



## ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



### Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, St Osyth on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:**

Chairman: Cllr. Alma Blockley  
Cllr's Clive Atkins, David Cooper, Ray French, Mandy Kelly,  
John Lockwood, Michael Talbot, Michele Thomas & Julie Ward

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

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Karen Sinclair (Holiday)  
Cllr. Gary Coe (Holiday)  
Cllr. John White (Tendring District Council (TDC) Planning Meeting)

**MINUTES:**

Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Two

**OM-22-211 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-22-212 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

	<b>APPLICATION &amp; ADDRESS</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>
a.	<a href="#">22/01459/FUL</a> Mr P Wright Land adjacent to Recess Villas Bypass Road, St Osyth	<p>Proposed 2no. five bed detached dwellings together new vehicle and pedestrian access with vehicle hardstanding, car ports, cycle parking, soft landscaping and private gardens.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the developer has made a number of alterations to the plans as viewed, however, the Parish Council objects to the application for the following reasons:</p> <p>a. Whilst drawing It2422/sk/01 provides revised measurements in respect of the visibility splay, which was originally of concern to the Parish Council, there still exists the issue of the creation of a new vehicular access, which will potentially see 6 vehicles crossing the footway several times a day.</p> <p>b. The Parish Council still has concerns as to the distance between the proposed eastern dwelling and Recess Villas, which will be detrimental to the occupants of Recess Villas.</p>

b.	<a href="#">22/01574/LBDISC</a> 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.  No objections.
c.	<a href="#">22/01627/FULHH</a> Mr T Whaymand 7 Point Clear Road, St Osyth	Proposed front extension and rear dormer.  <b>Approved on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023.</b>
d.	<a href="#">22/01991/FUL</a> Mr C Gibbs Land West of Clay Lane St Osyth	Proposed stationing of 5 self-contained holiday units and associated parking.  <b>Approved on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023.</b>
e.	<a href="#">22/02075/FUL</a> Mr I Ford St Osyth Parochial Church Council Church of St Peter & St Paul Church Square St Osyth	Proposed installation of an 8m white, tapered, fibreglass, ground mounted, one piece flagpole with ultra hard gel impervious coat finish, internal halyard, flag weight, galvanised steel hinged baseplate and ground fittings on a concrete foundation.  No objections.
f.	<a href="#">22/02124/FULHH</a> Mr & Mrs Smith 43 Point Clear Road Point Clear	Proposed two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and detached garage/car port.  No objections.
g.	<a href="#">23/00033/FULHH</a> Mr Sawyer 33 Eastern Promenade Point Clear Bay	Proposed extensions and alterations to form first floor living accommodation overlooking the sea (alterations to approved planning under 22/00908/FULHH).  No objections.
h.	<a href="#">23/00054/FULHH</a> Mr & Mrs Oriordan 15 Dumont Avenue Point Clear	Proposed single storey front extension and garage conversion with glazed roof lanterns.  No objections.
i.	<a href="#">23/00087/FULHH</a> Mr & Mrs Bedford 115 Dumont Avenue Point Clear	Proposed extension to existing roof and loft to form 3 new front facing dormers and one rear dormer, as well as a single storey side, rear & front extensions.  No objections.
j.	<a href="#">23/00090/FULHH</a> Mr R Coleman 812 St Johns Road, St Osyth	Proposed ramped access with galvanised rails.  No objections.
k.	<a href="#">23/00170/LBC</a> H Carter High Birch Farmhouse Highbirch Road, St Osyth	Proposed replacement windows.  No objections.

## OM-22-213 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) from 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.

- b. Correspondence from TDC with regards to a Breach of Planning Control (TDC 23/00019/ENFENQ refers).
- c. Correspondence from St Osyth Parish Council to the Planning Inspectorate, in respect of Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/22/3308647 (TDC 21/01000/FUL) St John's Plant Centre, Earls Hall Drive, St Osyth.
- d. Email from TDC detailing specific information regarding the Appeal under Section 78, Town & Country Planning Act 1990, in respect of Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/22/3308647 (TDC 21/01000/FUL) St John's Plant Centre, Earls Hall Drive, St Osyth.

**OM-22-214 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:** That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Chairman, as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Sinclair and seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.

**OM-22-215 SUMMARY OF ACTION:**

- a. OM-22-189 c i. The Clerk reminded the Council that he had written to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the Planning Appeal submitted by the owners of St John's Plant Centre, Earls Hall Drive, St Osyth.
  - i. The Clerk added that he had been requested by Cllr. White to represent the Parish Council at the Appeal, which was scheduled to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Clacton Town Hall.
- b. OM-22-193 a i. The Clerk informed the Council that the subject of meetings at Dumont Hall would be discussed later in the meeting.
- c. OM-22-199 i. The Clerk informed the Council that together with Cllr. Lockwood, he had met with Andy Booth, of Naglotech to discuss the upgrade of the website. The Clerk added that it had been a very productive meeting.
- d. OM-22-200 b i h) iv). The Clerk informed the Council that the subject of the possible installation of a defibrillator at Cowley Park would be discussed later in the meeting.

**OM-21-216 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**OM-22-217 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from a director of the Sailing Barge May 'Bread and Roses Barge' Community Bakery CIC.
  - i. Cllr. Ward informed the Council that during a conversation with the director, who had contacted Cllr. Ward to gauge her opinion as to the need for a Community Bakery, she [Cllr. Ward] had stressed the need for the CIC to approach the District Council to ascertain whether planning permission was required, in addition to matters such as Health & Safety and Environmental Health.

- ii. The Clerk requested that Councillors answer the questions contained within the correspondence, which he would then collate before writing to the Community Bakery on behalf of the Parish Council.
- b. Correspondence from Cllr. Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance & Sustainable Transport, advising the Parish Council that a response to St Osyth Parish Council correspondence of 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (F500/43/22/1 refers) would be forthcoming.

**OM-22-218 FINANCE:**

- a. Approval of payments for January 2023, as per the circulated list were agreed by the Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:

Current a/c	£154,688.59
Deposit	£53,268.77

**OM-22-219 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:**

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** Nothing to report.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** Nothing to report.

**OM-22-220 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the crime statistics for December 2022 in St Osyth and Point Clear were noted.
- b. **Footpaths:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Benches:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Litter Bins:** Nothing to report.
- e. **Planters:** Nothing to report.
- f. **Tree Warden:**
  - i. Cllr. French informed the Council that the planting of the Queen Elizabeth II Arboretum would take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
  - ii. Cllr. French stated that Mrs Sonia Grantham BEM, Cllr. Thomas, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk should be thanked for the time and effort which they had contributed towards the establishment of the Arboretum.

- iii. Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that there would be two teams of two planting the majority of the trees, however, some residents and/or representatives of organisations and businesses would also be attending to plant trees sponsored by the respective groups or businesses. Cllr. Thomas added that refreshments would be available.
  - iv. Cllr. Thomas subsequently gave a brief overview as to how details of those sponsoring trees, the types of trees planted, and a social history of the Parish of St Osyth would be displayed on Interpretation Boards.
  - v. The Clerk requested that any Councillor attending the planting park in the allocated parking spaces on the playing field, either side of the main gate of Cowley Park
- g. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):** Having been previously circulated, the report by Cllr. Talbot was noted:
- i. Robert Taylor, our former Chairman who kept us going these last three years, and his wife joined us by Zoom from New Zealand.
  - ii. Linda Belgrove, our Chairman and Secretary, went through the agenda dealing with each item thoroughly. A finance report was presented, which showed what little activity had taken place. It seemed the problem with changing Banks had been sorted out.
  - iii. There was a lot of discussion on the number of road diversions because of works or accidents on major routes, which led to very small and narrow country lanes being signposted for giant trucks with trailers, which were literally smashing up these minor roads, without any thought of the damage they do.
  - iv. There was a discussion on littering and dog poo, with questions being asked about the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued by TDC enforcement officers, which were few in total. I spoke of the modest success of covert CCTV cameras and detailed an incident during which a shopkeeper had been filmed filling a public bin immediately after it had been emptied.
  - v. There was discussion about the five principal items TDALC had pledged itself to deal with in consultation with TDC.
  - vi. A good meeting, which finished at 21:12 hours.
- h. **District Councillor's Report:** Having been previously circulated, the report by Cllr. Talbot was noted:
- i. I am reporting for both John and myself, as John has a planning meeting tonight.
  - ii. Much of members thoughts at the moment are that of preparations for the Elections, in fact this very Thursday morning, there was a meeting for potential candidates and election agents, between 10 am and midday.

- iii. On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, we had the special meeting to discuss and finally approve our Budget for 2023/2024. When I say 'our' budget I mean the amount needed just to run the Council, which is a small part of the final sum which goes out in the Council Tax Demand which includes the cost of the Police & Fire Services, Essex County Council and all Parish precepts.
- iv. The Council Leader, Neil Stock, has the responsibility of actually proposing TDC's proposals for its own budget. When speaking he included reference to projects we have managed to continue with, despite the quite difficult financial situation, including:
  - a) The provision of a covered market and managed workspaces in Jaywick.
  - b) The development of the former Starlings site in Harwich.
  - c) Transformational regeneration in Clacton supported by levelling up funding.
  - d) Supporting the development of the internationally significant Freeport project.
  - e) Replacing the all-weather pitch at Clacton Leisure Centre along with wider investment in the centre.
  - f) Disposal of the former Weeley Council office site, which will provide us with additional local homes for local people.
  - g) The major refurbishment of the skate park at Clacton Leisure Centre.
  - h) A Clacton Airshow in 2023, which will be celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.
- v. In terms of our budget for 2023/2024, we have cost increases totalling well over £4 million, a huge increase by any measure, but especially so when our overall net budget is only £14 million.
- vi. The actual Tendring Council Tax being proposed is £188.11, this being the sum retained by us for 2023/2024, which is a 3% increase from the much larger demand that came through our doors, and this against inflation of over 10%.
- i. **Website:** Nothing to report.

#### **OM-22-221 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:**

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Having been previously circulated, the report by Cllr. Sinclair was noted:
  - i. The Trustees met on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

- ii. The external front windows at Clacton Road have been repaired and repainted and they look much better. The windows to the rear of the properties are next on the schedule for repair. Quotes are being sought for this work. It is worth pointing out that the costs of carrying out work such as this is very expensive especially as it must be carried out in order to retain the integrity of these very old buildings. Work was carried out on the roof nine months ago and now we need to carry out internal inspections in order to assess the effectiveness of the work. Visits to all the Almshouses will take place over the next few weeks to carry out routine maintenance inspections. This helps us to prioritise work, cost it and effectively budget for it.
- iii. Fencing has been ordered for 5 St Clairs Road. This will cost £1,550.00 + VAT.
- iv. Front plasterwork above 23 Clacton Road appears to have blown and may have contributed to the damp problem experienced by this tenant. A survey is being arranged.
- v. The rent increase for April was discussed by the Trustees. The Almshouse Association have recommended an increase of 7% but the Trustees felt that this was too high when set against the high cost of living that people are experiencing whether through energy costs, food and fuel. The rent increase will be 5% and this will be covered by an increase in their housing benefits.
- vi. In every report that I have given to the Council I have detailed the high costs of maintaining the Almshouses and it is worth pointing out that income from rents is just over £36,700 per annum and while that may seem very high, we expend far more than that in order to maintain the Almshouses to a high standard. In other words, what we collect in rent is spent out on building works, maintenance and emergency repairs. The rest of our expenditure is met from investments.

b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:**

- i. The Clerk informed the Council of the recent repair to the foul water sewage pipe, which had been essential following the puncture of the pipe by what was believed to have been a metal stake.
  - a) The Clerk reported that he had spoken with representatives of both football clubs which used Cowley Park, and that both clubs stated that they did not use metal stakes.
  - b) The Clerk continued that the damage to the pipe was to be considered accidental as the pipe was some 30 inches under the surface and that its position would not have been known to anyone.
  - c) The Clerk concluded by informing the Council that the cost of the repair was £807.48, before showing several PowerPoint slides of the damage.

- ii. The Council discussed the suggestion put forward by the recently formed St Osyth Rotary Club, that a defibrillator be sited within the pavilion.
  - a) Cllr. Cooper requested confirmation that Elmden Rovers Youth Football Club had its own defibrillator. The Clerk confirmed this to be the case. Cllr. Cooper continued that it would be counter productive to have a defibrillator installed in the pavilion which would only be accessible during football matches, especially when one of the clubs already had a defibrillator.
  - b) Cllr. Ward reminded the Council that there was already a defibrillator in the village at the Kings Arms.
  - c) Cllr. Thomas expressed concern as to the validity of the recently formed Rotary Club, which was now classed as a branch of the Brightlingsea Club, following its split with the Clacton Club.
  - d) Cllr. Kelly stated that she had no objections to a defibrillator being installed, but that it should be externally mounted.
  - e) Cllr. Ward stated that given the ongoing problem of vandalism at Cowley Park, it would be unwise to mount a defibrillator on the exterior of the pavilion.
  - f) Following a suggestion by Cllr. Thomas, the installation of a defibrillator at the pavilion was discounted for the following reasons:
    - i) One of the two football clubs already had a defibrillator.
    - ii) An internally installed device would only be accessible when the pavilion was open for football matches.
    - iii) An externally mounted device could be prone to vandalism.
    - iv) There was already a defibrillator at the Kings Arms.

All agreed.

- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Nothing to report.
- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** Nothing to report.

#### **OM-22-222 COWLEY PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

- a. The Clerk apologised for the delay in producing the Cowley Park specific section of the Management Plan, which he informed the Council was due to being unable to obtain sufficient quotes for the repairs, maintenance and improvements required. The Clerk continued that the Plan had therefore been compiled using a single quotation, however, both he and the Community Warden would continue to try to obtain additional competitive quotations.



- b. The Management Plan having been previously circulated, Cllr. Thomas stated that improvements as listed were a balance of condition against use and would therefore be prioritised by need.
- c. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council, in its capacity as Sole Trustee of the St Osyth Playing Field Charity approve the Cowley Park Management Plan for 2023-2025. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.

**OM-22-223 PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL PARISH REPORT:**

The Clerk informed the Council that contributions for the Annual Parish Report were required by 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023, adding that where possible articles should not exceed 80 words. The Clerk added that any photographs taken by Councillors in the course of Council duties would be beneficial, and that he would forward the Annual Report for 2021/2022 as a guide.

**OM-22-224 LOCATION OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

Following receipt of correspondence from the Point Clear Community Association (PCCA), in which it had been requested that three Parish Council meetings be held at Dumont Hall, Point Clear, throughout the Council year (1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March), Councillors discussed the request.

- a. Cllr. Ward stated that she had in the past attended two meetings at Dumont Hall, and that it was not fair on the residents of Point Clear that meetings were not held there.
- b. Cllr. Kelly recalled an occasion when the Council had met at Dumont Hall, during which there had been issues with Councillors hearing each other, due to the acoustics of the hall. Cllr. Thomas stated that smaller rooms were available within Dumont Hall.
- c. Cllr. Talbot stated that when meetings had previously been held at Dumont Hall they had always been well attended.
- d. Cllr. Thomas stated that the way in which reports were now received by the Council would not be fair on the residents of Point Clear, who would have no knowledge of the work undertaken by Councillors on their [the residents] behalf.
- e. The Clerk stated that he did not know what facilities were available at Dumont Hall, i.e. internet, projector screen etc, and that it would be sensible for the Council to revert to its previous system at meetings, whereby Councillors delivered their respective reports verbally.
  - i. Cllr. Ward stated that she preferred the previous system whereby Councillors delivered their respective reports verbally, a view which was shared by Cllr's French and Kelly.
  - ii. Cllr. Kelly stated that she also preferred the system whereby Councillors had received paper copies of the agenda packs.
- f. Cllr. Thomas stated that were the meetings to be well attended, they would need to be orderly and controlled, given the actions of some members of the public at previous meetings.

- g. Following a discussion as to when meetings could be held at Dumont Hall, Cllr. Kelly suggested they be held in March, July and November.
- i. **RESOLVED:** That with effect from 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023, meetings of the Parish Council scheduled for the months of March, July and November be held at Dumont Hall, Point Clear. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Lockwood. All agreed.

**OM-22-225 USE OF PERSONAL WATER CRAFT (PWC) IN POINT CLEAR BAY:**

Having been discussed but not resolved at the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the Clerk reminded the Council of the request for a meeting between interested parties, including Brightlingsea Harbour Master, Essex Police Marine Unit and residents of Point Clear Bay

- a. The Clerk reminded the Council that whilst Brightlingsea Harbour Master had concerns over the anti-social use of PWC, in specific areas such as Stone Point and Brightlingsea Creek, others, including the Essex Police Marine Unit and residents of Point Clear Bay, had concerns about the anti-social use of PWC in the wider area, including that of Ray Creek.
- b. The Clerk stated that whilst residents whose properties overlooked Ray Creek had justifiable concerns as to the anti-social use of PWC in that vicinity, it should be noted that not all of those using their craft in Ray Creek were launching from Point Clear Bay. The Clerk continued that it had previously been proven by the Essex Police Marine Unit that some of the craft were being launched in and travelling across from areas such as Mersea Island and Bradwell on Sea.
- c. The Clerk reported that whilst there were those who opposed the use of PWC, there were also residents of Point Clear, including some who owned PWC, who were in favour of their use in Point Clear Bay and the surrounding area.
- d. Cllr. Talbot reiterated his previous statement that the anti-social use of PWC was a matter for the Police, that it was not acceptable for the Harbour Master to impose restrictions on all due to the behaviour of a few, and that the vast majority against the launch of PWC from Stone Point had a vested interest, involvement in which the Parish Council should avoid.
- e. The Chairman stated that whilst she empathised with the residents of Point Clear Bay, the Parish Council had no authority in the matter. Cllr. Ward stated that whilst she agreed that the Council had no powers with which to resolve the anti-social use of PWC, their use did impact on the residents of Point Clear Bay.
- f. The Clerk stated that given the complexity of the subject, together with the opinions, both personal and organisational of those involved, it was his recommendation that the Council appoint a Councillor to act as a representative at any future meetings.
  - i. Following a brief discussion, Cllr. Lockwood was asked whether he would be willing to be the Council's representative at future meetings, being that he had already been appointed as the representative to meetings with the Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners.

- ii. **RESOLVED:** That Cllr. Lockwood be appointed the Parish Council's representative for all future meetings in respect of the use of Personal Water Craft in the area of Point Clear Bay. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. Kelly. All agreed.

**OM-22-226 CLIMATE CHANGE:**

- a. The continued commitment of the Parish Council towards Climate Change was noted.
- b. The Clerk enquired of Cllr. Talbot as to the wording of a recent email from TDC, in which it was reported that the District Council would only be providing recycling boxes for new build properties.
  - i. Cllr. Talbot reported that the email was misleading, as the District Council would, in addition to providing recycling boxes for new build properties, continue to provide recycling boxes for all properties in the District, however, there would, as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, be some changes to the supply of recycling boxes, including:
    - a) That the distribution of recycling boxes from locations such as the Parish Council would cease.
    - b) The replacement of damaged boxes would continue, however, residents would have to take their damaged boxes, lids and food caddies to the Town Hall, where they would be exchanged on a one-to-one basis.
    - c) That it would be possible for residents to have additional boxes, however, these would now be at a cost of £7.50 per box.
  - ii. Cllr. Talbot reported that the principal reason for these changes was that of cost, in that the District Council had spent in the region of £70,000.00 in order to provide recycling boxes for residents of the District, yet a great number of boxes were being used by some residents for storage. This was evident at car boot sales, where numerous recycling boxes could often be seen containing items for sale.
- c. Cllr. Thomas enquired as to the forthcoming online booking system scheduled for the Recycling Centre at Rush Green Road, which was due to come into effect on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
  - i. Cllr. Talbot reported that a trial scheme had been undertaken in Rayleigh, after which Essex County Council had taken the decision to 'roll out' the scheme across the County without any consultation with District or Borough Councils. Cllr. Talbot added that a lot of people were unhappy with the way in which the County Council had implemented the scheme.
  - ii. The overwhelming consensus of the Council was that the decision taken by Essex County Council would result in an increase of fly-tipping.

## **OM-22-227 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

Having arrived at 8.30 pm, and his report having been previously circulated, Cllr. Goggin gave an overview of the following:

- a. That the final part of the safety improvements to the crossroads would see the speed cushions installed during the week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Cllr. Goggin stated that whilst scheduled to take place over six days/nights, the installation would not take that long, and that the period assigned of 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March, was to cover any unforeseen issues. Cllr. Goggin added that he would be present on site during the works.
- b. That the scheme which would require residents to book time slots at Recycling Centres was being implemented following a successful trial in Rayleigh, about which he [Cllr. Goggin] had only heard positive comments.
  - i. A conversation with regards to the scheme and Recycling Centres ensued, during which the following comments were noted:
    - a) Cllr. Goggin stated that as only domestic waste was to be disposed of at Recycling Centres, the scheme would stop the disposal of trade waste, which was being carried out by a minority at cost to the public.
    - b) Cllr. Goggin stated that the scheme would stop residents from having to sit in queues, which often backed up on the approach roads to Recycling Centres.
    - c) Cllr. Goggin stated that having read a publication by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), there was no evidence to suggest that the scheme, which had been successful elsewhere in the country, would result in increased incidents of fly-tipping.
    - d) Cllr. Goggin reported that ‘blue badge’ holders would not have to book, that same day appointments would be possible and that it was anticipated that at most the delay between booking a slot and being able to attend a Recycling Centre would be two days.
    - e) Cllr. Thomas informed Cllr. Goggin that she had been at Rush Green Road Recycling Centre during the previous weekend and that the signs informing residents of the changes seemed to be aimed at those with access to the internet, as she had seen no evidence of a phone number for residents to make bookings.
    - f) Cllr. Lockwood stated that in his opinion the County’s Recycling Centres were not fit for purpose, as they were often in residential areas with restricted or problematic access.
- c. That the County Council’s Cabinet had approved the budget for 2023/2024, which would see increases in expenditure including:
  - i. An increase in Adult Social Care from £470m to £506m.
  - ii. An increase in Children’s Services from £136m to £145m.

- iii. An increase to Highways Maintenance from £114m to £120m.
- d. That an additional £9m would be available for Highways, to be allocated as follows:
  - i. £4m towards the Member-Led Repair Programme initiative, for pothole and footway repairs.
  - ii. £3m towards maintenance.
  - iii. £2m towards micro-surfacing (a preventive maintenance sealing treatment used to extend the life of concrete and/or blacktop roadways).
- e. That following receipt of emails, from members of the public who had been present at the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, in which it had been suggested that the recent repairs to private roads in Jaywick had been undertaken by Essex Highways at public expense, it had been confirmed that the repairs and improvements had indeed been completed by Essex Highways using specific Government funds, secured by the District Council, and not public funds as intimated.

**OM-22-228 FURTHER MATTERS:**

- a. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that he had collected a number of Election Nomination packs, and that together with Cllr. White, he had written an article for the March edition of the Parish Magazine, in which changes to how residents voted were explained.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10 pm.

The date of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023, at Dumont Hall.

<b>Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b>		
OM-22-217 a ii	Sailing Barge May Community Bakery CIC	Clk to action
OM-22-217 b	Update from Cllr. Scott, ECC	Clk to action
OM-22-223	Annual Parish Report	Cllr's & Clk to action

Signature:  
AME Blockley  
Chairman

*[Signed on Original]*