



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 21st September 2017 at 7.25 pm

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

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (Arrived at 8.20 pm)

MINUTES: Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: One

G-17-099 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. Kemp declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Applications 17/01365/FUL and 17/01446/FUL.

Cllr. Blockley declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Occupancy Restrictions in Point Clear Bay.

Cllr. Kelly declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Applications 17/01268/FUL, 17/01474/FUL and Occupancy Restrictions in Point Clear Bay.

Cllr. Peverell declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Applications 17/01268/FUL, 17/01474/FUL, Occupancy Restrictions in Point Clear Bay and St Osyth Priory.

G-17-100 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a)	17/01268/FUL Miss A Fleet 112 Colne Way Point Clear Bay	Variation of Condition 2 of ENE/TEN/119G/59 to allow permanent occupancy until the end of September 2018. Following a discussion as to the inconsistency of conditions for the many properties within Point Clear Bay, and due to the circumstances surrounding the application, the Council voted in favour of the application, with 10 Councillors supporting, 1 objecting and 1 abstention.

		The Council did however request that, if approved, the permission should only be granted until September 2018, as requested in the application. Thereafter Condition 2 of ENE/TEN/119G/59 should be reinstated until such time as the occupancy restrictions currently subject of Breach of Condition Notices are resolved.
b)	17/01342/FUL Mr S Howe 74 Colchester Road St Osyth	Proposed 2 storey extension to rear of garage, following demolition of existing single storey games room. Strong objections on the basis that this application is deemed a gross overdevelopment of a property within a Conservation Area. The height of the proposed property would impact on neighbouring properties and on the street scene. Additionally there are concerns that the extension could in time be converted to a separate dwelling.
c)	17/01362/FUL Mr & Mrs B Chapman 11 Longfields St Osyth	Resubmission of previously approved planning permission 17/01040/FUL - Single storey rear extension (Amendment to approval 17/01040/FUL external finish facing brickwork.) No objections.
d)	17/01365/FUL Mr Jacobs c/o Stanfords (Agent) Lower Heath Farm Rectory Road, St Osyth	Replacement dwelling. No objections.
e)	17/01404/FUL Mr M Konrath 57 St Clairs Road, St Osyth	Proposed rear extension. No objections.
f)	17/01413/TPO Mr T Yarrow Haddon Lodge Oakmead Road St Osyth	1 No. Willow – reduce the height to 6 metres or fell. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
g)	17/01417/LBC Mr W Bliak 54 Mill Street, St Osyth	Internal alterations. No objections.
h)	17/01446/FUL Miss Brotzman Land to the rear of Hartley Wood Farm, St Osyth	Erection of barn with hardstanding and relocation of existing stables. No objections.
i)	17/01474/FUL Mr M Skeels 138 Colne Way Point Clear Bay	Replacement dwelling (following demolition of existing). Strong objections on the basis that the proposed property is excessive in size and does not provide adequate amenity space.

		Additionally there are still concerns that the position of the proposed development, set forward on the plot, could impact on or obstruct the vision of drivers approaching the junction from Western Promenade.
j)	17/01470/COUNOT Mr I Low Lodge Farm, Clacton Road St Osyth	Conversion of agricultural building into a dwelling house. <i>Noted - for information only.</i>

Having listened to the Councils response to Planning Applications, the member of the public departed the meeting.

G-17-101 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) Notification of Decisions (Determinations) 11th August 2017 to 8th September 2017.
- b. Correspondence from TDC regarding the approval of Planning Application 17/00010/TPO.
- c. Correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate regarding the dismissal of Appeal APP/P1560/W/17/3176773 (TDC 17/00357/OUT) Land south of Heath Road, St Osyth.
- d. Correspondence from Mr & Mrs Ranson regarding Planning Application 17/01342/FUL.
- e. Correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate regarding the dismissal of Appeal APP/P1560/W/17/3175764 (TDC 17/00112/OUT) Land at Heath Road, St Osyth.

G-17-102 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 17th August 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. Peverell. All agreed.

G-17-103 UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. G-17-079 d. The Clerk informed the Council that the draft Social Media policy would be discussed during the course of the meeting.
- b. G-17-079 e. The Clerk informed the Council that the draft policy for advertising on the Councils website would be discussed during the course of the meeting.
- c. G-17-079 f. The Clerk informed the Council that Councillors training would be discussed during the course of the meeting.

- d. G-17-083 c. Cllr. Ward informed the Council that the Chairman had arranged for a number of bins to be pressure washed.
- e. G-17-083 e. The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr. Talbot had attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the EALC.
- f. G-17-084 e. The Clerk informed the Council that the subject of air conditioning would be discussed during the course of the meeting.
- g. G-17-086. The Clerk reminded the Council that the motion put to the EALC AGM, by the Parish Council, in respect of Councillors Allowances had in fact been in 2015. Cllr. Talbot stated that there was no update, other than having been supported by both the EALC and the National Association of Local Councillors (NALC), the motion had been put to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).
- h. G-17-089. Cllr. Ward informed the Council that the questionnaire in respect of the use of Dumont Avenue Play Area would be distributed in the near future.
- i. G-17-090. Cllr. Ward informed the Council that the removal of items from the Cemetery would be carried out in October.
- j. G-17-092. The Clerk informed the Council that the Casual Vacancy would be discussed during the course of the meeting.
- k. G-17-095. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that Neil Stock, Leader of Tendring District Council had agreed to meet with residents of Point Clear Bay to discuss Occupancy Restrictions.
- l. G-17-096. The Chairman informed the Council that the Sargeant family had submitted an application for the naming of the road leading to phase one of Planning Application 16/00656/FUL, the name being Westfield Lane. The Chairman continued the name reflected the Sargeant families desire to maintain a historic link to the Priory, however, the Chairman suggested that the Council recommend West Field Lane, to show that the area was in fact the West Field of the Priory estate. All agreed.
- m. G-17-098 c. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the Environment Agency in respect of the removal of the overflow pipe within the Orchards Holiday Park, but that neither he [the Clerk] or Cllr. Talbot had yet received a response. The Clerk stated that he would liaise with the Environment Agency.

G-17-104 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

G-17-105 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from Tendring District Council regarding the Crucial Crew event.

- b. Correspondence from Essex County Council (ECC) regarding Fostering in Essex.
- c. Correspondence from TDC regarding Traffic Regulation Order TRO6121-096a.
- d. Correspondence from the Royal Mail Group in respect of the siting of a new post box. The Chairman then informed the Council of a recent meeting with Paul Bent, Royal Mail Collections Sector Manager, on 20th September 2017, during which several possible locations were discussed.
- e. Correspondence from Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust regarding grant funding. The Chairman suggested that this request be considered by the Finance Committee at its next meeting. All agreed.
- f. Correspondence from Essex County Highways in respect of the Service Delivery Survey.
- g. Traffic Regulation Order TRO6121-096a.
- h. Correspondence from Mrs Brittain regarding parking.
- i. Correspondence from Mrs Nunn regarding village concerns.

G-17-106 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman informed the Council that with the exception of those in Church Square and outside of the Village Hall, both of which still looked good, the planters were in the process of being emptied. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Blockley for watering the planters.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** The Chairman informed the Council that a meeting was to be arranged.
- c. **Martins Farm Country Park:** The Chairman informed the Council that the next meeting was scheduled for 28th September 2017.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** The Chairman informed the Council that the next meeting was scheduled for 27th September 2017.

G-17-107 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.35 pm due to attending the Ordinary meeting of Brightlingsea Town Council, Cllr. Goggin informed the Council of the following:
 - i) The success of the recent Air Show.
 - ii) The simplifying of the Local Highways Panel and the links for individual briefing notes on the Essex County Council website.

- iii) That the final costings for the proposed improvements to the crossroads would be completed by the end of September 2017.
 - iv) That Essex Highways Officers would be delivering a training session for District and Parish Councillors on 14th November 2017. He added that two spaces would be available for each Council.
 - v) That a consultation in respect of mobile libraries was ongoing until 6th November 2017.
- b. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for June 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.
 - iii) The Clerk then gave an overview of reported crimes for the months of April to June 2017.
- b. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Peverell informed the Council that she had met with Jim Bartley, ECC Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Engineer to discuss repairs to Footpath 5, which would include the removal of the step and installation of a ramp at the entrance to the footpath, adjacent to Mill Dam Lake. She continued that she had requested Jim Bartley inspect the crack along Footpath 25.
- c. **Planters & Litter Bins:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. French informed the Council that he had received a number of complaints about the weeds growing along the kerbs. The Chairman informed all present that TDC would be spraying the weeds week commencing 25th September 2017.
- e. **TDALC:** Cllr. Talbot reported that the AGM of the Essex Association of Local Councils had been held in Great Dunmow on Tuesday 19th September between midday and 5.30 pm. He continued that it had been a good meeting with the current officers continuing in their present roles. The proposed increase in subs by 1.9% was approved '*nem con*' and the meeting noted that the National Association was also proposing a 1.9% increase in their charge to the County Associations.

The Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) had met on Wednesday 20th September 2017, during which Cath Bicknell, TDC Head of Planning, had given a presentation and answered questions on the Local Plan, sustainable Development, What is 'Affordable' Housing and the latest hiatus in the District Councils planning procedures, with an Inspector granting an appeal in Centenary Way and dismissing Tendring's claim to have a five year supply of housing sites.

Joy Darby, EALC Chief Executive Officer, had also attended to explain and answer questions on the Community Governance Review (CGR), following a letter sent to all Parish and Town Clerks over the Leader Neil Stock's signature, suggesting changes in the Parish Council structures and the number of members each council has, which some considered a threat to Parish Councils autonomy.

f. **District Council Report:**

- i) Cllr. Talbot reported that as briefed at the August meeting, 36 properties had been served with Enforcement Notices instructing the occupiers to leave their homes during certain winter dates because of flood risks associated with a 58 year old planning permission. He continued that this was similar to the Breach of Conditions Notices served in 2012 on 32 different properties, some owners of which had in the past few days been reminded that they were in breach of conditions and were asked for private and personal information about the present occupiers of the respective properties.

He continued that in a situation where there was a chronic shortage of housing, why did TDC want to remove these residents and put them, presumably, in temporary accommodation, when the properties with ownership in perpetuity were in freehold ownership, unlike caravans or holiday lets which were subject to an annual lease or rent.

The properties which were substantial and properly built, were being treated as if they were caravans.

Cllr. Talbot went on to inform the Council that both he and Cllr. White had attended an excellent presentation by Dr Shane Gordon, Director of Clinical Integration, about the merger of Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals, the timetable of various events and major improvements in service.

- ii) Cllr. White informed the Council of the recent appeal at which a Planning Inspector had granted permission for the building of 90 properties near Little Clacton, despite the Council being able to demonstrate a 5.1 year supply of housing. He continued that TDC were taking legal advice with a view to requesting a Judicial Review.

g. **Community Speed Watch:**

- i) Cllr. Kemp informed the Council that several new volunteers had joined the Speed Watch group. Cllr. Talbot remarked that residents were grateful for the efforts of the Speed Watch teams.
- ii) At the request of the Chairman, Cllr. Cooper gave a breakdown of the statistics:

Between 14th August 2017 and 21st September 2017, there were 15 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 37.4 mph.

1. Colchester Road:
13 recordings with an average speed of 37.9 mph

Total for St Osyth: 13 recordings (average speed of 37.9 mph)

2. Point Clear Road (near Beacon Way):
2 recordings with an average speed of 37 mph

Total for Point Clear: 2 recordings

G-17-108 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED TRUSTEESHIPS REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Nothing to report.
- b. **Bradwell Power Station:** Cllr. White gave an overview of recent events which meant that Bradwell was now in a 'Care and Maintenance' state. He added that there was a possibility of a new build at some stage in the future.
- c. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Point Clear Community Association:** Nothing to report.
- e. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Kemp informed the Council that a quarterly meeting of the Management Committee was due, at which he would enquire as to the installation of bollards at the front of the hall.

G-17-109 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	£ 50,183.34
Deposit	£ 49,789.81
Special Project	£ 3,016.15

G-17-110 TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL SPECIAL EXPENSES:

The Clerk informed the Council of the need to consider applying for special expenses. It was proposed by Cllr. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. Kemp that no special expenses were needed. All agreed.

G-17-111 TENDRING DISTRICT COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW:

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk informed Councillors of the recent correspondence from the District Council and his subsequent conversation with TDC staff, during which time it was ascertained that:

- a. The current review by the District Council was not a formal consultation, instead TDC were merely trying to ascertain the views of residents in unparished areas such as Clacton, following a motion by a District Councillor for the formation of a Town Council for Clacton.
- b. Additionally, following the Boundary Commission Review, a number of Parish Councils had suggested that they had either too many or not enough seats on their respective Councils.
- c. That the steps currently being taken by TDC were to establish the need for a formal Community Governance Review.

Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that the figures being used by NALC were some 20 years old, and could therefore not be deemed reliable.

Following a discussion, all present agreed that the Council should retain 13 Councillors. The Clerk was requested to liaise with the District Council.

G-17-112 OCCUPANCY RESTRICTIONS:

Cllr. Blockley reported on the meeting of Point Clear Bay residents, served with Breach of Condition Notices, held at the Oakmead Club, Point Clear, on Saturday 26th August 2017. Cllr. Talbot reminded the Council of the forthcoming meeting, in November, between residents and Cllr. Neil Stock.

G-17-113 COUNCILLORS TRAINING:

The Clerk informed the Council that he was awaiting the availability of Joy Darby, Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) before arranging a date for Councillors training.

G-17-114 CO-OPTION TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY FOR POINT CLEAR WARD:

The Clerk informed the Council that having received confirmation from TDC that no election had been called, the Council was able to Co-Opt for the Casual Vacancy in Point Clear. He continued that three residents had expressed interest in the vacancy. The Chairman added that the three candidates would be interviewed on a date to be decided. All agreed.

G-17-115 COUNCIL MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE:

The Clerk informed the Council that the Maintenance Employee, Mr Ray De'ath, had given formal notice effective from 21st August 2017, of his intent to resign from the Council, his final day being 21st September 2017. The Chairman continued that Mr De'ath had worked for the Council for 24 years and that he had been an asset to the Council.

G-17-116 PARISH COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:

RESOLVED: That the Council adopt the Social Media policy, as circulated. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. French. All agreed.

G-17-117 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE POLICY:

RESOLVED: That the Council adopt the Website policy, as circulated. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.

G-17-118 PROVISION OF AIR CONDITIONING FOR THE PARISH OFFICE:

The Clerk informed the Council that having received a quotation for the supply and installation of a fixed air conditioning unit, he was awaiting confirmation as to the cost of yearly maintenance. He continued that having researched portable units and evaporative coolers, the fixed unit although more expensive, in terms of cost, would take less space within the office. The Clerk concluded that he would notify the Council of the maintenance cost once known.

G-17-119 REQUEST FOR A MEMORIAL BENCH:

Correspondence having been previously circulated, the Council considered a request from Mr K Guilder in respect of a Memorial Bench in memory of the late Ron Ramsey, to be positioned near Mill Dam Lake. The Clerk was requested to write to Mr Guilder. All agreed.

G-17-120 WILLOW PLANTATION:

The Chairman informed the Council of the need to have one of the trees felled, after the Clerk had received a telephone call advising him that a tree was leaning towards a house in Brookvale. The Chairman continued that due to having concerns as to the height of some of the trees within the plantation, she felt it would be sensible to have the area looked at with a view to getting professional advice as to whether to fell any more trees.

G-17-121 VILLAGE CAR PARK:

The Chairman reminded the Council of the proposal by a local landowner to address the lack of a village car park, and that as part of the proposal both of the village surgeries had submitted an Expression of Interest to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) concerning the provision of a Health Centre. The Chairman continued that as it was likely to be in excess of a year before any decision was made by the CCG, it would be sensible to consider the car park as a separate entity. The Chairman added that the landowner would cover all costs associated with the car park if supported by the Parish Council and provided that an application for 10 / 12 houses was approved by the District Council.

G-17-122 ST OSYTH PRIORY:

The Chairman informed the Council that a meeting was arranged with the District Council and Historic England to discuss plans for the Priory, especially the proposal for a second wedding venue and guest accommodation.

G-17-123 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. The Chairman informed the Council that at the recent meeting of the Earls Hall Farm Community Benefit Fund it had been ascertained that the fund had only received a few applications. The Chairman continued that as a number of organisations weren't properly constituted, they were unable to submit applications, therefore it had been agreed that organisations such as the Parish Council or Village Hall Management Committee could submit applications on their behalf, an example being the VHMC obtaining mats for use by the Carpet Bowls Club. The Chairman added that the Parish Council could apply for funding for the Christmas Lights on behalf of the Business Association. All agreed.

G-17-124 POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER:

The Clerk informed the Council of a recent email from Little Clacton Parish Council, suggesting that along with Little Clacton, St Osyth join with Weeley and Thorpe Le Soken to fund a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). He continued that having discussed the matter further, Little Clacton Parish Council was considering funding a private security firm. The Clerk added that he had since contacted the Clerks for Alresford and Great Bentley Parish Councils, both of which shared a PCSO, and had been informed that both parishes were very happy with the service being provided by their shared PCSO.

A number of Councillors suggested that they would prefer the option of a private security company, as PCSO's had very little in the way of legal powers. The Chairman remarked that sharing a PCSO between four parishes could prove to be difficult, but that it could be worth investigating further and suggested that it be discussed further at the October meeting and that the Clerk for Alresford Parish Council be invited to address the Council. All agreed.

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 21st September 2017		
G-17-103 i	Removal of Items from Cemetery	Cllr's Smith & Ward to arrange
G-17-103 l	West Field Lane	Clk to liaise with TDC
G-17-103 m	Removal of Overflow Pipe	Clk to liaise with Environment Agency
G-17-106 b	Highways Working Party	Meeting to be arranged
G-17-108 e	Village Hall Bollards	Cllr. Kemp to raise with VHMC
G-17-111	Community Governance Review	Clk to liaise with TDC
G-17-119	Request for Memorial Bench	Clk to write to Mr Guilder
G-17-120	Willow Plantation	Chairman to arrange inspection
G-17-123	Christmas Lights	Clk to write to Community Benefit Fund
G-17-124	PCSO	Clk to liaise with Alresford Parish Council

Signature: [Signed on Original]
SW Grantham
Chairman