



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 21st June 2018 at 7.25 pm

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

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (Arrived at 8.35 pm)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Ray French (Holiday)
Cllr. Colleen Peverell (Illness)

MINUTES: Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

G-18-040 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.

G-18-041 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a)	18/00731/FUL c/o Grow Design Studio Lower Heath Farm Rectory Road Weeley Heath, St Osyth	Replacement dwelling. Comment submitted 14 th June 2018. No objections.
b)	18/00753/LUEX Mr M O'Connor 40 Winks, Cow Lane, St Osyth	Lawful certificate for caravan use. Objections on the basis that the Parish Council considers that there is insufficient evidence or information to prove that this site has been in continuous use for 10 years. The claim of 'occupation' since 1960 is tenuous at best, as the site has been deserted for a number of years, and was only cleared of vegetation in May 2017. It is not known if there are any services / utilities on site, if so the Parish Council would request proof of continual use by way of utility bills. The application is inconsistent as it does not state for what reasons the certificate is required; i.e. holiday use or full residential use.

c)	18/00755/TCA c/o Absolute Tree Services 23 Mill Street, St Osyth	1 No. Yew – reduce by 30% and crown thin. Approved 4 th June 2018.
d)	18/00759/TPO c/o Absolute Tree Services Tan Cottage Daltes Lane St Osyth	1 No. Oak – reduce by 30% and remove branch overhanging highway. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
e)	18/00761/FUL c/o Dr Kara Davies Ecotricity St Osyth Lodge Farm Clacton Road St Osyth	Proposed change of head unit (hub and blades) of two of the existing 5kW HY5 wind turbines with equivalent Britwind R9000 5kW wind turbine components. No objections.
f)	18/00790/FUL Mr & Mrs P Georgiou 237 Point Clear Road, St Osyth	Proposed alterations and additions to bungalow. No objections.
g)	18/00805/FUL Mr & Mrs G Bolton 28 St Clairs Road, St Osyth	Proposed alterations and additions to dwelling. No objections.
h)	18/00822/TCA Mr Vince Jordan 14 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Hedgerow Trees - Remove/fell. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
i)	18/00915/AGRIC Mrs Gibbs Crosslands Game Farm Frowick Lane St Osyth	Erection of a storage barn. The Parish Council objects to this application on the basis that the information provided on the application is deemed to be incorrect, in that the site is not an agricultural enterprise. Additionally, the Parish Council consider the proposed building, which is too close to the road, is contrary to Policy PPL3 of the Emerging Plan (Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond Publication Draft), which states that the [District] Council will protect the rural landscape and refuse planning permission for any proposed development which would cause overriding harm to its character and appearance. <i>For information only – no comment required.</i>

G-18-042 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) Notification of Decisions (Determinations) 11th May 2018 to 8th June 2018.
- b. Correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the approval of Appeal APP/P1560/W/17/3185849 (TDC 16/02040/FUL).

- c. Correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the approval of Appeal APP/P1560/W/17/3187802 (TDC 17/00547/OUT).
- d. Correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the approval of Appeal APP/P1560/W/17/3190864 (TDC 17/01170/FUL).

G-18-043 ST OSYTH PRIORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS: Nothing to report.

G-18-044 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT:

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk informed Councillors of a meeting with Chris Stathers, TDC Enforcement Team Leader, on 16th May 2018, adding that together with the Chairman, he [the Clerk] had shown Mr Stathers a number of sites, including the south bank of St Osyth Creek and the vacant plot on The Bury, which were of concern to the Parish Council.

The Chairman informed the Council that the site on The Bury was of particular concern as there was giant hogweed growing on the site. The Chairman continued that the Clerk was in the process of tracing the owner of the plot via Companies House; and that TDC Enforcement had yet to respond to the concerns raised during the visit of 16th May 2018.

G-18-045 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council of 17th May 2018 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. Blockley. All agreed.

G-18-046 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 17th May 2018 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. Thomas. All agreed.

G-18-047 UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. G-18-028 c. The Clerk informed the Council that he had contacted a number of agencies, including Tendring District Council, Essex County Council and Essex Police, regarding the horse box full of rubbish in Dumont Avenue. He continued that as none of the agencies contacted claimed to have any power to enforce the removal of the horse box, he had written to the owner but had yet to receive any response. The Clerk concluded by stating that he would be contacting Environmental Services as he had since received complaints of insects and vermin being attracted to the rubbish contained within the horse box.
- b. G-18-030. The Clerk informed the Council that he had amended the list of meeting dates for 2018/2019, and that he would forward a copy to all Councillors.
- c. G-18-033. The Chairman informed the Council that although it had been recommended that the Finance Committee review the Code of Conduct, at its next meeting, she was requesting that the Code of Conduct be referred to the Personnel Committee instead. All agreed.

- d. G-18-037. The Clerk reminded the Council that the proposed letter from the Parish Council to residents on behalf of Save Our St Osyth (S.O.S) would be discussed during the course of the meeting.

G-18-048 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

G-18-049 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) regarding Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The Clerk was requested to respond on behalf of the Council.
- b. Correspondence from Giles Watling, Member of Parliament for Clacton regarding 'Clacton Conversation' newsletter.
- c. Correspondence from EALC regarding Focus Groups. The Clerk was requested to respond on behalf of the Council.
- d. Correspondence from TDC regarding 'Operation London Bridge'. The Chairman suggested that this be referred to the Personnel Committee for review. All agreed.
- e. Correspondence from Heddingham Buses regarding the reinstatement of Clacton Railway Station to local services from Clacton to Point Clear Bay.

G-18-050 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman informed the Council that numerous compliments had been received in respect of the planters. The Chairman thanked Cllr's Blockley and Ward for having planted all of the flowers.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** The Chairman informed the Council that a meeting would be held in the forthcoming weeks.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The notes of the meeting of 31st May 2018 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk informed the Council of the meeting of 19th June 2018, and that having ascertained the use of Dumont Avenue play area, the Working Party was recommending that the site be maintained without any new equipment being added. He continued that the focus for the Working Party would now be that of Priory Meadow, for which a consultation would be required. The Chairman informed the Council that they would receive the notes of the meeting at the July meeting, and that a meeting of the Working Party was scheduled for 10th July 2018.

G-18-051 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for April 2018.
- i) Cllr. Cooper informed the Council of offences within St Osyth by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.
 - ii) Cllr. Kelly informed the Council of offences within Point Clear by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.

The Chairman expressed concern as to the accuracy of the locations where offences were recorded as having occurred.

- b. **Footpaths:** No report given.
- c. **Planters & Litter Bins:** The Chairman informed the Council that a resident of Clacton Road had moved one of the Council's 'Heritage' bins from outside of their property, as they were in the process of selling the property. The Chairman added that having contacted the District Council, it had been suggested that the Parish Council write to the resident; this would be actioned by the Clerk. Cllr. Ward informed the Chairman that she would visit the resident to discuss the matter.
- d. **Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.
- e. **TDALC:** Cllr. Talbot reported that at the Councils last meeting he had informed Councillors that he would miss much of the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) meeting on 23rd May due to having to attend a District Council Members briefing, that same evening. He continued that he had arrived at Beaumont cum Moze for the TDALC meeting, which had started at 7.30pm at 8.25pm, nearly an hour late. At the meeting, a TDC Officer, Steve Gove had presented a document setting out the purpose of 'Highways Rangers' which was circulated to those present. Mr Gove had informed those present that although funded by Essex County Council, the Highway Rangers were managed by the District Council, to enable TDC to carry out smaller maintenance matters on behalf of Essex Highways. To date some £80,000.00 had been spent since 2012 on these smaller jobs; however, the system for requesting such work via TDC, which was subsequently agreed by the County Council sometimes resulted in requests being 'lost in the system'. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that if a Parish or Town Council submitted a request for maintenance to the County Council which was rejected, they could not then request the work be actioned by the Highways Rangers instead.

Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that the next TDALC meeting was scheduled for 18th July, with the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) Executive meeting the following day on 19th July 2018.

Cllr. Talbot continued that at the Parish Council meeting in May, there had been some criticism at the lack of information in respect of what had happened to the Motion put forward by the Parish Council on the payment of allowances to Co-opted members. He continued that he had located his copy of the report made to the Essex Executive and a copy of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) letter to the political head of the Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG), Marcus Jones MP, the Minister of State. Cllr. Talbot then narrated an extract of the letter:

“That the National Association seek to change present government policy on member allowances to ensure that the provision of allowances be extended to co-opted members.”

Cllr. Talbot concluded by informing the Council that the letter referred to an original request made in 2005, together with the 2015 request by the Essex Association. He stated that although there had been little progress since, the National Association had followed through on the matter raised by the Parish Councils representative at the EALC AGM in September 2015, and that the NALC letter set out the required changes.

- f. **District Councillor’s Report:** Cllr. Talbot reported that an Inspector from the National Planning Inspectorate had reviewed the District Councils Draft Local Plan, with his consideration of Section (A) being given priority to the proposed Garden Community on the border of Tendring and Colchester.

The District/Borough authorities from Tendring, Colchester and Braintree had all submitted an identical Section (A), to cater for three other Communities on the borders of their respective authority areas.

The Inspector had essentially rejected the Draft Plan, as he wanted further detail of the provision of Infrastructure provision’, which was generally a Government responsibility aided by the County Council, but certainly not that of the District Council for any development.

Cllr. Talbot stated that he was quite upset to discover that the Government Inspector did not seem to be aware of the Prime Ministers commitment to put housing as her top priority, adding that that he wanted the Cabinet to ask her to receive a delegation from TDC, to ask why the left hand did not know what the right hand was doing! TDC colleagues had disagreed with this suggestion.

Cllr. Talbot informed the Council on the closure of the Marks & Spencer store in Clacton. He added that the District Council had purchased the freehold of the property when a decision had been made to invest some of the reserves in commercial property to produce an income stream to help counter the loss of Government Rate support Grant (RSG) which would cease in 2020. Fortunately, Marks & Spencer had a long term lease which would guarantee income, which they could sublet at their discretion if they wished, but the company was tied into the lease terms for a good many years to come.

Cllr. Grantham added that the matter of Marks & Spencer had been discussed with Ian Davidson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tendring District Council; and that she would be writing to both the District Council and Marks & Spencer.

Cllr. White informed the Council that further to the report given by Cllr. Talbot, Section (A) of the Draft Local Plan would have to be approved before the Plan could proceed to the next stage.

g. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood reported that he had made a few changes, including 'clearing out' some older posts and that he was looking to update certain parts, but that this was reliant on Naglotech, who were busy at present. Cllr. Lockwood added that he wanted to add a programme to count the number of 'hits' to the website.

h. **Community Speed Watch:** Cllr. Kemp informed the Council of recent correspondence from a resident of Mill Street, expressing concern at the level of speeding in that area, together with the increase in quad bikes travelling at speed along the Causeway most evenings. Cllr. Kemp continued that the resident had been invited to join a Speed Watch Team but had declined the offer. A subsequent Speed Watch session in Mill Street had resulted in some 29 vehicles being observed speeding in a period of forty minutes.

i) At the request of the Chairman, Cllr. Cooper gave a breakdown of the statistics:

Between 14th May 2018 and 18th June 2018, there had been 129 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 38.7 mph.

1. Clacton Road:

73 recordings with an average speed of 37.9 mph

2. The Bury:

29 recordings with an average speed of 38.3 mph

3. Mill Street:

27 recordings with an average speed of 39.9 mph

The highest recorded speed had been 52 mph.

A total of 3 vehicles had been observed travelling in excess of 50 mph, with 35 vehicles observed travelling in excess of 40 mph.

ii) The Council discussed the response of Essex Police to concerns raised by the Council. It was agreed that the response warranted a reply from the Council in respect of 'designated sites', the additional strain of increased TruCAM activity and the support of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), especially as a recent session in St Osyth had resulted in 2 drivers being caught, compare to 100 by the Great Bentley PCSO.

- i. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.35pm, Cllr. Goggin informed the Council of the following:
 - i) That Speed & Density Survey cables were currently in situ on the Bypass and before the junction of Clacton Road and the B1027.
 - ii) That he had received several emails from a resident of Point Clear Bay concerning cycling along the Sea Wall, which he would discuss separately with Cllr Talbot.
 - iii) That the new Mayor of Brightlingsea had prevented him (Cllr. Goggin] from giving a report at the meeting of Brightlingsea Town Council.

G-18-052 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED TRUSTESHIPS REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Nothing to report.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Nothing to report.

G-18-053 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for May 2018, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:

Current a/c	£ 117,719.32
Deposit	£ 49,805.37
Special Project	£ 3,017.63

G-18-054 PARKING ENFORCEMENT MEASURES:

The Clerk informed the Council that since the last Council meeting, Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) from the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) had patrolled St Osyth for a total time of 21 hours and 54 minutes.

A total of 20 Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) had been issued at the following locations:

- a. Clacton Road x 8
- b. Mill Street x 2
- c. Spring Road x 10

G-18-055 INSTALLATION OF A POST BOX:

The Chairman informed the Council of the site meeting of 30th May 2018, with the Clerk, Paul Bent, Royal Mail Colchester Collections Sector Manager and Daniel Humphrey, Royal Mail Technical Manager of Street Furniture, to discuss the siting of a post box. During the meeting it had been agreed that the area of Clacton Road in the vicinity of the shops would present a problem due to the number of utilities under the pavements. It was suggested that as Footpath 3 (the Coffin Path) was on the preferred side of the crossroads and was on public land, the post box be placed in the area of the Kings Arms. A subsequent site survey had confirmed the site to be suitable. The Chairman added that whilst an application would be submitted to the District Council, the installation of the post box would be unlikely to require planning permission.

G-18-056 CITIZENS IN POLICING:

The Chairman informed the Council of the meeting of 20th April 2018, with Jenny Brouard, Citizens in Policing Manager, Local Policing Support Unit at which the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme had been explained to the Chairman and the Clerk. The scheme, which would empower a suitably trained person, employed by the Parish Council to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for offences such as fly-tipping, graffiti, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour. The Chairman requested that Jenny Brouard be invited to address the Council. All agreed. The Chairman continued that the matter should also be referred to the Personnel Committee. All agreed.

G-18-057 FLY-TIPPING:

The Chairman reminded the Council of the incident of fly-tipping at the Cemetery on 21st June 2017, adding that despite her constant enquiries as to the progress of the investigation, the case had been closed on 18th April 2018, with no action being taken. The Chairman informed the Council that she had only been made aware of the closure of the investigation as a result of Jenny Brouard, chasing the matter on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Chairman reminded the Council of the meeting of 17th May 2017, with Ian Davidson, CEO, TDC and Chief Inspector Russ Cole, Tendring District Commander, at which the latter had confirmed to the Parish Council that fly-tipping was a criminal offence, and that where disposal was via a third party, the onus was on the person employing the third party to ensure that they had the appropriate licence. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Roger Hirst, Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex, outlining the dissatisfaction of the Parish Council at the way in which the matter was dealt with. It was also agreed that the Clerk should also include a paragraph enquiring as to the progress of the investigation in respect of the fatal Road Traffic Collision at the crossroads on 11th May 2017.

G-18-058 POSSIBLE INSTALLATION OF CCTV AT ST OSYTH CEMETERY:

The Clerk informed the Council of a recent offer by GCS Alarms to install CCTV at Clay Lane Cemetery. The Clerk added that in addition to the equipment being provided, it was likely that a local contractor would also contribute financially to the project. The Clerk added that he would continue to liaise with both GCS Alarms and the contractor.

G-18-059 ORCHARDS HOLIDAY PARK OPEN AIR MEETING:

The notes of the meeting of 10th May 2018, prepared by Cllr. Thomas, having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited questions and comments from those present:

- a. Cllr. Thomas stated that the crime statistics as presented to the Parish Council should be brought to the attention of the Steering Group once formed.
- b. Cllr. Kelly informed the Council that whilst Rob Turner, General Manager of the Orchards Holiday Park had only just returned from holiday, there had been no progress since the meeting six weeks ago. The Chairman added that Cllr. Kelly should liaise with Mr Turner, informing him that the Parish Council would like a report on progress since the meeting.
- c. Cllr. Talbot informed all present that Rob Turner had in fact been back at work for three days, during which time the road markings at the junction of Colne Way and New Way had been reinstated. Cllr. Talbot added that whilst there were plans to deal with the potholes, Mr Turner stood a chance of losing any kudos as a result of the Open Air Meeting by the lack of action since.
- d. It was suggested that Cllr's Kelly and Talbot should be part of the Steering Group once formed. Cllr. Talbot stated that it was important that a representative of residents of the Tower Estate be part of the Steering Group.

G-18-060 ASSISTANCE TO SAVE OUR ST OSYTH (S.O.S):

The Chairman reminded the Council of the meeting of 17th May 2018, during which together with Cllr. White and the Clerk, she had met with representatives of Save Our St Osyth (S.O.S).

The draft letter from the Parish Council to residents on behalf of SOS, having been previously circulated, the Chairman stated that she felt that all Councillors should have sight of and approve the letter, before it was forwarded to SOS. All present agreed the content. At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk informed the Council that having discussed the matter of which organisation should be responsible for receiving financial donations / contributions, the Parish Council or SOS, with the CEO of EALC, he [the Clerk] had been advised that whilst the Parish Council could write to residents, any subsequent payments should be made to SOS.

The Chairman then invited comments from the Council:

- a. Cllr. Ward enquired as to how any donations / contributions would be split between those members of SOS for who the collection was being made. The Chairman suggested that an explanation be included in the Parish Magazine.
- b. Cllr. Kelly enquired as to what would happen if more than the required amount of £47,000.00 was raised, given especially that a 'crowd funding' page had already been set up.

The Chairman stated that she would arrange a further meeting with the Executive Members of SOS to discuss the points raised by Councillors.

Cllr. Talbot endorsed the Chairman’s letter, which was seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.

G-18-061 ST OSYTH PRIORY:

The Chairman informed the Council that she had accepted the offer to become a Trustee and that together with Ian Davidson, CEO, TDC, with whom she had met on 13th June 2018, to discuss access to the Priory estate, she had met with Tim Sargeant to discuss the appointment of a member of the Business Community, namely Andy Booth of Naglotech, to the Trust, following the decision of Mr Terry O’Dell not to join.

The Chairman continued that following an email regarding a meeting of the Trust, which had included staff of City & Country, the legal firm and accountants used by the Sargeant Family, she had contacted Tim Sargeant as to who some of the email recipients were and why they had been included. The Chairman of the Parish Council had subsequently contacted the Chairman of the St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust, Kim Lalli, who had agreed with Cllr. Grantham that only Trustees should be in attendance at meetings of the Trustees.

Cllr. Cooper enquired as to why Ian Davidson was appointed as the District Council representative. The Chairman and Cllr. Talbot explained that due to his position with the Council, and his experience of Board membership, Mr Davidson was the obvious and best choice.

G-18-062 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. The Clerk notified Councillors of an invite to the Community Volunteer Services (Tendring) (CVST) Annual General Meeting on 11th July 2018, details of which he would forward to Councillors.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.05 pm.

Summary of ‘Action Required’ from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 21st June 2018		
G-18-047 a	Horse Box in Dumont Avenue	Clk to liaise with TDC
G-18-047 c	Code of Conduct	Personnel Committee to review
G-18-049 d	Operation London Bridge	Personnel Committee to review
G-18-050	Dumont Avenue Play Area	Chairman to include in report
G-18-051 c	Clacton Road Litter Bin	Cllr. Ward to liaise with resident
G-18-051 g	Website Counter	Cllr. Lockwood to action
G-18-051 h ii	Community Speed Watch	Clk to write to Essex Police
G-18-057	Fly-Tipping	Clk to write to PF&CCfE
G-18-058	Installation of CCTV	Clk to liaise with GCS Alarms
G-18-059 b	Orchards Holiday Park	Cllr. Kelly to liaise with Manager
G-18-060	Save Our St Osyth (S.O.S)	Meeting to be arranged

Signature: *[Signed on Original]*
 JM Kemp
 Vice-Chairman