



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 19th December 2019 at 7.15 pm

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

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (arrived at 7.40 pm)

Lynda McClure (Administrator)
Ken Belcher (Community Warden)

MINUTES: Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: One

OM-19-173 ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

The Chairman requested that two additional items be discussed:

- a. Amended plans in respect of Planning Application 19/00610/FUL, at the request of Tendring District Council (TDC).
- b. The findings of the Appeal in respect the Breach of Condition Notices (BoCN) served against residents of Point Clear Bay.

All agreed.

OM-19-174 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. Thomas declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 19/01770/FUL.

Cllr. Blockley declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 19/00610/FUL.

OM-19-175 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	19/01395/FUL Mr & Mrs Dixon 357 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Alterations and extensions. No objections.

b.	19/01688/FUL Mr & Mrs Gill Wensley Stud Rectory Road St Osyth	Change of use to site touring caravans & tents, to include Toilet & Shower Block. Whilst the Parish Council has no objections to this application in its current format, it should be noted that the Council would object to the siting of static caravans at this location.
c.	19/01767/FUL Haven Leisure Limited Orchards Holiday Village Colne Way Point Clear Bay	Variation of condition 8 (access) to Approved Planning Application 01/01548/FUL. The Parish Council has no objection to the variation of condition in respect of access; however, the Council would request that a condition of approval be that the emergency exit onto Eastern Promenade is not used for anything other than a bona fide emergency or incident.

Having declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 19/01770/FUL, Cllr. Thomas left the room at 7.30 pm.

d.	19/01770/FUL Miss M Thomas Eden 157 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Proposed single storey front extension to form additional living space for elderly disabled relative & open cart lodge. No objections.
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Cllr. Thomas returned to the meeting at 7.35 pm.

e.	19/01775/TCA Harwood (Diocese of Chelmsford) The Vicarage The Bury St Osyth	Front Garden, Right hand boundary: T1 Large Buddleia Tree - reduce by 50%. T2 Ash Tree - reduce to height of fence. T3 Elderberry tree - Fell. Area behind garage: H1 Privet Hedge - fell. Rear Garden, right hand side: T4 Cherry Sapling, T5 Ivy Covered Cherry Tree & T6 Ash Tree - fell. T7 Prunus - reduce by 50%. T8 Buddleia - reduce to height of fence. Rear Boundary. T9 Cherry - reduce branches over lawn by 50%. T10 Purple Prunus - reduce crown by 50% & remove deadwood. T11 Sycamore - reduce crown by 50%.
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		<p>Left hand boundary:</p> <p>T12 Lilac - reduce by 2m. T13 Prunus - reduce crown by 50%. H2 Privet Hedge - fell.</p> <p>Rear of House:</p> <p>T14 Purple Prunus - reduce crown by 50%. T15 Hawthorn & T16 Copper Beach Tree - fell. T17 Purple Prunus - reduce by 50%. T18 - T42, 25 Holly Trees - reduce branches back to 1m on church side, 20ft above ground level.</p> <p>Approved on 16th December 2019.</p>
f.	19/01790/FUL Chisbon Solar Farm Ltd Land North of Frowick Lane St Osyth	Variation of condition 12 of planning permission 16/01631/FUL to extend the period of planning permission. No objections.
g.	19/01813/FUL E White 57 Tower Estate Point Clear Bay	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling. No objections.
h.	19/01725/NMA Mr R.A, T.R, D.R, A.I Sargeant St Osyth Priory The Bury St Osyth	Non-material amendment to planning permission 18/01166/FUL - alter arrangement of central landscaping area to include the relocation of 4 car parking spaces. For information only – no comment required.
i.	19/00610/FUL Mr Parsons Land at Oakmead Road St Osyth	Construction of 4 No detached houses and access road off existing drive. Whilst the Parish Council has no objections to the revised plan, which would see access to the development gained via 262 Point Clear Road, as per the original application (16/01611/OUT refers), the Council is aware that the issue of access along Oakmead Road is of concern to some residents.

OM-19-176 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notification of Decisions (Determinations) from 15th November 2019 to 6th December 2019.
- b. Correspondence from a property owner regarding occupancy on the Bel Air Chalet Estate.

OM-19-177 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 21st November 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. Talbot. All agreed.

OM-19-178 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-19-159 a. At the request of the Chairman, Cllr's Cooper and French reported that they had measured the distances between the development in progress along St John's Road and the play areas at Priory Meadow and Bockings Elm, which were equidistant at exactly one mile from the development. The Chairman informed the Council that the Clerk had written to the District Council and had been informed that the Parish Council would receive a response by 24th December 2019.
- b. OM-19-159 d. The Clerk informed the Council that the scheduled pest control within the Cemetery had taken place. Cllr. Ward added that together with the Community Warden, she had visited the Cemetery after to check for any signs of rabbit activity, of which there had been no sign.
- c. OM-19-159 i. The Chairman reported that whilst there had been an improvement in parking on the pavements along St Clairs Road, one area of concern was the number of trades vehicles, which were being parked on the pavements in the evenings. It was agreed that Councillors living in St Clairs Road should monitor the situation.
- d. OM-19-161 a. The Clerk informed the Council that he was drafting a response to a resident who had expressed concerns at the perceived inconsistency of the Council in respect of comments submitted for Planning Applications 18/00958/OUT & 19/00610/FUL respectively.
- e. OM-19-161 b, c, d & f. The Clerk informed Councillors that he had forwarded a number of emails of interest.
- f. OM-19-166 c i. The Clerk informed the Council that he had forwarded lists of the location of benches and bins to Cllr. Catt; the latter stating that he would conduct an inspection of the Councils assets.
- g. OM-19-166 c ii. Cllr. Catt informed the Council that he had discussed the repair of a bench at Cowley Park with the Community Warden.
- h. OM-19-172 b. The Clerk informed the Council that he had received information from Cllr. Kelly concerning the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECF&RS) smoke alarm initiative, which he would forward to the editorial team of the Parish Magazine for inclusion in the February 2020 edition.

OM-19-179 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A member of the public addressed the Council in respect of the possible development of 100 properties on land to the east of Rochford Road. Among the concerns raised were:

- a. That despite assurances from the developers during the recent public consultation, the houses would be too expensive, especially for first time buyers or young families.
- b. That the access and egress to and from the development, onto Clacton Road, would add to the existing traffic problems at the Clacton Road entrance to the village.
- c. The lack of educational and medical provision, in addition to access for emergency vehicles.
- d. The impact of additional residents and vehicles on the already stretched infrastructure, including the lack of suitable parking in the centre of the village.

The Chairman thanked the member of the public for their input, before informing the Council that the intention of the developers to encourage a 'nature walk' through the willow plantation, linking the development with Spring Road, was unlikely, as the plantation was prone to flooding.

OM-19-180 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from the St Osyth Primary School Sports Co-ordinator in respect of the Kids Run Free Charity. The Clerk was requested to obtain further information.
- b. Correspondence from St Osyth Parochial Church Council thanking the Parish Council for a grant payment.
- c. Correspondence from the Point Clear & St Osyth Disabled Persons Club thanking the Parish Council for a grant payment.
- d. Correspondence from Tendring District Council in respect of the Tendring Heritage Strategy Consultation.
- e. Correspondence from the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) in respect of the appointment of the new Chief Executive Officer.
- f. Correspondence from EALC with regards to the Community Initiatives Fund.

OM-19-181 FINANCE:

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

Current a/c	£ 38,118.95
Deposit	£ 53,056.68

- i) Cllr. Kelly enquired as to the purchase of food caddy liners. The Clerk explained that the liners were purchased from the District Council and sold from the Parish Office, which was one of the District Councils approved distribution centres for recycling boxes.

OM-19-182 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

a. **Cemetery Committee:**

- i) In her capacity as Chairman of the Cemetery Committee, Cllr. Thomas gave a verbal report on the meeting of 9th December 2019, during which the following was noted:
 - i. That discussion in respect of the Management Plan and Wildflower Meadow had dominated the meeting.
 - ii. That the mapping of the trees within the Cemetery was due to commence in January 2020. This would see each individual tree allocated an individual number, which would make the identification of trees in need of maintenance a simple and effective process.
 - iii. That the Committee were in favour of the computerised mapping programme, the fee for which should be paid as a one-time payment as opposed to accepting the offer of a five-year payment plan.

b. **Finance Committee:**

- i) The Minutes of the meeting of 13th November 2019 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments or questions from those present. None were forthcoming.
- ii) The Minutes of the meeting of 11th December 2019 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited comments or questions from those present. None were forthcoming.

OM-19-183 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman reported that all winter blooms had been planted.

b. **Highways Working Party:**

- i) The notes of the meeting of 10th December 2019 having been previously circulated, the Chairman suggested that the notes be reviewed when discussing the Feasibility Study. All agreed.
- ii) The Clerk informed the Council that the contractors responsible for the repairs to footway defects along D'arcy Road, had confirmed that the repairs would be completed in January 2020, the exact date for the commencement of the work was to be confirmed.

- iii) Cllr. Goggin reported that the Parish Councils submission for footway repairs, as part of the second round of the Member-Led Repair Programme had been successful. He added that St Osyth, together with another of the Councils for which he was the County Councillor, had been one of the first two Councils in the county to submit such an application. Cllr. Goggin continued that he hoped that the Engineers would visit the site in the near future to assess the scope of works required.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The Clerk informed the Council that due to other commitments he had been unable to complete the notes for the meeting of 20th November 2019. The Clerk informed the Council that the notes would be received at the next meeting.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** Cllr. Ward informed the Council that the installation of the embankment slide at Priory Meadow had been completed. For the benefit of the Council, the Clerk, by way of a PowerPoint presentation, showed Councillors photographs of the new apparatus.

OM-19-184 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 7.40 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the following:
 - i) That the County Council's Cabinet meeting scheduled for 20th December 2019, had due to the General Election, been postponed until February 2020.
 - ii) That the next meeting of the Tendring Local Highways Panel (LHP) would be held on Monday 6th January 2020, and that one of the applications to be considered was the lowering of the speed limit on the B1027 in the vicinity of Flag Hill.
 - iii) That the Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell, was to become the next Archbishop of York, the second highest appointment in the Church of England.
 - iv) That consideration was being given to the removal of subsidised bus routes, where there were limited passengers on the entire journey.
 - v) That whilst there were some 258,000 children in the county who were receiving a 'top class' education, there were between 3,000 – 4,000 children who were not in education, the reasons for which ranged from home schooling to exclusion and social problems. Cllr. Goggin continued that a two-year-old child attending a Preschool and Nursery for under-fives had recently been classed as 'awkward' and that he had recently attended a school where he had been surrounded by young children who were lacking a male influence.

- b. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for October 2019.
- i) Cllr. Kelly informed the Council of offences in Point Clear and Point Clear Bay by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.
 - ii) Cllr. Cooper informed the Council of offences in St Osyth and St Osyth Beach by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.
- c. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Quy reported that she was now in possession of sufficient information and a suitable map, to begin formatting a map of walks within the Parish and a map displaying street names. Cllr. Quy informed the Council that she hoped to have drafts ready for the meeting on 16th January 2020.
- d. **Benches & Litter Bins:** Cllr. Catt reported that he had the locations of all benches and bins, and that he would check all bins for any in need of repainting in the new year.
- e. **Planters:** Nothing to report
- f. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. Kelly informed the Council that work was being carried out on a tree on Point Clear Road, near Colne View, which was close to power lines.
- g. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**
Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
- The Tendring District Association of Local Councils met on Wednesday 27th November, when the guest speaker was Alan Coley, Chairman of the Tendring District Council Climate Change Working Party. He told those present at the meeting about the matters being discussed and how some proposals, like roof panels for electricity could be part of any future planning permissions given for new development. This discussion proved to be the main business of the meeting, which finished at 9.20 pm.
- The Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) next meets on 18th January, so I have no report, as I reported on the AGM at the last Council meeting.
- h. **District Councillor's Report:**
Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
- There is nothing much to report from the District Council, as we reported to the November Parish Council meeting. Most District Council meetings have either been cancelled or deferred to a date after the General Election on 12th December, and some of these are now scheduled for the New Year.

I have been informed that the Inspectors report on the Enforcement Notices served on properties in Point Clear Bay, which were appealed against by our residents, has actually been issued today. The District Council is to consider the reports in detail, and any action it needs to take, and report to the Planning Committee and the Council early in the New Year.

September is the first month where a true comparison can be made with last year of the success or otherwise of the new waste collection scheme.

In September 2018 Tendring's recycling was 29% of all waste collected, but the County inform us that in September 2019 our recycling rate was now 41.8%. Let me repeat that – was 29% now 41.8%. Food waste collections rose 186% that is from 119 tonnes in September 2018 to 340 tonnes this year.

Our recycling, the red boxes for collecting newspapers, scrap paper and card and the green boxes for collecting plastic bottles and tin cans, went up by 34%, and even the glass collected at local bottle banks increased by 46% - due to the efforts of individual residents to be environmentally friendly!

You may guess that most of these increases in recycling are of the waste that once was going direct to landfill where statistics for the same period in 2018 show that we delivered to the County for landfill over 2,800 tonnes and now this year's, September, the delivery is 2,000 tonnes a reduction of approximately 800 tonnes.

i. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood informed the Council that he had updated Councillors information, including contact details and Committee membership.

j. **Community Speed Watch:**

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

Between 18th November 2019 and 16th December 2019, there were 7 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 38.7 mph.

1. Clacton Road:
5 recordings with an average speed of 40.4 mph

2. Mill Street:
2 recordings with an average speed of 37 mph

Total for St Osyth: 7 recordings (average speed of 38.7 mph)

The highest recorded speed was 48 mph.

1 Vehicle was observed travelling in excess of 40 mph.

OM-19-185 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair reported that the roof of 27 Clacton Road would need extensive repairs, which were likely to be in the region of £40,000.00 and that it would be necessary to rehome the tenant for approximately six weeks.

Cllr. Sinclair continued that the Charity might have to approach the District Council for temporary accommodation, with one possibility being Vyntoner House.

- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** The Clerk informed the Council that having requested quotations from four contractors for the removal of the decking, he [the Clerk] had to date only received two responses, one of which was declining the work until summer 2020 at the earliest. The Clerk continued that the quotation received, which gave a full breakdown of costs, amounted to £3,915.25, exclusive of VAT. The Clerk added that the contractor would be able to remove the decking in January should Councillors accept the quotation.

RESOLVED: That acting in their capacity as Trustees of St Osyth Playing Field Charity, the Parish Council accept the quotation of £4,698.30, inclusive of VAT, for the removal of the decking and reinstatement of the pavilion steps at Cowley Park. The motion was proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Sinclair. All agreed.

- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the next meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) was scheduled for January 2020.
- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** The Chairman reported that a meeting was scheduled between representatives of the Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the outcome of which would be reported to the Council at the January meeting.

OM-19-186 APPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Having reviewed the draft Management Plan on 21st November 2019, the Council received the completed document. Cllr. Talbot, who proposed acceptance of the Management Plan, commented that it was a magnificent document of which the Council should be proud. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.

OM-19-187 FEASIBILITY STUDY:

The Feasibility Study, together with the notes of the Highways Working Party (HWP) meeting of 10th December 2019, at which the former was scrutinised, having been previously circulated, at the request of the Chairman, the Clerk, by way of a PowerPoint presentation briefed Councillors as to the options contained within the Feasibility Study, together with the recommendations of the HWP members.

The Chairman subsequently informed the Council of a meeting to be attended by all Councillors, Ben Cook, BMJC Consulting Ltd and David Gollop, Design Manager, Essex Highways on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

The Chairman concluded that as recommended by the HWP, a combination of options were being considered, as opposed to a single option.

OM-19-188 DUMONT AVENUE PLAY AREA:

The Chairman reminded the Council that this would be discussed at the meeting scheduled for 16th January 2020.

OM-19-189 HAPPY TO CHAT BENCH:

The Chairman reminded the Council that this would be discussed at the meeting scheduled for 16th January 2020.

OM-19-190 PLANNING APPEAL IN RESPECT OF POINT CLEAR BAY:

The additional item for discussion having been agreed, Cllr. Kelly addressed the Council with regards to the findings of the Appeal in respect the Breach of Condition Notices (BoCN) served against residents of Point Clear Bay by the District Council, during which the following was noted:

- a. That the date for the decision had been delayed on several occasions, and that having been informed that it would not be released until January 2020, Cllr. Kelly had, on 18th December 2019, received an email from an Appellant informing her [Cllr. Kelly] that they had received their decision. Cllr. Kelly continued that the decisions were published on the Planning Inspectorate website before Appellants had received emails or correspondence notifying them of the outcome of the Appeal.
- b. That whilst a number of appeals in respect of the 2017 Enforcement Action had been quashed, the BoCN, served in 2012 remained extant, meaning that the District Council could still prosecute residents for non-compliance.
- c. That where the appeals had been refused on the grounds of a lack of evidence to support a history of 10 years continued occupation, the reason given for refusal was that of the perceived flood risk. Cllr. Kelly stated that there had been no reference to flood risks in cases where the appeals had been quashed.
- d. Cllr. Kelly informed the Council that the Planning Inspector had stated that as the Enforcement Notices had been quashed, there was no breach against which the deemed planning application could be assessed. Therefore, the Inspector was unable to determine whether planning permission should be granted.
- e. Cllr. Kelly concluded that in respect of the differing permissions on properties in Point Clear Bay, residents were no further forward and that the Inspector had avoided the real issue. Cllr. Kelly added that having spoken with Chris Stathers, TDC Enforcement Team Leader, he had informed her [Cllr. Kelly] that he would have to take further instruction, as he had never known such a decision.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Kelly for the update and informed the Council that a full report would be received at the January meeting.

OM-19-191 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. The Chairman thanked all Councillors for their support before wishing all present a Happy Christmas.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.25 pm.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 19th December 2019		
OM-19-178 c	Parking along St Clairs Road	Cllr's Sinclair, Ward & White to monitor
OM-19-178 d	Correspondence re 18/00958/OUT & 19/00610/FUL	Clk to action
OM-19-178 f	Inspection of Benches & Bins	Cllr. Catt to action
OM-19-178 h	ECF&RS Smoke Alarm Initiative	Clk to submit article
OM-19-180 a	Kids Run Free Charity	Clk to obtain further info
OM-19-182 a i ii	Mapping of Cemetery Trees	Community Warden to liaise with contractor
OM-19-182 a i iii	Payment for Grave Mapping Software	RFO to review

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

Date: