



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 20th February 2020 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 &
Julie Ward

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (arrived at 8.25 pm)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Michele Thomas (Compassionate)
Cllr. John White (Prior Engagement)

MINUTES: Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

OM-19-216 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 Non-Pecuniary Interests in respect of planning applications 20/00035/FUL and 20/00038/FUL.

OM-19-217 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	19/01946/OUT Bennett Homes Land south of Clacton Road & east of Rochford Road St Osyth	Outline Planning with some matters reserved, except access, for the demolition of existing buildings and the development of up to 100 new homes, public open space, a woodland walk and associated infrastructure. The Parish Council strongly object to this application, which is considered to be further and unnecessary overdevelopment of a village which is lacking in infrastructure. Permissions having already been approved for developments at West Field and Wellwick, which will see the building of 73 and 190 properties respectively, there are concerns as to the impact of a further 100 properties, including:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the increase of approximately 45 children* at the village Primary School, the catchment area for which includes St Osyth village, Point Clear, and the existing and proposed properties along St John's Road (*figures based on ECC formula); • the shortage of patient places in the two surgeries; • the lack of sufficient parking places in the centre of the village; • there is already a lack of sufficient public transport to cater for existing residents; • the increase of traffic using Clacton Road, which in turn would result in delays for traffic waiting to exit onto the B1027, via one of only two entrances to the village; it is because of this that the Parish Council has approached Essex Highway with a request for a mini roundabout at the Clacton Road entrance to the village; • that the proposed woodland walk could result in increased visitor vehicles to the development, which in turn could result in unexpected off-road parking; <p>the Parish Council would also draw attention to the fact that not only is the area of the proposed woodland walk prone to flooding. But more importantly, the site is part of a rewilding scheme as advised by the Essex Wildlife trust.</p> <p>Furthermore as the site is owned by the Parish Council, Bennett Homes have already been advised that the Council would not give permission for it to be used as part of the Woodland Walk.</p>
b.	19/01952/FUL Mr & Mrs Highfield Elton Grange Rectory Road St Osyth	<p>Proposed change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house.</p> <p>Following a lengthy discussion, the Council voted in favour of the application, by a margin of 7 in favour, 3 objecting and 1 abstaining.</p>
c.	19/01954/FUL Mr Low - J A Low & Son St Osyth Lodge Farm Clacton Road, St Osyth	<p>Proposed agricultural building.</p> <p>Approved by TDC on 17th February 2020.</p>

d.	20/00035/FUL R.A, T.R, D.R, A.I Sargeant Land South of Bypass Road and North of Colchester Road St Osyth	<p>Proposed construction of 6 self-build and custom-built homes</p> <p>The Parish Council would reaffirm its comments of 18th December 2018, in respect of planning application 18/01904/FUL, in that the Parish Council has strong objections on the basis that this application would be an overdevelopment of a small site outside of the Settlement Development Boundary and would be contrary to the District Councils draft Local Plan, in that the proposed development is on land listed as 'safeguarded local green space'.</p> <p>Additionally, the plans as submitted are misleading for a number of reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the site plan encompasses land that is owned by Essex Highways; • the block plan does not show the path between No's 3 and 4; • the block plan does not indicate the location of the roadside verge opposite the entrance, therefore giving the appearance that the road is wider than it actually is; • there is an insufficient visibility splay to the west of the proposed junction, which could only be achieved by the partial removal of a designated, protected hedge under the ECC roadside verge scheme; • the location of the proposed entrance is deemed to be extremely dangerous, as vehicles would be increasing in speed from 30 mph to 40 mph whilst approaching the access to the development. <p>The proposed development would do little to enhance the entrance to St Osyth village.</p>
e.	20/00038/FUL Mr D Wallis 1 St Cleres Cottages St Cleres Hall Lane, St Osyth	<p>Proposed second floor extension.</p> <p>Whilst it is noted that this is a retrospective application, the Parish Council has no objections.</p>
f.	20/00061/FUL Mr B Garrity 29 Eastern Promenade Point Clear Bay	<p>Revision to approved application 19/01544/FUL for first floor extension and solar panels.</p> <p>No objections.</p>
g.	20/00071/TCA Cochrane Tree Services Ivy Cottage 72 Colchester Road St Osyth	<p>1 No. Eucalyptus - reduce by 50%.</p> <p>The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.</p>

h.	20/00127/FUL Mr & Mrs Argent Woodview Clay Lane St Osyth	Proposed 1 1/2 storey rear extension with 2 No. flat roof side dormers, rear Juliet balcony and 4 No. velux rooflights. No objections.
i.	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 Clerk briefed members of the Council on the suggested amended response of 20 th December 2019. The Parish Council objects to the variation of the condition in respect of access and would request that the emergency exit onto Eastern Promenade is not used for anything other than a bona fide emergency or incident. All agreed.

OM-19-218 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notification of Decisions (Determinations) from 10th January 2020 to 7th February 2020.

OM-19-219 PLANNING APPLICATION 18/01779/FUL:

The Chairman informed the Council that Cllr. Blockley, had, on Wednesday 12th February 2020, attended the District Councils Planning Committees site visit of the proposed development at St John's Nursery, in order to put forward the views of the Parish Council, with regards to the access to the proposed site.

The Chairman continued that, that same evening, together with Cllr. Blockley, she had attended the District Councils Planning Committee meeting, at which she [Cllr. Grantham] had represented the Parish Council, in objecting to the proposed development, especially with regards to the access to and egress from the site.

The Chairman subsequently informed the Council of the following concerns which had been raised during the meeting:

- a. That the entrance between the proposed development, and that of the proposed development on land to the south of St John's Road, at Rouses Farm 17/01229/OUT refers), were only 110 metres apart. This, in real terms, was a distance separated by 6 existing properties.
- b. That Essex Highways had raised no objections with regards to either the location of the proposed access, or the style of the junction, which would remain a simple 't-junction'.

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk, by way of a PowerPoint presentation, highlighted the proximity of the approved and proposed developments along St John's Road, which saw five developments of approximately 1,245 houses and static caravans within a distance of some 806 metres.

The Chairman concluded by requesting that the Clerk write to Essex Highways to question their rationale, as it seemed that individual planning applications were being considered in total isolation, with no forethought being given to existing or indeed future developments. All agreed.

OM-19-220 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of 16th January 2020 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Sinclair. All agreed.

OM-19-221 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-19-194 c iii. The Clerk informed the Council that he was in the process of drafting a letter to the District Council concerning Public Open Spaces Contributions.
- b. OM-19-203 b iii. The Clerk informed the Council that he had prepared a number of parking notices for Councillors living in St Clairs Road. The Chairman stated that she wished to discuss the placing of the parking notices with the respective Councillors before they began using them.
- c. OM-19-206 d ii. The Clerk informed the Council that the Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party was to discuss further the possible installation of outdoor gym equipment at Cowley Park.
- d. OM-19-203 biii. The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr. Quy would discuss the footpath map during her report to the Council.
- e. OM-19-206 d. The Clerk reminded the Council that the Chairman would be informing residents, by way of her report in the Parish magazine, of the reason for the temporary closure of Dumont Avenue play area, with effect from 1st March 2020.
- f. OM-19-207 b. The Clerk reminded the Council that the possible locations for a 'Happy to Chat' bench would be discussed during the course of the meeting.
- g. OM-19-208. The Clerk informed the Council that the final lengths of festoon lighting cable had been received, which negated the need for further action by way of the Small Claims Court.
- h. OM-19-209. The Clerk informed the Council that he had submitted the preferred options of the Council, in respect of the suggested improvements contained within the Feasibility Study, to Tom Eng, Essex Highways, who in turn would submit the information to the Local Highways Panel.
- i. OM-19-210. The Clerk informed the Council that he had yet to write to the District Council with regards how the latter proposed to resolve the matter of those residents in Point Clear Bay affected by the decision of the recent Public Inquiry. The Clerk continued that he would write to the Head of Planning the week commencing 24th February 2020.

- j. OM-19-211 c. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the brewery responsible for the Kings Arms with regards to the appearance of the former public house. The Clerk continued that despite forwarding several photographs highlighting the condition of the establishment he had yet to receive a response. The Clerk concluded by informing the Council that he would contact the brewery again.

OM-19-222 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of 28th January 2020 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. Lockwood. All agreed.

OM-19-223 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

OM-19-224 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from Cllr. McWilliams, Great Bentley Parish Council, concerning mud on the road in the area of Martin's Farm Country Park.
- b. Correspondence from the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) with regards to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Parliamentary Lobby Day.
- i) Following a discussion between Councillors, it was agreed that the Clerk should forward to the EALC the concerns of the Council, in respect of what was considered to be the unfair share of housing stock and the lack of appropriate infrastructure, both at Parish and District level.
- c. Correspondence from Essex County Councils Passenger Transport Team, concerning the Essex-Wide Bus Shelter Project, a presentation for which was to take place on Friday 6th March 2020. The Chairman enquired as to whether any Councillors would attend the presentation. Cllr. Sinclair subsequently volunteered to attend.
- d. Correspondence from Tendring Community Transport concerning the introduction of a new door to door service between Clacton & Harwich and the outlying villages in the Tendring area.

OM-19-225 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for January 2020, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:

Current a/c	£ 103,877.79
Deposit	£ 53,056.68

OM-19-226 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman reported that some plants were beginning to bloom.
- b. **Highways Working Party:**
 - i) The Clerk reminded the Council that he had submitted the preferred options of the Council, in respect of the suggested improvements contained within the Feasibility Study, to Essex Highways for the attention of the Local Highways Panel.
 - ii) The Clerk informed the Council that the repairs to the footways along D'arcy Road, as part of the Member-Led Repair Programme, were due to commence on 26th February 2020.

Cllr. French subsequently informed the Council that BT had marked the footway ahead of what he believed to be work which could result in the repaired footways being dug up again. The Clerk was requested to liaise with BT OpenReach to ascertain what works were planned.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** The notes of the meeting of 4th February 2020, having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited Councillors to comment or ask questions of Cllr. Ward, in her capacity as Chair of the Working Party. None were forthcoming.

OM-19-227 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for December 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.
 - iii) The Clerk subsequently gave an overview of reported crimes for the months of October to December 2019.
 - iv) Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that at a recent meeting with Roger Hirst, Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex (PF&CCfE), Cllr. White had highlighted the value of the monthly crime statistic reports presented to the Parish Council by Cllr's Cooper and Kelly.

- b. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Quy informed the Council that she was now in possession of a great deal of information with regards to the 25 public footpaths within the Parish, and that with the assistance of Cllr. Lockwood she would do a comparison of historic and current information, with a view to producing a booklet of 'Parish Walks' in addition to the possibility of a loose-leaf map for inclusion in the Parish magazine.

Cllr. Quy continued that she wanted to cross reference some of the information to ensure that it was current. The Chairman suggested that Cllr. Quy liaise with Sarah Potter, ECC Public Rights of Way (PRoW) officer.

- c. **Benches & Litter Bins:** Cllr. Catt reported that locks were broken on several bin doors, which he would bring to the attention of the Community Warden.

- d. **Planters:**

- i) Cllr. Ward reported that the displays were starting to grow nicely.
- ii) The Chairman informed the Council that she would be meeting with Gordon Frew, area sales rep for Amberol, towards the middle of March to discuss the new planters to be sited either side of the village sign on the Bury.

- e. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. French reported that having raised concerns as to the condition of the allotment's hedgerow along Clacton Road with TDC, the latter had, within 2 days of being informed, flailed the hedgerow. Cllr. French concluded that TDC had done a very good job.

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

Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

TDALC had last met on 22nd January, at Beaumont cum Mose. (The journey was a nightmare with heavy fog on some part of the rural roads, that meant almost stopping, unable to see ahead). We had two guests, Joy Darby the retiring Chief Executive officer of the Essex Association, and her replacement, Charlene Slade, the current Finance Officer. It was a 'swan song' for Joy who is retiring in March, and an introduction to our Tendring Local Group for Charlene as the CEO elect.

A vote of thanks followed, along with the presentation of a retirement card. With knowledge of outside weather conditions, Linda Belgrove who was in the chair, suggested to the meeting that as there was nothing urgent to deal with for this meeting, the meeting finish as early as possible, so the general exchange of views was left. The meeting finished at 9.05 pm.

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There have been no meetings of the Essex Association since the last meeting.

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

Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

Multi-million pound investment into Clacton is being welcomed after plans for a new trade; leisure and Retail Park were approved. Tendring Planning Committee has granted planning permission for the new development, opposite to the existing Waterglade site off Old Road. The development will include a drive-thru, a tyre centre, a gym, six retail or leisure units and nine trade units, with the site almost 80% let already. This is where the old Gasworks were sited.

A tenancy audit is being carried out by Tendring District Council to make sure those who live in Council Homes are entitled to them. The checks, which are carried out regularly by a dedicated fraud team, review whether any properties have been abandoned or sub-let or based on false information was given to their entitlement to be living in the property and is now discovered. Following such a review last year, 25 homes were taken back from people who had falsely claimed an entitlement to one and instead given to families on the waiting list who need a home. Sadly, there is a small minority who try to abuse the system for their own ends. This leads to families who may desperately need a home going without one, and costing TDC, and taxpayers to put them up in temporary accommodation.

Proposals to demolish a horticultural nursery site and build 195 new homes have been refused planning permission by the Council. The application for the St John's Nursery site behind St John's Road, St Osyth, was turned down by members of the Planning Committee. The scheme proposed to knock down nursery buildings, including glasshouses, and replace them with the new homes, made up of 6 two-bed houses, 87 three-bed houses, 33 four-bed houses, 25 five-bed houses, 12 one-bed and 24 two-bedroom apartments, along with eight live-work units. In total the site would also include 10% affordable homes.

A new £1.2 million fund has been set up to help unlock economic growth in Tendring. The Rural and Urban Infrastructure Fund is aimed at kick-starting or seed-funding larger projects within the district. It is based on the model of the previous Coastal Improvement and Enhancement Fund, set up in 2011, which saw TDC allocate £3m which in turn leveraged overall investment of £37m from government and partners to fund major sea defence works in Holland-on-Sea.

- h. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood informed the Council that he continued to make the usual updates. He continued that Nigel Jeskins, the Museum Curator had expressed concern that the books of the late Phyllis Hendy were being published on the website. The Chairman suggested that Cllr. Lockwood and herself meet with Nigel Jeskins to discuss the matter further.

Cllr. Lockwood continued that it would be good to have a 'snapshot' of information about the Parish on the website, along the lines of a 'news in brief' section. The Chairman remarked that it would be a good idea, however, any comments likely to draw comment on social media were to be avoided.

Cllr. Kelly suggested that it would be good to have a weekly update/newsletter published on the website to keep residents informed of events and/or activities.

i. **Community Speed Watch:**

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

Between 16th December 2019 and 17th February 2020, there were 35 occurrences of drivers speeding in the village, with an average speed of 37.3 mph.

1. Clacton Road:
9 recordings with an average speed of 37 mph
2. Mill Street:
26 recordings with an average speed of 37.6 mph

Total for St Osyth: 35 recordings (average speed of 37.3 mph)

The highest recorded speed was 42 mph.

2 Vehicles were observed travelling in excess of 40 mph.

- ii) At the request of the Chairman, Cllr. Cooper gave an overview of an incident which occurred on 12th February 2020, during which he, together with Cllr. French and another member of the Community Speed Watch (CSW) group had been subjected to abuse from a resident of Clacton Road. Cllr. Cooper continued that having reported the incident to Mary Whiley, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECF&RS) Community Speed Watch co-ordinator, he had since been advised that the matter had been referred to Matt Hine, Head of the Police Road Crime Team, to deal with.
- iii) All CSW volunteers have been informed that when carrying out Speed Watch activities, they must wear the bodycam.

OM-19-228 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.25 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the following:
- i) That the County Council had approved a budget to provide 'lollipop' ladies/men with bodycams.

- ii) That along with numerous others, he had on 13th February, attended the Historical Society meeting, during which Sidge Kenny had given a presentation on the 'Beginnings of Point Clear', which had been a very informative and enjoyable evening.
- iii) That he would be attending the Local Highways Panel meeting on 19th March 2020. He subsequently thanked the Parish Council for agreeing to host the meeting on 26th February, at which representatives of Essex Highways, St Osyth, Alresford, Great Bentley and Thorrington Parish Councils would discuss concerns over the variation in speed limits along the B1027, between Wivenhoe and Clacton on Sea.
- iv) That having attended a meeting with the PF&CCfE, it had been established that Essex Police had already seen an increase of 150 new officers, with a further 218 to be trained during 2020. Cllr. Goggin added that the PF&CCfE intended to increase the number of officers from 2,850 to 3,600.
- v) Cllr. Goggin then gave an overview of the recently approved County Council budget, which included:
 - a) £5m for action on climate change;
 - b) £130m for road repairs;
 - c) £380m for infrastructure;
 - d) £5m for footpaths;
 - e) £750,000 for Localism, which would see £10,000 awarded to each County Councillor, to use within their respective constituencies;
 - f) £500,000 to combat rough sleeping; and
 - g) £1m towards Mental Health care.
- vi) Cllr. Goggin added that Essex County Council had for the past 2 years been within the top 10 Local Authorities in the country.
- vii) That Brightlingsea Town was looking to implement a Heritage Project, which would see live camera feeds over the estuary. Cllr. Goggin enquired as to whether St Osyth Parish Council would consider joining the scheme, by placing a camera on the Point Clear side of the estuary. Cllr. Grantham suggested that it would be beneficial for a representative of the project to meet with the Parish Council.
- viii) Cllr. Talbot enquired as to whether the Clerk was aware of recent work carried out by Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners (BHC) on the oyster pits on the salt marshes in Point Clear Bay. When the Clerk responded that he was not aware, Cllr. Talbot suggested that the Clerk write to BHC.

OM-19-229 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

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

The Committee had met on the 28th January 2020.

Work on the roof of 27 Clacton Road is due to begin shortly. Quotes have been received and range from £26,000 but the final cost is expected to be in the region of £35,000. Fencing has been replaced at 5 St Clairs Road using a local tradesperson.

There would be a church service on Friday 6th March at St James, East Hill, Colchester at 6:30pm, to celebrate the 900th Anniversary of Almshouses. There will be a weekend fayre on the 18th and 19th July at Upper Castle Park, Colchester. Admission is free. There will be three zones of activity.

History Re-Enactors will be around Colchester Castle providing a living Norman history display. There will be charity village enabling local and national charities to showcase their work. Musical entertainment will take place around the bandstand. There will also be a multi-faith service on the Sunday morning.

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

i) The Clerk informed the Council that he had received confirmation from Mark Shuttleworth that the Cricket Club was to be dissolved as of Saturday 29th February 2020, at which time all assets would be transferred to the Parish Council.

ii) The Clerk informed the Council that having discussed the possible rotation of the cricket square with members of the football club, the consensus was that the pitch should remain in its current orientation, which would subsequently allow for a second pitch if numbers increased enough to form a second team.

iii) Cllr. Grantham stated that the Council would need to make a decision regarding the cricket square at the March meeting.

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

d. **Village Hall Management Committee:**

Cllr. Cooper gave the following report:

i) That there had been an issue with the disposal of Christmas Trees, after an incorrect article had been posted on social media.

ii) That the storage of equipment by groups/ regular users was to be reviewed.

iii) That several groups, which were now no longer in existence had not paid their respective hire fees since October 2019. It had been agreed that if the items left by the groups were not reclaimed, they would be disposed of.

- iv) That the snooker table had been sold and would be collected in spring 2020.
 - v) That there were ongoing issues with regards to overnight parking.
 - vi) That the latest balance was £14,058.15. This was likely to increase due to 3 new hirers.
 - vii) That there were problems with condensation within the main hall and that a local contractor was to review the ongoing problems with the drains in the car park. The Clerk informed the Council that the drains had been 'rodded' and that the problem had been resolved.
- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** The Chairman gave the following report:
- i) That Julia Smith was now a Trustee.
 - ii) That an application for an education grant of £99,500.00 was ready to be submitted.
 - iii) That the portacabins which would be shared between the education facility and the Museum were now in place.
 - iv) The Chairman subsequently informed the Council that she had thanked Tim Sargeant for facilitating and hosting the visit of the Parish Council to see Phase 1 of the West Field development on 7th February 2020. Cllr's Sinclair, Talbot and Ward all remarked that the visit had been worthwhile, and that the standard of the development was very good.
 - v) The Chairman informed the Council that following the meeting of the Council and Tim Sargeant on 15th January 2020, the latter had contacted the Chairman to discuss an approach to Save Our St Osyth (S.O.S.) for a meeting in an attempt to resolve the ongoing issue of fund raising by S.O.S. to recoup the funds paid in costs to the Sargeant Family following the Public Inquiry. The Chairman continued that having discussed the matter with Cllr. Talbot, it had been agreed that a joint letter from Cllr's Grantham and Talbot, should be sent to the Executive Committee of S.O.S. informing them of Mr Sargeant's offer. The Chairman concluded by narrating both the letter to S.O.S. and the subsequent response from the Chairman of that particular organisation. The general consensus of the Council was that it was an appropriate gesture by the Sargeant Family, which if nothing else would begin dialogue between the Sargeant Family and S.O.S.
 - vi) Cllr. Goggin remarked that credit was due to the Parish Council, and in particular the Chairman, in how the Council had moved on since the Public Inquiry and was negotiating with the Sargeant Family as and when necessary for the benefit of the village.

OM-19-230 APOLOGIES AT MEETINGS:

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the requirement to give a reason for non-attendance at a Council meeting. The Chairman added that any reason offered by a Councillor had to be approved by those Councillors in attendance.

OM-19-231 MEETING DATES FOR 2020/2021:

The Chairman reminded the Council that in order to afford Committees and Working Groups a degree of flexibility, the meeting dates for both were set by the respective Councillors on each Committee or Working Group. The Chairman enquired as to whether Councillors were keen to continue this method of setting meeting dates. All present agreed that it was the preferred method, rather than having meetings set some 12 months in advance.

OM-19-232 COMMUNITY WARDEN:

The weekly activity of the Community Warden for January and February 2020 having been précised, the Chairman informed the Council that she had wanted Councillors to have a better understanding of the tasks and activities being undertaken by the Community Warden. Cllr. Talbot remarked that the list was impressive, a comment which was echoed by those present.

OM-19-233 DUMONT AVENUE PLAY AREA:

The Chairman informed the Council that the play area would be closed with effect from 1st March 2020, and that in addition to an article in the Parish magazine, a notice would be placed on the gates to inform the residents of the reason for the temporary closure.

The Chairman then informed the Council that despite requesting that funding from an approved development in Point Clear, be used to improve the play area at Priory Meadow, the Public Open Spaces Contribution had been allocated, by way of a Unilateral Undertaking to Dumont Avenue. The Chairman continued that the Parish Council, together with other Town and Parish Councils in Tendring would need to liaise with the District Council with regards to where Public Open Spaces Contributions should be allocated.

Cllr. Talbot stated that he would discuss the matter with the Head of Public Realm when he next attended a meeting at the District Council.

OM-19-234 SCAM EMAILS:

The Chairman informed the Council of a recent incident whereby a number of residents had received an email, purporting to be from Rev'd Miles, requesting payment by way of Google vouchers, to which two residents had subsequently responded, paying in the region of £200.00. The Chairman continued that a number of other 'spam' emails were being received from the email addresses of both Councillors and residents. Cllr. Sinclair gave an example of one such email.

The Chairman concluded by suggesting that with immediate effect, all emails relating to Parish Council business should be sent to a Councillors own email address and the intended recipient be included as a Bcc.

OM-19-235 BEL AIR CHALET ESTATE:

Cllr. Ward informed the Council that prior to attending the Domestic Abuse Legal Advice Centre opening on 24th Jan 2020, she had driven Cllr. Sinclair to view the Bel Air Chalet Estate, as the latter was unfamiliar with the area.

Both Cllr's Ward and Sinclair suggested that the area be included on the Annual Parish Appraisal. A conversation then ensued with regards to the actions of the District Council, which despite taking action against freehold property owners in Point Clear Bay, was taking no action in respect of the landlord of the Bel Air Chalet Estate, which was also in breach of planning permissions.

OM-19-236 HAPPY TO CHAT BENCH:

The Chairman informed the Council that during an unrelated conversation with members of the Women's Institute (WI) concerning the planting of trees, she [the Chairman] had informed the WI members of the Happy to Chat Bench initiative, which they subsequently deemed to be a very good idea.

The Council discussed potential locations for use as Happy to Chat Benches. It was subsequently agreed that the following benches be used:

- a. outside the Village Hall;
- b. on The Bury, opposite the Priory; and
- c. on Point Clear Road, near the junction with Beacon Way.

It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the Chairman with regards to the preparation of the relevant signs.

OM-19-237 DOMESTIC ABUSE LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE:

Having attended the open day of the Domestic Abuse Legal Advice Centre (DALAS), on 24th Jan 2020, together with Cllr. Ward, Cllr. Sinclair gave the following report:

The Parish Council received an invitation to the launch of the Domestic Abuse Legal Advice Service, which has offices in Chandlers, Church Square, St Osyth. The DALAS is a 100% not for profit organisation that provides free legal advice, access to legal services and all legal paperwork necessary to apply for court injunctions. They offer their services to everybody.

Several concerns were raised prior to our visit and these are our comments:

- The office is set up as an administration centre and they hope to extend the service to the whole of Essex, Suffolk and into parts of Kent.
- The office is manned by two main staff together with four volunteers. Mr Stephen Connor OBE LLB (Hons) PgD, PA (Criminal Justice) Barrister and Mr Isaac Foot who is listed as a Director and these two will be in charge of all legal work within the office. They run normal office hours but do have a 24 hour helpline which sees calls diverted to them. The office is equipped with computers and a series of desks as well as a seated area. Any interviews of people suffering domestic abuse would take place at the Police Station where they would be called in should the complainant wish.
- They have affiliations with Essex Police, Kent Police, Victim Support and Legal Aid.
- Clients usually make initial contact by phone and they are not expecting 'walk-ins'.

- We inquired about the sign outside and that the building was quite open and the comment was that they are not expecting visitors and if this did happen then they have the means to do a confidential interview.
- They did seem surprised that we had concerns about the size of the sign and the impact on a small village so that may be looked at.
- They were prompted to start the service in the village because of its location and ease of access to other areas.
- We also asked about funding and they stated that they are able to claim for legal fees if the person suffering from domestic violence receives benefits such as Universal Credit.

We found the visit informative but would suggest inviting Dr Stephen Connor to a Parish Council Meeting in say three months so that we can all have the opportunity to assess the success of this organisation and to allow other Councillors to ask questions.

OM-19-238 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Sinclair informed the Council that having recently attended the District Councils Code of Conduct training for Councillors, which she considered to be very good, she felt the Chairman of the Parish Council was to be commended for the way in which the Parish Council meetings were organised and chaired.
- b. Cllr. Kelly informed the Clerk that the damaged drains prior to the roundabout at the Orchard Holiday Village had yet to be repaired. The Clerk stated that the fault had been reported, but that he would report it again to Essex Highways.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10 pm.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 20th February 2020		
OM-19-224 c	Essex-Wide Bus Shelter Project	Cllr. Sinclair to attend
OM-19-227 b	Clarification of Footpaths	Cllr. Quy to liaise with Sarah Potter, ECC PRoW Officer
OM-19-227 c	Damage to Bin Locks	Cllr. Catt to liaise with CW
OM-19-227 d ii	Amberol Planters	Cllr. Grantham to action
OM-19-227 h	Use of Historic Publications	Cllr. Lockwood to action
OM-19-228 a vii	Heritage Camera Project	Clk to action
OM-19-228 a viii	Works on Salt Marshes	Clk to liaise with BHC
OM-19-233	Closure of Dumont Avenue Play Area / Public Open Spaces Contributions	Cllr's Grantham & Talbot to action
OM-19-234	Scam Emails	All Cllr's & Staff to use Bcc
OM-19-235	Bel Air Chalet Estate	Clk to include on APA
OM-19-236	Happy to Chat Bench Signs	Chairman & Clk to action
OM-19-237	DALAS (Invite to Council Meeting)	Clk to action at a later date
OM-19-238 b	Blocked Drains at Orchards Roundabout	Clk to report to Highways

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