



# ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 7.00 pm

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

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (arrived at 8.30 pm)

**NOT PRESENT:** Cllr. Pat Quay

**MINUTES:** Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Three

### OM-21-079 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-21-080 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	21/00194/FUL Mr Miller L H Morgan & Sons (Marine) Ltd The Boatyard Copperas Road Brightlingsea	Expansion and modernisation of facilities to include; redesign of moorings, modernisation of services for mooring holders and visitors, development of shore side vessel services (such as maintenance, haulage, wash down facility and storage), installation of protective dolphin and construction of 90no. new moorings and 25no. improved moorings.  Whilst the Parish Council has no objections to the proposed land-based improvements/ alterations, Councillors strongly object to the construction of the new moorings, which will see a significant reduction in the width of the channel. Vessels heading towards St Osyth Boatyard are already restricted as to when they can access the creek, and the addition of new moorings will exacerbate the situation further.
b.	21/00487/FUL Mr R O'Dell Land East of High Birch Farmhouse High Birch Road St Osyth	Proposed retention of 2no. stable blocks and tack room for private use.  No objections.

c.	21/01102/LBC Mr & Mrs Walker The Old House 27 Spring Road St Osyth	Proposed chemical spraying of the timbers in the cellar and part of the roof space.  No objections.
d.	21/01138/FUL M Smith 228 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Proposed loft conversion with dormers to form additional living space.  No objections.
e.	21/01162/FUL Mr & Mrs Williams 47 Dumont Avenue St Osyth	Proposed demolition of garage, construction of single storey side extension and an infill extension to form a glazed conservatory to the rear.  No objections.
f.	21/01282/FUL Messrs R.A T.R D.R & A.I Sargeant St Osyth Priory Estate The Bury St Osyth	Erection of a single storey double garage, which includes cycle storage, a garden/log store and associated landscaping to serve the South Lodge at St Osyth Priory Park.  No objections.
g.	21/01293/TCA Mr Talbot Kings Close House Kings Close St Osyth	1 No. Poplar - fell  The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
h.	21/01352/FUL Mr K Savage Oak Lodge Rectory Road St Osyth	Proposed construction of kitchen extension to the rear of the dwelling, construction of new extension to cart-lodge to provide extra ancillary accommodation to Oak Lodge and the installation of a gazebo to form covered external seating / dining area.  No objections.
i.	21/01357/TCA Absolute Tree Services 52 Mill Street St Osyth	1 No. Walnut - cut back overhanging branches.  The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
j.	21/01358/TCA Absolute Tree Services 14 Point Clear Road St Osyth	1 No. Prunus - reduce, 1 No. Holly - reduce, 2 No. Yew - reduce, cut back hedge to boundary.  The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
k.	21/00401/PREMGR Karan Retail Ltd Pump Hill Service Station Clacton Road St Osyth	Premises Licence Grant.  The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Licensing Committee for consideration.

l.	21/01318/COUNOT Mr R Clarke Long Barn, Blackwater Farmhouse Lee Wick Lane, St Osyth	Change of use from existing agricultural building to a dwellinghouse.  Noted - for information only.
m.	21/01378/TELLIC Telefonica UK The Warren, Cow Lane St Osyth	Proposed installation of electronic communications apparatus.  Noted - for information only.

**OM-21-081 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notification of Decisions (Determinations) from 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
- b. Correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate with regards to the dismissal of Appeal APP/P1560/W/20/3257915, 57 Tower Estate, Point Clear Bay.
- c. Correspondence from TDC concerning land adjoining 25 Colne Way, Point Clear Bay.
- d. Correspondence from TDC with regards to the Public Consultation in respect of Tendring District Local Plan, Section 2, Proposed Main Modifications.
- e. Correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate with regards to the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Project Consultation.
- f. Correspondence from residents of Point Clear Bay re Planning Application 21/00831/LUEX, The Orchards Holiday Park, Point Clear Bay.

**OM-21-082 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:** That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by both the Vice-Chairman and Chairman, as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.

**OM-21-083 SUMMARY OF ACTION:**

- a. OM-21-068 e. The Clerk informed the Council that the Essex Forest Initiative would be discussed later in the meeting.
- b. OM-21-072 b. The Clerk reminded the Council that the meeting with Essex Highways had taken place on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
- c. OM-21-076. The Clerk reminded the Council that the interview of candidates for co-option would be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021.

**OM-21-084 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Given that members of the public wished to comment on a subject to be discussed later in the meeting, the Chairman requested that public participation be deferred until such time as the Council was ready to discuss the specific matters. All agreed.

## OM-21-085 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from a resident of Point Clear Bay with regards to the condition of roads within the Bay.
- b. Correspondence from TDC acknowledging a request under the Freedom of Information Act from St Osyth Parish Council.
- c. Correspondence from the Chairman of the Point Clear & St Osyth Disabled Persons Club with regards to receipt of Parish Council grant.
- d. Correspondence from the owner of a property on the Bel-Air Chalet Estate with regards to the residential status of properties on the estate.
- e. Correspondence from the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) with regards to Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral.

## OM-21-086 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for July 2021, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:

Current a/c	£124,129.27
Deposit	£53,251.26

- c. The following observations/ comments were noted:
  - i. Cllr. Kelly enquired as to why the Council had been invoiced for Zoom. The Clerk confirmed that Zoom was still being used for certain meetings, such as Martin's Farm Park and meetings with other Authorities.
  - ii. Cllr. Cooper noted that a cheque number in respect of Unpresented Cheques had been transposed.
- d. The Clerk informed the Council that when the Council had approved the Internal Audit, and the Chairman, Clerk and RFO respectively had signed the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2020/2021, sub-section 11 of Section 2, (Disclosure re Trust Funds) had not been ticked. The Clerk stated that in order to ensure that there was no comeback, the Chairman should tick sub-section 11 and initial underneath the respective box.
  - i. **RESOLVED:** That the Chairman complete sub-section 11 of Section 2, (Disclosure re Trust Funds) of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2020/2021, and initial underneath the respective box accordingly. All agreed.

## OM-21-087 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

- a. **Finance Committee:** The draft Minutes of the meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021, having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming.

## OM-21-088 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman reported that the blooms were suffering from the effects of the recent rainfall.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** The Chairman reported on the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 with David Gollop, Essex Highways Design Manager and Tom Eng, Essex Highways Liaison Officer, at which the Outline Design for Safety Improvements to the Crossroads had been discussed. The Chairman stated that it had been a very useful meeting.
  - i. The notes of the subsequent meeting attended by Tom Eng and members of the Highways Working Party, having been previously circulated, the Chairman reported that the highways specific Management Plan had been discussed, during which time Tom Eng had advised the Working Party as to how best progress certain projects within the Management Plan.
  - ii. The Chairman then informed the Council of the complimentary email received from David Gollop following the meeting with the Parish Council, adding that she had subsequently written to Cllr. Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways & Sustainable Transport, thanking him for the support given to the Parish Council by David Gollop, Tom Eng and Cllr. Alan Goggin.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The Chairman reported that the meeting scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 had been cancelled.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** Cllr. Ward informed the Council that the District Council had confirmed receipt of funding by way of Public Open Spaces Contribution (POSC) in respect of the development at Pump Hill, which meant that the Clerk could proceed with ordering the basket swing, picnic benches and litter bin for Priory Meadow.
  - i. The Chairman added that there would be additional POSC funding from the development.

## OM-21-089 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for June 2021.
  - 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:** No report given.
- c. **Benches & Litter Bins:** The Chairman reported that the benches on The Bury had been repaired and that they had yet to be painted.
- d. **Planters:** Nothing to report.

- e. **Tree Warden:** The Chairman informed the Council of her idea to plant a commemorative copse at Cowley Park, which would be discussed later in the meeting.
  
- f. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**  
Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
  - i. TDALC met via Zoom on 28<sup>th</sup> July. Peter Davey, Chairman of the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) was the guest at our meeting, along with Wendy, the Vice-Chair. They both spoke about EALC, the work they do and the portfolio of services they offer, to around 300 Towns and Parishes in Essex, including legal advice, members training, specialist courses of subjects requested, etc.
  
  - ii. I had both my letter and the reply for EALC in respect of my special business, reporting my contact following our last meeting, when I was instructed to write to EALC over some problems with planning and Climate Change. Some members were clearly having some difficulty with their connection and Ben, our new secretary, kept disappearing. He had written an excellent minute of the last meeting subject to a small correction. There was a lot of general discussion and the meeting finished at 9.45 pm.
  
  - iii. EALC was scheduled to meet on 9<sup>th</sup> September, but this date has now been brought forward to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021. As I already have other business that day, I have already sent my apology. The Association AGM, which is being held via Zoom, is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. I will be the official delegate from St Osyth, but if anyone else is going we can make collective arrangements.
  
- g. **District Councillor's Report:**  
Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
  - i. At the last meeting, I reported on the problems at the Crematorium, where our two cremators keep breaking down, and whilst the funeral ceremonies could take place in our Chapel, coffins were later transported to the Ipswich Crematorium for actual cremation. The situation has been partly resolved and further cremator repairs have been made by our staff, so on the surface things are back to normal. Also, money has now been set aside to completely replace our present cremators.
  
  - ii. As Tendring's representative on the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) with six other Authorities appointees from other Councils, we met to discuss on-street parking issues common to all. This was nothing to do with off street parking, such as our multi-storey car park. At our last meeting, on 10<sup>th</sup> August, amongst other things, it was proposed that we abandon the single yellow line in new traffic orders, since they are not obeyed, and replace them with single red lines. I was totally opposed to this and received the support of colleagues. Therefore, single yellow lines will remain in our part of Essex. All agreed that better enforcement of existing rules was preferable to banning stopping or parking altogether.

- iii. We are still receiving many complaints about untended and overgrown verges and open spaces, which notwithstanding the effort to cut and control these areas, given the exceptional growing conditions provided by nature this year, which have left us playing catch-up with such vigorous growth. Our Open Spaces team have considerable help from a team of volunteers who help the Council's horticulture team, who are responsible for planting and maintaining several open spaces across the area, including the beautiful sites such as Clacton's seafront gardens, Walton-on-the-Naze and Cliff Park in Dovercourt.
- iv. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Sean Biswell, TDC's Temporary Community & Volunteer Projects Manager for the Open Spaces team, via [seanbiswell@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:seanbiswell@tendringdc.gov.uk) or by phone on 07786 660603.
- h. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood reported that the Chairman's report was ready to be published online, pending the distribution of the Parish magazine, that he would prepare a summary of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021, in respect of the crossroads, and that he was happy to publish any articles which Councillors might want published.

The Chairman suggested that Cllr. Lockwood could publish information about the removal of ragwort, and that the Clacton Road entrance of the village had 2 rare species of wildflower, namely Lesser Calamint and Wild Clary.
- i. **Community Speed Watch:** Cllr. Cooper reported that a meeting of the Community Speed Watch group had been arranged for 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021, and that he would report the outcome of the meeting when the Council met in September.

#### **OM-21-090 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:**

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

The Trustees of the Almshouse Charity met on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

- i. Our nominated Building Surveyor has inspected 27 Clacton Road following the death of the tenant. Extensive works need to be carried out at this property. The Schedule of Works needs to go out to tender and it is anticipated that the property will not be ready to re-let for two to three months. The criteria that we will use to re-let the property will be to those 'most in need' in the village.
- ii. The Building Surveyor has also looked at the front windows and been asked to provide a schedule so that we can go out to tender. This will be either to repaint the windows or to replace them.
- iii. The Trustees of the Almshouses are in the process of looking at a Disaster Recovery Plan for our residents, and an initial meeting is planned with Tendring District Council.

- iv. Tenants have reported incidents of damp on the front wall of their properties and the Building Surveyor whilst on site carried out an inspection. It has been found that path repairs outside the properties have covered over half of the air bricks thus impeding the flow of air needed. Cllr Alan Goggin has been informed about this and asked for a site visit to see how this situation can be remedied.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Cllr. Thomas gave the following report:
- i. That the installation of cladding was to have begun on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021, however, this had now been postponed until 31<sup>st</sup> August, due to supply issues.
  - ii. That during a site visit, a representative of the company installing the cladding had recommended aging wooden doors be replaced with like for like, as 'up & over' style garage doors would take up too much space within the garage, which has a low roof.
  - iii. That the Community Warden had obtained quotes for new wooden doors, and for the preparation and painting of woodwork (doors NOT garage doors), cricket shutters and railings.
  - iv. A discussion followed as to the sale of cricket equipment. The Chairman suggested that as it was now approaching the end of the season, it would be sensible to wait until the pre-season in order to try to sell the items.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Whilst Cllr. Blockley had nothing to report in respect of the Community Association, she informed the Council that the Dumont Luncheon Club had recommenced its use of Dumont Hall.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas gave the following report:
- i. That the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) had met on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, during which time the Treasurer had reported that the Committee's funds were the highest they had ever been, due, largely in part, to Covid-19 grants.
  - ii. That repairs/ maintenance work was needed in certain areas of the Hall, and that it was now the decision of individual groups as to whether they wore masks.
  - iii. That John Savage was now assisting Dave Henson with caretaking duties, and that the VHMC had acknowledged the presence of the Parish Council staff during the Covid-19 lockdowns had ensured that there had been an income for the Hall.
- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** The Chairman reported that the Priory was open during August for tours and family visits, which to date had proven to be very successful. The Chairman added that unfortunately the tower was not currently part of the tours, due to there being fledglings inside, therefore, the Chapel had been added to the tour.



## **OM-21-091 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CROSSROADS:**

- a. The Chairman reminded the Council of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 with David Gollop, Essex Highways Design Manager and Tom Eng, Essex Highways Liaison Officer, at which the Outline Design for Safety Improvements to the Crossroads had been discussed.
- b. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council formally approve the installation of traffic calming/ speed reduction measures at the crossroads, as proposed by Essex Highways. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Sinclair and seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.

## **OM-21-092 ANNUAL PARISH APPRAISAL:**

The Chairman thanked all Councillors for attending the Annual Parish Appraisal, which she stated had been an enjoyable, and informative, afternoon.

- a. Maintenance of the Willow Plantation:
  - i. The Council having viewed the Willow Plantation from the garden of a property in Spring Road, during which time it had been agreed that urgent felling was necessary, the Clerk, by way of a PowerPoint presentation, showed Councillors the result of the work carried out by Countryside Trees Ltd. All agreed that the company had done a very good job, including the creation of habitats.
  - ii. The Clerk informed the Council that although the decision to carry out the felling had been taken by all members of the Council during the Annual Parish Appraisal it was necessary to formally record the decision.
  - iii. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council retrospectively accept the quotation submitted by Countryside Trees Ltd, for the felling of trees within the Willow Plantation, which posed a medium to high risk of damage to neighbouring properties. The motion, which had originally been proposed by Cllr. Talbot during the Annual Parish Appraisal was proposed by Cllr. French and seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All agreed.
- b. Bel-Air Chalet Estate:
  - i. The Chairman informed all present, particularly a member of the public, who owned a property on the Bel-Air Chalet Estate, and who wished to discuss the ongoing issue of the residential status of the estate, that following concerns expressed by the member of the public in September 2019, the Clerk had, on behalf of the Parish Council, written to both Essex Police and the District Council, with only the latter responding, citing the need to await the outcome of the Planning Appeals in respect of Point Clear Bay.
  - ii. The Chairman invited Councillors to comment as a result of having viewed the estate as part of the Annual Parish Appraisal:
    - a) Cllr. Blockley remarked that the area, which always featured in the crime statistics received by the Council was in need of attention.

- b) Cllr. Cooper remarked that he had not appreciated the size of the area, adding that three quarters of the crimes reported in June in the St Osyth Beach area had occurred on the estate. He added that whilst not directly linked with crimes on the estate, the District Council had given approval for the building of 2 new holiday parks, on Beach Road and Cockett Wick Lane respectively, and that a third application had been submitted for additional caravans on the St Osyth Beach Holiday Park.
- c) Cllr. Sinclair commented that together with Cllr. Ward, she had visited the estate during the winter during bad weather. She continued that the properties on the estate were not fit for year-round occupancy and that the occupancy issue in respect of Point Clear Bay having been resolved by way of a Planning Appeal, the question had to be raised as to the residential status of those living on the Bel-Air Chalet Estate.
- d) Cllr. Talbot gave an overview of a recent meeting with the Chief Executive of the District Council, which he had attended with Cllr. White and the member of the public present. Cllr. Talbot added that the Chief Executive had received a number of letters from the member of the public and had accepted that the situation with regards to the Bel-Air Chalet Estate was unsatisfactory.
  - i) Cllr. Talbot continued that the District Council would conduct occupancy checks this winter and if necessary, consider action against the landlord(s).
  - ii) Cllr. Talbot added that having received statistics for a 12-month period from the Clerk, it was apparent that the volume of crime being reported, yet alone occurring on the estate, was disproportionate, given the size of the area.
- e) Cllr. White commented that whilst the companies which owned the estate changed from time to time, one of the Directors had links to all the companies. He continued that one of the residents of the estate, who had been wanted by 4 separate Police Forces, had been living there for some 2 years.

The Council having agreed that Public Participation be deferred until later in the meeting, a member of the public was given the opportunity to address the Council, during which time the following points were raised:

- f) The member of the public reiterated Cllr. White's comments about the resident who had been wanted by the Police. They stated that the resident, who had been sentenced to 29 years for murder, had been living on the estate, in receipt of benefits for 2½ years, whilst being investigated and sought by the Police.
  - i) The member of the public continued that to date only one member of the District Council had taken any action in respect of the unauthorised occupancy of the estate, which had resulted in the then owners, the Milesahead Property Ltd, receiving a fine for planning contravention.

- ii) Cllr. Kelly stated that there was a difference between planning contravention and planning enforcement.
- iii) The member of the public continued that they had written to numerous agencies and people, including Giles Watling, the Member of Parliament for Clacton on Sea, but that nobody was prepared to deal with the occupancy issues surrounding the estate. They continued that one company in particular 'Frankie's Chalets' was purchasing properties on the estate, only to sub-let them out.
- iv) Cllr. Thomas suggested that owners of holiday properties on the estate could report certain matters to the Essex Police Vulnerability Unit. The member of the public replied that many were afraid to do so for fear of reprisal.
- v) The member of the public continued that the occupancy restrictions imposed on the estate meant that, except for a few properties where an error by the District Council meant that year-round occupancy was permitted, none of the properties should be used as of 31<sup>st</sup> October in any year.
- g) Following a further discussion as to the granting of certain further permissions by the Planning Inspectorate, the possibility of the Parish Council raising the matter with the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex and confirmation as to whether any breach of condition notices remained extant, it was agreed that the matter be discussed further at another meeting of the Council.

#### **OM-21-093 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.30 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the following:
  - i. That during a visit to Alresford Station on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021 by Chris Heaton-Harris, Member of Parliament for Daventry, and Minister of State at the Department for Transport, Cllr. Goggin had been able to mention the ferry between St Osyth and Brightlingsea.
  - ii. That he had on 9<sup>th</sup> August had a conversation with David Sargeant, during which time they had discussed the issue of the speed limit in the vicinity of the proposed entrance to the Priory from the B1027. During a subsequent conversation with the Council, Cllr. Goggin was informed by the Clerk that when Essex Highways had received the planning application for the development at Wellwick, Highways officers had chosen to retain the 60-mph speed limit on the approach to both Wellwick and the proposed entrance to the Priory.
  - iii. That the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 with David Gollop, Essex Highways Design Manager and Tom Eng, Essex Highways Liaison Officer, at which the Outline Design for Safety Improvements to the Crossroads had been discussed, was a very good meeting.

- iv. That during a meeting with a resident of Westwood Park, and Tom Eng, Essex Highways, on 12<sup>th</sup> August, following a request from the resident for improvements to the bus stop opposite the residential park, Cllr. Goggin had stated that Highways were awaiting data from bus companies in respect of the numbers of residents using the bus stop. Cllr. Goggin added that Highways could not justify improvements if the stop was not used.
- v. That he had received a complaint from a resident of Brightlingsea who had complained that the ferry was not suitable for those with disabilities.
- vi. That following a conversation with the Chairman with regards to the accumulation of ragwort, which was a reportable weed, along the B1027, the verges had been cut on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
- vii. That it was unacceptable that 'dirty water' was flooding part of Spring Road, and that this was a matter for Anglian Water. The Clerk informed Cllr. Goggin that Anglian Water had carried out repairs and given that the road was still flooding when it rained, the assumption was that it was a surface water drainage issue, which was therefore the responsibility of Essex Highways.

**OM-21-094 CASUAL VACANCY - CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR:**

The Clerk informed the Council that the interview of the 4 candidates had been arranged for the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021, commencing at 6 pm. He added that Councillors were requested to arrive by 5.40 pm, and that he would provide paper copies of the respective applications and marking sheets.

**OM-21-095 ESSEX FOREST INITIATIVE:**

- a. The Chairman informed the Council that following information on the planting of Commemorative Trees as part of the Essex Forest Initiative (EFI), which had been raised by Cllr. French during the June meeting of the Council, she had given some thought as to where trees could be centrally planted, and that Cowley Park was the obvious choice.
- b. The Chairman suggested that Parish organisations could be invited to plant a native species tree in a copse on Cowley Park, which would commemorate those residents who had passed because of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to offset the effects of climate change.
- c. The Chairman added that as she felt the pandemic and Jubilee needed to be marked, the Parish Council should investigate the proposal further. All agreed.
  - i. Cllr. Sinclair enquired as to whether the positioning of the copse, at the western end of Cowley Park would impact on the football clubs. The Chairman stated that it would not., and that by moving the pitches, it would be possible to retain the adult and 3 youth pitches.
  - ii. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the proposal was a good idea, but that consideration would have to be given to the number of trees, which could exceed 41.

**OM-21-096 MONITORING OF VEGETATION:**

Due to the requirement to discuss matters of a more important nature, it was suggested that this matter be deferred until the September meeting. All agreed.

**OM-21-097 SPECIAL EXPENSES:**

Due to the requirement to discuss matters of a more important nature, it was suggested that this matter be deferred until the September meeting. All agreed.

**OM-21-098 RESTRICTION OF ACCESS TO STONE POINT:**

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk, by way of a PowerPoint presentation, gave an overview of the area known as Stone Point, during which time he informed Councillors of the history of the area, and how it came to be a registered Village Green. The Clerk stated that he could not explain why one particular area, a track leading onto the foreshore from the Tower Estate, was not included on the Land Registry plan. Cllr. Talbot stated that the track had at one time been the access road to a property on the beach side of the sea defences.

- a. The Clerk subsequently informed the Council of recent events, which had seen the Brightlingsea Harbour Master restrict access to unregistered Personal Watercraft (PWC) aka jet skis, wishing to launch from Stone Point. The Clerk stated that whilst there had initially been complaints as to the actions of the Harbour Master, prior details of which had been emailed to members of the Council, the measures had to date prevented the unauthorised launch of 40+ PWC, in addition to preventing varying acts of anti-social behaviour, which had resulted in numerous favourable comments from residents living near to, and visitors to Stone Point.

The Council having agreed that Public Participation be deferred until later in the meeting, a member of the public was given the opportunity to address the Council, during which time the following points were raised:

- b. A member of the public, who was part of the St Osyth Tower Residents Association (SOTRA) informed the Council that the Association owned the access roads beyond Western Promenade, that the top of the ramp on the sea wall was owned by the Environment Agency and that the beach was owned by The Orchards Holiday Village. They continued that residents were plagued by the noise of PWC and had subsequently authorised the Harbour Master to place security guards on the approach to the sea wall ramp, to prevent access to unregistered PWC.
- c. The representative of SOTRA added that PWC could launch from Brightlingsea having paid Harbour Dues, which meant that users were registered, insured and had agreed to abide by regulations, however, as many of the PWC users did not wish to pay this fee, they continued to try to launch from Stone Point.
- d. A second member of the public remarked on the deterioration of the area as a direct result of PWC and quad bikes, which they believed had affected a population of Terns. They continued that as the Parish Council obviously cared about the area and environment, the support of the Council to prevent any ramifications from such thoughtless behaviour would be greatly appreciated.
- e. Cllr. Blockley enquired as to the responsibility of the Parish Council, given that the land was owned by The Orchards.

- i. The Chairman stated that the Council had no responsibility, other than to its residents. The Chairman continued that whilst the area was a registered Village Green, it was a Village Green within the Parish, not the Parish Council's Village Green.
  - ii. The Chairman stated that the actions of the Harbour Master were not sustainable due to the cost, and that the Parish Council was best placed to facilitate a meeting between all interested parties.
  - iii. Cllr. Ward commented that there should be no vehicular access to or over the area if it was a Village Green.
  - iv. Cllr's French and Thomas remarked that as the Harbour Master had the full backing and support of Essex Police to prevent the launch of unregistered PWC, the Parish Council should support both agencies 100%.
  - v. Cllr. Goggin gave a brief overview of how the implementation of regulations in respect of water-skiing craft 40 years ago in Brightlingsea Harbour had resulted in the correct and safe use of such craft, something which continued to this day.
  - vi. Cllr. Talbot stated that any misuse of, or anti-social behaviour by those using PWC should be dealt with by the Harbour Master and Essex Police at the point where the problem occurred i.e. at sea. He continued that the Harbour Master had no reason to prevent access to Stone Point, and that the excuse of PWC was a cover for the Harbour Master to try and gain and impose control of Stone Point, something to which he [Cllr. Talbot] objected.
- f. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council facilitate a meeting with all interested parties, to discuss how to prevent unregistered PWC and regulate access to Stone Point for the enjoyment of all. All agreed.

**OM-21-099 THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACONS – 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2022:**

Due to the requirement to discuss matters of a more important nature, it was suggested that this matter be deferred until the September meeting. All agreed.

**OM-21-100 FURTHER MATTERS:** None.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.58 pm.

The date of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting  
held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

OM-21-085 e	Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral	Clk to fwd to Cllr's
OM-21-088 d	Priory Meadow Play Area	Clk to action
OM-21-089 i	Community Speed Watch	Cllr. Cooper to brief PC
OM-21-092 b ii g	Bel-Air Chalet Estate	PC to discuss further
OM-21-094	Casual Vacancy / Co-option of a Councillor	Interviews on 23/8/21
OM-21-096	Monitoring of Vegetation	Include on Sep agenda
OM-21-097	Special Expenses	Include on Sep agenda
OM-21-098	Restriction of Access to Stone Point	PC to facilitate meeting
OM-21-099	Queen's Platinum Jubilee	Include on Sep agenda

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