



# ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 7.15 pm

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

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (Arrived at 8.45 pm)

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Mandy Kelly (Prior Engagement)  
Cllr. John Lockwood (Family Commitment)

**MINUTES:** Neil Williams

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** None

### OM-19-092 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. Blockley declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 19/00610/DETAIL.

Cllr. Thomas declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 19/01030/FUL.

### OM-19-093 ADDITIONAL ITEM:

The Chairman requested that an additional item, relating to the Cemetery and the recent fatal Road Traffic Collision be discussed under further matters. All agreed.

### OM-19-094 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a)	19/00610/DETAIL Mr Parsons Land at Oakmead Road St Osyth	Reserved matters application for 4no. detached dwellings with associated garages.  The Parish Council would reaffirm its objections of 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2019, which are held on file by the District Council.  Further to the comments previously submitted, the Parish Council would suggest that had the original application (16/01611/OUT refers) indicated the creation of multiple access points from and onto a private road it is doubtful whether the Officer dealing with this application, or indeed the District Councils Planning Committee, would have approved the Outline application.

		<p>It is worthy of note that the original access to the land on which the applicant is proposing to build was via Point Clear Road, now the site of No: 262.</p> <p>Subsequently, this resulted in the applicant, having to access his property via Oakmead Road.</p> <p>The original Deeds of Transfer for properties in Oakmead Road and Alpha Road state that those owning properties on either road do indeed have a right of access; however, the Parish Council would question the applicant's legal ability to grant access to a third party.</p> <p>Additionally, the Parish Council is concerned that if approved, this could set a precedent for further development in an area which is outside of a Settlement Development Boundary, and would draw attention to the Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 &amp; Beyond Publication Draft, paragraph 3.2.3.1, part of which states:</p> <p><i>'In general terms, development outside of defined Settlement Development Boundaries will be the subject of strict control to protect and enhance the character and openness of the countryside.'</i></p> <p>For the reasons stated above, the Parish Council strongly objects to this application.</p>
b)	19/00963/FUL Mr & Mrs Fitzpatrick Chapel Cottage Heath Road, St Osyth	<p>Proposed extension and alterations.</p> <p>No objections.</p>
c)	19/01030/FUL Mr J Nott 17 Beach Road Lee Over Sands St Osyth	<p>Raise existing structure by 1m to avoid damage from future flooding.</p> <p>No objections, although the Parish Council would suggest that the structure be raised by 2m.</p>
d)	19/01049/AGRIC Mr R Martin Hut Farm, Rectory Road St Osyth	<p>Proposed non load bearing agricultural building.</p> <p>Invalid Application – to be resubmitted.</p>

#### **OM-19-095 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notification of Decisions (Determinations) from 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019.

- b. Correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the dismissal of Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/18/3217476 (TDC 18/00702/AGRIC) land west of Clay Lane, St Osyth.

**OM-19-096 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:** That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 18<sup>th</sup> July 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. Sinclair and seconded by Cllr. White. All agreed.

**OM-19-097 SUMMARY OF ACTION:**

- a. OM-19-076 e. Cllr. Talbot reported that having discussed the supposed lack of financial contributions from the District Council towards the Local Highways Panel (LHP), with Richard Barrett, the District Councils Head of Finance, the latter had claimed to have no knowledge of any such contributions, adding that the Local Highways Panel was a function of Essex County Council.
- b. OM-19-080 a ii. The Clerk informed the Council that he had drafted a response to the applicant and the respective Funeral Director, informing both of the Parish Councils decision with regards to the Memorial Application.
- c. OM-19-084. The Clerk reminded Councillors that they had received a copy of the letter from the Parish Council to Essex Highways in respect of the Devolution grant.
- d. OM-19-085. The Clerk reminded the Council that the interview of the final candidate for Co-option to the Council had taken place on 5<sup>th</sup> August.
- e. OM-19-086. The Clerk informed the Council that he was liaising with the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) concerning the delivery of Mental Health First Aid Training.
- f. OM-19-089. The Clerk informed the Council that the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) had approved the use of the Annex by Essex Police, and that he [the Clerk], had provided PC Willmott with keys to the Annex door and the Council's Committee Room.
- g. OM-19-090. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to Mrs Valerie Nethercott on behalf of the Council, following the closure of the Kings Arms.

**OM-19-098 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**OM-19-099 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from St Osyth Church of England Primary School, with regards to the funding for the repair to the school's swimming pool.

- b. Correspondence from St Osyth Church of England Primary School Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA), with regards to the funding for the repair to the school's swimming pool.
  - i) A discussion ensued concerning the offer of the PTFA to return the grant awarded by the Parish Council in January 2019, which Councillors believed should be retained by the PTFA, whose intent was the same as the Parish Council, in that both organisations wanted to see children being taught to swim.  
**RESOLVED:** That the grant of £2,000.00, awarded to the PTFA in January 2019, be retained by the latter, for the purpose of helping meet the costs of teaching pupils to swim and that the PTFA be requested to provide an update as to how the money would be utilised. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Sinclair and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.
  - ii) The Clerk suggested that the PTFA approach the owners of St Osyth Priory, who had in October 2017, suggested a fund of £100,000.00 for match funded improvements within the Conservation Area. The Clerk continued that whilst not within the original scope of the fund suggested by the Sargeant Family, it might be that the family might wish to make a contribution/donation towards the repair of the schools swimming pool.
- c. Correspondence from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), with regards to improving the promotion of, and the image of the organisation.

**OM-19-100 FINANCE:**

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

Current a/c	£ 114,909.16
Deposit	£ 52,924.73

**OM-19-101 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:** None

**OM-19-102 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 continued to look good.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** The notes of the meetings of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019, having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments or questions from those present.

Cllr. Ward enquired as to why raised platforms, similar to those along Coppins Road, Clacton, could not be installed in the vicinity of the crossroads. The Chairman responded that together with Cllr. Blockley she had already visited the site, and that raised tables were amongst a number of options which would be considered as part of the Feasibility Study being conducted by Ben Cook, BMJC Consulting Ltd, in respect of the crossroads.

- i) The Clerk briefed the Council with regards to funding in respect of the Highways Devolution pilot scheme and the recent correspondence from the Parish Council to Cllr. Kevin Bentley, ECC, a copy of which had been circulated prior to the meeting.
  - ii) The Chairman informed the Council that she had met with the local contractor who would be carrying out the repairs to the footways along D'arcy Road and Manfield Gardens. The Chairman continued that she had subsequently discussed the repairs with the Clerk and the Community Warden, the latter having an extensive knowledge of road maintenance, construction and Health & Safety. The Chairman added that during the work to repair the footways, the Community Warden would conduct daily visits and that prior to the work commencing, letters would be sent to the residents of the two roads. The Chairman concluded by stating that the Clerk would be requesting a plan of the utilities in the area.
  - iii) The Clerk informed the Council that a list of the repairs to the footways, as part of the County Councils Member-Led Repair Programme, had been submitted. The Clerk continued that he had provided information as to the size and location of the faults, supported by photographs.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The Chairman informed the Council that the notes of the meetings of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 had yet to be completed and that they would be received prior to the September meeting. The Chairman subsequently briefed the Council on the following:
- i) That during a patrol of Martin's Farm Park, the Community Warden had received abuse on two separate occasions, from a male and female respectively. The Chairman explained that the Community Warden, had later that day, discussed the incident with PCSO Groves, who had been visiting the Parish Office. The advice given to the Community Warden was that should there be a repetition of the incidents, the Community Warden was to take photographs of those involved, together with their respective vehicles, and that she [PCSO Groves] would visit those involved.
  - ii) The Chairman informed the Council that as a result of the incidents, a sign had been erected at Martin's Farm Park informing members of the public that following a number of complaints about the amount of dog faeces on the site, consideration would be given to the implementation of a Byelaw should the situation continue.

The Chairman added that following the discussion with PCSO Groves, a second sign had been erected informing the public of the advice given by Essex Police. The Chairman stated that the Community Warden had visited the site since the incidents, during which time it had been noted that there had been a decrease in the amount of dog faeces on site.

iii) Cllr. Talbot suggested that the Community Warden be issued with a bodycam, similar to the type used by Essex Police. The Chairman responded that this could be considered, although the Community Warden did have a 'GoPro' which he was willing to use. A conversation ensued during which time the need for photographic evidence of a dog fouling was required.

d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** The Clerk informed the Council that he had submitted an application for funding for equipment at Priory Meadow to the Community Initiative Fund.

#### **OM-19-103 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for June 2019.

i) Cllr. Cooper informed the Council of offences within St Osyth by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.

ii) The Clerk then gave an overview of reported crimes for the months of April to June 2019.

iii) Having already informed the Council of the use of the Committee Room by Essex Police, the Clerk informed Councillors that PCSO Groves had been reallocated to Clacton, which meant that there would be no PCSO cover for St Osyth. The Clerk added that PC Willmott would be covering the area and would, where possible, try to spend at least a morning or afternoon per shift cycle in the Parish, and that he [PC Willmott] was keen to conduct foot patrols accompanied by the Community Warden.

b. **Footpaths:** The Chairman informed the Council that together with the Clerk and Community Warden, she would be meeting with Sarah Potter, ECC Public Rights of Way (PRoW) officer concerning Footpath 5. The Chairman continued that a scheme to repair and shore up part of the footpath had been submitted to the Local Highways Panel; however, the scheme, costing £15,000.00 had been rejected.

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

d. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. French informed the Council that together with the Community Warden, he had carried out an inspection of the trees along Point Clear Road and that details of overhanging branches had been passed to the Clerk, who would liaise with Essex Highways.

- i) Cllr. French informed the Council of a hedge in front of 125 Clacton Road, which was in need of cutting back. He added that the hedge seemed to be on both private and Highways land. The Chairman requested that the Clerk ascertain who was responsible for the maintenance of the hedge.
- ii) Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that an Oak tree outside of 160 Point Clear Road was in need of cutting back, as a double decker bus had recently struck on overhanging branch, which Cllr. Thomas believed would have caused damage to the bus. Cllr. Thomas concluded by stating that given how the branches were beginning to sag, there was a potential for a collision. The Clerk was requested to liaise with Essex Highways and Heddingham Buses.

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

Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

On 24<sup>th</sup> July, I went to Beaumont cum Mose to attend the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) meeting at 7.30 pm. Peter Davey, the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) Chairman and National Council member was present to give his Annual Report on the activities of the Association. He stressed that following the election on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, new Council Members were to be encouraged to attend one of the many training courses organised by the Essex Association.

Our New TDALC Secretary Jeanette Sands, who is the Clerk to Little Oakley Parish Council was attending her first meeting and Janet Russell was attending her last. Peter Davey made a presentation to Janet of a nicely presented pot plant.

Linda Belgrove from Alresford was elected Deputy Chairman and in the absence of Robert Taylor, she ran the meeting. There was a discussion on the lack of Police involvement in local crime; I mentioned the thefts from our Cemetery, but it was not a heated discussion. The meeting finished at 9.35 pm.

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

Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

The one major item concerning the District Council is the distribution of new wheelie bins for fortnightly collection and changes to the dates of waste and recycling collections. Cllr. John White and I have made this our article for the September edition of the magazine and as the item is on our agenda later, I will not comment now.

The Electoral Registration Department started the Annual Canvass of Households a couple of weeks ago. This is a most important part of the democratic processes and we should encourage everybody in our Ward areas to complete and return the form. Occupiers are requested to confirm or update the details printed in the form attached to the letter.

A district survey showed by the 6<sup>th</sup> of this month of the 2,745 forms sent out to properties in St Osyth with electors, only 787 had responded, leaving 1,958 still outstanding. This is only a 28.7% return to that date. We will soon need to send out reminder letters by post to all those who have yet to confirm/update the details. If we can boost response rates now, particularly using online/text, we can avoid more expenditure on sending out the reminders.

The District Council is working towards replacing the old Bye-Laws regarding dog fouling using a new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). At the point where we introduce the new PSPO, Parish and Town Councils, such as ourselves here in St Osyth, will be able, after receiving appropriate training, to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) tickets for dog fouling offences in our Parish, should we choose to take this course of action.

g. **Website:** No report given.

h. **Community Speed Watch:**

At the request of the Chairman, Cllr. French informed the Council of his recent letter to Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECF&RS), responsible for the administration of Community Speed Watch (CSW), following a recent article on BBC Essex, during which it had been reported that a trial of TruCAM by the Maldon CSW group had been abandoned as the trial had proven too successful, with over 1,000 incidents of speeding being recorded, with Essex Police unable to cope with the number of reports generated.

Cllr. French continued that a similar trial was being conducted in Harwich, which would presumably have a similar outcome to the Maldon trial. He added that he had written to ECF&RS reminding them that St Osyth Parish Council had originally requested to be considered as part of the TruCAM trial.

Cllr. Cooper informed the Council that due to recent weather conditions, there had been no Speed Watch activity since his last report.

#### **OM-19-104 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:**

a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair gave the following report:

That the last meeting of the Charity had taken place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019. The annual accounts for the Charity were presented to the Committee. The accounts showed the Charity to be in a very healthy financial position.

The doors of the properties in Clacton Road had been replaced, with the door at No: 21 being the last to be fitted on 14<sup>th</sup> August. The damage to the ceiling and roof space was in the process of being inspected, with the ceiling panels having been removed to allow for a comprehensive inspection of the timbers. Once the results of the inspection were known, the Committee would be able to progress any necessary works.



Cllr. White informed the Council that as his term as an appointed Trustee had ended, Cllr's Cooper and Sinclair should be appointed as the Council's representatives to the Trust.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr's Cooper and Sinclair be appointed as the Parish Councils representatives to the Almshouse Charity. The motion was proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.

b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:**

i) Cllr. Thomas informed Councillors that due to the need to remove or replace the decking at the front of the pavilion, a matter on which the Clerk would brief the Council, it would be advisable to delay the painting of the front of the building, but to proceed with the painting of the side and rear of the pavilion.

**RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council, in its capacity as Sole Trustee of the St Osyth Playing Field Charity, proceed with the painting of three sides of the pavilion. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Talbot. All agreed.

ii) The Clerk reminded the Council of the decision to remove the decking at the front of the pavilion, adding that having met with a contractor on site, in order to obtain a quotation, it had been established that the supporting structure, which was set in concrete would also have to be dug out. The Clerk continued that the uncertainty of how the supporting structure had been constructed meant that the cost of removing the decking could potentially cost as much as replacing it.

iii) The Clerk subsequently provided samples of 'slip resistant' plastic decking, which he informed the Council was costed at £90.00 per metre. He continued that the cost of the decking alone would be approximately £5,400.00. By way of a Powerpoint presentation, the Clerk presented Councillors with cheaper recycled plastic decking alternatives.

iv) The Chairman suggested that the Council revisit the options available, and that together with Cllr. Thomas and the Clerk, she would seek to obtain costs in preparation for the September meeting. The Chairman continued that until such time as a cost effective solution could be identified, the decking would be cordoned off with tape, with notices advising residents that the decking was not to be used. All agreed.

c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Nothing to report.

d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that the next meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) was scheduled for September.

- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** The Chairman reported that the Education Officer from Holkham Hall in Norfolk, would be visiting the Priory on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019, to meet with representatives of the Trust. The Chairman continued that several Lecturers from the School of Life Science were keen for undergraduates to conduct research of the parkland. The Chairman subsequently narrated extracts of correspondence from the Essex University Trust regarding the provision of a building for use by visiting school children and those conducting research.

Cllr. Sinclair informed the Chairman that a similar facility existed at Beth Chatto Gardens.

#### **OM-19-105 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.45 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the following:
- i) That the consultation in respect of the use of libraries within the county had been successful, with over 22,000 residents responding. He continued that the consultation had provided a broad picture as to the use of libraries, which were now being used more as hubs for the local communities. Cllr. Goggin informed the Council that there would be no change to the current mobile library service for St Osyth and the libraries in both Clacton and Brightlingsea for at least five years.
  - ii) That following a recent accident at Flag Hill, he had been invited to meet with residents, primarily from Great Bentley, living in the vicinity of Great Bentley Country Park, to discuss their concerns about the speed limit along the B1027. Cllr. Goggin continued that together with Cllr. Lynda McWilliams, Great Bentley and Tendring District Councillor, he had met with 68 residents, who had formed an action group, to which Cllr. Goggin suggested that residents of Westwood Park and Flagship Park be invited.

He continued that the concerns of the residents were the same as those previously expressed by the Parish Council, and that four of the five Parishes within his Essex County Council Ward, were experiencing the same problems, which he attributed to the variation in the speed limit along the B1027, between Alresford and Clacton.

The Chairman reminded Cllr. Goggin that the Parish Council had previously submitted an application to the Local Highways Panel, for a change to the speed limit along the B1027, between Alresford and Clacton, which had been refused.

A conversation ensued, during which a number of issues relating to the B1027, particularly in the area of Flag Hill were discussed.

- iii) That the Parish Councils submission to Essex Highways in respect of the Member-led Footways Repair Programme had been successful and the areas of concern were to be inspected by the Direct Delivery Gang (DDG) responsible for carrying out the repairs.
- iv) That having received a brief from the Clerk concerning the Councils application to the County Councils Community Initiative Fund (CIF), he was fully supportive of the application, which if successful, would enable the Parish Council to bring forward the installation of play equipment at Priory Meadow.

**OM-19-106 MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING:**

The Clerk informed the Council that he had emailed the training provider responsible for the delivery of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training on behalf of the EALC, requesting that the training be scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019, but that he had yet to receive a response. He continued that he would notify the Council once he had any information of relevance.

**OM-19-107 NEW DISTRICT COUNCIL WASTE SERVICE:**

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk informed the Council of numerous recent complaints from residents concerning the implementation of the District Councils new waste service. Having narrated one particular email, the Clerk informed Cllr. Talbot that many of the residents had expressed frustration that the delivery of the new wheelie bins coincided with the change to the refuse collection dates, but that the main complaint had been the lack of recycling boxes.

- a. Cllr. Ward commented that until now it was obvious that people had not been recycling and that there should be a penalty for failing to recycle.
- b. Cllr. Grantham commented that people now had to recycle as they were unable to dispose of large quantities of rubbish in the new wheelie bins. Cllr. Grantham added that the residents of Stone Alley were to have remained on black bag collections, however, upon speaking to Jonathan Hamlet, TDC Street Scene Manager, he had agreed that the residents could be given wheelie bins.
- c. Cllr. French commented that he had received a number of complaints as to what could and could not be recycled.
- d. In response to the Clerk and the comments from fellow Councillors, Cllr. Talbot gave an overview of the District Councils recycling scheme, which included the following points:
  - i) That the scheme had begun in 2004, when green recycling boxes had been distributed. In 2012, red boxes and food caddies had been added to the recycling scheme.
  - ii) Whilst the District Council had anticipated that some residents were not recycling, some 40,000 containers had been distributed during the past 7 years. Since the introduction of the wheelie bins, some 10,000 recycling containers had been given to residents of the District. This had not only depleted the Councils stock but served to highlight how many had not been recycling.

- e. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that together with Cllr. White, he had prepared an article for inclusion in the September edition of the Parish magazine. Cllr. Talbot narrated extracts of the report, which he added would be forwarded to the Clerk for inclusion in the Minutes.

The following report was therefore included as part of Cllr. Talbot's response to the Council:

When we met to decide what we should report on for September, there was one item that stood above all the others – namely the New Waste and Recycling service in the District and here in St Osyth, which is our whole report this month.

This New system is a massive undertaking, during which the District Council delivered Wheelie Bins to almost 58,000 households, changing the day for future fortnightly collection for most residents, while at the same time continuing to collect people's rubbish and recycling. There are also 11,000 properties in the District that will continue with their previous weekly collection with existing Black Bags for landfill waste, but who live in a property either not served by a road, where a vehicle could lift the Wheelie Bin or where there is no space for the resident to park a Wheelie Bin off the highway, such as many properties in Clacton Road.

We hope that by now each household knows the day of collection for their property. For the majority of us it is now Thursday, but some areas such as Chisbon Heath and Beach Road will be Tuesday, whilst a few such as Clay lane will be Wednesday.

You can check your collection day yourself by 'typing' (no use clicking) this link to TDC in your Internet address line at the top of your page and when the page opens, scrolling down to the alphabetic table, then click the square with the alphabet letter that begins your road name!  
<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/new-waste-service>

Since when using your Wheelie Bin, no other waste will be collected alongside the Bin, households not previously recycling will now have to separate their waste into straight forward rubbish and material that is to be recycled. The district provided recycling boxes for those now recycling and was a bit surprised by the large number who had not been recycling. An illustration of this is the following fact. Over the last seven years the old system handed out 30,000 recycling red and green boxes. In the first six weeks of rolling out the new system our stock of 10,000 boxes were all taken and more were ordered!

Many residents have asked why we do not collect all plastics. During the contract negotiations Officers were asked to get a quote for the extra cost if we collected all forms of plastic rather than just the plastic bottles we were then collecting. The answer that came back from the negotiating table was an additional £830,000 per year, which over the seven year contract life was another £5,810,000. It was decided not to proceed.

You may be wondering why it would be such a large extra sum and the explanation is this; What we have not separated at home our contractor would have to separate, by way of a moving belt where workers standing either side have to 'pick' the different plastics into different bins. Materials separated are contaminated if other types of plastic get mixed in – so this separation has to be well done or the product has no value. Plastic material varies in value from the best and easiest to recycle, such as plastic bottles, down to plastic food boxes and wrapping sheets which have little or no value on the materials market and ultimately go straight to landfill. It was decided that rather than spend additional residents Council tax of near six million pounds, knowing that half of it is going to landfill anyway, we might as well continue to separate at home the valuable plastic ourselves and put the rest in the black sack or latterly a wheelie bin, as we have done these last eight years.

A fact of which readers may not be aware. Tendring D.C. has a Statutory Duty to collect all domestic refuse. We also have a duty to collect separately recyclable material. These functions are quite separate to the disposal of what we have collected and its final destination, as that duty is assigned to Essex County Council as the disposal authority and not to Tendring D.C.

In Tendring we must always be aware of costs, as we have one of the lowest Council Taxes in Essex. To maintain weekly black sacks, collecting 'anything' put out by householders would have cost an additional £9.55 per household. This new contract will add only 50 pence per household to the cost of the Waste and Recycling service and at the same time removing the majority of Black Sacks that do get ripped open by animals and birds, whilst strongly encouraging people to recycle as much as they can, and already we are seeing improvements to our recycling percentage!

**OM-19-108 PROPOSED DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY:**

At the request of the Chairman, Cllr. White gave the following report:

- a. At the Full Council meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> August, the Leader of the Council Cllr. Neil Stock moved a motion on the subject of a Climate Emergency. He moved that the Council declares a Climate Emergency and instructs the Chief Executive to prepare an Action Plan for consideration by Cabinet and recommendation to the Full Council to form part of the Policy Framework, as soon as practicable with the aim of activities of the Council being carbon neutral by 2030.

He referred to the "*Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees*" published by the 'Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change' in October 2018.

He spoke about the impact of projected rises in sea levels as a result of global warming and places the East Coast of the UK in the front line where impacts will be felt soonest and most severely. *Quite obviously all members will realise that our Parish Ward is right in the forefront of this change.*

That the need for determined action must be set alongside and balanced with the Council's other statutory responsibilities. That 'strong' policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits. And that recognising the above, over 80 councils across the UK have already passed "Climate Emergency" motions.

Neil Stock went on to say that £150,000 was being set aside to enable planning for the future to be undertaken and that he proposed to set up an all-party group to head up Climate Change discussion, with any action proposed having to be reported to the Cabinet and finally approved by the Full Council.

- b. A conversation ensued during which various aspects of climate change were discussed. Cllr. White informed the Council that he would like to become a member of the District Councils Working Party, if possible. The Chairman stated that it would be beneficial to know what the Parish Council and residents could do to assist the District Council.

**OM-19-109 FURTHER MATTERS:**

- a. The Chairman informed the Council that both the Clerk and Administrator were maintaining a log in relation to the theft and criminal damage which occurred at the Cemetery on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019, and that notices had been placed on the gates requesting that anyone who was missing any items from, or had damage caused to a grave should notify the Police and the Council. The Chairman added that a similar notice would also be included in the September issue of the Parish Magazine.
- b. The Chairman informed the Council that following the fatal Road Traffic Collision along Point Clear Road, the tree had been inspected by Absolute Tree Services, who had recommended that the condition of the tree be monitored. The Chairman continued that the Community Warden was also maintaining a log regarding the actions of the Parish Council, and that he [the Community Warden] would forward the information to Essex Highways.
  - i) At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk, having contacted Essex Highways, briefed the Council as to the County Councils policy on roadside tributes. The Clerk stated that flowers and items would be permitted for 12 weeks from the date of the collision, after which they would be removed.
- c. The Chairman informed the Council that the Clerk would be writing to the owners of the boatyard concerning the crane on the south bank of St Osyth Creek.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.55 pm.

<b>Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019</b>		
OM-19-097 b	Memorial Application	Clk to write to Applicant / Funeral Director
OM-19-099 b i	PTFA Grant	Clk to write to PTFA
OM-19-099 b ii	St Osyth Priory Match Funding	Clk to write to PTFA
OM-19-102 b ii	Plan of Utilities	Clk to liaise with Essex Highways
OM-19-102 c iii	Bodycam	Clk to research costs
OM-19-103 d i	Hedge at 125 Clacton Road	Clk to ascertain ownership
OM-19-103 d ii	Overhanging Branch	Clk to liaise with Essex Highways & Heddingham Buses
OM-19-104 b iv	Pavilion Decking	Chairman, Cllr. Thomas & Clk to action
OM-19-106	Mental Health First Aid Training	Clk to liaise with EALC
OM-19-109 a	Cemetery Notice for Magazine	Clk to action
OM-19-109 c	Boatyard Crane	Clk to write to owner of boatyard

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