



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 21st February 2019 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. Jean Smith

NOT PRESENT: Cllr. Colleen Peverell

MINUTES: Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

G-18-200 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. Grantham declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of St Osyth Priory and Planning Application 19/00152/FUL.

Cllr. Kemp declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 19/00152/FUL.

G-18-201 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a)	18/02035/FUL Mrs E Lovelidge 9 Mill Street St Osyth	Removal of section of wall to re-open historic access. Whilst members of the Parish Council are unable to recall any such historic access, there are no objections on the basis that having assessed the application, the Highway Authority deem the application as acceptable.
b)	18/02111/FUL Miss C Hussein 1 Braziers Farm, Beach Road St Osyth	Change of use from existing B1 to A1. (Amended plans). No objections.

c)	19/00018/FUL CE Cook Developments Ltd The Old Cottage Daltes Lane St Osyth	Erection of 1 new dwelling and garage. Whilst it is appreciated that the applicant has reduced the height of the garage (as indicated in drawing 1507/05c), the Parish Council would object to the siting of the garage as per Block Plan 1507/02B, and would instead prefer to see the same elevations (1507/05c refers), with the building located as per the location indicated in drawing 1507/02A. The Parish Council are opposed to the garage being sited as per Block Plan 1507/02B, as it is felt that it will have considerable impact on the neighbouring property, in terms of the provision of natural light.
d)	19/00032/FUL Mr R.A, T.R, D.R, A.I Sargeant St Osyth Priory The Bury St Osyth	Variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans) of application 17/00634/FUL - to allow amendments to the elevations of Lake House North. The Parish Council would concur with and support the comments submitted by the representative of the Essex Gardens Trust.
e)	19/00045/FUL Mr K Gill Wensley Stud Rectory Road Weeley Heath	Proposed cartlodge and tack room. Objections on the basis that the size and design of the proposed property are deemed to be of little benefit to the countryside setting.
f)	19/00077/FUL Mr & Mrs Booth 96 Clacton Road, St Osyth	Proposed first floor rear extension. No objections.
g)	19/00123/FUL Mr R.A, T.R, D.R, A.I Sargeant 7 Mill Street St Osyth	Proposed demolition of 7 Mill Street and construction of a new build Gate Lodge. The Parish Council has no objection to the demolition of 7 Mill Street, approved as part of planning application 16/00656/FUL. However, the Parish Council does object to the construction of a new build Gate Lodge. It is felt that it is an overdevelopment of the site and the area. Because of the constraints of space to accommodate two gate lodges, it appears that the design has been modified and does not enhance the entrance to the historic estate and parkland. It is the view of the Parish Council that the design of a single Gate Lodge, approved as part of planning application 17/01175/FUL, forms a more attractive entrance to the historic estate, and that there should not be a second new build Gate Lodge.

h)	19/00152/FUL Bryher Beer Top Barns, St Cleres Hall Lane St Osyth	Change of use from agricultural to B2 general industrial (retrospective). The Parish Council discussed this retrospective application at length, during which concerns were raised as to the increase in traffic along a privately owned track and the use of an agricultural building for non-agriculture related business. Following a vote, Councillors voted by a margin of four to one in favour the application, with six Councillors abstaining.
i)	19/00208/ADV Mr R.A, T.R, D.R, A.I Sargeant St Osyth Priory The Bury, St Osyth	5 No. signs to advertise development and business activities. No objections.
j)	19/00226/FUL Mr D Perry 245 & 247 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Proposed garages to both dwellings and two story extensions to 247 Point Clear Road. Whilst the Parish Council has no objections to the proposed alterations and extensions to No:247, there are objections that the proposed development to No:245, part of which will be forward of the building line of neighbouring properties, is excessive and should therefore be deemed as overdevelopment.

G-18-202 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) Notification of Decisions (Determinations) 11th January 2019 to 8th February 2019.
- b. Correspondence from TDC in respect of Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/18/3210247 (TDC 18/00656/FUL).
- c. Correspondence from TDC in respect of Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/18/3215755 (TDC 18/00427/FUL).

As it was believed to be the third appeal in respect of the property, Cllr. White was asked to seek clarification as to whether all appeals were free to the applicant or just the first.

Cllr. Talbot stated that all appeals were free to the applicant. The consensus was that this was an abuse of process.

G-18-203 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 17th January 2019 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. Kelly. All agreed.

G-18-204 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. G-18-189 b. The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr. Peverell had taken photographs of Footpath 5, which would be shown to Councillors during the course of the meeting.
- b. G-18-193 c. The Clerk reminded the Council of the memorial application to be reviewed during the course of the meeting.
- c. G-18-194 a iii. The Clerk informed the Council that having enquired as to the availability of the surplus plastic chairs, he had been informed by the Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee that the chairs had already been disposed of, and that those stored behind the stage of the Village Hall, were still required.
- d. G-18-197. The Clerk informed the Council that the forthcoming local Elections had been advertised in the Parish Magazine.

G-18-205 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

G-18-206 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from St Osyth Allotment Association with regards to the grant payment by the Parish Council.

G-18-207 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to adhere to their allotted time for delivering their respective reports.

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** Nothing to report.
- b. **Highways Working Party:**
 - i) The Clerk informed the Council that he had on Friday 1st February 2019 met with two residents of Point Clear Road, who had expressed concern over the speed at which vehicles were being driven along Point Clear Road. The Clerk continued that he had requested the residents put their concerns in writing, but that to date he had not received any form of correspondence, and as such he [the Clerk] was unable to inform the Council further.

- ii) The notes of the meeting of 20th February 2019 having been previously circulated, the Chairman suggested that the content be discussed under Agenda item 16, during which Councillors would receive a report in respect of the Essex Highways Devolution Pilot Scheme. All agreed.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The notes of the meeting of 13th February 2019 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** The Clerk informed the Council of forthcoming changes to the allocation of Section 106 contributions, which would see the Parish Council receive funding from single developments, as opposed to only receiving funding where ten or more properties were built.

G-18-208 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for December 2018.
 - i) Cllr. Kelly informed the Council of offences within Point Clear by location and where practicable the status of the investigation, adding that 11 of the 23 offences reported in Point Clear Bay had occurred within the Orchards Holiday Park.

Cllr. Kelly took the opportunity to inform the Council that on 15th February 2019 the Chairman had arranged to meet with Rob Turner, General Manager of the Orchards Holiday Park, to discuss the Steering Group, which had been formed following the residents meeting in 10th May 2018. The Chairman explained that when she attended the Orchards Holiday Park for the meeting with Mr Turner, the latter had not been present, nor were any of the staff aware of the meeting.

Cllr. Kelly added that there had been no progress with regards to the concerns raised by residents of Point Clear Bay since the meeting of May 2018. A discussion ensued during which Cllr. Talbot highlighted a number of issues, which having been brought to the attention of Mr Turner, remained unresolved.

- 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 October to December 2018.

b. **Footpaths:**

- i) In the absence of Cllr. Peverell, the Clerk, by way of photographs, briefed the Council as to the condition of Footpath 5, adding that he was awaiting a response from Sarah Potter, Essex Highways Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Officer, as to what could be done to improve the surface.
- ii) The Clerk informed the Council that following a meeting with Entrac Printing, the latter had provided a sample 'weather proof' folding map, which would be used as a size guide for the proposed footpath map. The Chairman continued that the map would contain a number of walks, in addition to a 'visitors guide' of St Osyth.

c. **Planters & Litter Bins:** Nothing to report.

d. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. French informed the Council that he had noted a number of overgrown hedges, the condition of which he would monitor. He continued that he would inform the Clerk should any action, such as correspondence, be required.

e. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**

Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

On Wednesday 23rd January I attended the TDALC meeting in Beaumont Cum Moze. I had received an answer when I enquired about protective gear for residents doing litter picking, which I reported to our December meeting and read the answer as a matter arising from the minutes. The answer included a reference to the District not expecting local residents doing litter picking to pick main roads because of the potential danger to those taking part. There was a lot of discussion around the table about planning issues and it was decided that the next invitation to Cath Bicknell to visit us in November should also go to Neil Stock as Chairman of the Local Plans committee. Meeting finished at 9.10 pm.

The Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) met on 17th January in Great Dunmow. It was a normal business meeting, but Sue Barker, an Essex Councillor was present to discuss the County decision to reduce the number of library buildings in Essex. She spoke about how the use of libraries has changed over the years and that even with changes by the County to introduce computers for public use, some buildings are still greatly underused. Sue also spoke about the current survey taking place and the need for a good response. The meeting finished at 12.20 pm.

f. **District Councillor's Report:**

- i) Cllr. White reported that due to the Purdah regulations regarding the local Elections in May, after the March edition there would be no District Council Report in the Parish Magazine until after the Elections.

- ii) Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

All members of the District Council now have one eye on May 2nd Election Day, as a consideration in the many decisions they make. The major party groups on the council are having to work with a reduction in the number of seats in this election down from 60 to only 48, so some members in seats they may have held for a number of years have not been selected by their Party Group to stand as perhaps their old seat has gone or been merged with another ward on the new Electoral List. One cannot pretend the situation does not make all members a little cautious.

Tendring District Council have set their Council Tax for 'General Expenses' at £156.60 for a Band 'D' property, which with other 'Special Items' will total £226.28 in St Osyth. On the 20th February the Council Tax Committee meets to formally receive the Precept demands from the Essex County Council, Essex Police and Fire & Crime Commissioner.

It later emerged this total Council Tax will be £1,762.13 in St Osyth for a Band 'D' property, once the above preceptors have been added in.

- g. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood informed the Council that he had made a number of changes to the website, and that he was continuing to make modifications.

h. **Community Speed Watch:**

- i) Cllr. Kemp informed the Council that although a new rota had been distributed, the group was in need of new/additional volunteers. He continued that the recent 'Surround a Town' event had seen a team operating at Mill Dam Lake, with the Police and children from the Primary School carrying out checks at the Village Hall.
- ii) At the request of the Chairman, Cllr. Cooper gave a breakdown of the statistics:

Between 10th December 2018 and 18th February 2019, there were 77 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 38.3 mph.

1. Clacton Road:
4 recordings with an average speed of 36.7 mph
2. Mill Street:
41 recordings with an average speed of 38.1 mph

Total for St Osyth: 45 recordings (average speed of 37.4 mph)

3. Point Clear Road:
32 recordings with an average speed of 39.2 mph

Total for Point Clear: 32 recordings (average speed of 39.2 mph)

The highest recorded speed was 48 mph.

22 Vehicles were observed travelling in excess of 40 mph.

- iii) Cllr. Grantham informed the Council that following a recent meeting with PCSO Sue Groves, the latter had confirmed that speed checks had recently been carried out by members of the Casualty Reduction Section, using TruCAM. The Chairman continued that PCSO Groves would conduct a 'follow up' visit to all local residents caught travelling in excess of 38 mph.
- iv) The Clerk informed the Council of a recent incident whereby a resident of St Osyth had received a 'Notice of Intended Prosecution' having been caught speeding in Aingers Green.

G-18-209 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.25 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the following:
 - i) That he had attended numerous meetings, including a Members Development briefing on the use of social media, a meeting with regards to the use of Brightlingsea Library, the Tendring Local Highways Panel, as well as the Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority.
 - ii) That the County Council was looking to develop its own real estate, to make better use of certain sites, in order to deliver quality housing and meet social needs.
 - iii) That the No:79 bus service had been taken over by Hedingham, and would now be known as the No:7, an arrangement about which the County Council had been unaware.

Cllr. White stated that on a number of occasions he had observed an empty bus displaying the route of Colchester to St Osyth Beach, travelling along High Birch Road and Clay Lane.

The Clerk requested that any sightings be forwarded to him, so that he could make further enquiries, as roads served by at least four public bus services per day for five days per week or more, were the responsibility of the County Council. The Clerk added that during the 'Beast from the East' a local farmer had cleared Beach Road, whereas if it was in fact a bus route, that responsibility would rest with Essex Highways.

The Chairman informed the Council that the farmer who had cleared Beach Road, had since applied to join the Essex Highways register of approved contractors / farmers for snow clearance. Cllr. Goggin added that to the best of his knowledge this request had been approved.

iv) Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the County Council budget for 2019/2020, which included:

- a) A budget of £939m
- b) £249m toward capital programmes
- c) £700,000 towards the maintenance of footpaths
- d) £250,000 towards tackling homelessness
- e) £1m towards mental health care
- f) £500,000 towards combating 'County Lines' drug dealing

Cllr. Goggin continued that during 2018, the County Council had made savings of £60m, bringing the total savings in four years to £311m.

v) Cllr. Goggin concluded by reporting that the County Council was responsible for the care of over 1,000 children, and that the 2011 Ofsted inspection had resulted in a rating of inadequate. Following a recent Ofsted inspection, the County had achieved a rating of outstanding.

G-18-210 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED TRUSTEESHIPS REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. White informed the Council that the recruitment period for two co-opted Trustees would remain open until 19th March 2019.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Cllr. Thomas informed the Council of the following:
 - i) That the Clerk had discussed the treatment of the pavilion decking with a local builder, who had advised that in order for the treatment to be effective, the wood would need to dry out before any 'slip resistant' varnish could be applied.
 - ii) That the Clerk had requested paint samples for the exterior decoration of the pavilion.
 - iii) That although the advertisement for the pavilion had been drafted, there were concerns as to the lack of rest rooms for those with disabilities. Cllr. Thomas added that whilst not a legal requirement, given the age of the building, it could potentially deter any would be hirers.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Nothing to report.

- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** The Chairman informed the Council that the Trust would be submitting a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, with a view to enabling visits to the Priory by students.

G-18-211 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for January 2019, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:

Current a/c	£ 118,921.82
Deposit	£ 52,831.33

G-18-212 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- a. The Minutes of the meeting of 30th January 2019 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments.
- b. The Chairman informed the Council that fourteen applications packs for the position of Community Warden had been posted or delivered.
- c. Cllr. White commented that having read the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of 17th January 2019, for which he had given his apologies, he was concerned to learn that the staff had worked a total of 11½ weeks in unpaid overtime. He continued that the matter of staff hours and pay should be an agenda item at the next Ordinary meeting, a suggestion which was supported by Cllr. Ward. Cllr. White concluded by expressing his concern that the Personnel Committee had not raised the matter with the Council.
- d. The Chairman responded that like the Members of the Personnel Committee, she had been unaware of the additional hours worked by the staff until the Clerk had mentioned it during a meeting between the Chairman and Clerk. Cllr. Grantham stated that the additional hours worked highlighted the need for an additional member of staff.
- e. At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk addressed the Council, stating that along with the Administrator and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), he was willing to work additional hours in order to ensure that the Council continued to function to the best of its ability, in the service of the residents. He continued that taking on an additional member of staff, employed as a Community Warden, would alleviate the problem, as a number of jobs would be removed from the existing staff, especially himself.

The Clerk cited a recent example of where he had been required to leave the office on three separate occasions in one morning, to deal with issues in the Parish; all of which would fall within the remit of the new Community Warden. The Clerk concluded by stating that there was no need for the Council to discuss the matter any further, and that he would submit a report to the Council after the Community Warden had been in post for several months. All agreed.

G-18-213 MEMORIAL APPLICATION:

- a. The Clerk reminded the Council of the application for the erection of a memorial, which due to its design had been refused by the Cemetery Committee. The Clerk explained that the applicant had subsequently written to him [the Clerk], requesting that the Council reconsider the decision. By way of a PowerPoint presentation, the Clerk then showed the memorial design to the Council.
- b. Having viewed the design of both the headstone and kerb set, the Council discussed the application, during which it was agreed that a modified application with a smaller single flag, as featured on the bottom of the headstone could be considered, but that the unanimous decision of the full Council was that the memorial in its current form be refused. It was requested that the Clerk write to the applicant informing them of the Council's decision.

RESOLVED: That the Council endorse the decision of the Cemetery Committee, made on 9th January 2019, to refuse a memorial application. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Kemp and seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All agreed.

G-18-214 REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL PREMISES:

- a. The Chairman informed the Council that together with the Clerk, on Monday 18th February 2019, she had met with representatives of the Village Hall Management Committee to discuss the running order of the Public Meeting to be held on Thursday 28th February 2019.
- b. Cllr. White expressed concern that if, as was required at the Public Meeting, the motion for the Parish Council to take over the use of the snooker room did not pass by a vote of 75% or more, and the Parish Council had to relocate, consideration should be given to either an extension to the side of the Annex or alterations to the Annex lobby. Cllr. White suggested that this be added to the motion for the Public Meeting. The Chairman replied that the resolution had already been published; therefore, the Management Committee could not alter or add to it.
- c. The Chairman reiterated the concerns of the staff that alterations to the Annex lobby would not provide the necessary room, especially given that the archived files currently stored in the main hall would have to be moved.
- d. Cllr. Talbot stated that whilst he might not necessarily agree with all of the points raised by Cllr. White, he did appreciate the latter's views.

G-18-215 ESSEX HIGHWAYS DEVOLUTION PILOT SCHEME:

- a. The Chairman gave an overview of a briefing by Essex County Council, which she had attended with the Clerk, at the EALC offices on 4th February 2019. The Chairman continued that the briefing had been very useful, in that it had clarified a number of concerns held by the Parish Council, the most significant of which was that the Parish Council did not have to undertake all aspects of the Devolution Agreement, and could in fact 'cherry pick' which services it wished to deliver.
- b. The Chairman drew the attention of all present to paragraph 4 of the Highways Working Party notes of 20th February 2019, in which the Working Party recommended that the Parish Council take part in the Devolution pilot scheme. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Essex County Council, to both highlight a number of concerns and to request the agreement be amended to accurately reflect the intent of the Parish Council.
RESOLVED: That subject to the amendment of the Devolution Agreement by Essex County Council, St Osyth Parish Council partake in the twelve month pilot scheme. The motion was proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.
- c. Cllr. Goggin commended the Parish Council, stating by approaching the Devolution pilot scheme with its usual proactive attitude, the Parish Council could manufacture the scheme to suits its needs and those of the residents.

G-18-216 COUNCIL ELECTIONS:

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk reminded the Council of dates of importance in respect of the Elections to be held on 2nd May 2019.

G-18-217 MAINTENANCE OF PARISH STREET SIGNS:

The Chairman reminded Councillors that they were to submit the list of street signs which they had each received, by 29th March 2019, in readiness for her yearly meeting with Alan Howard, Tendring District Council.

G-18-218 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Thomas enquired of Cllr. Talbot as to whether he was aware of a proposed charge by Essex County Council for the use of Rush Green Recycling Centre, as had been reported by Andrew Pemberton, a Tendring District Councillor, via social media.
- b. Cllr. Goggin informed the Council of the Brightlingsea Regatta on 20th July 2019, requesting that a collection bucket be permitted to operate at Stone Point during the regatta. 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 February 2019		
G-18-209 a iii	Bus Sightings along Clay Lane	Cllr's to notify the Clk
G-18-213 b	Memorial Application	Clk to write to applicant
G-18-215 b	Devolution Pilot Scheme	Clk to write to ECC

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