



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 24th November 2022 at 7.00 pm



- PRESENT:** Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Alma Blockley
Cllr's Clive Atkins, David Cooper, Ray French, Mandy Kelly,
John Lockwood, Karen Sinclair, Michael Talbot, Michele Thomas
& Julie Ward
- Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (arrived at 8.00 pm)
- APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Gary Coe (Work Commitments)
Cllr. John White (Tendring District Council (TDC) Planning Meeting)
- RESIGNATION:** Cllr. Sonia Grantham
- MINUTES:** Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)
- PUBLIC PRESENT:** None

OM-22-141 RESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

The Clerk informed the Council that he had, earlier that afternoon, received a letter of resignation from the Chairman of the Council, Cllr. Sonia Grantham. The Clerk informed the Council that due to the absence of the Rev'd Sharon Miles, Cllr. Grantham was now having to devote considerably more hours to the running of the Church and the organisation of events such as weddings, funerals, and christenings.

- a. The Clerk stated that due to the letter of resignation having been received on the day of the Ordinary meeting, it was his recommendation that the Council formally receive the resignation of the Chairman at its meeting scheduled for 15th December 2022. This would allow for the Council to formally accept the resignation of the Chairman, and to elect a new Chairman. The Clerk continued that should the Council choose to elect the Vice-Chairman as the Chairman, then there would also be a need to elect a new Vice-Chairman.
- b. **RESOLVED:** That the Council formally accept the resignation of the Chairman, Cllr. Sonia Grantham, at its meeting scheduled for 15th December 2022. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.

OM-22-142 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-22-143 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	21/01585/FUL T Eldridge 3 Eastern Promenade Point Clear Bay	Proposed replacement dwelling following demolition. (Amended plans). No objections.
b.	22/01121/FUL Ms H Carter High Birch Farmhouse High Birch Road, St Osyth	Proposed retention of stables and associated menage. Approved on 16th November 2022.
c.	22/01574/LBDISC Messrs R.A T.R D.R & A.I Sargeant St Osyth Priory The Bury, St Osyth	Discharge of conditions 3 (Service Runs) and 5 (Lift/Partitions/Blocked Doors) of applications 22/00662/LBC. (Amended plans). No objections.
d.	22/01630/FUL Masterson leisure Sailor Boy Amusements Beach Road, St Osyth	Proposed single storey rear extension to amusement arcade. No objections.
e.	22/01669/FULHH Mr J Moore 46 Mill Street St Osyth	Proposed removal of existing extension and replace with new 6m deep flat roof. Replacement of new dormer windows and internal alterations to form new 3 rd bedroom. No objections.
f.	22/01671/TCA Ms S Gregory Le Pines 32 Colchester Road, St Osyth	Fell 1 No. Acer. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
g.	22/01672/TCA Mr I Leggett The Old Chapel 30 Colchester Road, St Osyth	Fell 1 No. Acer. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
h.	22/01673/TCA Mr T O'Dell Kings Arms Colchester Road, St Osyth	1 No. Acer - reduce by 50%. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
i.	22/01674/TCA Ms S Stewart 15 Spring Road St Osyth	1 No. Horse Chestnut – pollard. 1 No. Cherry - reduce crown. 1 No. Plum - fell. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
j.	22/01677/ROC Mr M Turner 43 Oakmead Road St Osyth	Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act, for removal of condition 1 (Limited Occupation) of TEN/93/57 to allow removal of restricted occupation. No objections.
k.	22/01712/TCA Ms C Thomsen The Folly Colchester Road, St Osyth	1 No. Acacia - reduce by 40%. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.

l.	22/01763/FULHH H Carter High Birch Farmhouse High Birch Road St Osyth	Proposed retention of caravan as an annex and home office ancillary to existing dwelling. The Parish Council would reaffirm its objection to planning application 22/01120/LBC of , which was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant, in that there is no evidence to support planning permission was ever granted for 2no. stable blocks, associated menage, subsequently approved on 16 th November 2022 (22/01121/FUL refers) and mobile home/lodge as an annex. Furthermore, it is noted that this site has already been subject of Planning Enforcement (20/00319/BLDOP3 refers.)
m.	22/01793/TPO Places for People Land adjacent 17 Withrick Walk St Osyth	1 No. English Oak - crown raise tree to 3m, 1 No. False Acacia - crown clean. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
n.	22/01819/TCA Mr S Cole 96 Colchester Road St Osyth	1 No. Acer Sycamore - reduce by 40%. The Parish Council refers this application to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
o.	22/01830/FULHH L Whitby Creek Cottage Dairy Farm Meadow Point Clear	Proposed erection of cart lodge/garage with home office above. Whilst the Parish Council have no objection to the application, it is requested that a condition of approval, if granted, is that it shall not be permissible for the cart lodge to be converted to any form of accommodation, so as to prevent future backland development.

OM-22-144 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) from 14th October 2022 to 11th November 2022.
- b. Correspondence from TDC with regards to an Appeal under Section 78 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, re APP/P1560/W/22/3301864 (TDC 21/00635/FUL) Martins Grove, Frowick Lane, St Osyth.
- c. Correspondence between an owner of a property on the Bel-Air Chalet Estate and TDC (copied to St Osyth Parish Council) in respect of Winter Occupancy and the continued sub-letting of holiday chalets as private accommodation on the estate.

OM-22-145 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 20th October 2022 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Chairman, as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Atkins. All agreed.

OM-22-146 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-22-122 k. The Clerk informed the Council that he had forwarded details of historic potholes to Cllr. Goggin.
- b. OM-22-126 a. The Clerk reminded the Council that several Cemetery related matters were to be discussed during the meeting.
- c. OM-22-128 i. The Clerk informed the Council that he had met with Cllr. Lockwood to discuss the website, and that arrangements were to be made to liaise with Naglotech.
- d. OM-22-129 b ii. The Clerk informed the Council that he had spoken with James Handscombe with regards to the possible sale of the roller, and that he was awaiting a response as to whether a third party was still interested in purchasing the roller.
- e. OM-22-129 b iv. The Clerk informed the Council that the maintenance of the effluent pump at Cowley Park would be discussed later in the meeting.
- f. OM-22-130 a iii. The Clerk informed the Council that Councillors reports would be discussed later in the meeting.
- g. OM-22-131 b vi. The Clerk informed the Council that the times of meetings would be discussed later in the meeting.
- h. OM-22-135 a. The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr. Thomas would be compiling an article for inclusion in the Parish magazine about the cost of vandalism at Cowley Park.
- i. OM-22-35 b. The Clerk informed the Council that the Finance Committee was investigating the cost and effectiveness of the installation of CCTV at Cowley Park, and that further information was to be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.
- j. OM-22-140 a. The Clerk reminded the Council that the visit to St Osyth Priory was scheduled for 9.30 am on Saturday 3rd December 2022.
- k. OM-22-140 b. The Clerk informed the Council that temporary repairs had been carried out on the damaged railings along Clacton Road.
- l. OM-22-140 c. The Clerk informed the Council that he had been unable to ascertain the ownership of the land in front of the electricity substation in Manfield Gardens, therefore he had requested a local contractor to clear the overgrown and unsightly vegetation.

OM-21-147 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

OM-22-148 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from Giles Watling, Member of Parliament for Clacton on Sea regarding assistance to constituents.

- b. Correspondence from the Chairman of TDALC concerning the appointment of representatives.
 - i. The Clerk informed the Council that it could appoint two representatives to the Association, meetings of which, with the exception of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) were now held virtually.
 - ii. Cllr. Talbot confirmed that he wished to continue as one of the Parish Council's representatives.
 - iii. The Clerk requested that should any other member of the Council wish to be put forward as the second representative, they should notify him as soon as possible.
- c. Correspondence from St Osyth Carpet Bowls Club thanking the Parish Council for the Annual Parish Grant.
- d. Correspondence from St Osyth Village Hall Management Committee thanking the Parish Council for the Annual Parish Grant.

OM-22-149 FINANCE:

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

Current a/c	£185,208.29
Deposit	£53,268.77

OM-22-150 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

- a. **Cemetery Committee:** The draft Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting of 25th October 2022 having been previously circulated, Cllr. Sinclair raised the following items for the attention of the Council.
 - i. Cllr. Sinclair informed the Council that following the Consecration of Sections 6 and 7 in May of this year, the Cemetery Committee had, at its meetings of 16th August and 25th October, discussed the management of memorials within the Cemetery, specifically in Sections 6 and 7, which would soon come into use, where it was proposed that the only memorials permitted should be headstones and not full kerb sets. This, she continued, would make both the management and maintenance of the two new sections easier.
 - a) Cllr. Sinclair informed the Council that it was an emotive subject and that following the meeting of 16th August 2022, she had been informed of the views of another Councillor who felt that this proposal would not be considering the wishes of the residents.
 - b) Cllr. Sinclair reported that the Committee had, at its meeting of 25th October 2022, discussed the issue at length and that the proposals were that either full kerb sets should not be permitted or that they should.

- c) Cllr. Sinclair stated that a third option had subsequently been suggested, which was that headstones only be permitted in one section, with full kerb sets being permitted in the other.
 - d) Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that together with Cllr. Sinclair, she had visited the Cemetery and counted the headstones and full kerb sets in Sections 2 and 3, and that the split was 50/50.
 - e) It was agreed that the matter be discussed at the Ordinary meeting in December, which would allow Councillors to give some consideration to the issue.
- ii. Cllr. Sinclair informed the Council of the proposal that two sheep be placed in the Wildflower Meadow to graze. The Cemetery Committee had had reservations about the proposal on the grounds of Health and Safety and Public Liability. Cllr. Sinclair added that having voiced the concerns of the Committee, she had been informed that it was not a foregone conclusion that the sheep would be placed in the Cemetery.
- a) Cllr. Sinclair proposed that the Council should not allow the sheep to be placed in the Cemetery, tethered and unattended.
 - b) Cllr. Kelly commented that she had contacted Cllr. Sinclair to object to the proposal, as she did not want to see the sheep tethered with the potential to be harmed or to cause harm to themselves.
 - c) Cllr. Sinclair proposed that the Council should not allow sheep to be placed in the Cemetery. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.
- iii. Cllr. Sinclair informed the Council of the proposal that when the two new sections of the Cemetery came into use, the allocation of plots be consecutive, as opposed to the current system, introduced by a previous Clerk, whereby residents could request the allocation of plots. Cllr. Sinclair continued that this would allow for better control and management of the new sections.
- a) **RESOLVED:** That when Sections 6 and 7 come into use, the allocation of plots be consecutive and sequential. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. French. All agreed.
- b. **Finance Committee:** The draft Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 2nd November 2022 having been previously circulated, the Clerk drew the attention of the Council to the following:
- i. That the Finance Committee had recommended the allocation of funds from Unrestricted Reserves towards the cost of the replacement of the existing safety matting with EPDM wet pour at Cowley Park play area, the majority of which would be funded by way of Public Open Spaces Contributions (POSC).

- a) **RESOLVED:** That the Council ratify the recommendation of the Finance Committee that funds from Unrestricted Reserves be used to offset the remaining balance of the replacement of the safety surfacing at Cowley Park. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Talbot. All agreed.
- ii. That the Finance Committee had recommended the allocation of funds from Unrestricted Reserves towards the cost of securing the use of a TDC Rapid Deployment Camera, for use along the Coffin Path, in order to tackle the ongoing problem of dog fouling.
 - a) **RESOLVED:** That the Council ratify the recommendation of the Finance Committee that funds from Unrestricted Reserves be used to offset the cost of securing the use of a Rapid Deployment Camera. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Lockwood. All agreed.
- iii. That the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services had recently issued an increase to salary scales for 2022/2023, approved by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), which were to be backdated to 1st April 2022. Cllr. Talbot stated that the Council was obliged to pay the increase, therefore, the Council should approve the increase.
 - a) **RESOLVED:** That the Council approve the increase to staff salary scales, as issued by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Sinclair and seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All agreed.

OM-22-151 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** Cllr. Ward reported that the winter flowers had all been planted.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The Clerk informed the Council that a meeting was to be arranged.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** The notes of the meeting of 26th October 2022, having been previously circulated, the Vice-Chairman invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming.
 - i. Cllr. Ward reported that together with several games intended for young children, the lines had been repainted on the football/basketball court at Priory Meadow play area.

OM-22-152 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the crime statistics for September 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 then gave an overview of reported crimes for the months of July to September 2022.
- b. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Atkins reported that he had received a report from the Tendring Ramblers on the overall condition of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the Parish, which included information such as defects and Essex Highways reference numbers for respective defects. Cllr. Atkins also stated that he had a number of new/ replacement way markers.
- i. Cllr. Thomas thanked Cllr. Atkins for his report, adding that in all of her time on the Council, she had not heard a more informative report from the Council's footpaths representative.
- c. **Benches:** No report given.
- d. **Litter Bins:** Nothing to report.
- e. **Planters:** Nothing to report.
- f. **Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.
- g. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**
Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
- i. TDALC had met on 23rd November 2022, the meeting started promptly at 7.30 pm with Linda Belgrove, the new Chairperson clearly in charge. A comprehensive agenda had been distributed and was discussed as printed. The Chair reported a bank balance of £2,299.4, as of 15th November 2022. Some particularly good reports were given, the first of which was from Special Constable Antony Rowntree on the role of Community Special Policemen, and how they are trained and appointed. Tony subsequently answered questions from members.
 - ii. We received a report from Ardleigh Parish Council on the damage to their Parish from the transmission of offshore production of electricity by pylon and by ditch. This was followed by a good discussion on all aspects and questions about what TDALC could do about the transmission of offshore electricity through the District.
 - iii. Whilst presenting her TDC report, Lynda McWilliams spoke of the Boundary Commission report on boundary changes, with lots of our members Parishes being brought into Clacton for electoral purposes. This was quite startling news as the affected areas thought of themselves as 'rural' and not 'urban.' This was news to everyone, and the complaint was that initial responses to the proposals had to be in by 5th December 2022.

- iv. There was then a short discussion on 'fly-tipping' with general condemnation of what goes on and seemingly does not get cleared up. At the end of the discussion, I said it was necessary to make a distinction between tipping on public land as opposed to tipping on private land, the latter being a no-go for local authorities, unless there was an associated health hazard such, as that raised by Jaynie Nice who was attending her first meeting.
- v. The meeting finished at 9.10 pm.
- h. **District Councillor's Report:**
Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
 - i. As a Council we are still coping with the pandemic and its effect on our staff and members, coupled with the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which led to the abandonment of the Council meeting on 20th September 2022. This meant that when the Council met on Tuesday 22nd November 2022, it had been 19 weeks since I delivered the last Climate Change report to members, hence my report, as were others, was quite long.
 - ii. At our last meeting, my report included a lengthy item on the intention to cease forwarding e-mails addressed to a member's District Council email to their private email addresses. This was stopped by Neil Stock the Council Leader and referred to the meeting on 20th September 2022, which as I said above was eventually cancelled. We discussed the recommendation to cease the forwarding of members e-mails. This has been exceptionally controversial, as many members think there is a danger them being out of touch. The whole matter is now being considered by our Resources, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, but, like many things being decided now, they will not apply until after 5th May 2023, following the local elections.
- i. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood reported that he had made a number of updates and changes to the website, including the Chairman's Report.
 - i. Cllr. Talbot stated that he had experienced difficulty in locating the Dropbox link for the meeting using his new stosyth.gov.uk email address. The Clerk stated that he would look at why Cllr. Talbot had encountered the problem.
- j. **Community Speed Watch:** Nothing to report.

OM-22-153 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Nothing to report.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:**
The Clerk gave the following report:
 - i. That at its meeting of 2nd November 2022, the Finance Committee had received a quotation of £4,711.84, inclusive of VAT, for the replacement of the effluent pump at Cowley Park.

The Clerk stated that the Playing Field Charity had recently received its Annual Parish Grant of £7,000.00, which would offset the cost of the works, without which the pavilion could not be used.

- a) **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council, in its capacity as the Sole Trustee of the St Osyth Playing Field Charity, authorise the replacement of the effluent pump, at a cost of £4,711.84, so as to ensure the continued use of Cowley Park pavilion. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Sinclair and seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.
- ii. That a total of 50 parking spaces had been marked on Cowley Park, either side of the main gate, along the inside of the perimeter hedge. The Clerk informed the Council that he would be liaising with both St Osyth FC and Elmden Rovers Youth Football Club with regards to the use of the parking spaces, and that he would also prepare a Risk Assessment in respect of the parking of vehicles on Cowley Park.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Blockley reported that the Point Clear Community Association had received a 'grass roots' grant of £1,000.00.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas reported due to the last meeting of the Management Committee being held on the same evening as a Parish Council meeting, she had been unable to attend the meeting. Cllr. Thomas added that the next meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for January 2023.
- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** The Clerk reported that the Chairman would continue to provide reports for the Council until such time as a new representative was appointed. The Clerk suggested that the appointment of a Council representative be placed in abeyance until after the Council elections in May 2023. All agreed.

OM-22-154 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.00 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the following:
 - i. That having learnt of the resignation of the Chairman, whom he thought had been a great servant for the village, he would of course continue to support the new Chairman, once appointed. Cllr. Goggin added that Cllr. Grantham had been the only Chairman of St Osyth Parish Council he had worked with whilst a County Councillor, and that much of what had been achieved was as a result of her work.
 - ii. That during a recent meeting with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, it had been reported that there were now 3,755 officers in Essex Police, more than at any time before.
 - iii. That the percentage of Council Tax payable to the County Council would be increasing from 2.9% to 4.9%.

- iv. That due to the number of new houses in the county, there would be an increase to the rates of £7.1 m in 2023, and that in order to be able to continue to provide statutory services, the County Council would be looking at realignment of some services, together with the cutting back of others.
- v. Cllr. Goggin then briefed the Council as to the progress for the safety improvements to the crossroads, during which the following was noted:
 - a) That the works scheduled to take place between 14th and 18th November 2022, had been delayed due to the weather. When the works did finally commence on the night of 18th November, the volume of traffic had prevented the works from being carried out safely. Cllr. Goggin also stated that the workforce had been subjected to a lot of verbal abuse.
 - b) The resurfacing works had subsequently been completed on the night of 21st November 2022, using a team of 34, some of whom had been stood at the temporary traffic signals advising motorists as to the reason for and likely length of delays.
 - c) By way of a PowerPoint presentation, the Clerk, at the request of Cllr. Goggin subsequently produced a number of photographs showing the equipment used to carry out the resurfacing works.
 - d) Cllr. Goggin informed the Council that the resurfacing having been completed, the planned installation of the speed cushions had ground to a halt due to the Health & Safety officer for Trident, the firm charged with the installation of the speed cushions, deeming the crossroads to be too unsafe for his workforce.
 - e) Cllr. Goggin stated that he was unable to provide any further information as to dates of when the speed cushions were likely to be installed, however, discussions were ongoing between Essex Highways and Trident.
 - f) Cllr. Goggin concluded by apologising for the delay to the installation of the speed cushions.

OM-22-155 REVIEW OF ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT:

In the absence of Cllr. Grantham, the Clerk reminded the Council that the Chairman had, at the meeting of 20th October 2022, drawn the attention of Councillors to the Council's Code of Conduct, at which time she had suggested that any comments, questions or concerns with regard to the Appendix 1 of the Code of Conduct be raised at the November meeting of the Council. None were forthcoming.

OM-22-156 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS:

In the absence of Cllr. Grantham, the Clerk reminded the Council that the Chairman had, at the meeting of 20th October 2022, raised the subject of the length of Councillor's reports, and whether the times allocated should remain extant or be altered. The general consensus was that the current allocation of time for Councillors to deliver their respective reports was sufficient.

OM-22-157 COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

In the absence of Cllr. Grantham, the Clerk reminded the Council that the Chairman had, at the meeting of 20th October 2022, raised the subject of the time of day at which Committee/ Working Party meetings should be held, during which she [Cllr. Grantham] had reminded the Council of the need to consider the needs of respective Councillors when arranging meetings.

- a. As a Councillor in full time employment, Cllr. Sinclair stated that she had only missed one Council/ Committee/ Working Party meeting, and that given enough notice she would be able to attend meetings.
- b. Cllr. Atkins stated that like Cllr. Sinclair, he would be able to attend meetings given sufficient notice.

OM-22-158 PREPARATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

In the absence of Cllr. Grantham, the Clerk informed the Council that the Management Plan was being drafted and was in the process of being typed.

OM-22-159 DUMONT AVENUE PLAY AREA CONSULTATION PAPER:

- a. The Clerk informed the Council that following the consultation in respect of Dumont Avenue play area, a total of 59 responses had been received, of which 56 were in favour of improvements to the play area, including the installation of additional play equipment and gym equipment, with 3 responses against any improvements.
- b. Having been previously circulated, a redacted letter in respect of the use of the play area was noted.
- c. As the Chairman of the Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party, and having received information with regards to the consultation, Cllr. Ward enquired as to whether the Council wished to proceed with the improvements to Dumont Avenue play area, as recommended by the Working Party.
 - i. Cllr. Sinclair stated that not only was Dumont Avenue the only play area in Point Clear, but that it was also in need of improvement, including new play equipment, given that some 60 pupils from the Primary School lived in Point Clear.
 - ii. Cllr. Ward stated that St Osyth had both Cowley Park and Priory Meadow, and that it was unreasonable to expect children from Point Clear to have to use those play areas, before again enquiring as to whether the Council wished to proceed with the improvements to Dumont Avenue play area.
 - a) **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council, endorse the recommendation of the Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party to proceed with improvements to Dumont Avenue play area. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All agreed.

OM-22-160 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II ARBORETUM:

In the absence of Cllr. Grantham, the Clerk informed the Council that the Chairman had stated that should the Council wish for her to continue with the organisation of the Queen Elizabeth II Arboretum she would be more than willing to do so.

- a. Cllr. Blockley commented that given the time and effort which Cllr. Grantham had committed to the establishment of the Queen Elizabeth II Arboretum, it was only fitting that she be requested to continue with the arrangements on behalf of the Council. All agreed.

OM-22-161 VANDALISM:

In the absence of Cllr. Grantham, the Clerk reminded the Council that the Chairman had, at the meeting of 20th October 2022, raised the subject of the cost of vandalism at Cowley Park.

- a. The Clerk informed the Council that the Finance Committee had received quotations for the installation of CCTV equipment at Cowley Park, however, because the quotations varied in equipment and capability, he [the Clerk] together with the Community Warden was in the process of comparing the quotations before they were returned to the Finance Committee for consideration.
- b. The Clerk informed the Council that whilst the majority of vandalism occurred at Cowley Park, it was in no way restricted to that area. The Clerk gave examples of vandalism elsewhere in St Osyth, including a recent incident where a female resident had challenged a group of youths who were smashing the glass panels of the telephone box. The Clerk continued that having confronted the youths, the resident received a considerable amount of verbal abuse, which included expletives, and had therefore left the scene before the situation escalated.
- c. A conversation ensued during which time several Councillors commented that it was difficult to see how the problem of vandalism could be resolved, especially when some parents were not aware of how their children were behaving.

OM-22-162 FLY-TIPPING:

In the absence of Cllr. Grantham, the Clerk reminded the Council that the Chairman had, at the meeting of 20th October 2022, raised the subject of fly-tipping within the Parish.

- a. The Clerk gave a number of examples of recent incidents of fly-tipping, before suggesting that he write to TDC on behalf of the Parish Council to express the concern of the Council and residents, in addition to enquiring as to how fly-tipping was being managed, and the cost of removing fly-tipping within the Parish. All agreed.

OM-22-163 CLIMATE CHANGE:

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

OM-22-164 FURTHER MATTERS: None

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.

The date of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 15th December 2022.

**Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 24th November 2022**

OM-22-141 b	Resignation of Chairman	Clk to action
OM-22-146 c	Website	Cllr. Lockwood & Clk to action
OM-22-146 h	Publication of the Cost of Vandalism	Cllr. Thomas to action
OM-22-146 i	Installation of CCTV	Finance Committee to discuss
OM-22-150 a i e)	Management of Memorials	PC to discuss in December
OM-22-150 a ii c)	Use of Sheep in the Cemetery	Formal proposal required
OM-22-150 b i a)	Replacement of Safety Surfacing	Clk/ RFO to action
OM-22-150 b ii a)	Use of Rapid Deployment Camera	Clk/ RFO to action
OM-22-153 b i a)	Replacement of Effluent Pump	Clk to action
OM-22-153 b ii	Parking on Cowley Park	Clk to action
OM-22-159 c ii a)	Dumont Avenue Play Area	PYOS to action

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