



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held via Zoom on Thursday 26th November 2020 at 7.00 pm

PARTICIPANTS: Chairman: Cllr. Sonia Grantham, Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Alma Blockley
Cllr's David Cooper, Ray French, Mandy Kelly, John Lockwood,
Patricia Quay, Karen Sinclair, Michael Talbot, Michele Thomas &
John White

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (joined at 8.00 pm)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Julie Ward (Unable to access meeting)

MINUTES: Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

OM-20-153 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.

Having established that there were no Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to be declared, the Chairman expressed the sympathy of the Council to Cllr. Talbot, following the passing of his wife, Marjorie.

OM-20-154 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	20/00743/FUL Mr Lowe Unit 4A, Norwood Lodge Bentley Road St Osyth	Continued use of unit for Class B2 purposes to include vehicle repair workshop and MOT testing bay. Refused by TDC – 20 th November 2020.
b.	20/01159/FUL K Gill Wensley Stud Rectory Road St Osyth	Alterations to approved application 19/01688/FUL to remove caravans and increase the plots for tents, new office/store area. Approved by TDC – 19 th November 2020.
c.	20/01342/FUL R Martin Land at Hartley Wood Farm Rectory Road St Osyth	Proposed conversion of existing steel portal framed agricultural building to horse loose boxes for livery yard. Whilst in principle the Parish Council does not object to the proposed application, there are several concerns which the Parish Council believe need to be addressed.

		<p>The Parish Council would echo the concerns of several members of the public as to access to the site, which is gained via a recognised Public Right of Way (Footpath 12). There would be a significant amount of vehicle movements per day, along the single lane track, which is occasionally used by agricultural vehicles.</p> <p>Due to the concerns over the impact of the proposed access to the site, which could in fact be accessed via the applicants on land, the Parish Council objects to this application.</p>
d.	20/01344/FUL Mr & Mrs Lord Hodges Earls Hall Drive, St Osyth	<p>Proposed single storey side extensions.</p> <p>Approved by TDC – 25th November 2020.</p>
e.	20/01375/FUL Mr Hunt 158 Point Clear Road St Osyth	<p>Proposed single storey rear extension, two storey side extension and loft extension and conversion.</p> <p>No objections.</p>
f.	20/01209/HHPNOT Mr L Doherty 145 Point Clear Road St Osyth	<p>Proposed rear extension, 8m deep and 2.5 m high, with a flat roof with a lantern window to allow enlargement of existing extension.</p> <p><i>For information only – no comment required.</i></p>

OM-20-155 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notification of Decisions (Determinations) from 9th October 2020 to 6th November 2020.
- b. Correspondence from Tendring District Council in respect of Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/20/3256190 (TDC 18/01779/FUL), 700 St John's Road & St John's Nursery Site, Earls Hall Drive, St Osyth.
- c. Correspondence from Tendring District Council in respect of a Breach of Planning Control 20/00247/CHGUS3, Harbour Lodge, Point Clear Road, St Osyth.
- d. Correspondence from Tendring District Council regarding Planning Application 20/01023/TELLIC, Adoption of the Telephone Kiosk, The Bury, St Osyth.
- e. Correspondence from Tendring District Council with regards to a rumoured road link between holiday parks at Seawick and Jaywick.

OM-20-156 PLANNING APPEAL APP/P1560/W/20/3256190 (TDC 18/01779/FUL):

The Chairman informed the Council that the Clerk has done a magnificent job in representing the Parish Council at the Public Inquiry, in putting forward the concerns of Councillors and residents alike with regards to the effect of traffic along St John's Road on the Parish.

Cllr. White echoed the comments by the Chairman and congratulated the Clerk. Cllr. White then gave an overview of the appeal and the reasons why the District Council had refused the original planning application, Cllr. White explained that when questioned as to the number of caravan pitches within the Parish, the Clerk had provided a full breakdown of the number of pitches in each holiday park, in addition to the number of properties within the Bel Air Chalet Estate. He added that given the information provided by the Clerk, the Inspector had agreed to accept the new evidence, given its impact on 'seasonal variation' of traffic, and that the Inspector would be visiting the site again on Friday 27th November 2020.

Cllr. White concluded by giving an explanation of how the District Councils lack of an approved Local Plan could impact on any Appeal decision, based on whether the site was deemed to be inside or outside of the Settlement Development Boundary (SDB) as outlined in Section 2 of the draft Local Plan.

OM-20-157 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting (held via Zoom) of 15th October 2020 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed retrospectively by the Chairman as a true and accurate record, when the Council next meets in person. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Lockwood. All agreed.

OM-20-158 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-20-132. The Clerk reminded the Council that the Planning Appeal in respect of St John's Nursery site had already been discussed.
- b. OM-20-135 c. The Clerk informed the Council that the subject of beach erosion at Point Clear Bay and the temporary closure of Footpath 29 were to be discussed during the course of the meeting.
- c. OM-20-136 a. The Clerk informed the Council that the request for funding submitted by Age Concern Colchester would be reviewed by the Finance Committee at its next meeting.
- d. OM-20-139 e. The Clerk informed the Council that the subject of the County Councils Tree Planting Initiative would be discussed during the course of the meeting.
- e. OM-20-142. The Clerk informed the Council that the subject of the casual vacancy would be discussed during the course of the meeting.
- f. OM-20-144. The Clerk informed the Council that the Chairman would report on the Management Plan during the course of the meeting.
- g. OM-20-145. The Clerk informed the Council that he would brief Councillors on the response to the Planning for the Future Consultation during the course of the meeting.
- h. OM-20-148. The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr. Thomas would report on the meeting with Elmden Rovers Youth Football Club during the course of the meeting.
- i. OM-20-149. The Clerk informed the Council that he would brief Councillors on the security patrols of Cowley Park later in the meeting.

- j. OM-20-150. The Clerk informed the Council that they would receive an update on the Christmas Decorations competition later in the meeting.
- k. OM-20-150 c. The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr. Sinclair would raise the decoration of the Almshouses during the course of the meeting.
- l. OM-20-152 a. The Clerk informed the Council that the Chairman would report on the visit of Councillors to the Cemetery later in the meeting.

OM-20-159 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

OM-20-160 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) regarding The Committee on Standards in public Life Consultation.
- b. Correspondence from Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners with regards to Heritage Quay Project and St Osyth Ferry Landing Stage.
- c. Correspondence from the Point Clear & St Osyth Disabled Persons Club with regards to the Annual Parish grant.

OM-20-161 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for October 2020, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
 - i) Cllr. Kelly enquired as to the reason for the amount of an invoice submitted by one of the contractors. The Clerk stated that it was due to an accounting error on the part of the contractor, which had resulted in a number of invoices remaining unpaid until such time as the error had been corrected.
 - ii) Cllr. White enquired as to recent expenditure in respect of the Land Registry. The Clerk stated that he had purchased a number of Titles and/or Plans, which had been required to ascertain ownership of land at Point Clear Bay and the Bel Air Chalet Estate respectively.
 - iii) Cllr. Talbot enquired as to the payments to Naglotech. The Clerk confirmed that the expenditure related to the monthly subscription to Microsoft Office.

- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:

Current a/c	£ 139,363.48
Deposit	£ 53,188.96

OM-20-162 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman reported that the winter blooms were growing well.

- b. **Highways Working Party:** The Chairman reminded Councillors of the correspondence between the Clerk and Tom Eng, Essex Highways, in which the latter had confirmed the Councils understanding of the process for the Outline Design for Safety Improvements to the Crossroads. The Chairman reported that she had requested the Clerk liaise with Tom Eng to ascertain at what stage of the process Highways were at, as an engineer should have been working towards the survey.

The Chairman continued that when the Clerk spoke with Tom Eng, the latter had confirmed that although the Parish Councils payment of £10,500.00 had cleared on 4th November, it had yet to be transferred from Essex County Council to the Local Highways Panel. Only once the transfer of funds was complete could an engineer be appointed to the scheme.

The Chairman added that having requested an update from David Gollop, Essex Highways Senior Design Manager as to why there was a delay in the transfer of the funds, the latter had replied, during the course of the meeting, that an engineer was to be appointed shortly.

- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The Chairman informed the Council that the next meeting was scheduled for 8th December 2020.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** Correspondence of 6th November 2020 from EALC detailing the rejection of the Parish Councils Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) application and the subsequent response of the Parish Council of 9th November 2020 having been previously circulated, the Chairman reported that the Council had yet to receive a response.

OM-20-163 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for September 2020.
- 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 by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.
- b. **Footpaths:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Benches & Litter Bins:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Planters:** Nothing to report.
- e. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. French informed that Council that he would report on all tree related matters later in the meeting.
- f. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**
Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

I reported to the Parish Council at the last meeting that I had attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Essex Association on 24th September, where the Executives proposals to amend the constitution were rejected, on a proposal from our own Tendring Association (TDALC), by 51% of the 86 voting members present.

At the last meeting of the EALC Executive on 19th November, which was the Executives AGM, the loss of their motion was not even mentioned. The meeting did however agree to set up a small Working Party to examine the whole Constitution and to report back to the Executive with its recommendations. There will obviously now be plenty of time for proper consultation with Towns and Parishes in Essex, before the proposals are put to a special meeting or at the next AGM.

TDALC met virtually, by Zoom, on 25th November, with Robert Taylor, our Chairman, both calling the meeting and preparing the agenda in the absence of an elected secretary. I would comment that we are fortunate to have such a Chairman, as many would just have said “with no secretary we cannot call a meeting?”. It was a good meeting, at which a speaker from the Highway Rangers, James Ennos, spoke of their work, their limitations and what they had achieved.

Frank Belgrove, Chairman of Alresford Parish Council, but who was speaking as a representative of the Tendring Local Highways Panel, stated that St Osyth would be interested to know that the B1027, in St Osyth, was to have its speed limit raised to 60 mph. He has since sent me the full recommendations in the report entitled “B1027 Speed Limit Review”, and whilst it is not easy to evaluate, one thing is certain, the exit from Clacton Road on to the By-pass Road, will be 60 mph. I think this must be opposed as a positive danger, particularly in view of the hundreds of holiday visitors who use that junction on their way to Clacton.

- i) A discussion ensued during which the current speed limit was discussed. It was agreed that there was some confusion, which would need clarification, as the stretch of road to which the report referred was already a 60 mph limit.

g. District Councillor’s Report:

- i) Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

Tendring District Council is continuing to conduct its business using Skype for Meetings, and on Tuesday 24th November the last Full Council Meeting was held using this remote method. The meeting had 60 attendees, including most of the 48 Council Members. One cannot deny that these Skype meetings are in no way a substitute for open discussion, but they do enable decisions to be made that must be made legally by Council.

One thing of special interest was the reference to the Council of consideration made following a motion from Cllr. Susan Honeywood on fireworks. The Council agreed the report but said further thought should be given to informing the Town/Parish where permission was being given to hold a display, and to their District Council members. This was agreed.

The Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) was reported on and agreed that the current exemptions and discounts continue for 2021/2022 unaltered.

The Climate Change Committee reported and presented their Action Plan for 2020 to 2023, which looks at what action can be taken to reduce carbon emissions looking into the future and what can be done now.

- ii) Cllr. White gave the following report:
 - a) That as a result of Coronavirus, the annual Pride of Tendring Award would not be taking place, however, in order to recognise the efforts of groups and/or individuals in response to the virus during the year, the District Council would instead be holding the Best of Tendring. Cllr. White continued that having discussed award with Cllr. Talbot, it was agreed that they would like to nominate the Parish Council and the resident who had organised the Telephone Food Bank.
 - b) The Chairman agreed that it would be good for the resident to be recognised, and that were both Councillors minded to nominate the Parish Council, the award should extend to Council, its staff and the volunteers who put so much effort into ensuring that residents received their prescriptions and groceries during the lockdown.
- h. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood reported that all Covid-19 related content was up to date, as were the reports. He added that there had been a lot of work carried out on the website.
- i. **Community Speed Watch:** Nothing to report.

OM-20-164 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 1st December 2020.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:**
Cllr. Thomas gave the following report:
 - i) That the comments submitted to the Clerk following the visit of Councillors to the pavilion on 20th October 2020, had been included in the draft Management Plan. Cllr. Thomas subsequently thanked Councillors for both attending the pavilion and their respective comments.
 - ii) That the Community Warden had obtained numerous quotations for the repair of the pavilion, which included re-rendering, hardiboard and composite cladding. Cllr. Thomas continued that whilst one of the quotes for re-rendering seemed much cheaper than the others, it only took into account the repair of the rear wall of the pavilion and the patching up of certain points elsewhere.

- iii) Cllr. Thomas concluded by informing the Council that given the importance of the repair of the pavilion, any decision would have to be made when Councillors were able to meet in person. All agreed.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the Village Hall was to have a sponsored Christmas tree outside on the greensward.
- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** The Chairman reported that the grant of £75,400.00, from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage, had to be used by 31st March 2021, and that she was busy trying to progress the educational facility.

OM-20-165 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having joined the meeting at 8 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the following:
 - i) That the Feasibility Report in respect of the B1027 included a recommendation that the speed limit in the vicinity of Westwood Park be lowered to 40 mph and extended to the junction with Frowick Lane. Cllr. Goggin continued that there was also a suggestion that the 40 mph limit along the B1027 / St John's Road, in the direction of Clacton on Sea, should be increased to 60 mph. All members of the Council stated that this was unacceptable, especially given that St John's Road, between Pump Hill and Jaywick Lane was a residential area.
 - ii) That Morrison's were running an initiative to support families or groups in need, and were assisting with the provision of food, household items and even children's toys.
 - iii) That the inquest into the fatal collision on the B1027, near Frowick Lane, in March 2020, in which two men had been pronounced dead at the scene, had reported that they had been travelling on the wrong side of the road at the time of the collision.
 - iv) That having met Cllr. Talbot, whilst he [Cllr. Goggin] was walking on the beach at Point Clear Bay, he had informed Cllr. Talbot of an issue whereby a resident's bins had not been emptied for 8 months. Cllr. Goggin continued that having reported the matter to Cllr. Talbot, the bins were subsequently emptied.
 - v) That part of the Councils allocation of the Locality Grant was to be used for the installation of a 'k-barrier' along Footpath 29. The Chairman added that remaining funds could be used to offset the cost of an additional bench along Point Clear Road, as requested by some Point Clear Councillors and residents. The Chairman requested that Councillors give thought as to where a bench could be placed.

- vi) Having received a report, including a timeline of correspondence and photographs from the Clerk with regards to the failure by Essex Highways to repair the footway along Mill Street, Cllr. Goggin stated that he would chase Highways for an explanation as to why the footway had yet to be repaired.

OM-20-166 CASUAL VACANCY:

The Clerk informed the Council that there had been two applications to fill the Casual Vacancy by way of co-option. He added that any decision by the Parish Council had to be transparent, and it was the recommendation of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) that decisions about co-option were to be made at a Council meeting, to which the public had access.

The Clerk continued that given the difficulty of conducting such a meeting/ interview of the applicants via virtual means, he would seek advice as to how to proceed.

OM-20-167 PREPARATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The draft Management Plan for 2020/2024 having been previously circulated, the Chairman reminded Councillors that they would have to formally approve the plan, so as to allow the Finance Committee to review costs in preparation for the setting of the budget for 2021/2022 and beyond. The Chairman subsequently led the Council through a review of the document.

- a. **Allotments:**
The Management Plan for the allotments was noted.
- b. **Benches & Seats:**
The Management Plan for benches and seats was noted.
- c. **Bus Shelters & Phone Box:**
The Management Plan for bus shelters and the telephone box was noted.
- d. **Cemetery:**
The Management Plan for the Cemetery was noted. Cllr. Sinclair enquired as to whether the previous allocation of funding towards the mapping software would be available, given that the funding for the crossroads would now be met by the grant from TDC. The Clerk stated that he would clarify this with the RFO.
- e. **Highways:**
The Management Plan for highways was noted.
- f. **Litter Bins & Planters:**
The Management Plan for litter bins and planters was noted.
- g. **Martin's Farm Country Park:**
The Management Plan for Martin's Farm Country Park was noted.
- h. **Play Areas:**
The Management Plan for play areas was noted. The Chairman informed the Council that Cllr. Ward had requested a meeting of the Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party to discuss the installation of equipment at Priory Meadow, once a response had been received from EALC with regards to the rejection of the CIF grant.

- i. **Tree Planting, Vegetation & Wildflower Areas:**
The Management Plan for tree planting, vegetation and wildflower areas was noted.
- j. **Public Footpaths:**
The Management Plan for public footpaths was noted.
- k. **War Memorial:**
The Management Plan for the War Memorial was noted.
- l. **Willow Plantation:**
The Management Plan for the Willow Plantation was noted. The Chairman informed the Council that the Clerk was chasing UK Power Networks with regards to the reduction in height of a number of trees near the high voltage power lines.
- m. **Additional Items:**
The list of Additional Items having been noted, the Chairman informed the Council that some of the items for inclusion in the budget for 2020/2021 had been achieved.
- n. **Business Objectives:**
The Business Objectives for 2021/2022 were noted.
- o. **Cowley Park:**
The Management Plan for Cowley Park was noted. Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that the content was a 'wish list' and that the Council was grateful for the use of the playing field by Elmden Rovers Youth Football Club.

The Chairman thanked all Councillors who had contributed towards the Management Plan, adding that the costings in respect of the Management Plan would be reviewed in conjunction with the draft budget by the Finance Committee, at its meeting on 9th December 2020.

RESOLVED: That having been discussed, the Council approve the Management Plan, in principle, for 2021/2022 and beyond. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Sinclair. All agreed.

OM-20-168 PLANNING CONSULTATION - PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:

The submission of the Parish Council, prepared by the Clerk from responses received from a number of Councillors, having been previously circulated, the Clerk invited comments. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his work in preparing the submission to the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).

OM-20-169 ELMDEN ROVERS YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB:

Cllr. Thomas informed the Council of the virtual meeting of 2nd November 2020, which had been attended by herself, the Chairman and Clerk and Mark Cox and Mark Robinson, Chairman and Treasurer respectively, of Elmden Rovers Youth Football Club.

- a. Cllr. Thomas reported that Mark Cox had stated that Elmden Rovers were delighted with Cowley Park, which they intended to be their permanent home ground, in addition to the support of the Parish Council and residents of St Osyth.

- b. During the meeting, Mark Cox had given an overview of how the football club was administered, before informing the representatives of the Parish Council that Elmden Rovers had been given an offer of a time limited grant of £5,000.00 towards the overall cost of £8,900.00, for a 'ball stop net' which was a temporary 6.1m high by 40m wide net, which would be put up along the boundary with Mill Street for every home fixture. When not in use, the netting would be stored within the former cricket practice nets. Mark Cox had continued that there was a possibility that the time limit would be deferred due to the pending Coronavirus lockdown, and that Elmden Rovers would have to raise the remaining funds, in order to secure the grant.
 - i) Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that she had suggested that if possible, the Parish Council might be able to assist by way of an emergency grant.
 - ii) The Chairman added that she had forwarded to Mark Cox the details of the Essex Community Foundation, which could also provide funding for the netting.
- c. Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that a number of other topics had been discussed during the meeting, including the willingness of Elmden Rovers to assist with such projects as the repainting of the pavilion. Cllr. Thomas concluded that it had been a productive and worthwhile meeting.

OM-20-170 SECURITY PATROLS OF COWLEY PARK:

The Clerk narrated the following extract of the monthly report from Community Guard:

Considering the recent Covid-19 restrictions there is a reduced number of incidents across our network however we continue to interact with local authorities and partners including members of the public regarding intelligence which suggests an increase of criminal activity in areas of construction and retail premises.

Community Guard will continue to monitor and assess all intelligence of such activities in the St Osyth area informing the Parish Council when it is deemed appropriate to do so, in doing so Community Guard will continue to be a visible deterrent at the above premises.

OM-20-171 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

The Chairman informed the Council that 3 trees, for the Church, the Village Hall, and the Bury, the latter 2 of which were being sponsored by L&K Funeral Directors and GCS Alarms respectively, were being delivered on Monday 30th November. Having informed the Council of the associated logistics, such as the provision of electricity for the lighting, the Chairman stated that the trees, together with the Christmas lights, and window displays of those shops/ businesses taking part in the Christmas Lights competition, were to be illuminated at 4 pm on Wednesday 2nd December, the date having been chosen to coincide with the end of the lockdown period.

OM-20-172 POINT CLEAR BAY:

The Chairman informed the Council that, having finally received the map from the Land Registry, together with Cllr. Kelly, she had met with Grant Ewens, General Manager of the Orchards Holiday Park and Fiona Pickett, the Health & Safety Officer and Darren Burton, Facilities Manager, to discuss areas for which the Orchards Holiday Park was responsible for within Point Clear Bay.

The Chairman continued that during the meeting, the suggestion of a five-year Management Plan for Point Clear Bay had been discussed, and that Cllr. Kelly had subsequently hand delivered a letter to all residents of Point Clear Bay, informing the residents that the Orchards Holiday Park, supported by the Parish Council, would be moving forward with improvements, to the advantage of the residents.

The Chairman concluded that although early days, it was encouraging to know that the General Manager was willing to work with the Council for the benefit of the residents.

OM-20-173 SMALL CLAIMS COURT:

Cllr. Blockley reported that there had been no communication from the former allotments tenants, and therefore the County Court Judgement (CCJ) was now in effect. Cllr. Blockley informed the Council that financially it was not worth pursuing the recovery of costs, as the fee to do so would be more than the actual cost to be recovered.

Cllr. Blockley confirmed that the other former tenant was continuing to pay their outstanding debt.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman formally thanked Cllr. Blockley for the time and effort which she had put into the Small Claims Court action.

OM-20-174 EROSION OF THE BEACH AT POINT CLEAR BAY:

The Clerk reminded the Council of the report given by a resident of Point Clear Bay at the November meeting in respect of the erosion of the beach at Point Clear Bay, and the subsequent request from the resident that the Council write to the Environment Agency in support of the residents.

Following a discussion, during which time Cllr. Talbot confirmed that the high tide in February 2020, referred to by the resident, had been the worst he could recall in the 28 years in which he had been living in Point Clear Bay, it was agreed that the Parish Council should support the residents and write to the Environment Agency.

OM-20-175 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF A SECTION OF FOOTPATH 29:

The Clerk reminded the Council of the request from a resident of Point Clear Bay at the November meeting, that a section of Footpath 29 (Sea Wall) be closed temporarily to the public, so as to avoid any close contact with residents with properties along that particular stretch of footpath and thereby reduce the risk of Covid-19 being passed to the residents by members of the public.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Council could not support such a request, as to do so would set a precedence whereby the Council would have to do likewise with any similar request elsewhere in the Parish.

OM-20-176 ALTERATIONS TO THE CEMETERY ENTRANCE:

The Chairman began by thanking all members of the Council for visiting the Cemetery at the beginning of November in order to view the extension, and consider a number of issues, including the access via the existing entrance/ exit of the extension, the layout of graves, in which part of the extension burials should first take place and a woodland burial area.

The Chairman continued that the Clerk and gravedigger, Nigel Thompson, had in dealing with a specific request for a burial, suggested that an additional row could be created in Section 3, which would create an additional 15 vacant plots, taking the total from 14 to 29.

The Chairman stated that the creation of the new row, would negate the need for some of the issues looked at by Councillors, but the one area which would require attention in the very near future was that of the entrance. The Chairman informed the Council that there were 2 measures which could be taken:

- a. The placing, either side of the entrance, of 'concealed entrance' signs. The location for the signs to be reviewed by Cllr. Sinclair, the Clerk and Community Warden.
- b. The lowering of the wall either side of the entrance. The Chairman explained that whilst looking at the wall with Cllr. Blockley and the Clerk, the latter had been forced to brake sharply upon exiting the cemetery, due to being unable to view a car travelling at speed along Clay Lane.
 - i) Cllr. Lockwood stated that situation was exacerbated by the fact that Clay Lane had a 60 mph speed limit.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council progress the lowering of the wall either side of the entrance, in order to improve visibility for drivers leaving the Cemetery. The motion was proposed by Cllr. French and seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.

OM-20-177 CONSECRATION OF THE CEMETERY:

Having previously discussed the visit of Councillors to the Cemetery, the Chairman reported that whilst the creation of a new row had provided additional plots, there was still a need to proceed with the consecration of the extension, which had not been consecrated.

The Chairman gave an overview of the process for consecrating the extension, during which time, by way of a shared screen, the Clerk presented a map of the Cemetery. A conversation ensued as to which areas within the extension should be consecrated, during which time the Chairman asked Councillors individually as to their preference. It was subsequently agreed that the areas identified by the Clerk as sections 6, 7 and 7A, be consecrated.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council proceed in the New Year with the consecration of Sections 6, 7 and 7A. The motion was proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.

OM-20-178 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL TREE INITIATIVE:

Cllr. French reminded the Council of the County Council's Tree Planting Initiative, which aimed to have 375,000 trees planted over the next 5 years.

Cllr. French reported that he had viewed both Cowley Park and Priory Meadow, but that following a conversation with the Chairman, it had been agreed to defer the Parish Councils application until 2021.

Cllr. French then gave an overview of the need to have approximately 100 whips planted along the perimeter of Cowley Park, so as to fill a number of gaps in the existing hedgerow, which would be planted and maintained by a local contractor.

OM-20-179 PARISH ISSUES:

The Clerk reported that he had either contacted or written to various organisations/agencies, dealing with matters in the Parish, including:

- a. Tendring District Council regarding parking in Spring Road.
- b. Essex County Council regarding Footpath 29.
- c. A play equipment manufacturer regarding the aerial runway at Priory Meadow.

OM-20-180 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Kelly enquired as to whether the sign for the Domestic Abuse Legal Advice Service was to be removed now that the premises were vacant. The Chairman stated that the premises were being let again, and that having spoken with the new tenant, she [the Chairman] had been informed that to remove the sign would result in damage to the rendering of the building. The Chairman suggested that the Clerk write to the owner of the building again.
- b. Cllr. Lockwood reported that the blocked drains along the Causeway had yet to be cleared as water was still pooling in the road whenever there was an overspill of a high tide from the creek, or when there was heavy rain. The Clerk confirmed that the drains had been reported to Essex Highways.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45 pm.

The date of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 17th December 2020.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 26th November 2020		
OM-20-165 a v	Installation of a Bench	PC Cllr's to consider location
OM-20-165 a vi	Mill Street Footway	Cllr. Goggin to action
OM-20-166	Casual Vacancy	Clk to confirm procedure
OM-20-174	Erosion of the Beach	Clk to write to EA
OM-20-176	Alterations to Cemetery Entrance	Clk to action
OM-20-177	Consecration of the Cemetery	Chair & Clk to action
OM-20-180 a	Removal of DALAS Sign	Clk to write to owner

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