



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 18th July 2019 at 7.15 pm

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Mandy Kelly
Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor

MINUTES: Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

OM-19-071 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.

None were declared.

OM-19-072 CHANGE OF AGENDA ORDER:

The Chairman requested that an additional item, relating to the allotments, be discussed under further matters. All agreed.

OM-19-073 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a)	19/00821/FUL Mr D Millar 27 Colne Way, Point Clear Bay	Proposed porch. No objection.
b)	19/00843/FUL Mr A Booth - Naglotech St Osyth Methodist Church Chapel Lane St Osyth	Change of use to offices. Invalid Application – to be resubmitted.
c)	19/00910/FUL Mr Lord - WLH Farms Wellwick Farm Colchester Road St Osyth	Variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) for approved application 18/00940/FUL to amend layout of holiday homes. No objections

d)	<p>18/01779/FUL Mr Alder-Barber 700 St Johns Road St Johns Nursery Site Earls Hall Drive St Osyth</p>	<p>Demolition of nursery buildings and dwellinghouse. Erection 196 residential units (comprising 8 two bed houses, 84 three bed houses, 35 four bed houses, 25 five bed houses, 12 one bedroom apartments and 24 two bedroom apartments), and 8 live work units (mixed commercial units measuring 1064 square metres in total with flats above). Associated roads, open space, drainage, landscaping, and other infrastructure.</p> <p>The Parish Council would reaffirm its strong objections of 18th December 2018, in that whilst it is noted that the proposed development is on a brown field site, the Parish Council has strong objections on the basis that this application would be an overdevelopment of a site, on which the layout and type of dwellings would have an adverse effect on the population density.</p> <p>Unless they have been withheld, it is noted that Essex Highways have yet to submit any comments regarding this application. The plans submitted by the developer would still suggest that the access to and egress from the site, from and onto the B1027, will be via a basic 't-junction'. Additionally, the Parish Council still has concerns that the volume of traffic using the B1027, will result in traffic delays, as vehicles wait to access the site; especially as the entrance to another development of some 900 properties on land adjacent to and at the rear of 755 and 757 St John's Road (17/01229/OUT refers), will be approximately 125 metres to the east of the proposed entrance for this development. This junction too, whilst having a filter lane for eastbound traffic, will still comprise a basic 't-junction'.</p> <p>The Parish Council would again raise serious concerns as to the continued impact of large-scale developments on local infrastructure, especially medical and educational services.</p> <p>The Parish Council would also comment that the proposed development is 'unsympathetic' to the rural area.</p>
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e)	19/00929/FUL NEBB Holdings Ltd Land West of The Coach House 110 Colchester Road, St Osyth	Proposed residential development comprising of 2 detached 1.5 storey dwellings. The Parish Council has strong objections to this application, which it considers as being a gross overdevelopment of an existing plot within the Conservation Area. It should also be noted that the proposed access to and egress from the two dwellings is approximately 40 metres from the junction of Colchester Road and the B1027, where in less than a year, there have been five collisions, all of which have resulted damage to street lighting or road signs.
f)	19/00928/OHL UK Power Networks Alpha Road St Osyth	Proposed additional electricity pole to overhead line. <i>Noted - for information only.</i>

OM-19-074 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notification of Decisions (Determinations) from 14th June 2019 to 5th July 2019.

OM-19-075 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 20th June 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. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. Lockwood. All agreed.

OM-19-076 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-19-048 c. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) with regards to Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/19/3226562 (TDC 18/01669/FUL), land at Heath Road, St Osyth.
- b. OM-19-048 e. The Clerk informed the Council that he had replied to Bidwells, following their request to meet with the Parish Council.
- c. OM-19-055 c. The Clerk reminded Councillors of the need to check the condition, size and location of any bins in their respective areas.
- d. OM-19-055 d. The Chairman informed the Councillors that any trees which were in need of lifting or cutting back were to be reported to Cllr. French.

- e. OM-19-055 i. The Clerk reminded the Council that during the previous report given by Cllr. Goggin, it had been requested that Cllr's Talbot and White enquire as to the reason the District Council had not paid the agreed figure of match funding, to the Local Highways Panel. Cllr. Talbot stated that he would raise the matter at the next Cabinet meeting.
- f. OM-19-063. The Clerk informed the Council that the matter of the amended memorial application would be discussed during the course of the meeting.
- g. OM-19-064. The Clerk informed all present that he had confirmed the meeting dates for 2019/2020 with the Village Hall Booking Officer.
- h. OM-19-065. The Clerk informed the Council that he was liaising with the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) with regards to the installation of restricted parking signs.

OM-19-077 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

OM-19-078 CORRESPONDENCE: None

OM-19-079 FINANCE:

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

Current a/c	£ 123,869.78
Deposit	£ 52,924.73

OM-19-080 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

- a. **Cemetery Committee:** The draft minutes of the meeting of 24th June 2019 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments or questions from those present.
 - i) As Chairman of the Cemetery Committee, Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that an amendment was required in respect of the Cemetery Inspections, in that members of the Cemetery Committee would conduct fortnightly inspections, with the Community Warden conducting weekly inspections.
 - ii) The Clerk reminded the Council of the application for the erection of a memorial, which due to its original design had been refused by the Cemetery Committee. The Clerk continued that an amended application had been reviewed by the Cemetery Committee, the members of which had agreed to a variation of the amended design.

RESOLVED: That the Council endorse the decision of the Cemetery Committee, made on 24th June 2019, to permit the memorial application subject to the acceptance by the applicant of the Committees recommendation. The motion was proposed by Cllr. French and seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All agreed.

OM-19-081 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:** The Chairman reported that the blooms were looking very good. The Chairman subsequently thanked Cllr. Blockley for polishing the planters on the Bury, in addition to the telephone box and bin. The Chairman concluded by informing the Council that 'Tiny' had repainted the lettering on the larger of the planters opposite the Priory.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** The notes of the meetings of 29th May and 9th July 2019 respectively, having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments or questions from those present.
 - i) Cllr. Ward remarked that having seen a number of 'squareabouts' in Manchester, she considered them to be a very effective traffic calming measure.
 - ii) The Chairman informed the Council that Ben Cook, BMJC Consulting Ltd had met with David Gollop, Essex Highways at the crossroads in order to set the parameters for a Feasibility Study. The Chairman continued that the Highways Working Party was to meet with Ben Cook, Neil Young, owner of the Hoy and Jerry Murray, St Osyth Butchers, both of whom it was considered would be able to provide valuable information to assist Ben Cook.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The notes of the meetings of 12th June 2019 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments or questions from those present. None were forthcoming.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** The notes of the meetings of 8th July 2019 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments or questions from those present. None were forthcoming.

OM-19-082 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** No report given.
- b. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for May 2019.
 - i) Cllr. Cooper informed the Council of offences within St Osyth by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.
 - ii) The Chairman and Clerk informed the Council of the meeting of 5th July, with PC Willmott and PCSO Groves, during which a number of points had been discussed, which included:
 - a) That the locations of reported crimes were only approximate, often being represented by a 'dropped pin' on certain apps.

b) That a number of offences could be recorded as a result of a single incident. The Clerk cited the recent incident at the Cemetery as an example.

c) That whilst unconfirmed, it would seem that the use of TruCAM by Speed Watch volunteers in Maldon had been stopped due to the volume of work being generated. The Clerk subsequently explained the need for a 'chain of evidence' in order to secure a conviction, which was putting additional pressure on Essex Police.

c. **Footpaths:** The Chairman informed the Council that as a result of a request from a resident of Chisbon Heath to have the vegetation cut back along a section of Footpath 11, it had been established that the land over which the footpath crossed was owned by former Councillor John Kemp. The Chairman continued that the vegetation had been cut back by Roger Lord, who had remarked that such work had been undertaken by Essex County Council in the past. The Chairman concluded by informing the Council that having discussed the matter with Jim Bartley, Essex Highways Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Engineer, it had been ascertained that the responsibility for the cutting back of overhanging vegetation was that of the respective landowner.

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

e. **Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.

f. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**
Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

The meeting of the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) had taken place at 10.30 am that same morning, with a pre-meeting being held at 10.00 am, to discuss the Essex Associations Strategic Plan for the years 2019 to 2024. If the plan was approved by the Executive, after its preparation by a small group who had spent time on this document, it would be put to the AGM in September, to guide the way forward for the Association over the next five years.

The plan set out six aims:

1. Service:
to provide best services to Local Councils;
- 2: Communications:
to provide excellent systems of information dissemination;
- 3: Health and Wellbeing:
to embrace new and emerging agenda's;
- 4: Council Development:
to support Member Councils;
- 5: Partnerships:
to build and strengthen partnership working; and
6. Governance:
to manage an Association that is fit for purpose and provides a framework for the future.

The EALC charges itself to provide advice and support on procedural matters directly; The EALC will provide a monthly Legal Update that will give an overview on matters relating to procedural or legal matters; EALC will provide training to compliment the advice and support provided; The EALC will provide a service 5 days a week and are able to be contacted by email, personal contact, phone. Personal visits can be made by appointment.

The EALC will aim to increase partnership working. Our sector working with the City, District and Boroughs, can work together to improve community life. Developing good relationships is extremely important as we all need to work together well.

The above are snippets from the whole document to give members a flavour of the direction that the Association wants to concentrate on and improve for the future.

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

Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that he did not have a report in respect of the District Council; however, Cllr. White would give an update on the Local Plan.

i) Cllr. White informed the Council that he had attended a meeting of the District Councils Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee on Tuesday 16th July 2019. He continued that in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Councils were required to have at least 5 years of housing stock if they did not have an approved Local Plan. Cllr. White subsequently explained that the District Council was required to build 550 new homes a year and that whilst the current housing stock amounted to 6.4 years; the Government had revised the figure for new houses per year to 800.

ii) Cllr. White gave several examples of recent appeals where the Planning Inspectors had ruled in favour of the District Council and dismissed the respective appeals.

iii) Cllr. White gave an overview on the number of new homes planned over the duration of the District Council's draft Local Plan, in addition to a number of proposed and 'reserved' developments within Tendring District.

h. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood informed the Council that during a conversation with the curator of the Parish Museum, he [Cllr. Lockwood] had been informed that all of the publications by Phyl Hendy were available in pdf format, although the information was stored on old media (floppy discs).

i. **Community Speed Watch:** At the request of the Chairman, Cllr. Cooper gave a breakdown of the statistics:

Between 13th May 2019 and 15th July 2019, there were 25 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 41.41 mph.

1. Clacton Road:
25 recordings with an average speed of 41.41 mph

The highest recorded speed was 45 mph.

3 Vehicles were observed travelling in excess of 40 mph.

OM-19-083 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. White reported that the next meeting of the Charity was scheduled for Tuesday 23rd July 2019. He continued that as a result of a prolonged leak, attributed to the failure of the lead flashing around the chimney, one of the properties in Clacton Road would require the complete replacement of rotten timbers in the roof space.

Following a brief discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Sinclair would in future give the reports on behalf of the Charity.

- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the grass had recently been cut and that the decision had been made to remove the decking after the Music on the Meadow.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that she had attended the meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) on 24th June 2019, during which she had received a great deal of hostility from representatives of two organisations, who in addition to raising the matter of the former snooker room, had questioned her as to the need for and role of the Community Warden. Cllr. Thomas continued that the Treasurer had been very supportive during the tirade of questions.

Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that the financial holdings of the VHMC had increased from £900.00 to £9000.00.

The Chairman informed the Council that having learnt of the hostility shown towards Cllr. Thomas, she had contacted Steve Cole, VHMC Chairman and had expressed her concern that Cllr. Thomas had been subjected to questions which were in no way related to the running of the Village Hall. The Chairman concluded that she had informed Steve Cole that if there was a repeat of such hostility the Council would withdraw its representative from the Management Committee.

- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** The Chairman reported on the recent, very successful visit of children from the reception class and from Year 5 to the Priory. The Chairman continued that the next issue of the Parish magazine would feature an article on the visit and that her Chairman's Report would provide information as to the Council's involvement with the Trust.

OM-19-084 HIGHWAYS DEVOLUTION GRANT:

- a. At the request of the Chairman the Clerk informed the Council that a remittance advice had been received from Essex County Council, stating that the payment of £2,913.14 would be made within 30 days.
- b. The Clerk informed the Council of his site meeting with a local contractor to assess the footways along Darcy Road and Manfield Gardens, adding that were the Council to undertake the repair all of the identified faults the cost would be £3,500.00, inclusive of materials and labour.
- c. The Chairman informed the Council of the subsequent letter written by the Clerk to Essex Highways, in which he had requested additional funding be made available from the money allocated to the Devolution Pilot Scheme. The Chairman added that the Clerk had highlighted that the allocation of funds (£1m) for the scheme was based on the population of the county, whereas the amount allocated to Councils taking part in the pilot scheme amounted to £285,127.83. The Chairman remarked that if the Council's request was unsuccessful, an approach would be made to the Finance Committee for the additional funding required to complete the repair of the footways.

Cllr. Cooper suggested that the Clerk forward a copy of the letter to all members of the Council.

OM-19-085 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES:

The Chairman informed the Council that a total of eight applications had been received for the two vacancies to be filled by co-option, although one applicant had since withdrawn their interest. The Chairman remarked that it was a shame that none of them had stood for election in May.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the applicants be interviewed on either 29th and 31st July or 5th and 7th August 2019, with four applicants being interviewed on the first of the respective dates and three being interviewed on the subsequent dates. The Chairman requested that all Councillors submit their preference to the Clerk on 19th July 2019.

OM-19-086 MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING:

The Clerk informed the Council of the recent offer by the EALC to deliver free Mental Health First Aid training to members of the Council, staff and Parish organisations. It was suggested that the Clerk liaise with the relevant EALC Officer to arrange a suitable date, one suggestion for which was 3rd September 2019.

OM-19-087 PROVISION OF OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT:

The Chairman reported that she had recently received a letter from a resident of Point Clear, suggesting the installation of outdoor adult gym equipment at Cowley Park or Dumont Avenue play area.

- a. By way of a Powerpoint presentation, the Clerk displayed examples of outdoor gym equipment.
- b. Cllr. Ward informed the Council that having contacted a company which produced the gym equipment, she considered the pricing to be very reasonable. She continued that a possible location for the equipment, if endorsed by the Council, would be the old tennis court behind the pavilion at Cowley Park.
- c. The Chairman informed the Council that Sport England had a great deal of funds available.

OM-19-088 CEMETERY FENCE:

- a. The Clerk informed the Council of the incident at the Cemetery on 28th June, whereby the Police had rammed a car off the road, causing it to crash through the fence. The Clerk continued that once the scene had been cleared, he had requested that the contractor responsible for the installation of the fence assess the damage and provide a quote. The Clerk continued that due to the construction of the fence, approximately 90% of the damaged sections could be reused; a fact which he had reported to the Clacton Gazette when they had requested information on the incident. The Clerk added that the cost of the repair was quoted at £150.00.
- b. The Clerk informed the Council that Paul Hamilton, St Osyth Business Association (SOBA) had donated £100.00 towards the cost of the repair of the fence.

OM-19-089 USE OF PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE ROOM BY ESSEX POLICE:

The Chairman informed the Council of the request by Essex Police to have access to the Committee Room when in the Parish, for writing reports etc. The Chairman added that the Clerk had discussed the matter with Steve Cole, VHMC Chairman, who thought it a very good idea.

RESOLVED: That Essex Police be provided with keys to the Village Hall Annex and Parish Council Committee Room. The motion was proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Sinclair. All agreed.

OM-19-090 KINGS ARMS PUBLIC HOUSE:

The Chairman informed the Council of the sudden closure of the Kings Arms, which would see Val Nethercott having to vacate the public house after 29 years as landlady. The Chairman continued that given all that Val had done for the village, she [the Chairman] had written to Val, thanking her for her generosity and community spirit. The Chairman suggested that the Council also write. All agreed.

OM-19-091 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. As previously requested, the Chairman reported that of one of the allotments had been left in a poor condition after the Council had refused to renew the tenancy agreement. The Chairman continued that the Council was seeking reimbursement for the condition of the plot, which would need rotavating before it could be used by another tenant.
- i) The Chairman continued that all future tenancy agreements would be amended and the current allotment holders written to in order to highlight the amendments to clauses 3 and 9, which referred to notice to be given and the condition in which a plot would have to be left.
RESOLVED: That St Osyth Parish Council amend Clauses three (3) and nine (9) of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.
- b. The Clerk informed the Council that the funeral of the late Ray De'ath, a former employee of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 1st August 2019.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35 pm.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 18th July 2019		
OM-19-076 e	Lack of TDC Financial Contribution to LHP	Cllr. Talbot to raise at TDC Cabinet Meeting
OM-19-080 a ii	Memorial Application	Clk to write to Applicant / Funeral Director
OM-19-084	Letter to Essex Highways	Clk to fwd to Cllr's
OM-19-085	Co-option Meeting Dates	Cllr's to notify Clk of dates
OM-19-086	Mental Health First Aid Training	Clk to liaise with EALC
OM-19-089	Use of Committee Room by Essex Police	Clk to obtain keys
OM-19-090	Closure of the Kings Arms	Clk to write to Val Nethercott

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