



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 14th December 2017 at 7.15 pm

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

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Jean Smith (Illness)

MINUTES: Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

G-17-167 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 Planning Applications 17/01931/FUL and 17/01932/FUL in addition to St Osyth Priory.

Cllr. Kelly declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 17/01974/LUEX.

G-17-168 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a)	17/01922/FUL Mr Sean Burton 4B Rose Gardens Bel Air Chalet Estate St Osyth	Replace door with standard single door & replace the front window with a standard bow window with brick facing. No objections.
b)	17/01931/FUL Haven Leisure Limited Orchards Holiday Village Point Clear Bay	Proposed extension to existing Showbar/Arcade building and hard standing car park, relocation of existing fence line and revised internal access arrangements. (Following removal of 2 existing static caravans, 1 shed and 2 existing containers). Objections on the basis that the proposed development will have a direct impact on neighbouring properties and amenities, including the loss of available parking, landscaping and lighting.

		Additionally, the relocation of the fence will encroach onto the neighbouring properties, restricting access and impacting on privacy. It is worthy of note that the plans omit the access road created by the demolition of No's 17 & 18.
c)	17/01932/FUL Haven Leisure Limited Orchards Holiday Village Point Clear Bay	<p>Installation of 9 caravan bases with associated parking. Proposed new internal access road, pedestrian footpaths, landscaping & new boardwalk with bridge.</p> <p>Objections on the basis that this application will overlook neighbouring properties, resulting in the lack of privacy.</p> <p>The Parish Council would also draw attention to the crime statistics for Point Clear Bay, reviewed monthly by the Council, and over which concerns have been raised to Essex Police, which could increase if the application is approved.</p>
d)	17/01962/DETAIL Mr & Mrs Ford Land opposite St Osyth Cemetery Clay Lane St Osyth	<p>Reserved matters application following planning approval 16/01821/OUT - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of one detached single storey dwelling.</p> <p>No objections.</p>
e)	17/01969/TCA Mrs Lee Casa Rio 9 Point Clear Road, St Osyth	<p>G1 - group of Leylandii - remove completely.</p> <p>The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.</p>
f)	17/01974/LUEX Mr William Taylor 40 Colne Way, Point Clear Bay	<p>Use of premises as permanent residence.</p> <p>The Parish Council would possibly support this application, however, notwithstanding the approval of similar applications in recent years, together with the many variations of planning permissions imposed on similar properties, the Parish Council would request that any decision be deferred until such time as the District Council, or Planning Inspectorate, gives an overall decision in respect of the ongoing occupancy issues.</p>
g)	17/02023/LBC Messrs Sargeant St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth	<p>Re-ordering of the Gatehouse interior to enable its flexible use for short and long term rental.</p> <p>Subject to the approval of Historic England, the Parish Council has no objections to this application.</p>
h)	17/02032/FUL Mr & Mrs S Collins 9 Spring Road, St Osyth	<p>Alterations to former shopfront.</p> <p>No objections.</p>

i)	17/02076/ADV Mr Harry Parrish Funland, 2 Seaview Parade Seaview Road, St Osyth	1 x Proposed new fascia sign. No objections.
j)	ESS/57/17/TEN Essex County Council	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed Use for the installation and operation of a ground mounted solar array, switch gear housing units, underground cabling and fencing. No objections.

G-17-169 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) Notification of Decisions (Determinations) 10th November 2017 to 1st December 2017.
- b. Correspondence from Mrs S Jones regarding the Orchards Holiday Park and Planning Application 17/01931/FUL.
- c. The Clerk informed the Council that the email of 26th November 2017 from Mr Tim Sargeant in respect of Planning Application 17/01843/FUL would be discussed during the course of the meeting.

G-17-170 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 16th November 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. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.

G-17-171 UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. G-17-156 b. The Clerk informed the Council that the Chairman would be arranging a meeting of the Highways Working Party in the New Year.
- b. G-17-157 a. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to Chief Inspector Cole, Tendring District Commander, Essex Police, but had yet to receive a reply.
- c. G-17-157 b. The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr. Peverell would give an update on footpath 25 during the course of the meeting.
- d. G-17-162. The Clerk informed the Council that he would report on the application to the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) regarding the Local Services Fund (LSF) during the course of the meeting.
- e. G-17-164. The Clerk informed the Council that the Chairman had been in contact with both Essex County and Tendring District Councils in respect of Planning Application 17/01593/DISCON and that the Chairman would give a report later in the meeting.

G-17-172 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

G-17-173 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from Tendring District Council regarding the Community Governance Review.
- b. Correspondence from St Osyth Parochial Church Council thanking the Parish Council for a grant payment.
- c. Correspondence from Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust thanking the Parish Council for a grant payment.
- d. Correspondence from Essex County Council regarding the Energy Switch initiative.

G-17-174 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman informed the Council that the winter bulbs had been planted.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** The Chairman informed the Council that she would arrange a meeting of the Working Party in the New Year.
- c. **Martins Farm Country Park:** The notes of the meeting of 23rd November 2017 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** The Chairman informed the Council that the signs requesting that dogs be kept under control in the vicinity of the children's play area had been erected.

G-17-175 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for October 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.
- b. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Peverell informed the Council of the following:
 - i) That ramped access to Footpath 5 had been completed; however, some of the stones would have to be removed from the path in front of the Wake Boarding centre so as to enable unrestricted access for wheelchairs.

- ii) That having met with Jim Bartley, Essex Highways Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Engineer and Andy Harman, owner of St Osyth Boatyard, in respect of the new car park on the south bank, it had been agreed that a fence would be erected in order to demarcate Footpath 17 from the car park.
 - iii) That having assessed Footpath 25, Jim Bartley had informed Cllr. Peverell that the cracks to the footpath were neither wide enough nor deep enough to warrant repair at this time. Cllr. Peverell stated that she would continue to monitor the footpath. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Peverell for arranging the inspection by Jim Bartley.
 - iv) That ECC were looking to set up a new volunteer group for the maintenance of footpaths. Cllr. Peverell informed the Council that she was willing to lead the group, but that she would require first aid training in addition to training to enable her to supervise the use of power tools.
 - v) Cllr. French raised concern over the recent work carried out in the area of the boardwalk on Footpath 19. The Chairman informed the Council that Jim Bartley had met with the landowners who would be reinstating the area. The Chairman concluded that if Jim Bartley was happy with the situation there was no need for the Parish Council to be concerned.
- c. **Planters & Litter Bins:** The Chairman informed the Council that the heritage bin on Colchester Road was to be repainted as a trial and that if it turned out okay, the remaining bins in the centre of the village would be painted as per the Management Plan.
- d. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. White enquired as to whether the recently planted birch trees at Rochford Road were to be supported by stakes. The Chairman informed the Council that she would liaise with Matthew Ford.
- e. **TDALC:** Cllr. Talbot reported that having given his apologies for not attending the meeting of Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) held on 22nd November 2017, he had no report to give.
- f. **District Council Report:**
- i) Cllr. White reminded the Council of the recent planning application submitted by St John's Plant Centre for the Winter Wonderland, adding that the site was operating without planning permission, as it only had permission for the wholesale selling of plants. Cllr. White informed the Council that having been issued a Temporary Stop Notice by the District Council; the owner had continued to run the Winter Wonderland, which had resulted in TDC bringing the matter before the High Court.

Cllr. White explained that during the hearing on 13th December 2017, the Judge had decided that there had in fact been a breach of planning control and had been critical of the way in which the owners had behaved. The Judge found both cases to be finely balanced, but in the end had decided not to award the Injunction, primarily as a result of the loss of employment. The request for costs by the owners against the District Council was refused.

Cllr. White added that the District Council intended to proceed with the Stop Notice being that the site was operating without planning permission.

- ii) Cllr. Talbot reported that following legal proceedings being undertaken over the actions of two elected members of the Council, the Standards Committee had found itself unable to administer more than a 'slap on the wrist' to the offending members.

The leader of the Council, Neil Stock, had written on behalf of the Council to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) pointing out the inability of the Council to take any meaningful action against offending members. Cllr. Talbot stated that it would be interesting to know the reply as the sanction to suspend a member was originally part of the scheme but was removed because some Authorities abused the system for political reasons.

Cllr. Talbot continued that the budget for 2018/2019 was nearly ready to be presented to the Cabinet and then to members. It was worth noting that the tax base for St Osyth was now £1844.90 against a Council Tax setting of £1789.60. The latter being the amount raised by one penny of Parish council Tax. This was the fourth highest base amongst the 27 Towns and Parishes in Tendring, after Frinton at £7725.80; Harwich at £5404.20 and Brightlingsea at £2795.80.

g. Community Speed Watch:

- i) Cllr. Kemp informed the Council that although there was little to report it was felt that the group was still having an impact.
- ii) Cllr. Cooper provided a breakdown of the statistics:

Between 13th November 2017 and 11th December 2017, there were 17 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 37.2 mph.

1. Clacton Road:
11 recordings of 38.1 mph
2. Colchester Road:
6 recordings of 36.3 mph

Total for St Osyth: 17 recordings (average speed of 37.2 mph)

h. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.15 pm, Cllr. Goggin informed the Council of the following:

- i) That the works to improve the safety at the crossroads would be commencing in January 2018.
- ii) The Chairman informed the Council that the relocation of the deer sign along the B1027 would hopefully be carried out before Christmas.
- iii) At the request of the Chairman the Clerk then briefed the Council as to the cost of relocating the sign. The Clerk stated that having seen the cost as quoted by Essex Highways he had contacted a local contractor and requested a quotation to relocate the existing sign from outside of Oakland's Holiday Park to the junction of the B1027 and Dead Lane. This would include the removal of the existing concrete base and the installation of a new base. He continued that if the local contractor were in competition with Essex Highways, they could theoretically undercut Highways by 50% and still make a £1,500.00 profit. The Clerk then revealed the quotation by the local contractor to be £200.00 inclusive of VAT, against a quotation of £3,500.00 by Highways.

Cllr. Goggin requested that the Clerk liaise with Steve Gove, TDC Engineering Manager to ascertain if the relocation of the sign could be actioned by the Highway Rangers.

- iv) The Chairman informed all present that she had written to Cllr. Ian Grundy, Essex Council County Cabinet Member of Highways, requesting that additional funds be made available to the Local Highways Panel (LHP). The Chairman continued that Cllr. Grundy had replied saying that an extra £100,000.00 was being allocated for the Tendring LHP; however this was a match funded amount of £50,000.00 to purchase new equipment for use by the Highways Rangers.

G-17-176 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED TRUSTEESHIPS REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Nothing to report.
- b. **Bradwell Power Station:** Cllr. White reported that the site was likely to be closed within the year and placed in a state of 'care and maintenance'.
- 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 the Village Hall Management Committee were still looking to install two bollards at the front of the Village Hall.

G-17-177 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for November 2017, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:

Current a/c	£ 98,558.21
Deposit	£ 49,797.61
Special Project	£ 3,017.63
- c. The Minutes of the Finance meeting of 6th December 2017 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments from the Council. None were forthcoming.

G-17-178 APPROVAL OF BUDGET AND PRECEPT:

The Chairman drew the attention of all present to paragraph F-17-035 of the Finance Committee meeting of 6th December 2017, in which the Committee had discussed and subsequently recommended an increase to the precept.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council ratify the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Precept request to the District Council for 2018-2019 be set at £119,293.00 (exclusive of LCTSS), giving an annual payable sum of £66.66 for a Band D property. This would represent an increase of £3.74 or 5.9% to the Precept from the previous year. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.

G-17-179 LOCAL PLAN – STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

The Clerk informed the Council that he would forward a link to Councillors in respect of the draft Tendring District Local Plan – Statement of Community Involvement. The Clerk continued that as a response was to be submitted by 8th January 2018, he would request that any comments be received by 2nd January 2018, so as to enable him to formulate a response on behalf of the Parish Council.

G-17-180 COMMUNITY WARDEN:

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk informed the Council that the recent application for funding towards a Community Warden, submitted to the Local Services Fund (LSF), had been unsuccessful. The Clerk continued that having discussed the application with Joy Darby, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC), which was administering the LSF on behalf of the County Council, it had been ascertained that the application had not met certain criteria.

The Clerk informed the Council that when he had initially spoken with Joy Darby she had indicated that the application for funding would be acceptable. The Clerk added that having attended a meeting at Great Dunmow, there had been little information available, as the panel had not yet met to discuss the criteria for applications. He continued that Joy Darby had explained that the application had been unsuccessful due to the Community Warden effectively carrying out duties performed by other authorities/agencies. The Clerk added that the panel would possibly consider the funding of a handyman who would benefit the community, but that the LSF could not be used for funding towards a Special Constable or PCSO.

The Clerk concluded by informing the Council that he would liaise with the EALC as to whether a new application could be submitted.

Due to having declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of St Osyth Priory, Cllr. Peverell left the meeting at 8.45 pm.

G-17-181 ST OSYTH PRIORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a. The Chairman reminded the Council of the recent Planning Application (17/01593/DISCON) in respect of the relocation of the bus stop on The Bury. The Chairman continued that the Clerk had reviewed a number of planning applications and subsequent permissions granted; during which it was ascertained that a formal application of the relocation of the bus stop had never been submitted.

The Council discussed the relocation of the bus stop at length, during which the following observations/concerns were noted:

- i) The lack of wheelchair access.
- ii) The gathering of up to 30 school children awaiting school transport.
- iii) The speed of traffic along The Bury.
- iv) Damage to the Social Club by vehicles having to avoid the bus stop.
- v) Congestion by vehicles having to wait to pass the bus stop.
- vi) Caravans on transporters overhanging the pavement.

The Chairman thanked Councillors for their input adding that she would forward the observations to Essex County Council for the purposes of a Safety Audit of the proposed site of the bus stop.

- b. The Chairman reminded the Council of the recent email from Mr Tim Sargeant, in which the latter had asked the Parish Council to reconsider its decision in respect of Planning Application 17/01843/FUL (a delay on the development of Wellwick). The Chairman explained that the Clerk had contacted Richard Fox, the new TDC Planning Officer, tasked with overseeing Priory planning applications, during which time the Clerk had been informed that although there was no decision date, if the Parish Council wished to review or reconsider its decision, it would have to do so before its next meeting, to be held on 18th January 2018. As a result of this information, the Chairman suggested that the Council should meet with Mr Sargeant, in order to allow him to present his rationale for the delay to the Wellwick development.

The Chairman stated that whilst the Council might not agree with the stance taken by the Sargeant Family, it would be sensible to engage in dialogue, so as to help shape and influence future Priory planning applications for the benefit of the village.

RESOLVED: That on a date mutually convenient to all in early January 2018, the Parish Council invite Mr Tim Sargeant and others, to a meeting to hear Mr Sargeants rationale for the delay of the development of Wellwick, as proposed in Planning Application 17/01843/FUL. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.

G-17-182 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. The Chairman thanked Councillors for their support throughout the year and wished all present a Merry Christmas. On behalf of the Council, Cllr. Talbot thanked the Chairman for all that she had done for the Parish during the past year.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10 pm.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14th December 2017		
G-17-173 d	ECC Energy Switch	Clk to email information to Cllr's
G-17-179	Statement of Community Involvement	Clk to email information to Cllr's
G-17-180	Application to LSF	Clk to liaise with EALC
G-17-181 a	Observations of Parish Council in respect of Road Safety Audit	Chairman / Clk to forward to Essex Highways
G-17-181 b	Meeting with Mr T Sargeant	Chairman / Clk to action

Signature: *[Signed on Original]*
 SW Grantham
 Chairman