



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 21st October 2021 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr. Sonia Grantham, Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Alma Blockley
Cllr's Gary Coe, David Cooper, Ray French, John Lockwood,
Karen Sinclair, Michele Thomas & Julie Ward

Cllr. John White (arrived at 8.10 pm)
Cllr. Michael Talbot (arrived at 8.20 pm)
(attended a District Council Members briefing prior to the meeting)

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

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Mandy Kelly

NOT PRESENT:

Cllr. Pat Quay

MINUTES:

Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: One

OM-21-124 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR:

The Chairman informed the Council of the resignation of Cllr. Patricia Quay, which was duly accepted.

OM-21-125 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

Having arrived at 8.20 pm, Cllr. Talbot declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Dumont Avenue play area.

OM-21-126 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	21/01088/FUL Ms K Clare 80 Norman Way Point Clear Bay	Erection of one-bedroom, pitched holiday chalet with car parking, amenity space and bin storage. Whilst the Parish Council again has no objections to the building of a property on the vacant plot, there are a number of issues which the Council would bring to the attention of the Planning Officer. With the exception of amendments to the number of windows, the Parish Council can see no real material difference in the plans to those previously commented on by the Council.

		<p>There is no clear evidence to indicate that consideration has been given to ensuring that the property is flood resilient, which immediately raises concerns as to the issue of year-round occupancy.</p> <p>Access to the proposed parking space would result in the owner/ occupant driving over a grassed area, which retains water, especially during the winter months, despite there already being an existing parking area 3 properties to the south of the proposed dwelling.</p>
b.	21/01600/TCA Mr N Cannons Rear of 22 West Field Lane St Osyth	<p>1 No. Willow Tree - reduction.</p> <p>Approved – 15th October 2021.</p>
c.	21/01524/LUEX Mr G Miller LH Morgan & Sons (Marine) Ltd The Boatyard, Shipyard Estate Brightlingsea	<p>Application for an Existing Lawful Development Certificate to confirm that application TEN/241/85 concerning the "provision of general berthing facilities, changing rooms/store/office, car and boat parking, toilets and related boundary fencing, together with related engineering works to the waterfront" has been commenced and remains extant, and to allow the continued development of general berthing facilities as approved under planning consent TEN/241/85.</p> <p>No objections.</p>
d.	21/01585/FUL T Eldridge 3 Eastern Promenade Point Clear Bay	<p>Proposed replacement dwelling following demolition.</p> <p>No objections.</p>
e.	21/01644/AGRIC c/o Stanfords Land North of Oak Lodge Clay Lane, St Osyth	<p>Proposed new agricultural storage barn.</p> <p>Approved – 21st October 2021.</p>
f.	21/01756/TPO Cochrane Tree Services Ltd 96 Clacton Road St Osyth	<p>2 No. Lime - Pollard, 1 No. Sycamore – Pollard.</p> <p>The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.</p>
g.	21/01696/NMA Earl Wood Properties Land to the West of The Coach House 110 Colchester Road St Osyth	<p>Non-material amendment to permission 19/00929/FUL, sought to change materials from red tiles to a natural grey slate, stating bricks being used on project.</p> <p>The Parish Council would question the historical perspective of this application given that the neighbouring buildings have always used red 'peg' tiles.</p>

OM-21-127 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notification of Decisions (Determinations) from 10th September 2021 to 8th October 2021.

- b. Correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate with regards to the dismissal of Appeal APP/P1560/W/20/3259775, 172 Point Clear Road, St Osyth.
- c. Correspondence from St Osyth Parish Council to TDC with regards to the use of the bridge between St Osyth Beach and Martello Tower Holiday Parks.
- d. Correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate with regards to the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Project Consultation.

OM-21-128 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 16th September 2021 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Chairman, as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All agreed.

OM-21-129 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-21-115. The Chairman informed the Council that as the notice about overgrown vegetation had been included in the October edition of the Parish magazine, the monitoring of vegetation by Councillors would be discussed at the November meeting of the Council.
- b. OM-21-116. The Clerk informed the Council that he had drafted a letter to Parish organisations, which he would forward to the Chairman.
- c. OM-21-117. The Clerk informed the Council that a new bench was being commissioned to replace the bench at Bar Corner, which had been damaged as a result of a road traffic collision, and that the Council's insurance company was only prepared to pay for the repair of the bench. The Chairman added that the bench would be ready in early 2022, and that the Council would need to give consideration to the addition of a plaque detailing the social history of the bench.
- d. OM-21-118. The Chairman informed the Council that she had yet to write to the Chairmen of neighbouring Parishes regarding their respective Climate Change policies.
- e. OM-21-119. The Clerk informed the Council that he would attach the Consultation letter in respect of the Outline Design for Safety Improvements to the Crossroads to the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of 16th September 2021, now that the Council had approved the Minutes.
- f. OM-21-121 a i. The Clerk confirmed that he had submitted an application for funding to the County Council's Community Initiatives Fund (CIF).

OM-21-130 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- a. A member of the public, who had attended the August meeting of the Council, enquired as to the continued occupancy of properties on the Bel Air Chalet Estate, which Cllr's White and Talbot had stated had been granted by the Planning Inspectorate following an Appeal.

The member of the public continued that there was no evidence of such an appeal and that having written to both Cllr's Talbot and White, together with the Chief Executive and Planning Policy Director of the District Council, they wished to speak to Cllr. White in person.

The member of the public stated that they wished to know what action was taken by the District Council in the event of an appeal being dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. A conversation ensued about the Enforcement Action being taken against residents of Point Clear Bay, which was considered similar to the issue of occupancy on the Bel Air Chalet Estate. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council would write to Tendring District Council to request an update as to what action the latter was intending to take.

The member of the public then informed the Clerk of an error in the Minutes of the August meeting, in that the Clerk had, in Minute reference OM-21-092 f, written that a resident of the Chalet Estate who had been wanted by the Police, had been sentenced to 29 years for murder, when in fact they had been sentenced for rape.

The member of the public subsequently left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

OM-21-131 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from St Osyth Football Club with regards to rabbits at Cowley Park. The consensus of the Council was that to fence Cowley Park would be too expensive and even then there would be no guarantee that a fence would prevent rabbits digging onto the football pitch.
- b. Correspondence from a resident with regards to parking along Rochford Road. The Chairman gave an overview of the problems encountered by residents, due to a vehicle parking opposite the junction of Rochford Road and Johnson Road.
- c. Correspondence from a resident with regards to flooding along Footpath 29.
- d. Correspondence from the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust (E&HAAT) with regards to funding.

OM-21-132 FINANCE:

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

Current a/c	£103,784.98
Deposit	£53,251.26

OM-21-133 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

- a. **Finance Committee:** The draft Minutes of the meeting of 13th October 2021, having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming.
 - i. The Clerk subsequently referred Councillors to Minute F-21-036, informing the Council that they would receive the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2020/2021 at the November meeting of the Council.

OM-21-134 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** The Chairman reported that Cllr. Ward had planted all of the winter blooms in the Village and Chisbon Heath, and that Cllr. Blockley had planted the blooms in Point Clear. The Chairman added that the efforts of both Cllr's Ward and Blockley should be formally acknowledged by the Council by way of a 'thank you' in the Minutes.
- b. **Highways Working Party:**
 - i. The notes of the meeting of 23rd September 2021 having been previously circulated, the Chairman informed the Council that the points discussed during the meeting would be included in the Highways specific Management Plan for 2022 – 2024.
 - ii. The Chairman informed the Council that the Consultation letter in respect of the Outline Design for Safety Improvements to the Crossroads had been forwarded to the County Council's Highways Safety Committee for review.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The Chairman reported that a meeting was scheduled for 26th October 2021.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:**
 - i. The notes of the meeting of 6th October 2021 having been previously circulated, the Chairman invited questions from those present to Cllr. Ward in her capacity as the Chairman of the Working Party. None were forthcoming.
 - ii. Cllr. Ward informed the Council that subject to weather conditions, a new basket swing was due to be installed at Priory Meadow during the week commencing 1st November 2021, with an additional bin expected to be delivered later that same week.
 - iii. Cllr. Ward informed the Council of the Working Party's site meeting of 16th October 2021 at Dumont Avenue play area, the outcome of which was to be discussed under a separate agenda item later in the meeting.

OM-21-135 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Crime statistics for August 2021.

- i. Cllr. Cooper informed the Council of offences in St Osyth by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.
- b. **Footpaths:** The Chairman informed the Council that 2 local farmers, over whose land Footpath 11 crossed, had cut the vegetation along the footpath. The Chairman continued that this had saved the Council a considerable amount of money, and that both farmers had agreed to carry out the maintenance on an annual basis.
- c. **Benches & Litter Bins:** The Chairman reported that Cllr. Ward had carried out an audit of the litter bins within the Parish, and that Cllr. Coe would be carrying out a similar audit in respect of the benches within the Parish.
- d. **Planters:** Cllr. Ward reported that although she had planted the winter blooms, the planters/ barrier baskets had yet to be cleaned.
- e. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. French reported on the recent meeting with James Choat, an Arboriculturist, who had met with Cllr. French, the Chairman and the Clerk, to discuss the proposed Memorial/ Jubilee copse at Cowley Park. Cllr. French informed the Council that it had been a good meeting and that the next step was for the Clerk to liaise with the football clubs as to the space required for their respective pitches, once the cricket square had been removed and the pitches realigned. Once this information was to hand, James Choat would be able to plan the proposed copse.
- f. **Tending District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**
The report as produced by Cllr. Talbot was noted.
- g. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood reported that he was aware of a compliancy issue with the website, which would need to be resolved, and that he had been looking into the possibility of the necessary alterations to the website. He continued that there was an issue with the publication of the Minutes, which he would resolve.
- h. **Community Speed Watch:** Nothing to report.

OM-21-136 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair reported that the next meeting of the Charity was scheduled for 9th November 2021.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Cllr. Thomas gave an overview of the recent meeting with Jon Bowler and Gabe Jones, Director and Operations Manager respectively, of Kendall Facility Management Ltd, at which members of the Council were given an assurance that the installation of the cladding to the pavilion would be personally supervised by both men, and that should the colour of the cladding not fade to a single tone by March 2022, Kendall Facility Management Ltd would rectify the problem at their cost.
 - i. By way of Powerpoint slides, the Clerk showed the Council photographs of the progress of the installation of the cladding to date.

- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Blockley reported that a meeting was scheduled for 17th November 2021, at which a new Committee would have to be formed, due to the current Committee members stepping down.

- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee had taken place on 6th October 2021 and had been followed by a quarterly Management Committee meeting, the members having been re-elected. During the meeting the following points had been noted:
 - i. That the Mobile Library was still encountering problems with the hedge along the eastern boundary of the Village Hall car park.
 - ii. That Mr Barry Comer had given notice of his intention to resign as Premises Officer.
 - iii. That the lights within the hall had recently been checked and some replaced.

Cllr. Grantham raised the issue of the lack of heat emanating from the radiator within the Annex. The Clerk was requested to notify the Management Committee.

Cllr. Grantham requested that the Clerk notify the Management Committee that the 2 reflective bollards at the entrance to the hall were in need of replacement.

- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** The Chairman reported that the forthcoming Halloween event was well booked.

OM-21-137 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **District Councillor's Report:**
 - i. Having arrived at 8.10 pm, Cllr. White gave the following report:
 - a) That during the virtual District Council Members Briefing, which he had attended prior to his arrival at the Council meeting, the new Police District Commander, Inspector Robert Bell had been introduced to District Councillors.
 - b) That District Councillors had been briefed by the Monitoring Officer on the removal of Councillors' addresses from websites, following the murder of Sir David Amess, Member of Parliament for Southend (West).
 - ii. Having arrived at 8.20 pm, Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
 - a) Following the tragic death of MP, Sir David Amess, some general information has been circulated to all District Council Members, enclosing an extremely well written document from the Police 'Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit'. It dealt largely with personal safety for MP/Councillor Surgeries.

Since we live in the Parish, we meet our 'public' all the time, without the need for a specific time and place being set, but however remote the possibility of attack, it does no harm to put us all on guard. As it happens David was a member of the Catholic Boy Scout group, the 47th West Ham, where I was first a Scout then helped to run the group, up to the middle 1960's.

- b) From 1st October 2021, TDC started a new direct Member Enquiries service for elected Members of Tendring District Council. This is to enable their business to go directly to the officer team. This, I think illustrates for all and sundry that the difficulty of getting through to an officer at present, is not confined just to members of the public.

This should give elected members the opportunity to report on business needing attention, and get it dealt with by the responsible officer without unnecessary delay.

- c) On Thursday 7th October 2021, I attended as the Cabinet's representative, a Zoom meeting organised by the University of Essex, giving an Autumn Term update. This meeting was specially called to inform Local Council Members and businesses of the precautions being put in place to deal with the Covid-19 virus, ready to receive their Autumn term new intake of students. It must be said, as I reported to the Cabinet, that a great deal of work had been put into these precautions, in practice leaving no room for any suggested improvements. Parents in Tendring can be assured that the University will be looking after their son or daughter with an excess of genuine care.

- b. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.30 pm, Cllr. Goggin was informed of the concerns of the Council in respect of the following:

- i. The continued surface water flooding of Spring Road, due to blocked gully's. The Clerk stated that Anglian Water had attended the area on 3 occasions and had confirmed that their infrastructure was serviceable, and that surface water flooding was a matter for Essex Highways.
- ii. That the Chairman had, on 24th September 2021, reported a defect on the footway at Mill Street to Tom Eng, Essex Highways Liaison Officer, who had entered the defect onto the system on behalf of the Chairman. To date, no works had been undertaken, other than to place a barrier on the pavement, which meant that pedestrians had to walk into the road.

Cllr. Goggin subsequently gave an overview of the following:

- iii. That during an ECC Cabinet 'on tour' event on 29th September 2021, Cabinet members had met and had the opportunity to speak with the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex and the Member of Parliament for Clacton on Sea (including St Osyth), the latter having enquired about the progress of the crossroads.

- iv. That at a Members' briefing on 11th October 2021, Councillors had received a brief on the Winter Service provided by Essex Highways, during which it had been confirmed that there was no law preventing residents or businesses from clearing snow outside of their respective properties if it was being done for the 'common good.'
- v. That residents of both Clacton Road and Point Clear Road had contacted him about speeding, and that he had advised them to liaise with the Clerk.
- vi. That he would again receive £10,000.00 by way of a Locality Grant, which would be split between the 5 Parishes within his Ward, and at this time, whilst only an idea, he was keen to investigate the possibility of utilising the funds to purchase either a mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) or a Speed Indicator Device (SID).
He continued that he was inviting 2 Councillors from the Parishes within his Ward to attend a meeting on 26th October 2021, at St Osyth Village Hall, to discuss possible options for joint purchase of mobile VAS or SID, together with options regarding funding and Speed Awareness campaigns. Also attending the meeting would be an approved provider and possibly representatives of Essex Police.
- vii. Following a conversation as to the use of the devices against other methods such as Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) and/or other fines issued to speeding motorists, it was subsequently agreed that Cllr's Cooper and Lockwood would represent the Parish Council.

OM-21-138 CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR:

The Chairman informed the Council that the Clerk would inform the District Council of the Casual Vacancy following the resignation of Cllr. Quy, and that if the District Council confirmed that there had been no request for a by-election, and that the Parish Council should fill the vacancy by way of co-option, this should be left until the New Year, due to the amount of work being undertaken by the Clerk at present. All agreed.

OM-21-139 DRAINAGE FAULTS:

The Chairman informed Councillors that they would be receiving lists of roads to be checked, similar to those used for street signs, in order to report any drainage faults.

- a. A number of known/ existing blockages were reported to the Clerk, who duly noted the respective locations.
- b. Cllr. Goggin informed the Council that when a drain had been cleared within the past 2 months, it was usual for the drain to be marked with pink or yellow spray paint.
- c. The Chairman stated that the Council would, following advice from Tom Eng, be requesting that Cllr. Goggin escalate the problem of blocked drains within the Parish. Cllr. Goggin stated that Tom Eng was incorrect and that he had no authority to instruct or advise the Council. The Chairman confirmed that Tom Eng had met with the Highways Working Party to advise on how the Parish Council could progress highways related issues/ concerns, something which the Council was appreciative of.

OM-21-140 ST OSYTH PRIORY:

The Chairman informed the Council that it had been some time since the Council had met with Tim Sargeant to receive an update on progress with regards to St Osyth Priory, and that with the permission of the Council she would like to invite Mr Sargeant to the December meeting of the Council. All agreed.

OM-21-141 DUMONT AVENUE PLAY AREA:

Together with the Chairman, Cllr. Ward reported on the Playground, Youth and Open Spaces Working Party meeting of 6th October 2021, and the subsequent site meeting at Dumont Avenue play area on 16th October 2021.

- a. Cllr. Ward continued that the Working Party was recommending that the Parish Council retain the play area, which was in need of improvement to meet the same standard as Cowley Park and Priory Meadow, and that the focus of the Council should now be Dumont Avenue. The Chairman added that the District Council would be informed.
- b. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council retain Dumont Avenue play area, and that Tendring District Council be informed that future Public Open Spaces Contributions be directed to the improvement of the play area. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. Lockwood. With the exception of Cllr. Talbot, who having previously declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest did not take part in the discussion, and Cllr. White who abstained, all agreed.

OM-21-142 PUBLIC OPEN SPACES CONTRIBUTIONS:

The Chairman reminded the Council of the allocation, in 2019, of Public Open Spaces Contributions from the development at Melinda Lane to the Bockings Elm play area, which the District Council had initially claimed to be the closest play area to the development, before stating that it was the closest play area in need of improvement.

- a. The Chairman continued that during the Finance Committee meeting on 13th October 2021, Cllr. French had been asked if he would visit the Bockings Elm play area to see what equipment had been installed. Cllr. French had subsequently reported that no new items of play equipment had been installed.
- b. A conversation ensued during which the use of Public Open Spaces Contributions was discussed. Cllr. Goggin stated that if the financial contribution from the development was not used within a specific time, it was returned to the developer.
- c. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council write to the District Council again to request that the Public Open Spaces Contributions be redirected to St Osyth and that having spoken with the developer, the Chairman could confirm that the developer was happy to support the Parish Council in its attempt to have the funding redirected. All agreed.

OM-21-143 PREPARATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The Chairman informed the Council that having received input from the relevant Committees, Working Parties and Councillors, she had almost compiled the draft Management Plan, which once typed and formatted, would be presented in draft format to the Council at the November meeting.

OM-21-144 RESTRICTION OF ACCESS TO STONE POINT:

The Chairman gave an overview of the site meeting of 20th October 2021, which had been attended by representatives of:

The Parish Council;
The Orchards Holiday Park;
Brightlingsea Harbour Master;
Essex Police Marine Unit;
Brightlingsea Town Council;
St Osyth Tower Residents Association; and
Tower Security.

The Chairman informed the Council that it had been a very useful meeting, during which all present had agreed the need to restrict vehicular access to Stone Point, which would be achieved by way of the placement of boulders, effectively creating a small car park. The Chairman concluded that the Management Team of The Orchards Holiday Park, which owned the land, were fully supportive of the proposed restrictive measures, which they felt would enhance the area.

OM-21-145 CLIMATE CHANGE:

The continued commitment of the Parish Council towards Climate Change was noted.

OM-21-146 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. In the absence of Cllr. Kelly, the Chairman requested that the Clerk show the Council photographs of Cllr. Kelly's home, which had been flooded due to the build-up of surface water. The Chairman added that she had advised Cllr. Kelly to liaise with the General Manager of The Orchards Holiday Park, due to the lack of surface water drains and blocked gully's, which needed pumping through.
- b. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that there was a proposed amendment to the Local Plan, which in the event of flooding would require the District Council to decant the population of the affected area and move them, albeit temporarily, to a safer area, as well as financially compensate those affected.
- c. The Chairman informed Cllr. White that the member of the public had been disappointed not to have been able to speak to him personally.
- d. The Chairman informed the Council that having discussed the recent drugs raid at the flat in Chandlers, Stone Alley, with the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for St Osyth, the latter had suggested that the Council forward the information to the owner of Chandlers, as the flat where the raid had taken place was leasehold and that there was usually a clause in the lease about the behaviour of tenants. All agreed.
- e. Cllr. Lockwood informed the Clerk that the hedge/ vegetation on the strip of land adjacent to 240 Point Clear Road had been cleared.
- f. Cllr. Coe requested that the Clerk report a pothole near the junction of Manfield Gardens and D'arcy Road.

- g. Cllr. Goggin passed on best wishes from his sister, Mrs Lynda McClure, adding that she was touched by the support of the Parish Council.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.40 pm.

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

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 21st October 2021		
OM-21-129 a	Monitoring of Vegetation	PC to discuss in November
OM-21-133 a i	Annual Governance & Accountability Return	Clk to action
OM-21-136 a	Village Hall Heating & Reflective Bollards	Clk to action
OM-21-137 b vii	VAS/ SID Meeting	Cllr's Cooper & Lockwood to attend
OM-21-140	Invite to Mr T Sargeant	Cllr. Grantham to action
OM-21-142	Public Open Spaces Contributions	PC to write to TDC
OM-21-146 f	Reporting of Pothole	Clk to action

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