



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 19th October 2017 at 7.00 pm

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

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Peverell (Illness)
Cllr. Smith (Illness)

MINUTES: Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

G-17-125 POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER:

Having been invited to address the Council in respect of the funding of a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), Cllr. Linda Belgrove, Alresford Parish Council, informed Councillors of the following:

- a. That Alresford Parish Council had secured the services of a PCSO since the inception of the scheme.
- b. That the overall cost of the PCSO, which Alresford shared with Great Bentley was £37,500.00, with each Parish contributing £18,750.00
- c. That Alresford Parish Council had insisted that the following objectives were met:
 - i) That the PCSO spend the majority of their time visible in the parish, not carrying out administrative duties,
 - ii) That the PCSO have regard to the aims and objectives of the Council,
 - iii) That the PCSO conduct regular patrols of 'hotspots',
 - iv) That the PCSO tackle issues such as Considerate Parking and/or take photos for Police prosecutions,
 - v) That the PCSO provide a monthly log of activities,
 - vi) That only in the event of an emergency such as a serious Road Traffic Collision or the safeguarding of a major scene of crime should the PCSO be extracted from their role, not to cover the shortfall in staff absences elsewhere,

vii) That the PCSO be contactable (via mobile phone) by the Clerk and specified Councillors.

Cllr. Belgrove then briefed the Council as to cuts to the Police service, which included:

- d. That nationally approximately 34,000 Police staff and 20,000 Police officers had been lost through cuts since 2010. This equated to six Essex sized forces.
- e. That Essex currently had 2,885 officers, the number having fallen from 3,636 in 2010.
- f. That due to having to save a further £60m, at least 500 more officers would have to go.
- g. That the Chief Constable had stated that repeat anti-social offenders would be dealt with but his focus had to be on more serious crimes.
- h. That a number of Police stations around the county would also be shut to save money.
- i. That Essex currently employed 2,999 officers, 377 specials, 254 PCSOs and 1,848 other staff, and that salaries accounted for 90% of the budget.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Belgrove for attending and briefing the Parish Council.

Cllr. Belgrove departed the meeting at 7.30 pm.

G-17-126 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. Blockley declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 17/01601/OUT.

G-17-127 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a)	17/01059/FUL Mr Harry Parrish 2 Seaview Parade Seaview Road St Osyth	Proposed front covered canopy (including part demolition of protruding part of arcade), new signage over canopy and proposed loft conversion with front and rear dormers to create 1 no. new dwelling. No objections, subject to the approval of the Flood Risk Assessment by the Environment Agency.

b)	17/01511/FUL Mr & Mrs S Legg Woodview, Clay Lane St Osyth	<p>Demolition of existing garage and erection of new garage, car port and store.</p> <p>No objections, however, it is noted that this is a retrospective application, the development already having begun.</p>
c)	17/01601/OUT Mr R.A, T.R, D.R, A.I Sargeant Land South of Bypass Road & North of Colchester Road St Osyth	<p>Outline application for up to 7 dwellings with all matters reserved other than vehicular access point onto the public highway.</p> <p>Strong objections on the basis that this application would be an overdevelopment of a small site outside of the Settlement Development Boundary, and would be contrary to the District Councils draft Local Plan, in that the proposed development is on land listed as 'safeguarded local green space'.</p> <p>The Parish Council would question the inexplicable decision of the Highways Authority, which has no objection to the application, when there is no scope at all for pedestrian access to the site from the proposed entrance.</p> <p>It is highly likely that there would be at least 1 child living in the development should the application be successful. It should be noted that the children of St Osyth and Point Clear have free transport to and from schools in Clacton, as the lack of any footway past 177 Clacton Road makes this a 'dangerous route'</p> <p>Additionally it is not uncommon for vehicles exiting the village via the Clacton Road junction to have to queue from the junction back to the entrance to the allotments and beyond. Were the development to be permitted this would potentially cause further congestion for vehicles entering the village, as residents of the proposed site would have to wait to turn across the flow of traffic.</p> <p>On the occasions where there is no buildup of traffic, vehicles frequently accelerate past the site of the proposed development, due to the change from 30mph to 40mph, the sign being some 10-15 metres along the road, prior to the proposed entrance.</p> <p>Previous applications for development on and adjacent to this site have been refused. For the reason stated, the Parish Council strongly objects to this application.</p>

d)	17/01636/FUL & 17/01637/LBC Mr Mark Costanza Anvil Cottage Church Square St Osyth	Demolition of existing single storey dining room, to main house and shed adjoining annexe. New single storey extension to house and new single storey extension to annexe. Replacement of existing windows W3 & W4 to main house. Reinstatement of plinth brickwork to main house rear wall. No objections.
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G-17-128 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) Notification of Decisions (Determinations) 15th September 2017 to 6th October 2017.

G-17-129 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 21st September 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. Ward. All agreed.

G-17-130 UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. G-17-103 i. The Clerk informed the Council that this matter had been discussed by the Cemetery Committee, details of which were contained within the Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting of 11th October 2017.
- b. G-17-103 l. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the District Council with regard to the naming of the new road within the Priory development.
- c. G-17-103 m. The Clerk informed the Council that despite having contacted the Environment Agency, he had yet to receive any form of response concerning the removal of the overflow pipe at the Orchards Holiday Park.
- d. G-17-106 b. The Clerk reminded the Council that a meeting of the Highways Working Party had taken place, notes of which had been distributed to Councillors.
- e. G-17-108 e. The Clerk informed the Council that the matter of bollards outside the Village Hall would be raised by Cllr. Kemp during his report in respect of the Village Hall Management Committee.
- f. G-17-111. The Clerk informed the Council that a draft response to the District Council in respect of the Community Governance Review would be presented to the Council during the course of the meeting.

- g. G-17-119. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to Mr Guilders, L&K Funeral Services, in respect of his request for a Memorial Bench.
- h. G-17-120. The Chairman informed the Council that the Willow Plantation had been inspected by a Tree Surgeon; however a further assessment as to the condition of the trees would be carried out by members of the Essex Wildlife Trust.
- i. G-17-123. The Clerk informed the Council that having received a quotation earlier that day in respect of multi-coloured LED rope lighting, which amounted to £6,084.00, he would continue to look at other options including single coloured rope lighting.
- j. G-17-124. The Clerk reminded the Council of the presentation by Cllr. Linda Belgrove in respect of Police Community Support Officers.

G-17-131 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

G-17-132 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from Oil-Cub.co.uk regarding the provision of heating oil to a locally formed Heating Oil Club.

G-17-133 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman informed the Council that the summer flowers had been removed pending the planting of the winter pansies and bulbs.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** Having been previously circulated the notes of the meeting of 3rd October 2017, were noted. The Chairman reminded the Council that certain matters contained within the notes would be discussed later on during the meeting.
- c. **Martins Farm Country Park:** The notes of the meeting of 28th September 2017 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** Having been previously circulated the notes of the meetings of 27th September and 9th October 2017 respectively, were noted. The Chairman informed the Council that she would be using the notes to assist in preparing the draft Management Plan.

G-17-134 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for July and August 2017 respectively.

- 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.

Given the number of offences occurring within the Orchards Holiday Park, which were listed as having occurred in Point Clear Bay, the Chairman suggested that in future Cllr. Kelly list incidents within the Orchards Holiday Park separately.

The Chairman suggested that as over 109 offences had occurred at Seawick Holiday Park during July and August, the Clerk write to Chief Inspector Cole, District Commander so as to highlight the concerns of the Parish Council.

- b. **Footpaths:** In the absence of Cllr. Peverell, the Chairman informed the Council that the vegetation had been cut back along the length of Footpath 5.
- c. **Planters & Litter Bins:** Cllr. Ward informed the Council that the four heritage bins in the centre of the village had been jet washed with a view to having them painted.
- d. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. French informed the Council that he had forwarded a number of photographs of kerbside vegetation and weeds to the Clerk, for the attention of the District Council. Cllr. French then thanked Cllr. Cooper for his assistance in listing the relevant roads affected by such growth.
- e. **TDALC:** Cllr. Talbot reported that neither the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) nor the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) had met since his last report to the Council on 21st September 2017.
- f. **District Council Report:**
 - i) Cllr. White informed the Council the following two recent Appeals, Planning Inspectors had overturned the refusal decision of the District Council, as it could not be proven that the Council had a five year supply of housing. Cllr. White continued that the problem arose as a result of developers being granted permission, commencing but then delaying any works until such time as there was an increase in land value. He added that such developments could not be counted within the five year supply, which could not be used as a reason to refuse planning applications until such time as the figures increased or the Local Plan was approved.

Cllr. White then gave an overview of a number of planning applications, of collectively some 1000 properties, the refusal of which could be overturned by Planning Inspectors, if they took the same stance as used in the two Appeals.

- ii) Cllr. Talbot reported that Cllr. Neil Stock, Leader of the District Council had offered to meet with those property owners or occupiers, on whose behalf Cllr. Talbot had asked a public question at the District Council Meeting on 5th September. Cllr. Talbot continued that the owners or occupiers were from the 36 properties to which he had referred to at the last Parish Council meeting, and that on 16th October, Cllr. Stock had written to him extending the invitation to attend the meeting scheduled for 20th November, to all those owners or occupiers of all the properties in Point Clear Bay who had received notices since 2012.

Cllr. Talbot added that he maintained these properties were different to others, such as those on the Bel-Air Estate or caravans in the village, which were subject to an annual lease or site rent for one year's occupation, as the properties in the Bay were freehold, with ownership in perpetuity and not subject to any third party control over them individually, through annual rent or payment to some other body.

Cllr. Talbot then informed the Council that the District Council had applied to respective Government bodies for grants where government funding for projects was available. The sums ran into millions of pounds and whilst he did not know the details, he awaited the outcome with interest.

Cllr. Talbot then informed the Council that the position of two District Councillors, who had been before a Magistrates Court on criminal charges, had been a hot topic amongst members. The two Councillors in question had also been before the Councils Standards Committee to explain the case made against them for a breach of the 'Members Code of Conduct'. It is true to say that whilst both had been convicted by the Court, the cases were very different and it was this which was the topic about which members had concerns.

g. Community Speed Watch:

- i) Cllr. Kemp informed the Council of recent posts on social media aimed at members of Community Speed Watch, which had been reported to the Police.
- ii) At the request of the Chairman, Cllr. Cooper gave a breakdown of the statistics:

Between 25th September 2017 and 16th October 2017, there were 30 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 38.5 mph.

1. Clacton Road:
8 recordings with an average speed of 37.8 mph

2. Mill Street:
11 recordings with an average speed of 38.8 mph

Total for St Osyth: 19 recordings (average speed of 38.3 mph)

3. Point Clear Road:
11 recordings with an average speed of 39.1 mph

Total for Point Clear: 11 recordings

- iii) The Clerk informed the Council that as a result of enforcement action by an Essex Police TruCam operative on 28th June, 6th July and 20th July 2017 respectively, the following action had been taken:

9 Drivers had been given a Conditional Offer
(minimum 3 points & £100 fine)

65 Drivers had been ordered to attend a Driver Awareness Course

G-17-135 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED TRUSTEESHIPS REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Nothing to report.
- b. **Bradwell Power Station:** Cllr. White informed the Council that he had recently attended a 3 day meeting of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, but had nothing to report in respect of Bradwell.
- c. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the perimeter hedge had recently been trimmed, that a 'non-slip-paint' was due to be applied to the decking area and that the grant application for replacement sills, garage doors and goal posts had been successful.
- 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 scheduled for Monday 23rd October 2017, at which he would again raise the matter of the installation of bollards at the front of the hall.

G-17-136 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **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:
 - i) The consultation in respect of the Mobile Library Service which would run until 6th November 2017. Cllr. Goggin then gave an overview of success of the service provided to St Osyth.
 - ii) Recent correspondence from Giles Watling, Member of Parliament for Clacton on Sea, in respect of Bar Corner.

The Chairman remarked that the correspondence had made no mention of the efforts of either the Parish Council or Cllr. Goggin and that the Clerk would be writing to Mr Watling.

G-17-137 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	£ 44,470.89
Deposit	£ 49,789.81
Special Project	£ 3,016.25
- c. The Minutes of the Finance meeting of 11th October 2017 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments from the Council. None were forthcoming.
- d. The Clerk drew the attention of the Council to F-17-023 (Emergency Grant Applications):
 - i) St Osyth PCC – £450.00
 - ii) St Osyth Preschool – £250.00
 - iii) Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust – £400.00
 - iv) Point Clear & St Osyth Disabled Persons Club – £100.00

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council approve the grant applications, as recommend by the Finance Committee. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Kemp and seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.

G-17-138 CEMETERY COMMITTEE:

Having been previously circulated the Minutes of the meeting of 11th October 2017, were noted. The attention of the Council was drawn to C-17-024 (Removal of Unauthorised Items) to which the Chairman suggested that a reminder be sent to Councillors nearer the date and that should any Councillors be available to help, they meet at the Cemetery at 12.30 pm on 21st November 2017.

G-17-139 TRAFFIC ISSUES IN ST OSYTH:

Having been previously circulated, the email from Ms M Pasztor was noted. At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk showed the Council the suggested route between Jaywick Lane and Beach Road. The Chairman added that the use of this route to facilitate access to Seawick would be highly unlikely due to seven different landowners having rights over sections of the road.

The Council then reviewed the points contained within the email, including:

- a. Single lane traffic calming measures,
- b. Use of double red lines outside of St Osyth Butchers,
- c. No left turn from Clacton Road onto Spring Road,
- d. A 20 mph speed restriction in the centre of the village.

The Chairman suggested that together with the Clerk, she meet with Ms Pasztor to discuss her email further. All agreed.

G-17-140 TENDRING DISTRICT COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW:

The Clerk informed the Council of the suggested response to Tendring District Councils Community Governance Review. All agreed.

G-17-141 COUNCILLORS TRAINING:

The Clerk informed the Council that he had received a number of possible dates on which Joy Darby, Chief Executive Officer, Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) could conduct Councillors training. The Clerk enquired as to the preference of Councillors for either afternoon or evening training sessions. The consensus was that the training should be held during an afternoon. The Clerk continued that he would check that the Chairman or Cllr's Talbot and White did not have any meeting likely to clash with the training. All agreed.

G-17-142 CO-OPTION TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY FOR POINT CLEAR WARD:

Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the application form to be used by the potential candidates. The Chairman suggested that interviews be held on either Thursday 2nd or Wednesday 8th November 2017. The Chairman requested that Councillors notify the Clerk of their availability. The Clerk informed the Council that he would email the application form to all candidates on 20th October 2017.

G-17-143 POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER / COMMUNITY WARDEN:

Having received an overview of the benefits of a PCSO from Cllr. Belgrove at the beginning of the meeting, the Chairman requested that the Clerk appraise the Council of his recent conversation with the Deputy Clerk of Canvey Island Town Council in respect of a Community Warden.

The Clerk informed the Council that the Community Warden was primarily employed to manage the Councils Open Spaces, which included play areas and a fishing lake. He continued that the Warden conducted the weekly safety inspections of the play equipment, patrolled areas to show a presence and thereby deter fly-tipping and graffiti, as well as being able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling.

The Chairman and Clerk gave several examples of how Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued in the village in recent years, the Chairman adding that this could be actioned by a Community Warden.

The Council then discussed whether they would prefer a PCSO or a Community Warden. The consensus was that a Community Warden would be preferred over a PCSO, however, if possible the role be filled by a retired Police Officer.

The Chairman continued that together with the Clerk, she would look into the matter further and that were the Council to employ someone it would be sensible to do so on a fixed term contract, so as to be able to evaluate the scheme. All agreed.

G-17-144 VILLAGE CAR PARK:

The Chairman informed the Council that together with Cllr. Kemp and the Clerk, she had attended a meeting with a local landowner, Peter Le Grys of Stanfords and Gary Guiver, Tendring District Council Planning Policy Manager.

The Chairman continued that in order to provide a car park and make the potential scheme cost effective, the landowner would have to build a number of properties, which after discussion among those present was suggested as being 5 detached houses and up to 7 'Almshouse' style properties for elderly residents.

A discussion then ensued as to whether the Council should approve the scheme were it to go to a formal planning application. Following a vote, the Council voted 7 to 2 in favour of supporting the next phase of the scheme, which would see an outline application submitted to the District Council.

G-17-145 ST OSYTH PRIORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

At the request of the Chairman and by way of a powerpoint presentation, the Clerk showed Councillors images in respect of Planning Applications 17/01683/DISCON and 17/01593/DISCON, the latter of which included the relocation of the bus stop on The Bury. The Chairman informed the Council that she would liaise with both Essex Highways and the District Council with regards to the relocation of the bus stop.

G-17-146 ST OSYTH PRIORY:

The Chairman suggested that due to the time, the report she had intended to give be deferred until the next meeting. All agreed.

G-17-147 FURTHER MATTERS: None

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.06 pm.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 19 th October 2017		
G-17-130 i	Christmas Lights	Clk to obtain further quotations
G-17-134 a	Crime at Seawick / St Osyth Beach	Clk to write to Essex Police
G-17-136 a ii	Bar Corner Correspondence	Clk to write to Mr Watling
G-17-138	Removal of Unauthorised Items	Clk to email Cllr's
G-17-141	Cllr's Training	Clk to liaise with EALC
G-17-142	Casual Vacancy	Clk to forward application forms
G-17-145	St Osyth Priory Planning Applications	Chairman to liaise with ECH/TDC

Signature: [Signed on Original]
 SW Grantham
 Chairman