



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 17th March 2022 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Alma Blockley
Cllr's David Cooper, Ray French, Mandy Kelly, John Lockwood,
Michele Thomas, Julie Ward & John White

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (arrived at 8.50 pm)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Sonia Grantham (Family Commitment)
Cllr. Gary Coe (Work Commitment)
Cllr. Karen Sinclair (Self isolating)
Cllr. Michael Talbot (Self isolating)

MINUTES: Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Four

OM-21-223 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. Lockwood declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Application 22/00315/FUL.

OM-21-224 INSTALLATION OF A FLAGPOLE ON THE BURY:

Having been invited to address the Council, Mr Peter Tidy gave an overview of the damage to the flagpole on top of the Church tower, access to which was perilous, during which time he informed the Council of the options available to the Parochial Church Council (PCC), together with the associated costs.

- a. To replace the existing flagpole on the Church tower would cost in the region of £7,000.00.
- b. A ground mounted flagpole in a location visible to all, such as The Bury, would be considerably cheaper, in the region of £1,400.00, however, this would require a planning application to be submitted to the District Council.
- c. A conversation ensued during which time Councillors discussed the merits of both suggestions before Cllr. White proposed a third option, a flagpole mounted on the side of the Church tower, which would eliminate the requirement to access the tower as well as avoiding the need for a planning application.
- d. The Clerk informed the Council that the flagpole was a matter for the PCC and that the Parish Council, as the owner of the land on The Bury, where the flagpole could potentially be situated, was only being asked whether they would in principle support a planning application should the PCC decide to proceed with the installation of the flagpole on The Bury.

- e. Cllr. Ward stated that the Parish Council should support the PCC if they chose to install the flagpole on The Bury. This was accepted as the general consensus of the Council.
- f. Whilst not connected with the flagpole, the Clerk informed the Council that Mr Tidy had recently replaced the deteriorating lettering on the front of the central planter on The Bury. By way of a PowerPoint slide, the Clerk produced a photograph of the planter before and after Mr Tidy's work. Cllr. Blockley thanked Mr Tidy for his workmanship on behalf of the Parish Council.

Mr Tidy left the meeting at 7.39 pm.

OM-21-225 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	22/00068/FULHH Mr J Cowlin 5 James Gardens, St Osyth	Proposed single storey side and rear extension. No objections.
b.	22/00147/FULHH Mr Bates 16 Melinda Lane St Osyth	Proposed loft conversion and addition of roof dormers. No objections.
c.	22/00160/FULHH Mr & Mrs Pudney 17 Eastern Promenade Point Clear Bay	Proposed re-construction of pitched roof to form second floor accommodation, including balcony. No objections.
d.	22/00182/FULHH Mr & Mrs Simeon Daltes Farmhouse Daltes Lane St Osyth	Proposed cart lodge with office space above, infill extension to form new entrance hall and bathroom. No objections.
e.	22/00282/VOC Mr G Jordan c/o Earl Wood Properties The Coach House 110 Colchester Road, St Osyth	Variation of condition 2 of application 19/00929/FUL to make use of the existing attic space. No objections.
f.	22/00315/FUL c/o Stanfords Land rear of 172 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Proposed erection of detached bungalow and associated access, parking and passing bay. The Parish Council strongly object to this application on the basis that it is considered a gross over development of a site, which unlike 172 Point Clear Road, is outside of the former Settlement Development Boundary for Point Clear, which has since been removed by way of the Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond Section 2, which was adopted on 25 th January 2022. If approved, there would be a considerable reduction in the amenity space of the proposed dwelling, as approved under planning application 17/00608/FUL.

		Furthermore, there is no evidence of need for the proposed dwelling, which the Parish Council consider to be backland development as defined by Policy LP8, insofar as the proposed dwelling would be sited on land behind the line of existing frontage, has no frontage to an existing public highway, and does not form part of a larger development.
g.	22/00321/TCA c/o Absolute Tree Services 26 Point Clear Road St Osyth	1 No. Acer Sycamore- fell, 1 No. Holm Oak - reduce by 50%, 2 No. Conifers - reduce by 30%. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
h.	22/00325/TCA c/o Absolute Tree Services 22 Spring Road St Osyth	1 No. Eucalyptus Tree - pollard, 1 No. Cherry Tree - reduce by 30%. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
i.	22/00372/VOC Mr Parsons 94 Dumont Avenue St Osyth	Variation of condition 2 of application 21/01773/FULHH to change the design of the proposed house to achieve a different layout. No objections.

OM-21-226 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notification of Decisions (Determinations) from 11th February 2022 to 4th March 2022.

OM-21-227 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 17th February 2022 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Vice-Chairman, as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Lockwood. All agreed.

OM-21-228 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-21-204 h ii. The Clerk informed the Council that he had emailed the Women's Institute (WI) requesting information for the maintenance of the trees which were to be planted at Priory Meadow, but that to date he had yet to receive a response.
- b. OM-21-206 a ii a). The Clerk reminded the Council that the matter of Cemetery fees would be discussed later in the meeting.
- c. OM-21-207 d i. The Clerk informed the Council that he had liaised with the contractor appointed to carry out the renewal of the safety surfacing at Dumont Avenue play area, and that he [the Clerk] was awaiting a response from the District Council in respect of a query which he had raised.
- d. OM-21-212. The Clerk thanked Councillors for their input to the Annual Parish Report, adding that he had forwarded the draft to the Chairman for approval.

The Clerk continued that once approved, he would forward the report to Cllr. Kelly for proofreading.

- e. OM-21-219 c. The Clerk informed the Council that he had yet to draft a notice in respect of the parking of trade vehicles.
- f. OM-21-219 d. The Clerk informed the Council that, as advised by the Chairman, he had contacted the District Councils Planning Enforcement Team with regard to trade vehicles parking near the junction of Colchester Road and Bypass Road, and that the Enforcement Team were dealing with the matter.
- g. OM-21-221. The Clerk informed the Council that the proposed briefing in respect of the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) Climate Change conference attended by the Chairman and himself, would be held on Thursday 31st March 2022 at 7 pm, in the Village Hall Annex.
- h. OM-21-222 a. The Clerk informed the Council that the makeshift wooden barrier across the lane leading to and from the allotments had been removed and placed in the allotment's car park.
- i. OM-21-222 b. The Clerk informed the Council that he had reported the continued presence of a mobile catering vendor in Point Clear to the District Council.

OM-21-229 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- a. A member of the public addressed the Council on the subject of the Bel-Air Chalet Estate, enquiring as to why certain issues such as crime, the insulation works and the Statement of Intent (Sol) had yet to be resolved. The member of the public put numerous questions and statements to the Council, especially Cllr. White.
- b. A second member of the public also raised concerns about the Bel-Air Chalet Estate, adding that those people who owned properties on the estate were paying the full rate for Council Tax, whilst those living on the estate, in breach of planning conditions were not.
- c. Both members of the public asked a number of questions as to what action the Parish and District Council's intended to take in respect of the Bel-Air Chalet Estate. The Clerk stated several times that the Parish Council had no remit where planning matters were concerned, and that all the Parish Council could do was to write to the District Council in support of the members of the public present.

OM-21-230 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) regarding remote/hybrid meetings was noted. The Clerk stated that he would forward the correspondence to Councillors.

- b. Correspondence from the District Council with regard to the use of Rapid Deployment Cameras (RDC) was noted.
- c. Correspondence from Tendring District Council on behalf of Cllr. Michael Talbot, in his capacity as the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Public Spaces regarding climate change was noted.
- d. Correspondence from Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Council concerning the rescheduling of works to Mill Street footway was noted.

OM-21-231 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for February 2022, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:

Current a/c	£114,579.53
Deposit	£53,251.26

OM-21-232 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** Cllr. Ward informed the Council that the summer blooms, which were currently being grown at the nursery, would be planted in May.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** Cllr. Ward informed the Council of recent correspondence from Ian Taylor, Head of Public Realm at Tendring District Council, in which it had been confirmed that the Public Open Spaces Contributions (POSC) (s106 funding) in respect of the development at Melinda Lane were to be reallocated to Priory Meadow.
 - i. The Clerk gave an overview of how the POSC had been allocated by the District Council to the play area at Bockings Elm, before informing Councillors that whilst the Council was set to receive the sum of £29,947.64, the Council had in fact spent in the region of £36,000.00 in recent years at Priory Meadow play area, therefore, a request had been made for a variation of the s106 Agreement to reallocate the funds to Dumont Avenue play area. The Clerk concluded that the Council has yet to receive a response from Ian Taylor, who had only just returned from annual leave.

OM-21-233 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the crime statistics for January 2022.
 - i. Cllr. Kelly informed the Council of offences in Point Clear 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.
 - iii. The Clerk informed the Council that he would be writing to the Tendring District Commander with regards to the lack of a Police response to a serious incident which occurred at the beginning of the month involving a resident from whom a statement had yet to be recorded. The Clerk added that he would be sending copies of the correspondence to the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex, the Chief Constable of Essex as well as the Member of Parliament for Clacton.
- b. **Footpaths:** Nothing to report.
 - c. **Benches & Litter Bins:** Nothing to report.
 - d. **Planters:** Nothing to report.
 - e. **Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.
 - f. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**
In the absence of Cllr. Talbot, the Clerk gave the following report:
 - i. The Tendring District Association next meets on Wednesday 23rd March via Zoom. Agendas have been circulated by Ben, and there are two matters of note arising from the minutes, one of which is a report on Section 106 money by Lynda McWilliams, who is the official TDC appointee. I reported our own S106 concerns at their last meeting.
 - ii. The Essex Association also meets next week, on Thursday 24th March at 10 am via Zoom. I notice that Essex will play host to 25,000 cyclists on Sunday 29th May as 'RideLondon', the world's largest festival of cycling, comes to the County for the first time. Full details of the routes have been announced, along with the promise of new funding for Essex organisations to inspire activity in their local communities. In total, there will be sixty-five miles of Essex roads used in the event routes.
 - iii. It was also reported that after successfully completing the replacement of 19,879 streetlights with LEDs in Chelmsford and Basildon, crews have now made a start on installing new LED streetlights in the Colchester and Tendring areas. This eventually promises a large cost saving over the more usual streetlights.
 - g. **District Councillor's Report:**
In the absence of Cllr. Talbot, Cllr. White gave the following report:
 - i. We are still running very successfully as a District, with minimum of staff in offices and working from home, which I suspect is likely to become a more permanent feature of post Covid operations. I make, in a non-political manner, the observation that the close working relationship between Neil Stock as Leader of the Council and Ian Davidson our Chief Executive Officer, is in no small way, part of this success.

- ii. At the last Full Council Meeting, the Leader proposed to make an additional £1,000.00 available to each member of the Council in 2022/2023 to enable them to support 'Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee' celebrations within their respective wards, so if any Councillor here knows of an event that would justify support please let John or myself know, so that the grant money is not wasted.
- iii. A great deal of my time has been spent listening to the 'Warring Parties' in Frinton over whether or not to allow the use of their greensward for the Frinton Summer Theatre to hold the show 'Jesus Christ, Super Star' in a marquee from August into September for 28 days. It has been used in exactly the way proposed now, but for a much longer period this year. The final decision rests with me as Portfolio holder for 'Parks and Open Spaces,' but the number of contacts by e-mail and phone has been quite exceptional.
- iv. Whilst I am 'self-isolating' I am not 'twiddling my thumbs.' Today from 9.30 am to 3.35 pm, I have been attending remotely, a Public Sector Executive conference on aspects of Climate Change and the Decarbonisation agenda. I would add there were 'comfort' breaks.
- h. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood reported that he would be posting agendas on the website, and that he had noted that 'Spotted in St Osyth' were posting incorrect details on Facebook in respect of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- i. **Community Speed Watch:** Cllr. Cooper reported that he had emailed the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECF&RS) Community Speed Watch Coordinator about the enforcement of speed related matters by Essex Police, and that he hoped to be able to brief Councillors further at the next meeting.

OM-21-234 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:**
In the absence of Cllr. Sinclair, the following report was noted:
 - i. In response to the questions raised at last month's Council meeting regarding the awarding of contracts and appointed suppliers I would like to make the following comments on behalf of the Trustees. The Trustees are charged with using sound financial control over the finances of the Charity and as such are answerable to the Charity Commissioners for how we spend and allocate our funds. This is a role that all Trustees take very seriously.
 - ii. When we went out to tender for the refurbishment of 27 Clacton Road this was done in good faith but having received the quotes, the Trustees decided that the price was unacceptable for the charity to bear without seeking a loan from the Almshouse Association. This loan would have committed the Trustees to a repayment plan of at least 5 years if not 10 and would seriously curtail any other work that was deemed necessary on any of our properties.

- iii. The Trustees decided that we would therefore have no option but to seek other contractors to carry out the work. A company have quoted for the renovation work, the contract has been awarded and work has now commenced. Whilst it has been several months, I would assure you that everything that has needed to be done has been done as far as the work is concerned. The Trustees have always used local contractors for work needed and will continue to do so as is evidenced in our awarding two contracts for 3 St Clairs Road.
 - iv. It is hoped that both properties will be available for renting in either late April or early May once applications have been received, a short list has been compiled and home visits made. The criteria for selection will be that the applicant will have to have lived in the village for three years, be in housing need and have a savings limit under the national threshold of £17,000. The Trustees at their meeting on Monday evening discussed the possibility of offering 3-year leases that may appeal to younger people thereby giving them a 'first time' help onto the housing ladder.
 - v. As the Chairman of the Trustees, I have always been as forthcoming as I can be when giving my reports and I am always available to answer any questions.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Cllr. Thomas reported on the meeting of 8th March 2022, with Mark Cox, Chairman of Elmden Rovers Youth Football Club, during which the following had been noted:
- i. That the external security lights had been fixed.
 - ii. That the pitches were to be rotated through 90°, and that Elmden Rovers would be receiving a grant, over 6 years, for the seeding and maintenance of the pitches. This, she continued, would also allow for the relocation of a water supply to facilitate the watering of the copse.
 - iii. That Elmden Rovers were not currently using the changing rooms, however, when they did start to use them again, there would still be a need for a shower screen.
 - iv. That during the meeting Mark Cox had remarked that Cowley Park was by far the worst location in the area for vandalism. Cllr. Thomas had subsequently suggested to Mark Cox that he write an article for the Parish magazine.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Blockley reported that the recently elected Chairman had resigned and that a meeting of the Association was taking place as she spoke.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Nothing to report.
- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** No report given.

OM-21-235 CEMETERY FEES:

The proposed increase to the current fees having been previously circulated, the Clerk informed the Council of the recommendation of the Cemetery Committee.

- a. Cllr's Thomas and Ward informed the Council that a lengthy discussion had taken place at the meeting of 15th February 2022, when the Committee had reviewed the fees, and the consensus was that a monetary increase as opposed to a percentage increase had been the preference of the Committee. The following recommendations were proposed:
 - i. That the purchase of an Exclusive Right of Burial (including the interment of ashes) and the secondary administration fee to increase by £20.00, to £820.00, £520.00 and £220.00 respectively.
 - ii. That the fee payable for an additional inscription to increase from £30.00 to £45.00.
 - iii. That the hire of the Chapel increase from £100.00 to £120.00.
- b. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council ratify the recommendation of the Cemetery Committee, made during its meeting of 15th February 2022, (C-21-035 e refers), to increase certain fees for 2022/2023. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. French. All agreed.

OM-21-236 PERSONNEL MATTERS:

The Clerk informed the Council that having interviewed applicants for the post of Deputy Clerk on 1st March 2022, the Personnel Committee had offered the position to Mrs Nicola O'Dell, who having accepted the offer of employment, would be starting as the Deputy Clerk on 4th April 2022.

OM-21-237 PUBLIC OPEN SPACES CONTRIBUTIONS:

The Clerk reminded the Council that this matter had already been discussed earlier in the meeting (OM-21-232 d i refers).

OM-21-238 PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL PARISH REPORT:

The Clerk reminded the Council that this matter had already been discussed earlier in the meeting (OM-21-228 d refers).

OM-21-239 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.50 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the following:
 - i. That he had attended launch of the County Councils 'levelling up' presentation at Clacton Town Hall, relating to Tendring, most notably Jaywick & Clacton, which would see £2 million spent of the creation of jobs and a Community Challenge Unit. The 'levelling up' scheme would make funds available to those in need.
 - ii. That the Local Highways Panels (LHP) had been discussed by the Scrutiny Committee, during which it had been suggested that the LHP scheme should include maintenance. The concept of how to implement new works when existing defects had yet to be repaired was a matter for debate, with the 'Task & Finish' group expected to report to the Cabinet in April 2022.

- iii. That some 2,000 residents (county wide) had responded to the Library Consultation, with 50% of those responding being 'non-users.' The 74 public libraries in Essex provided more libraries per capita than any other county in England. Existing libraries were to become 'community hubs' and the County Council was committed to retaining its mobile library service.
- iv. That the Locality Fund grants were being carried over, with Alresford, Great Bentley and Thorrington Parish Councils all opting to proceed with the purchase of Speed Indication Devices (SID).
- v. That he had attended a Police Training day at Brightlingsea Colne Yacht Club, during which discussions had taken place as to how all 3 levels of local Councils could work together with local Police for best results.
- vi. That he was awaiting the publication of the final plans in respect of the change of speed limit along the B1027, in the vicinity of Flag Hill, before a consultation could take place.
- vii. That the repair of the footway on Mill Street was scheduled for 8th April 2022.
- viii. Further to the issues raised by the Clerk in respect of the incident involving a resident at the beginning of the month, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of how requests for streetlights to remain on could be approved by Essex Highways for special events such as New Years Eve, and by Essex Police in the case of an emergency.
- ix. Cllr. Lockwood enquired as to Cllr. Goggin's view on the pier development in Brightlingsea. Cllr. Blockley requested that Cllr. Lockwood speak directly to Cllr. Goggin after the meeting.

OM-21-240 TELEPHONE BOX FOODBANK:

The Clerk informed the Council that following responses from both BT and TDC with regard to the secondary use of telephone boxes, he had drafted a letter to the resident responsible for organising the foodbank.

OM-21-241 CLIMATE CHANGE:

- a. The continued commitment of the Parish Council towards Climate Change was noted.
- b. The Clerk reminded the Council that the Climate Change consultation briefing was scheduled for Thursday 31st March 2022.

OM-21-242 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. At the request of Mr Ken Belcher, in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Point Clear Community Association, the Clerk informed the Council of the wish of the Association to have tourist type directional signs erected, for which he [Mr Belcher] was requesting support. Cllr. Goggin advised the Clerk to complete the online application on the Highways website.

- b. Cllr. White informed the Council that Essex Highways had agreed to ‘dig out’ the footpath blocking the airbricks of the Almshouses on Clacton Road.
- c. The Clerk reminded the Council that the Annual Parish Meeting had been rescheduled for Thursday 7th April 2022, due to a double booking.
- d. A member of the public enquired of Cllr. Goggin as to why Essex Highways could not carry out repairs to the roads on the Bel-Air Chalet Estate. Both Cllr’s Goggin and White replied that the roads on the estate were unadopted and the riparian rights applied, therefore, the County Council could not be expected to use public funds.
- e. Cllr. Kelly informed the Council that there had been chaos in the village earlier that morning, when due to a delivery to the NISA store, 2 buses (No:6 & No:74) had been unable to negotiate Clacton Road, due to the delivery lorry causing an obstruction. The Clerk was requested to write to the owner of the NISA store to request that deliveries be scheduled for early morning or late evening, or that the parking bay opposite the store be coned off to facilitate the unloading of stock.
- f. Cllr. Kelly informed the Council that she had received a complaint about the movement of caravans outside of permitted hours. Having been advised of the time, the Clerk stated that the transporter was operating according to the times specified by Essex Police, details of which he would forward to Cllr. Kelly.

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 21st April 2022.

Summary of ‘Action Required’ from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 17th March 2022		
OM-21-228 d	Annual Parish Report	Clk to email Cllr. Kelly
OM-21-228 e	Parking of Trade Vehicles	Clk to prepare notices
OM-21-228 g	Climate Change Briefing	Cllr’s to attend
OM-21-229 c	Bel-Air Chalet Estate	Clk to write to TDC
OM-21-233 a iii	Response to Serious Incidents	Clk to write to Essex Police
OM-21-242 a	Directional Sign to Dumont Hall	Clk to action
OM-21-242 e	Unloading of NISA Stock	Clk to write to NISA
OM-21-242 f	Movement of Caravan Transporters	Clk to email Cllr. Kelly

Signature: *[Signed on Original]*
 AME Blockley
 Vice-Chairman