



# ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 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, Michael Talbot, Michele Thomas, Julie Ward &  
John White

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (Arrived at 8.25 pm)

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Colleen Peverell (Personal)  
Cllr. Jean Smith (Illness)

**MINUTES:** Neil Williams

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** None

### G-17-183 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. Kelly declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 17/02000/LUEX.

### G-17-184 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a)	17/02000/LUEX Mrs Noble 55 Colne Way Point Clear Bay	To allow unrestricted occupation all year round.  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.
b)	17/02087/FUL Mr & Mrs Hunt 37 Dumont Avenue St Osyth	Proposed partial loft conversion & first floor extension to rear of property.  No objections.
c)	17/02144/TCA Mr R Green 45 Mill Street, St Osyth	1 No. Conifer – fell.  Approved on 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2017.

d)	17/02194/FUL c/o Stanfords 151 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Conversion of rear of shop to residential accommodation for an employee.  No objections.
e)	17/02212/TPO Mr JB Dawson The Old Cottage, Daltes Lane St Osyth	Beech – reduce by 30 - 40%.  The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.

#### **G-17-185 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) Notification of Decisions (Determinations) 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- b. Correspondence from Essex County Council (ECC) in respect of Planning Application ESS/57/17/TEN.
- c. Email from TDC regarding Planning Application 17/01974/FUL.

#### **G-17-186 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:** That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 14<sup>th</sup> December 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. Blockley and seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All agreed.

#### **G-17-187 UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF ACTION:**

- a. G-17-173 d. The Clerk reminded the Council that details of the County Councils Energy Switch scheme had been emailed to Councillors.
- b. G-17-179. The Clerk informed the Council that he had submitted a response to the District Councils Statement of Community Involvement consultation.
- c. G-17-180. The Clerk informed the Council that he had contacted the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) to request guidance notes or an example of an approved application in respect of the Local Services Fund (LSF).  
The Clerk continued that together with the Chairman he would be attending a briefing by EALC on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018.
- d. G-17-181 a. The Clerk informed the Council that the concerns of the Parish Council in respect of the relocation of the bus stop on The Bury had been brought to the attention of the County Council for inclusion in the Road Safety Audit.
- e. G-17-181 b. The Clerk reminded the Council of the recent meeting with Mr Tim Sargeant, in respect of Planning Application 17/01843/FUL.

#### **G-17-188 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None**

## **G-17-189 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust regarding fundraising by way of clothing banks.

The Clerk informed the Council that details had been forwarded to the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC). Cllr. Kemp confirmed that the subject had been discussed at the recent VHMC meeting, during which time it was ascertained that the Village Hall received an income from the clothing bank already in situ.

- b. Correspondence from ECC regarding Domestic Abuse.
- c. Correspondence from EALC regarding Review of Park Homes Legislation.
- d. Open correspondence from the Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).
- e. Correspondence from residents of Westwood Park to Great Bentley Parish Council concerning traffic in the vicinity of their properties.

## **G-17-190 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:**

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman informed the Council that the winter plants were looking colourful.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** The Chairman informed the Council that the Working Party had met on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and that the notes of the meeting would be received at the February Council meeting.
- c. **Martins Farm Country Park:** The Chairman informed the Council that the next meeting was scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** Nothing to report.

## **G-17-191 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for November 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:** In the absence of Cllr. Peverell, the Chairman informed the Council that a volunteer working party, organised by the County Council, had undertaken some maintenance work along Footpath 5.

- c. **Planters & Litter Bins:** Cllr. Ward informed the Council that the heritage bin on Colchester Road had been repainted, and that given how good it looked, all remaining bins of that style in the centre of the village, would be painted as per the Management Plan.
- d. **Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.
- e. **TDALC:** Cllr. Talbot reported that he had attended the meeting of the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018, at Beaumont cum Moze village hall. Although the meeting began at 7.30 pm, he had not arrived until 8.00 pm, having been at a Community Safety meeting with representatives of Essex Police. During the TDALC meeting Cllr. Talbot had reported on the Community Safety Partnership Hub meeting, the meeting of St Osyth Parish Council and the owner of the Priory regarding the extension of planning permission from 3 to 5 years, and on the Judicial Review of the Centenary Way planning application made to the High Court, which would not be defended by government or by the applicants. Cllr. Talbot continued that the new Local Services Fund (LSF) for 'revenue' funding, on which he had reported at the last TDALC meeting did not seem to be working as Executive Members expected. He concluded by informing those present that he had requested it be on the agenda for the next EALC meeting.
- f. **District Councillor's Report:**  
Cllr. White informed the Council of the following:
- i) That planning matters were relatively quiet at present.
  - ii) That together with Cllr. Talbot and other members of the District Council, he had on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018, met with the new Tendring District Police Commander, Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) Wells and Insp Deex, Tendring Community Policing Team. He continued that during the meeting members had received a presentation in respect of Crime Figures, which had shown a 24% increase on the previous year.
  - iii) That having attended a meeting in London, he had raised the subject of the lack of progress in connecting a power supply to new street lights with a senior member of UK Power Networks. It had subsequently been established that despite being told by Essex Highways that the reason for delay was that of UK Power Networks, the latter did not actually have any contract with Essex Highways. Cllr. White continued that he had contacted Essex County Council to request an explanation, and was informed that the lights would be connected by 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Cllr. Talbot reported that during the Community Safety Partnership Hub meeting he had asked Insp Deex what constituted a crime as the Police statistics seemed to concentrate on crime against a person or their personal property, but choose to ignore a 'criminal offence' such as fly – tipping, even when concrete evidence of the origination of the fly-tipped waste was available.

He continued that he had quoted the action of St Osyth Parish Council's Chairman in demanding action against this crime following the dumping of waste in the Parish Cemetery. The District Commander was aware of the Chairman's actions, but tried to suggest that this particular crime was partly a 'civil' rather than 'criminal' matter. Cllr. Talbot added that he had not argued the point, but that he did possess the House of Commons advice sheet from the Parliamentary library, which described fly-tipping as a 'criminal' offence.

The presentation had been good, but had not finished until 7.40 pm, after Cllr. Talbot had departed for the EALC meeting. Matters discussed after Cllr. Talbot's departure had included a brief by Mike Carran, TDC Head of Sport and Leisure in respect of the Mayflower 400 celebrations, followed by an update from Ewan Green, Corporate Director, Planning and Regeneration Services, finishing with a Review of 2018 by Ian Davidson, Chief Executive Officer.

**g. Community Speed Watch:**

- i) The Clerk informed the Council that due to the recent weather conditions only two sessions had been conducted so far during January 2018:

Between 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018, there were 14 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 38.8 mph, with the highest recorded speed being 42 mph.

1. Clacton Road:  
3 recordings of 39.3 mph
2. Mill Street:  
11 recordings of 38.4 mph

**Total for St Osyth: 14 recordings (average speed of 38.8 mph)**

**G-17-192 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED TRUSTEESHIPS REPRESENTATIVES:**

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Nothing to report.
- b. **Bradwell Power Station:** Nothing to report.
- 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 matter of the bollard for the front of the Village Hall was still under discussion. He continued that the Village Hall Management Committee were reluctant to install air conditioning in the Parish Office on the grounds of cost and that the cost of hire would be increasing.

### **G-17-193 FINANCE:**

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

Current a/c	£ 90,364.81
Deposit	£ 49,797.61
Special Project	£ 3,017.63
- c. The draft Minutes of the Finance meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments from the Council. None were forthcoming.

The Chairman drew the attention of Point Clear Councillors in particular to Minute F-17-044 f, in respect of the relocation of benches to Point Clear Road. The Chairman requested that Councillors consider suitable locations for the benches.

### **G-17-194 CEMETERY COMMITTEE:**

Having been previously circulated the Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018, were noted, the Chairman invited comments from the Council.

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk briefed the Council on the removal of vegetation from the Cemetery which was presented to Councillors by way of a powerpoint presentation. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the contractors involved, in addition to the residents who had cleared the fly-tipping from the layby on Christmas Day and had cleaned the benches which had been beside the workshop.

Cllr. French informed the Council that a number of visitors to the Cemetery had taken to parking their vehicles on the grass verge along the B1027. The Clerk was requested to produce notices requesting visitors refrain from doing so and make use of the layby.

### **G-17-195 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

- h. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.25 pm, Cllr. Goggin informed the Council of the following:
  - i) That the initial works to improve the safety of the crossroads had begun earlier that day and would commence proper on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.
  - ii) That the County Council would be increasing its rates for only the third time in 8 years. The increase would consist of a 'ring-fenced' 2% to adult social care, in addition to a general 2.9% increase for residents.

Cllr. Goggin then gave examples of increases to Band A and G properties, which amounted to 0.74p and £2.23 respectively.

iii) Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of budget allocations for 2018, which included:

- a) £14m towards Broadband;
- b) £87m towards mainstream schools;
- c) £17m towards special needs;
- d) £9m towards housing;
- e) £126m towards road schemes;
- f) £3m towards the repair of potholes.

Cllr. Goggin concluded by stating that the proposed increase of £12.00 to the rates gathered on behalf of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex, would see an increase of 120 frontline officers throughout the county.

**G-17-196 LENGTH OF COUNCILLORS & REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS:**

The Council discussed the trial period for the limiting of reports by Parish, District and County Councillors respectively. All present considered the trial to have been successful

**RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council adopt the policy of limiting reports by Parish, District and County Councillors to 2, 3 and 5 minutes respectively, and that in all cases there should be an opportunity for questions to be asked and responses to be given. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Kemp and seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.

**G-17-197 APPROVAL OF STANDING ORDERS:**

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Lockwood, that Standing Orders, as reviewed by the Finance Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 be approved. All agreed.

**G-17-198 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:**

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Lockwood, that Financial Regulations, as reviewed by the Finance Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 be approved. All agreed.

**G-17-199 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT:**

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Lockwood, that Financial Risk Assessment, as reviewed by the Finance Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 be approved. All agreed. The Chairman subsequently signed the Financial Risk Assessment.

**G-17-200 IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CROSSROADS:**

The Chairman informed the Council that initial work to improve the safety of the crossroads, which had begun earlier that day, consisted of a new power supply from the street light adjacent to the bus stop on the Bury, to the crossroads warning sign adjacent to the Priory Wall, for the purpose of illuminating the crossroads signs.

The Chairman continued that the works to improve the signage and repainting of the lines on the crossroads would commence on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 and would be completed by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**G-17-201 ST OSYTH PRIORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk briefed Councillors by way of a powerpoint presentation, on the recent correspondence to Essex County Council's Passenger Transport Team in respect of the Safety Audit for the bus stop on The Bury.

The Chairman reminded the Council 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.

**G-17-202 ST OSYTH PRIORY:**

The Chairman reminded the Council that following the recent meeting with Mr Tim Sargeant, it had been agreed that the Council be given a tour of the Priory, as a number of Councillors had never been in the grounds.

A number of possible dates were discussed, with the following to be put to Mr Sargeant:

- a. Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 9.30 am
- b. Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at 10.00 am
- c. Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 9.30 am

**G-17-203 FURTHER MATTERS:**

- a. The Chairman reminded the Council of the events of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The Chairman reiterated that all media enquiries were to be referred to the Clerk.
- b. The Chairman informed the Council that Cllr. Lockwood would be assuming responsibility for the website, adding that although it would contain minutes, policies etc, she wanted it to be a lively and interesting website.
- c. The Clerk informed the Council of a number of possible dates for the Short Course package to be delivered by EALC. It was agreed that the preferred date was Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the training to be held at the Village Hall Annex between 10.00 and 12.30 pm.
- d. Cllr. Talbot expressed concern at the apparent disregard by the General Manager of the Orchards Holiday Park for planning permissions. He added that a number of residents had reported vegetation having been cut down and in some cases non-pass holders / visitors to the site parking in the front gardens of nearby properties. Cllr. Talbot continued that if this persisted the Parish Council should object to all future planning applications.



There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30 pm.

<b>Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018</b>		
G-17-193 c	Relocation of Benches	Point Clear Cllr's to consider
G-17-194	Letters of Thanks / Parking Notices	Clk to action
G-17-202	Visit to St Osyth Priory	Clk to write to Mr Sargeant
G-17-203 c	Councillors Training	Clk to liaise with EALC

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