the website should only carry adverts/information relating to events for Not for Profit Organisations within the Parish.

The Clerk informed the Council that he would draft a policy for consideration by the Council.

G-17-069 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES (ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL):

Having arrived at 8.30 pm due to attending the Ordinary meeting of Brightlingsea Town Council, Cllr. Goggin informed the Council of the following:

- a. The membership and terms of reference of the Local Highways Panel.
- b. The prioritisation and control of works by Essex Highways / Ringway Jacobs, the latter of which all present considered to be 'calling the shots'.

G-17-070 COUNCILLOR'S TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

The Clerk reminded the Council of the 'modular' training courses offered by EALC, adding that the last training had been held in February 2016. The Clerk requested that Councillors choose their preferred modules and inform him of their choice by the end of July, to allow for training to be booked.

G-17-071 CLACTON STAGE RALLY:

The Clerk informed the Council of a recent request by a representative of the Clacton Stage Rally to the Chairman, to attend a Council meeting in order to brief Councillors on the event to be held in June 2018. All agreed.

G-17-072 TENDRING DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN – PUBLICATION DRAFT:

The Clerk informed the Council that having read through the Publication Draft, he had extracted all information pertaining to St Osyth, which was subsequently presented to Councillors by way of a powerpoint presentation. The Clerk gave an overview of the Draft, explaining how it would affect the Parish. He added that he had confirmed his understanding of the Local Plan with Gary Guiver, Tendring District Council Planning Policy Manager and Cllr. Talbot.

The Clerk continued that he would forward a copy of the presentation to Councillors and requested that any comments, questions or concerns be returned to him by 27th July, so as to enable him to formulate a response on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillors thanked the Clerk for the time and effort he had taken to explain the Local Plan Publication Draft.

G-17-073 PRIORY COSTS CLAIM:

In the absence of the Chairman, the Clerk informed the Council that Mr Afqar Dean, the Lawyer who had represented the Parish Council throughout the recent Costs Claim, had informed the Chairman that he had waived his fees in respect of the hearing at the High Court on 7th June 2017. The Clerk continued that whilst the Chairman had personally thanked Mr Dean, the Chairman had requested that the Clerk inform the Council of Mr Deans very generous act and that the Clerk write to thank Mr Dean on behalf of the Council. All agreed.

G-17-074 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Cooper narrated a recent newspaper article in respect of St Osyth Priory and the Trust formed by the Sargeant Family.
- b. The Clerk informed the Council of a recent attempt by travellers to access the Wellwick site.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.20 pm.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 20th July 2017		
G-17-062	Crime Statistics for May 2017	Clk to action
G-17-063 d i	Capitation Grant	Clk to confirm at August meeting
G-17-063 d ii	Overgrown Vegetation & Parking	Clk to liaise with ECH & Police
G-17-067	Social Media Policy	Clk to action & write to TDC
G-17-068	Advertising of Events on Website	Clk to draft policy
G-17-070	Cllr's Training Requirements	Cllr's to inform Clk by 31 st July
G-17-072	Tendring Local Plan	Cllr's to inform Clk by 27 th July
G-17-073	Priory Costs Claim	Clk to write to Mr Dean

Signature: Signed on Original
SW Grantham
Chairman