



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held via Zoom on Thursday 18th February 2021 at 7.00 pm

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

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (joined at 9.00 pm)

MINUTES: Neil Williams

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

OM-20-222 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

The Chairman advised Councillors, that under Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, they had a responsibility to declare any Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests in any matter to be discussed.

Cllr. Thomas declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 21/00011/FUL.

OM-20-223 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	20/01833/FUL Mr & Mrs Scofield 7 Johnson Road, St Osyth	Proposed first floor extension. No objections.
b.	21/00011/FUL Mr Van Oss 16 Beach Road Lee Over Sands, St Osyth	Proposed demolition and replacement of the existing house to an enhanced design and raised floor level to improve flood resilience. No objections.
c.	21/00019/LBC R.A, T.R, D.R, A.I Sargeant Darcy House, St Osyth Priory The Bury, St Osyth	Insertion of door within enlarged window opening. No objections.
d.	21/00124/FUL Mr J Beddow Methodist Church Chapel Lane, St Osyth	Proposed change of use from D1 (place of worship) to C3 (Residential) following approval 19/00843/FUL for change of use to Offices. Whilst the Parish Council has no objections to the application itself, it should be noted that Councillors were split as to the inclusion of the garage, which some considered to be out of character with the rest of the building.
e.	21/00136/FUL Mr C Bloyce 21 Johnson Road St Osyth	Proposed single storey rear extension and porch. Alteration to planning approval 20/01136/FUL. No objections.

f.	21/00138/FUL Mr & Mrs Dunn 107 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Proposed first floor extension over existing ground floor, and conversion of internal garage into a habitable space. No objections.
g.	21/00163/TCA Mr N Jeskins Dower Court 73 Mill Street St Osyth	1 No. Amelanchier - remove, 1 No. Box Elder - balance by cutting off southern facing branches. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
h.	21/00240/FUL Brightlingsea Town Council Stone Point Point Clear Bay	Proposed new ferry landing stage involving a raised boardwalk that connects the seawall with the floating pontoon. The Parish Council fully supports this application.
i.	21/00012/NMA Mr R.A, T.R, D.R, A.I Sargeant Lake House North St Osyth Priory The Bury St Osyth	Non Material Amendment to allow minor elevational design changes and re-routing of approved access track to follow existing route from the north for planning approval 19/00032/FUL. <i>Noted - For information only.</i>
j.	21/00034/LUEX Miss S Rouse Unit 4A Norwood Lodge Bentley Road St Osyth	Continued use of unit for Class B2 purposes to include vehicle repair workshop and ancillary MOT testing. <i>Noted - For information only.</i>

OM-20-224 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notification of Decisions (Determinations) from 5th January 2021 to 5th February 2021.
- b. Correspondence from the District Council with regards to the Adoption of the Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond: North Essex Authorities' Shared Strategic Section 1 Plan.
- c. Correspondence from the Parish Council to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the Tendring District Council Local Plan Part II – Examination in Public.
- d. Correspondence from Tendring District Council in respect of Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/20/3257853 (TDC 20/00035/FUL) Land south of Bypass Road and North of Colchester Road, St Osyth.
- e. Correspondence from Tendring District Council relating to Public Open Spaces Contribution in respect of Planning Application 19/00929/FUL The Coach House, Colchester Road, St Osyth

OM-20-225 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting (held via Zoom) of 21st January 2021 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. Quay and seconded by Cllr. Lockwood. All agreed.

OM-20-226 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-20-205 c. The Clerk informed the Council that he had on behalf of the Parish Council written to the Planning Inspectorate with regards to the Local Plan – Examination in Public.
- b. OM-20-207 a. The Clerk informed the Council that he had received recommendations for the location of the new bench in Point Clear from Cllr. Thomas.
- c. OM-20-210 a ii. The Clerk informed the Council that the Chairman has spoken with the contractor who had a number of unrepresented cheques.
- d. OM-20-214 b ii e. The Clerk informed the Council that following the acceptance of the quotation for the rewiring of the pavilion, he had instructed the electrician to commence work as soon as possible, with a view to having the work completed by mid-March at the very latest.
- e. OM-20-218 c. The Clerk informed the Council that the Christmas lights along the NISA Local side of Clacton Road had been switched off by GCS Alarms.
- f. OM-20-221 a vi. The Clerk reminded the Council that Cllr. Kelly was to write to Bourne Leisure with regards to the installation of soakaways. Cllr. Kelly confirmed that she had written to Bourne Leisure on 30th January 2021.

OM-20-227 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

OM-20-228 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from St James Surgery regarding the use of St Osyth Village Hall as a Vaccination Centre.
- b. Correspondence from the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex detailing an increase to the Precept for 2021/2022.
- c. Correspondence between St Osyth Parish Council and Park Holidays UK, with regards to the intended use of the bridge between St Osyth Beach Holiday Park, St Osyth and the Martello Holiday Park, Jaywick.

OM-20-229 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for January 2021, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.

- i) Cllr. Kelly enquired as to the payment made to LexisNexis. The Clerk informed the Council that the expenditure related to the purchase of the 12th edition of Local Council Administration.
 - ii) The Clerk informed the Council that in order to improve efficiency and to avoid queuing on the telephone, on some occasions in excess of 30 minutes to make payments, the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) had implemented the use of Internet Banking, as previously discussed on a number of occasions. Having narrated a brief report by the RFO, the Clerk subsequently confirmed that the system would require any input by the RFO to be approved electronically by one of the authorised signatories, who would be provided with a specialist security code generator.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:

Current a/c	£107,173.76
Deposit	£53,243.15

OM-20-230 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

- a. **Finance Committee:** The Minutes of the meeting of 20th January 2021, having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming

OM-20-231 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** Nothing to report.
- b. **Highways Working Party:**
 - i) The Chairman narrated an email of 15th February 2021, from Tom Eng, Highway Liaison Officer concerning the progress of the Outline Design for Safety Improvements to the Crossroads, in which the latter had given assurance that the scheme would be ready to present to the Local Highways Panel on 18th March 2021.
 - ii) Cllr. Sinclair enquired as to what would happen should the scheme not be ready in time for the March meeting. The Chairman responded that she did not know, but that Tom Eng had given his word that the scheme would be ready for inclusion on the agenda for the meeting scheduled on 18th March 2021.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The notes of the meeting of 19th January 2021, having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** Having reminded the Council of pending Public Open Spaces Contributions, the Clerk informed the Council that the Chairman had suggested that a meeting of the Working Party be held during the week commencing 8th March 2021.
 - i) The Clerk continued that he had contacted a local play equipment manufacturer with regards to obtaining an updated quote for the installation of a particular item of equipment, and that the manufacturer had agreed to honour the 2020 quote.

OM-20-232 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for December 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.
 - a) Cllr. Kelly expressed concern at the volume of crime committed within the Parish since the Clerk started recording the figures, with in excess of 4,000 crimes having been reported since August 2014. The Chairman remarked that she was concerned as to how many of the crimes had an outcome.
 - b) Cllr. White enquired as to whether the information provided by the Clerk was available to members of the public. The Clerk confirmed that all statistics presented to the Council were accessible to all. Cllr. White added that almost half of the crime reported at St Osyth Beach had occurred on the Bel Air Chalet Estate.
- b. **Footpaths:** The Chairman reminded the Council of a report received in 2020, following complaints from residents of Point Clear about cyclists and motorcyclists using Footpath 29. Having provided a brief overview of events in recent months, the Chairman continued that a k-barrier was to be installed along Footpath 29, which would allow mobility scooters, wheelchairs and buggies to pass, whilst restricting access to bikes and motorbikes. The Chairman added that the barrier, which was being funded by Essex Highways, and installed with the use of a grant provided by Cllr. Goggin would be installed in the very near future.
- c. **Benches & Litter Bins:** The Clerk confirmed that a number of benches, all salt bins and a number of litter bins were to be cleaned by a contractor on 22nd February 2021.
 - i) Cllr. Kelly enquired as to whether the recycled plastic bench at Colne View was to be cleaned. The Clerk stated that he would add it to the list.
 - ii) Cllr. White stated that a new bin had been placed on the footpath at the top of Colchester Road, and that it might be worthwhile replacing the bin outside of the flats in St Clairs Road, which was always full to the brim. Cllr. Sinclair stated that the only time when this occurred was when the contractor responsible for emptying the bin was on annual leave, otherwise, there was no problem if people took their dogs waste home with them. The Chairman suggested that Cllr. Sinclair contact the Clerk on occasions whereby the bin was not emptied.
 - iii) The Chairman informed the Council that the new notice board was to be installed during the week commencing 22nd February 2021.

- d. **Planters:** Nothing to report.
- e. **Tree Warden:** Nothing to report
- f. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**
Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

On 27th January I joined a Zoom Meeting for the Association, organised by Robert Taylor, as we currently do not have a Secretary. The Meeting started at 7.30 pm and was largely a discussion about individual Parish problems. There was however a complaint from one Parish about the extremely large size of a planned Solar Panel Farm in their area.

We had some good discussion on Climate Change, introduced by myself wearing my District Council hat, stating that the Cabinet will be asking for all District Council Reports to contain a reference to Climate Change effects, and if agreed all Town and Parishes will be invited to consider Climate change on all their future agendas.

Janet Russell (our retired Secretary) came back to fill the vacuum left when she packed the Secretaries job up early last year, since when we have only just survived thanks to Robert Taylor. The meeting finished at 8.43 pm, with members being asked to suggest suitable speakers for future meetings.

The Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) last met via Zoom on 21st January 2021, the same evening as our own Parish Council meeting.

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

i) Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

- a) The District Council had its first Full Council meeting last Tuesday using 'Microsoft Teams' instead of Skype as had been previously used.

This meeting was the Budget Meeting to set the Council Tax sum for TDC for years 2021/22. Copied from the reports Appendix 'G', St Osyth's precepted sum, as agreed by the Parish Council is £141,333.00 which results in a tax for Parish Council purposes of £76.71. Added to that is £166.05 for District purposes making a total for our Parish of £242.76 for a band 'D' property, but this is JUST Tendring, since added to this is the Police and Fire service charge, and then the very much larger Essex County Council Tax sum, which is the bulk of the sum on your Council Tax Demand when it arrives on your doormat. We as a District Council are required to collect their demands along with our TDC Council Tax. The total sum will be set on 25th February by the Council Tax Committee who meet to calculate the final demand when Police and Fire precept and Essex County Council charges are known.

As a Council, TDC are still obeying all the safety rules to prevent Covid-19 infection for both its staff and the public, but notwithstanding that today it was announced, that one of our Departments has been certified with an ISO Certificate for the way its management processes ensure consistency and enhanced customer satisfaction. It has received this international quality award for its management.

The heavy snow between 7th and 10th of February caused massive disruption to waste collections in the whole District and particularly in parts of St Osyth. I will not go into details, but obviously where it was difficult for us to walk as individuals for fear of falling in icy conditions, then we can understand the risks of asking operatives to carry boxes and wheel bins.

- ii) Cllr. White gave the following report:
 - a) That the solar farm to which Cllr. Talbot had referred was in Wix and was likely to cover approximately 22 hectares.
 - b) That he had been extremely busy with District planning matters, having spent some 42 hours in front of computer screens during the past 7 days. Cllr. White added that in addition to planning related virtual meetings, he was looking at the outcome of recent planning appeals, the last 5 of which had all been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate, on the basis that Tendring District now had a 6.4 year supply of housing stock.
 - c) That he was preparing for 2 Public Inquiries, which would deal with Section II of the Local Plan and the caravan site at Weeley respectively, both of which were being held over the same dates. Although the Inquiries were being held virtually, there was still an enormous amount of strain on those involved from the District Council.
- h. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood reported that he continued to make minor changes to the website. Cllr. Lockwood requested a copy of the Chairman's report once it was ready. The Chairman confirmed that she would be writing a report for inclusion in the April edition of the Parish Magazine which was likely to be published at the end of March.
- i. **Community Speed Watch:** Nothing to report.

OM-20-233 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

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

A committee meeting was held on Tuesday 9th February 2021.

The charity is in talks with Aran Services with regard to obtaining Green Homes Grants from the Government to improve the insulation and energy efficiency of the Almshouses. We are due to carry out Energy Performance surveys at a cost of £45 per unit. This will provide us with the information that we need to apply for the grants.

The draft budget for 2021/2022 was approved and will see a rise of 1.5% in rent for the properties in Clacton Road and St Clairs Road. The rent for Clacton Road includes water charges.

Last year should have seen the 900th anniversary of the Almshouses Association. Apart from the church service the rest of the events had to be postponed. 2021 sees the 75th anniversary of the present Almshouse Association and the events that were postponed will now take place this year, Covid permitting.

- i) Cllr. Grantham enquired as to what was likely to happen with regards to the replacement of the windows. Cllr. Sinclair stated that the Trustees had agreed that the windows should be replaced and that as the windows were bespoke the contract would have to go out for tender.

b. St Osyth Playing Field Charity:

- i) The Clerk narrated the monthly written report from Community Guard.
- ii) The Clerk informed the Council that the contractor had allocated 7-10 days for the rewiring of the pavilion and that the work was to be completed by 12th March 2021.
- iii) Having been asked as to whether she had anything to add by the Chairman, Cllr. Thomas stated that she had nothing to report, other than that the park and play area were being well used.
- iv) Cllr. Grantham informed the Council that she had requested the Community Warden to collate information with regards to the repair of the exterior of the pavilion for when Councillors were able to meet on site and in person.

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 together with several of the Trustees, she would, on 19th February, be interviewing, by virtual means, 4 candidates from 6 applicants, for the position of Education Manager.

OM-20-234 ALTERATIONS TO THE CEMETERY ENTRANCE:

At the request of the Chairman, and by way of photographs via a shared screen, the Clerk briefed the Council on the recent clearance of the car park ahead of the laying of a 15-tonne load of gravel on Tuesday 23rd February.

The Clerk informed the Council that the bricklayer was due to carry out the alterations to the wall during the week commencing 8th March.

The Chairman stated that not only would the car park look good once the gravel was laid, but more importantly, the alterations to the wall would enable safe exit from the Cemetery.

OM-20-235 FTTP ULTRAFAST BROADBAND:

Cllr. Lockwood informed the Council of the difference in broadband provision, i.e. ADSL via copper lines, 'fibre to the cabinet – FTTC' and 'fibre to the premises – FTTP'.

Cllr. Lockwood continued that the rollout to the rural areas was being promoted elsewhere by Parish Councils, using a Government funded scheme, which required a pledge from residents to sign up to the scheme.

Following a conversation as to the workings of the Government funded scheme, Cllr. Sinclair informed the Council that she had taken part in a virtual conference meeting at which the rollout of fibre broadband by TDC and Colchester Borough Council had been discussed. Cllr. Sinclair stated that she would obtain details for Cllr. Lockwood.

OM-20-236 ESSEX-WIDE BUS SHELTER PROJECT SURVEY:

The Clerk informed the Council that he had submitted the details of all Parish Council owned bus shelters, including location and dimensions, as part of the survey, as requested by the County Councils Integrated Passenger Transport Unit.

OM-20-237 HIGHWAYS DEVOLUTION PILOT SCHEME:

The Clerk reminded the Council of the recent correspondence to Essex Highways with regards to the request for feedback in respect of the Highways Devolution Pilot Scheme, a copy of which had been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting.

OM-20-238 PARISH ISSUES:

- a. The Clerk reported that he had written to the owner of the land at Oakmead Road, on which 4 properties were proposed, to enquire as to the progress of the development, but that he had yet to receive a response.
- b. The Clerk informed the Council of an accident on 11th February 2021, whereby 2 Ambulances had become stuck whilst responding to an emergency call on the Bel Air Chalet Estate. By way of photographs via a shared screen, the Clerk informed the Council that the Ambulances had become stuck due to a combination of snow and potholes along Seawick Road. He added that it had subsequently been necessary to task the Air Ambulance to deal with the original 999 call.
- c. The Chairman reminded the Council that in 2018, during the 'Beast from the East', the Parish Council had made a financial contribution to a local farmer who had cleared drifting snow from Beach Road. The Chairman reported that the farmer involved was now part of the Essex Highways scheme, for which he received remuneration, and was given 'free rein' to clear the roads of snow, for which he was paid by the hour.
 - i) The Clerk informed the Council that whilst the farmer had made frequent journeys along Beach Road to clear the snow, the main problem encountered by motorists, and in particular a number of buses, was the surface created by compacted snow, due to the lack of gritting. By way of photographs and information via a shared screen, the Clerk provided evidence that as the number of buses travelling along Beach Road on a daily basis met the requirement of the County Council for the gritting of bus routes, there was a case to argue that such action should be undertaken by the latter. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Essex Highways requesting further information.

- ii) Cllr. White informed the Council that there should be no buses travelling to or from St Osyth Beach, and in particular the Bel Air Chalet Estate during the winter, as the area should not be used for permanent occupation. The presence of occupants on the Chalet Estate was proven by the monthly crime statistics.
- iii) At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk informed the Council that following enquiries with the District Council, it had been confirmed that the District Council did not own or rent any properties on the Bel Air Chalet Estate, nor did it provide any accommodation for homeless people. The Clerk continued that when he had questioned the reason for this, the answer he had been given was that Planning Permissions prevented the year-round occupancy of the properties, therefore they could not be used by the District Council. The Clerk continued that there was a misconception that just because someone in receipt of benefits was living on the Bel Air Chalet Estate, it did not mean that the accommodation was being provided by the District Council, and in fact all of the accommodation being rented was privately owned.
- iv) The Chairman stated that if the District Council was not housing people on the Chalet Estate, as had previously been reported to the Parish Council, it was a planning matter, with which the District Council should be dealing, especially when a department within the very same Council had said so much.
- v) A lengthy conversation ensued during which the ownership of the Bel Air Chalet Estate was discussed, together with the responsibility for the maintenance of the roads on the estate, during which time the Clerk informed the Council that he could find no evidence as to who was responsible for the upkeep of the roads.
- vi) The subject of leases was also discussed, with the consensus of the Council being that tenants were living in properties even though there were occupancy restrictions applicable.
- vii) It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the District Council to enquire as to the occupancy permissions/ restrictions attributable to the Chalet Estate.

OM-20-239 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having joined the meeting at 9 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the following:
 - i) That whilst it was acknowledged that Council staff (primarily County and District) had been working hard throughout the pandemic, there had been a noticeable drop in responses to emails and correspondence.
 - ii) That it was highly embarrassing that the footway in Mill Street had still not been repaired, despite being brought to his attention in October 2020. Cllr. Goggin added that unfortunately, the team responsible for the repairs was also used for the clearance of snow from and gritting of roads throughout the County.

- iii) That whilst there was likely to be a small increase to the District Councils rates, there was to be no increase to the County Councils rates, other than the 1.9% allocated for Social Care.
- iv) That there were lots of issues, not only in St Osyth, but throughout the County with regards to surface water. Cllr. Goggin continued that the water table was at its highest for some 96 years, and that the drainage system simply could not cope.
- v) That the Elections scheduled for 6th May 2021, for the County Council, a number of Mayoral positions and the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex were to go ahead, although there would clearly be issues in respect of voting, canvassing etc.
- vi) Cllr. Talbot thanked Cllr. Goggin for his report, which Cllr. Talbot stated was of great value. The Chairman agreed with Cllr. Talbot's comments and requested that as of March 2021, Cllr. Goggin's report be displayed during discussion on its content.

OM-20-240 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Kelly reported that there were a number of wooden pallets and wood strewn throughout the area of the Curve Wake Park, which looked extremely untidy.
- b. Cllr. Talbot reported that in his capacity as the District Councils Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Space, he had written to all Town and Parish Councils with regards to climate change and requested that the matter be an agenda item for the March meeting of the Parish Council.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35 pm.

The date of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 18th March 2021.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 18th February 2021		
OM-20-232 c ii	St Clairs Road Dog Waste Bin	Cllr. Sinclair to inform Clk when bin requires emptying
OM-20-238 c i	Gritting of Beach Road	Clk to write to Essex Highways
OM-20-238 c vii	Occupancy Permissions/ Restrictions in respect of Bel Air Chalet Estate	Clk to write to TDC
OM-20-239 a vi	Cllr. Goggin's Report	Clk to display report
OM-20-240 b	TDC Climate Change Action Plan	Clk to include on agenda

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