



**ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL**



**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council  
held via Zoom  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 at 7.00 pm**

**PARTICIPANTS:** Chairman: Cllr. Sonia Grantham, Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Aima Blockley  
Cllr's 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 (joined at 8.40 pm)

**MINUTES:** Neil Williams

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** None

**OM-20-203 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.

**OM-20-204 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

	<b>APPLICATION &amp; ADDRESS</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>
a.	20/01605/FUL Mr Robert Smith Blue Sari Restaurant Heath Road St Osyth	Proposed change of use of ground floor to serviced office accommodation and first floor to two residential units, with associated bin and bike storage and retention of existing car park.  Following a conversation as to the history of the property, Councillors voted 8 to 4 in favour of the application.
b.	20/01755/FUL Park Holidays UK Oaklands Holiday Village Colchester Road, St Osyth	Variation of condition 1 of 14/01096/FUL - In any year, caravans shall only be occupied during the period 1st March to 14th February in the following year (inclusive) and between 15th February and the end of February 2021.  Whilst in it acknowledged that the applicants Supporting Statement contains the following Government Guidance:  <i>COVID-19 has impacted significantly in all sectors of the economy. No less so within the UK for holiday caravan parks and the tourism market as a whole. On the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 the Government issued a written Ministerial Statement which indicated that: Extending their [holiday parks] operation beyond the usual summer season will be invaluable to parks as the sector begins to recover.</i>

		<p><i>We are aware that current planning conditions may limit their open season. The temporary relaxation of these planning restrictions can play a vital role in helping local businesses to get up and running again,</i></p> <p>and that the application itself relates to the additional period of:</p> <p><i>15th February 2021 and the end of February 2021 only,</i></p> <p>Councillors are very concerned that as the country is in a national lockdown, restrictions for which state there should be no unnecessary travel, the additional period of two weeks would only serve to both encourage and condone unwanted travel.</p> <p>In light of the foregoing, the Parish Council strongly object to this application.</p>
c.	<p>20/01756/FUL Park Holidays UK St Osyth Beach Holiday Park Beach Road, St Osyth</p>	<p>Variation of condition 3 of approved application 16/00819/FUL - No caravan/chalet shall be occupied between 15th February and 1st March in any calendar year except for the year 2021.</p> <p>Whilst in it acknowledged that the applicants Supporting Statement contains the following Government Guidance:</p> <p><i>COVID-19 has impacted significantly in all sectors of the economy. No less so within the UK for holiday caravan parks and the tourism market as a whole. On the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 the Government issued a written Ministerial Statement which indicated that: Extending their [holiday parks] operation beyond the usual summer season will be invaluable to parks as the sector begins to recover. We are aware that current planning conditions may limit their open season. The temporary relaxation of these planning restrictions can play a vital role in helping local businesses to get up and running again,</i></p> <p>and that the application itself relates to the additional period of:</p> <p><i>15th February 2021 and the end of February 2021 only,</i></p> <p>Councillors are very concerned that as the country is in a national lockdown, restrictions for which state there should be no unnecessary travel, the additional period of two weeks would only serve to both encourage and condone unwanted travel.</p>

		<p>Notwithstanding that the site is located within National Flood Zone 3, the Parish Council is of the opinion that this application should be refused until such time as the District Council adopts one policy, in respect of length of occupancy, for all holiday parks.</p> <p>Additionally, the approval of this application would be contrary to the District Councils own Breach of Condition notices served on 28th June 2012, against residents of Point Clear Bay, which centres on the occupation of properties between 1st November to 28th February, on the basis that the properties are themselves located within National Flood Zone 3.</p> <p>In light of the foregoing, the Parish Council strongly object to this application.</p>
d.	<p>20/01757/FUL Park Holidays UK Seawick Holiday Park Beach Road, St Osyth</p>	<p>Variation of condition 3 of application 16/00809/FUL - No caravan/chalet shall be occupied between 15th February and 1st March in any calendar year except for the year 2021.</p> <p>Whilst in it acknowledged that the applicants Supporting Statement contains the following Government Guidance:</p> <p><i>COVID-19 has impacted significantly in all sectors of the economy. No less so within the UK for holiday caravan parks and the tourism market as a whole. On the 14th July 2020 the Government issued a written Ministerial Statement which indicated that: Extending their [holiday parks] operation beyond the usual summer season will be invaluable to parks as the sector begins to recover. We are aware that current planning conditions may limit their open season. The temporary relaxation of these planning restrictions can play a vital role in helping local businesses to get up and running again,</i></p> <p>and that the application itself relates to the additional period of:</p> <p><i>15th February 2021 and the end of February 2021 only,</i></p> <p>Councillors are very concerned that as the country is in a national lockdown, restrictions for which state there should be no unnecessary travel, the additional period of two weeks would only serve to both encourage and condone unwanted travel.</p>

		<p>Notwithstanding that the site is located within National Flood Zone 3, the Parish Council is of the opinion that this application should be refused until such time as the District Council adopts one policy, in respect of length of occupancy, for all holiday parks.</p> <p>Additionally, the approval of this application would be contrary to the District Councils own Breach of Condition notices served on 28th June 2012, against residents of Point Clear Bay, which centres on the occupation of properties between 1<sup>st</sup> November to 28<sup>th</sup> February, on the basis that the properties are themselves located within National Flood Zone 3.</p> <p>In light of the foregoing, the Parish Council strongly object to this application.</p>
e.	<p>20/01713/NMA Mr R.A, T.R, D.R, A.I Sargeant St Osyth Priory The Bury St Osyth</p>	<p>Non-material amendment of approved application 18/01166/FUL to improve the layout and relationship of respective dwellings and car parking provision.</p> <p><b><i>Noted - For information only.</i></b></p>
f.	<p>20/01733/TELLIC Beacon Telecommunications Cockett Wick Farm Cockett Wick Lane St Osyth</p>	<p>Proposed swap of 3 antennas for 3 antennas at 20m utilising existing brackets and ancillary equipment, feeders, cables and internal cab works on the existing 20m lattice tower.</p> <p><b><i>Noted - For information only.</i></b></p>
g.	<p>20/01841/NMA Mr R.A, T.R, D.R, A.I Sargeant St Osyth Priory The Bury St Osyth</p>	<p>Non Material Amendment of approved application 20/00719/FUL to increase the ridge height to allow for necessary headroom on mezzanine level for microbrewery / cafe / visitor attraction.</p> <p><b><i>Noted - For information only.</i></b></p>

#### **OM-20-205 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notification of Decisions (Determinations) from 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- b. Correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the dismissal of Appeal APP/P1560/W/20/3256190 St John's Nursery, St John's Road, St Osyth.
- c. Correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the Tendring District Council Local Plan Part II – Examination in Public.

Cllr. White informed the Council that although Part 1 of the Plan had been agreed by the Inspector, the District Council had yet to do so. Cllr. White added that the Plan was to be considered by the District Council at its meeting on 26 January 2021.

Cllr. White informed the Council that the Examination in Public would commence on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, and that only those who had already commented could submit further representations. Cllr. White confirmed that as the Parish Council had previously submitted comments in respect of PPL 6 Strategic Green Gaps on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017, the Council should submit further comments by the submission date of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. All agreed.

- d. Correspondence from St Osyth Parish Council to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/20/3258337 (TDC 20/00573/OUT) 9 Dumont Avenue, St Osyth.
- e. Correspondence from St Osyth Parish Council to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/20/3259775 (TDC 18/00152/FUL) Land rear of 172 Point Clear Road, St Osyth.
- f. Correspondence from St Osyth Parish Council to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/20/3259134 (TDC 18/00958/OUT) Land at Warren Farm, The Bury, St Osyth.

**OM-20-206 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:** That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting (held via Zoom) of 17<sup>th</sup> December 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. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.

**OM-20-207 SUMMARY OF ACTION:**

- a. OM-20-185 a v. Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that due to Cllr. Blockley having had surgery, she [Cllr. Thomas] had taken on the task for collating suggestions for a suitable location for the bench, details of which she would forward to the Clerk.
- b. OM-20-185 f. The Clerk informed the Council that together with the Chairman, he was working towards the submission of the requisite documents to progress the Consecration of the Cemetery extension.
- c. OM-20-185 g. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the owner of Chandlers, Church Square, requesting that the now obsolete Domestic Abuse Legal Advice Service (DALAS) sign be removed.
- d. OM-20-194 d. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to Cllr. David Finch, Essex County Council with regard to the Councils Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) application.
- e. OM-20-176. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the District Council following complaints from residents of Point Clear Bay as to the appearance of 70 Colne Way, which had been destroyed by fire in 2019.

**OM-20-208 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None**

## **OM-20-209 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence between St Osyth Parish Council and the Environment Agency concerning the Erosion of the Beach at Point Clear Bay.
- b. Correspondence from the St Osyth News Editorial Team thanking the Parish Council for the donation by way of an Emergency Grant.
- c. Correspondence from St Osyth Parish Council to Cllr. David Finch, Essex County Council with regard to the Councils Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) application.
- d. Correspondence from St Osyth Parish Council to the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) with regard to the Councils Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) application.
- e. Correspondence from the Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) to all Town & Parish Councillors.

## **OM-20-210 FINANCE:**

- a. Approval of payments for December 2020, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
  - i) Cllr. Kelly enquired as to the payment made to Magpie Design. The Clerk confirmed that the payment had been made to the contractor who had carried out work in the Cemetery.
  - ii) Cllr. Sinclair enquired as to the number of un-presented cheques in respect of Birchwood Garden Services. The Clerk advised the Council that he would discuss the matter with the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). The Chairman subsequently stated that she would speak directly to the contractor involved.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:

Current a/c	£116,628.92
Deposit	£53,243.15

## **OM-20-211 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

The Clerk informed the Council that as the meeting of the Finance Committee had only taken place the previous day, the Minutes would be presented to the Council at the February meeting.

- a. The Clerk subsequently informed the Council that one item which had been discussed at the Committee meeting warranted the attention of the Council, and that the matter would be discussed under the Playing Field Charity later in the meeting.

## OM-20-212 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman reported that the winter blooms were all fine.
- b. **Highways Working Party:**

- i) The Chairman narrated an email of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, from Tom Eng, Highway Liaison Officer with regards to the appointment of a design engineer for the Outline Design for Safety Improvements to the Crossroads. The Chairman added that she had subsequently attempted to contact Tom Eng, only to learn that he was on leave until 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The Chairman continued that as a result of the working practices of Essex Highways, the funding from the Parish Council, paid on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020, had not been allocated to Tom Eng until the week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

The Chairman concluded by informing the Council that she had requested an update from Cllr. Goggin, as she was concerned that the lack of progress meant that it was unlikely that the scheme would be put to the Local Highways Panel (LHP) in time to be included in the list of projects for completion in 2021/2022.

- ii) The Chairman informed the Council of recent repairs to sections of the footways along Spring Road. At the request of the Chairman, and by way of a shared screen, the Clerk produced photographs of the repairs and informed the Council of a conversation between himself and an employee of Ringway Jacobs, during the repairs. The Clerk stated that seemingly the sections of the footpaths had been marked out for repair a number of years back, and that even though the repairs were to include the footway outside of the Spar, it was unlikely that they would be actioned, due to the narrow width of both the footway and the road in that area.

The Clerk continued that it was the opinion of the Community Warden, something with which he [the Clerk] agreed, that the Ringway Jacobs workmen had only carried out the easiest of the repairs. The Clerk concluded that he had forwarded a report and the relevant photographs to Mike Cazneaux, Essex Highways Senior Engineer (Maintenance & Operations).

- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The notes of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020, having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** The Chairman informed the Council that during a recent conversation with Mr Terry O'Dell, she had been informed that permission had been granted for the development of 9 properties on the site of the caravan sales pitch between Pump Hill garage and Leisureglade Park.

The Chairman continued that the Parish Council had not been aware of the application, which had been listed under Clacton on Sea, and that following a subsequent conversation and enquiries by the Clerk, it had been confirmed that the Parish Council was to receive the Public Open Spaces Contribution, which amounted to £22,500.00, which had been allocated to Priory Meadow.

#### **OM-20-213 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

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

Cllr's Talbot and White remarked that of the crimes reported at St Osyth Beach, all of them had occurred on or near to the Bel Air Chalet Estate, where there should not be anyone at that time of year.

b. **Footpaths:** Nothing to report.

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

d. **Planters:** Nothing to report.

e. **Tree Warden:**

i) The Chairman informed the Council that she was chasing Tendring District Council in respect of the grant payment for the recently planted hawthorn whips at Cowley Park and the allotments.

ii) Cllr. Lockwood reported that he had witnessed 6 employees of Essex County Council working on trees in Point Clear Road, but that they had not carried out any work on the tree which was overhanging the road, and which regularly hit double decker buses. Cllr. Lockwood added that when he spoke to the workmen, he had been informed that the tree was not on the list.

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

Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

The Essex Association met at 10 am this morning, the meeting taking place on Zoom. The meeting was well attended with 16 members and officers present. It was a straightforward meeting and well prepared by Charlene Slade the Chief Executive Officer. Some interesting facts I thought were the subscriptions table. Every Parish and Town are in membership, 274 bodies in all. Subscriptions to the Association (EALC) were £82,437 and to the National Association (NALC) were £48,107, total contributions being £130,000. Arrangements are being made to hold the EALC AGM in Hyland's House, Chelmsford on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021, and the hope is to get 200 delegates and visitors to attend. This of course assumes an end to the pandemic.



TDALC has not met since our last meeting but scheduled a meeting via Zoom on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm. Robert Taylor, our Chairman, has been left in a difficult position as there is no Secretary, and Robert Taylor, whilst appealing for some person, Councillor or otherwise, to take up the role, has been keeping the Association together by organising our meetings, writing the minutes, booking the guest speakers. We all owe a debt to Robert for his work in keeping TDALC alive.

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

- i) Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
  - a) The District Council has continued to function by use of Skype, a system which conforms to the legalised remote system authorised by the Government. The Council is proposing to change from Skype to the better system known as 'Microsoft Teams' also conforming, but with better contact between those running the meeting and those attending. For example, as an attendee, I can click a button on my machine and it raises a hand on the Chairman's machine, instead of just interrupting when there is a gap in a conversation.
  - b) As you will understand the 'Lockdown' affects all TDC Officers and Members, with John White probably having more and longer meetings than most. We do have Officers off work, having been infected with the virus, and most of the rest are working from Home. Our public facing business is working but a great deal of business is being done (remotely) by Ian Davidson and Neil Stock, the Council Leader at meetings of Leaders and CEO's throughout Essex.
  - c) The 'Digital Transformation' of the Council has been working its way through the various stages. It was decided that with members using many different sorts of digital equipment and in some cases not being able to communicate properly, particularly with so many 'virtual' meetings, that if all members and officers used the same equipment then apart from the increased efficiency there would also be a long-term cost saving as a by-product of the change. Councillors were given a choice of a very portable 13" or a less portable 15" laptop with a bigger screen and near full-size keyboard. The Council will also provide necessary ancillary devices. This equipment is now being distributed; in fact, I received my laptop on 11<sup>th</sup> January.
  - d) I have now been given the 'Climate Change' policy added to my portfolio, which is a very big extra job. I presently think that the reports that were produced will just gather dust on a shelf somewhere and I intend to give the matter a much greater profile in Tendring and all the reports it produces. I only had this job given to me last Friday, so it is another area as 'Agatha Christie's Poirot' would say "to exercise my grey cells".
  - e) Yesterday John and I attended a very interesting 'All Member Briefing', mostly concerned with the Virus and the forthcoming National Census.

During the meeting, some items caught my eye. There are 334 Patients in Colchester Hospital at this moment with Covid -19 virus attack. In the census St Osyth will not receive paper copies of the census but will be expected to complete the document online. Those who do not will be picked up afterwards and contacted directly.

- ii) Cllr. White gave the following report:
  - a) That at the recent meeting of the Finance Committee, he had informed those present that during a recent virtual meeting of the District Council, at which both he and Cllr. Talbot had been present, it had been announced that the Government was to cease the protection afforded to Local Authorities, including Parish Councils, to use platforms such as Zoom, Teams etc to hold Council meetings. Cllr. White continued that the Local Government Association (LGA) and other bodies were looking to challenge this decision. He added that one possibility was for Local Authorities to be able to grant permission in their respective areas.
- h. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood reported that a number of previous posts had disappeared from the website, something he was looking into. He continued that he had published a Primary School post about online PE lessons, adding that he might create an individual menu for similar posts.
- i. **Community Speed Watch:** Nothing to report.

#### **OM-20-214 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:**

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair reported that the next meeting of the Charity was scheduled to take place in February 2021.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:**
  - i) The Clerk informed the Council that whilst he had not received a written monthly report from Community Guard, he had been given a verbal report during a conversation with the CEO of the company, who had apologised for the lack of a written report, due to personal circumstances.
  - ii) The Clerk then informed the Council of an issue which had been discussed by the Finance Committee at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
    - a) The Clerk informed the Council that as a result of having been informed by the Chairman of Elmnden Rovers Youth Football Team, that the electrical supply at the pavilion was tripping on a regular basis, he [the Clerk] had requested a local electrician to inspect the electrics for any sign of a fault.
    - b) The Clerk continued that he was subsequently informed by the electrician that the Electrical Installation Condition Report was out of date, and that a new report was required by law.

The electrician had subsequently carried out a full inspection of the pavilions electrics, which had resulted in the building failing the inspection, as a result of which the pavilion could not be used by anyone until such time as the faults identified were rectified.

- c) The Clerk informed the Council that having notified the Finance Committee of the receipt of a quotation for repairs to the pavilion electrics, which ranged from the basic repair of identified faults to the complete rewiring of the pavilion, the cost being £1,275.00 to £3,590.00 respectively, a discussion had ensued, during which time the consensus was that as the pavilion could not be used until such times as the faults were repaired and a valid Electrical Installation Condition Report was issued, there was no option than to carry out the repairs.
  - d) The Clerk concluded that having narrated the quotation for the complete rewiring of the pavilion, the Finance Committee had recommended that the Parish Council, in its capacity as the Sole Trustee of the Playing Field Charity, accept the quotation of £3,590.00 for the full rewiring of the pavilion, to be carried out as soon as possible.
  - e) **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council endorse the recommendation of the Finance Committee of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021, that the Parish Council, in its capacity as the Sole Trustee of the Playing Field Charity, accept the quotation of £3,590.00 for the full rewiring of the pavilion, to be carried out as soon as possible. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Nothing to report.
  - d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Nothing to report.
  - e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** The Chairman reported that the Trust was progressing towards the employment of educational staff, and that the Government had recognised the difficulty in utilising the grant from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and was therefore looking to grant an extension of time.

#### **OM-20-215 ALTERATIONS TO THE CEMETERY ENTRANCE:**

The Clerk briefed the Council that the Community Warden had arranged for the vegetation either side of the main Cemetery entrance to be cut back, so that the preferred contractor could commence the alterations to the wall, hopefully beginning in mid-February. Cllr. White enquired as to whether the quotations should have been reviewed by the Finance Committee before any decision was made. The Chairman informed the Council that the expense for the alterations had already been approved by the Council, by way of Ear Marked Reserves, and that of the 3 quotations requested, 2 had either been deemed too expensive or had not been received, whereas the preferred quote had been discussed by the Chairman, Clerk, Community Warden and RFO, prior to acceptance. The Chairman concluded that the contractor chosen to carry out the work was the person who had built the wall at the Old Yard, Clay Lane, a construction which had drawn many comments as to the quality of the work.

**OM-20-216 COUNCILLORS TRAINING:**

The Chairman informed the Council she had requested the Clerk to forward the list of EALC courses for 2021 to Councillors, and that should there be any courses which were of interest to individual Councillors, they should liaise with the Clerk.

- a. Cllr. Quay commented that having recently completed her EALC Councillors Training Days, during which time there had been discussion and input from other Town or Parish Councils, she believed the Parish Council should be very proud of how it conducted itself and the work it did for the residents. Cllr. Lockwood seconded her comments, adding that having also completed the training, he also considered St Osyth Parish Council to be professional in its business.

**OM-20-217 CASUAL VACANCY:**

The Clerk informed the Council that having confirmed that the co-option of a Councillor could still take place, albeit via virtual means, at a meeting to which the public would have access, i.e. an Ordinary meeting of the Council, he had discussed the matter further with the Chairman. The Clerk continued that it was the recommendation of the Chairman and himself that the co-option process be deferred until such time as the candidates and Council could meet in person. Cllr. Talbot agreed with the recommendation, adding that it would not be fair on the candidates to be selected 'virtually'. It was subsequently agreed that the co-option process be deferred until such time as the Council and candidates could meet in person.

Cllr. Goggin joined the meeting at 8.40 pm.

**OM-20-218 CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS COMPETITION:**

The Chairman informed the Council that the entrants for the Christmas Decorations competition had been reviewed by herself, the RFO and Cllr. Goggin, the latter being responsible for judging the competition.

- a. The Chairman added that the competition had been won by Naglotech. The Chairman continued that a number of entrants, including L&K Funeral Directors, NACO, The Crossroads and the Church had been commended for their efforts.
- b. It was agreed by all that the Christmas trees had been well received. A discussion followed as to whether the trees should be placed in the same locations for Christmas 2021, or whether they be moved elsewhere. One suggestion was that they be placed at the junctions of the B1027 with Clacton Road and Colchester Road respectively, however, this would present problems where lighting was concerned.
- c. The Chairman informed the Council that some of the lights were still on, along either side of Clacton Road, the consensus was that the lights should be switched off, so as not to spoil their impact at Christmas. The Clerk stated that he would liaise with Scott Sheen estate agents, but that the lights between NISA and L&K Funeral Directors would require an electrician as they were on a permanent photocell system.

## OM-20-219 PARISH ISSUES:

- a. The Clerk reported that he had, at the request of the Chairman and the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, written to St James Surgery, offering the use of the Village Hall as a vaccination centre.

A conversation ensued, during which time the following points were raised:

- i) That the majority of residents were having their vaccinations at St Helena Hospice in Clacton on Sea.
  - ii) That a resident of Great Bentley, known to the Chairman, had been directed to Harwich for their vaccination, but that as a result of which it had been ascertained that the taxi journey was free to holders of bus passes, or £5.00 each way for those without bus passes.
- b. The Clerk reported that following, what he believed to be a poorly worded article in the local paper, he had, at the request of the Chairman written to Park Holidays UK, requesting clarification as to the intended use of the bridge constructed between St Osyth Beach and Martello Tower holiday parks. The Clerk added that he would inform the Council of any subsequent response.

## OM-20-220 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having joined the meeting at 8.40 pm and having wished all present a Happy New Year, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the following:
  - i) That as a Portfolio Holder for Education, he had been very busy. Cllr. Goggin stated that the majority of schools in the county were open in some capacity and that of 100,000 primary school children, 10,900 were still going to school, as were 1,500 of 76,000 secondary school pupils.
  - ii) That he had looked at 6 areas of concern within the Parish with regards to flooding. There had been no faults, in terms of obvious blockages and that Essex Highways had raised the question of liability in respect of the roundabout at the Orchards Holiday Park. He confirmed that faults had been identified at Clacton Road, Colchester Road and Wigboro Wick corner on Point Clear Road, all of which were to be scheduled for repair. Cllr. Goggin added that due to Highways being pulled in all directions where flooding was concerned, only instances where there was a risk to life or property were being attended to at this time, and that there would be a programme to have drains cleared once able to do so.
  - iii) That he had received the Council applications for the Locality Grant, which he had forwarded for processing.
  - iv) That perhaps the Parish Council should consider an annual trophy for the Christmas Decorations competition. The Chairman stated that it was a nice idea, which would be considered by the Council later in the year.

- v) That he received notification 7 days before any works were carried out as part of the Member-Led Repair Programme, which it was hoped would be completed by Easter.
- vi) That he had attended a Cabinet Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021, during which it was moved that except for a 1.9% increase for social care, the County Council would not be raising its rates.
- vii) That he had attended a Members Clinic with Kevin Bentley, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, who was keen and enthusiastic to look at alternatives to the National Criteria for Highways, and that representatives of Essex County were actively involved in meetings with Hertfordshire County Council, which had moved away from the National Criteria and had established its own.
- viii) That the proposed Elections scheduled for May 2021, for the County Council, a number of Mayoral positions and the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex were in the balance, due to Coronavirus related issues, such as voting, canvassing etc.

**OM-20-221 FURTHER MATTERS:**

- a. The Chairman raised the issue of recent flooding in Point Clear Bay.
  - i) By way of a shared screen, the Clerk produced a number of photographs taken by Cllr. Kelly, who subsequently informed the Council that there were no surface water drains in Point Clear Bay.
  - ii) Cllr. Kelly gave an overview of an incident whereby her neighbour had called Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECF&RS), due to the build-up of excessive surface water around a number of properties.
  - iii) Cllr. Kelly explained that Anglian Water had confirmed that the pumping station located within the Orchards Holiday Park, was unable to cope with the excess surface water, which had subsequently been pumped away by ECF&RS.
  - iv) By way of a shared screen, the Clerk produced a photograph taken by Cllr. Talbot of flooding in February 2020. Cllr. Talbot added that in his opinion, it was exacerbated by motorists driving too fast, which produced a 'bow wave' effect. Cllr. Talbot acknowledged that the land was privately owned, but ultimately it was the lack of surface water drainage which was the issue.
  - v) The Chairman stated that the Parish Council was building up a rapport with the new General Manager and his team at the Orchards Holiday Park, and that the Council would raise the issue at a future meeting.
  - vi) Cllr. Kelly commented that she would write to Bourne Leisure, in her capacity as a resident, suggesting the installation of strategically located soakaways to help reduce surface water flooding.

- b. The Chairman informed the Council that following the decision of the Council to award the staff financial bonuses for their time and effort throughout 2020, especially during the pandemic, she had written individually to the staff, thanking them for their support throughout the year. The Chairman subsequently narrated the letters of gratitude received from all four members of staff.
- c. The Clerk informed the Council of a suggestion from the Community Warden that the Councils Zoom system be used for Councillors to have several chat sessions throughout the week, to overcome any issues of isolation. The Clerk stated that he would email the suggestion to the Council.
- d. Cllr. Talbot thanked the Council for making a donation to St Helena's Hospice in memory of his late wife, Marjorie. Cllr. Talbot stated that he was most grateful for the donation.
- e. Cllr. Goggin stated that he was pleased to attend the meetings of St Osyth Parish Council, which he stated was exemplary in its conduct.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30 pm.

The date of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

<b>Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b>		
OM-20-205 c	Local Plan – Examination in Public	Clk to submit representation
OM-20-207 a	Location of Bench	Cllr. Thomas to notify Clk
OM-20-210 a ii	Unpresented Cheques	Chairman to action
OM-20-214 b ii e	Rewiring of Pavilion	Clk to liaise with electrician
OM-20-218 c	Christmas Lights	Clk to action
OM-20-221 a vi	Installation of Soakaways	Cllr. Kelly to action

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