



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at Dumont Hall, Point Clear on Thursday 16th March 2023 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Acting-Chairman: Cllr. Karen Sinclair
Cllr's Clive Atkins, Alma Blockley, Gary Coe, Ray French,
Mandy Kelly, John Lockwood, Michael Talbot, Michele Thomas,
Julie Ward & John White

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (arrived at 8.25 pm)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. David Cooper (Personal)

MINUTES: Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Eleven

OM-22-229 WELCOME TO THE PARISH COUNCIL:

On behalf of the Point Clear Community Association (PCCA), Mr Ken Belcher, Chairman of the Association welcomed the Parish Council to Dumont Hall.

OM-22-230 BRIEF FROM THE PARISH CLERK:

The Clerk gave the following brief to all present:

- a. As the Proper Officer of the Council, I wish to raise a number of points of order ahead of tonight's meeting, which will afford Councillors the opportunity to have meaningful discussions, will allow for members of the public present to address the Council and for all present to hear, clearly, what is being discussed, thus avoiding the need for any unnecessary repetition.
 - i. For Councillors:
 - a) Please address any questions, comments or concerns through the Chair.
 - b) Please do not interrupt any other Councillor or member of the public when they are speaking.
 - c) Please do not speak over somebody when they are talking, and please refrain from conversations with anyone else, whilst a fellow Councillor or member of the public is speaking.
 - ii. For members of the public:
 - a) Please do not talk amongst yourselves.
 - b) You are not permitted to comment on any of the agenda items, unless specifically asked to do so in order to clarify a point of discussion.

- c) Should you wish to address the Council, you may do so during public participation, however, please do not look to enter into dialogue. It is not a forum for questions and answers. The only occasion on which an individual Councillor may look to reply to anything you say, will be to provide information, such as a point of contact.
- d) Please do not ask the Council to comment on any points you raise. Public participation is purely an opportunity for the Council to hear and consider your views ahead of any discussion it may have.
- e) Please do not raise any matters which are not on the agenda. Should you wish the Council to discuss such an issue, it will have to wait until it is included on an agenda for a future meeting.

OM-22-231 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

The Acting-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. Kelly declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Planning Applications 23/00073/FULHH and 23/00341/NDPNOT.

OM-22-232 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	22/01459/FUL Mr P Wright Land adjacent to Recess Villas Bypass Road, St Osyth	Proposed 2no. five bed detached dwellings together new vehicle and pedestrian access with vehicle hardstanding, car ports, cycle parking, soft landscaping and private gardens. The Parish Council reaffirms its objections of 20 th February 2023.
b.	23/00073/FULHH Mr J Woolford 74 Colne Way Point Clear Bay	Retrospective application for the erection of extension. No objections.
c.	23/00275/LUPROP Mr R Bates 16 Melinda Lane St Osyth	Proposed conversion of existing rear roof loft space to create habitable accommodation. No objections.
d.	23/00283/HHPNOT Mr S Clarke 143 Clacton Road St Osyth	Prior Approval Application under Part 1, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for proposed flat roof parapet wall kitchen extension complete with sky light (Depth 4.3m, Maximum Height 3m, Eaves Height 3m). No objections.

e.	23/00325/COUNOT R. Gibson and Sons Ltd Land off Heath Road St Osyth	<p>Prior Approval Application under Part 3, Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for change of use of existing agricultural building into one 2 bedroom single storey dwelling with two parking spaces.</p> <p>Whilst it is acknowledged that the proposed development falls within the scope of Part 3, Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), the Parish Council objects to this application on the basis that not only is the proposed development outside of a Settlement Development Boundary, but that the order itself, is enabling development in areas where ordinarily permission would not be granted. However, due to the Change of Use Notification, it is becoming more and more common place for properties to be developed in areas which have historically been tied to agriculture.</p>
f.	23/00341/NDPNOT Bourne Leisure Limited Orchards Holiday Village Colne Way Point Clear Bay	<p>Application under Part 14, Class J of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for proposed installation of panels with the following proposed system: 263.2 kwp (max 658 panels) east, west and south facing system, the majority of which will be mounted flat-to-roof with the remainder ballasted, panels will not come within 1.5 metres of the roofs edge.</p> <p>No objections.</p>
g.	23/00353/FULHH Mr & Mrs Blofield Maple House, Old School Close St Osyth	<p>Proposed loft conversion, including rooflight windows externally.</p> <p>No objections.</p>
h.	23/00356/TCA Roman River Trees Ltd 91 Mill Street, St Osyth	<p>1 No. Eucalyptus - fell to ground level.</p> <p>Invalid Application</p>
i.	23/00359/TCA Ms M Eales Kassia, Old School Close St Osyth	<p>1 No. Eucalyptus - fell.</p> <p>This application is referred to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.</p>

OM-22-233 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) from 13th February 2023 to 3rd March 2023.
- b. Correspondence from residents of Cow Lane, Point Clear to TDC, copied to the Parish Council with regards to unauthorised development in Cow Lane.

- c. Correspondence from Tendring District Council in respect of Planning Appeal APP/P1560/W/22/3311836 (TDC 22/00315/FUL) Land Rear of 172 Point Clear Road, Point Clear.
 - i. It was requested that the Clerk submit representation on behalf of the Parish Council, objecting to the application.
- d. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that having attended the Planning Inquiry at Clacton Town Hall on 7th March 2023, in respect of St John's Plant Centre, Earls Hall Drive, St Osyth (PINs APP/P1560/W/22/3308647 & TDC 21/01000/FUL refer), it was likely that the Appeal would be upheld, given that the District Council had withdrawn its single remaining objection which had focused on traffic and road safety.

OM-22-234 FORMAT OF MEETINGS & COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS:

Cllr. Sinclair addressed the Council with regards to Councillor's reports, stating that whilst it had been suggested that reports be provided to the Clerk ahead of meetings, there was still a requirement for Councillors to narrate their respective reports. This, she continued, would ensure that issues were not glossed over. Councillors would be afforded the opportunity to raise comments, questions or concerns, but more importantly, members of the public present would have a better understanding of the issues being dealt with by the Council and the work of individual Councillors in the performance of their duties as a member of the Parish Council.

- a. Cllr. Sinclair moved that all Councillor's reports be narrated and discussed if necessary, so as to ensure transparency on the part of the Parish Council.
- b. **RESOLVED:** That with immediate effect, any report submitted by a Councillor for the attention of the Council be narrated and discussed if necessary. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Sinclair and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.

OM-22-235 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 16th February 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. Atkins and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.

OM-22-236 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-22-217 a ii. The Clerk informed the Council that having received individual comments from Councillors in respect of the Sailing Barge May Community Bakery CIC, he would collate them all and reply to the Director of the Community Incorporated Company on behalf of the Parish Council.
- b. OM-22-217 b. The Clerk informed the Council that whilst he had not received a formal response to his letter of 19th December 2022, from Cllr. Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, concerning the delay in the safety improvements to the crossroads, he was aware that Cllr. Goggin would be addressing the issue on behalf of Cllr. Scott when he [Cllr. Goggin] gave his report to the Parish Council.

- c. OM-22-223. The Clerk informed the Council that having been proof read by Cllr. Kelly, the Annual Parish Report had been forwarded to Entrac Printing for inclusion in the April edition of the Parish magazine.

OM-22-237 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- a. A member of the Dumont Hall Management Committee enquired of Cllr. Talbot as to the best point of contact at the District Council to discuss the income which the hall should be receiving for hosting a bottle bank.
 - i. As the Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee, Cllr. Thomas confirmed that the Village Hall received regular payments for the bottle banks located at the front of the hall.
 - ii. Cllr. Talbot suggested that Jonathan Hamlet would be the best point of contact. The Committee member stated that they had experienced difficulties in being able to contact Mr Hamlet, who had not replied to any telephone calls or emails. Cllr. Talbot stated that he would liaise with the relevant department.
 - iii. The Clerk stated that he would look to provide a point of contact other than Mr Hamlet.
- b. A member of the public stated that it was very much appreciated that the Parish Council had appointed Cllr. Lockwood as the Council's representative for matters such as the use of Personal Water Craft (PWC) and meetings with the Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners and/or the Brightlingsea Harbour Master.
 - i. The member of the public continued that whilst not against the use of PWC, a number of residents of Point Clear Bay had concerns over the anti-social use of the craft, especially in the area of Ray Creek, and that the issue was complicated involving authorities and agencies such as Tendring District Council, Colchester Borough Council, and Essex Police. They concluded by stating that they would be happy to meet with Cllr. Lockwood to discuss the matter further.
 - ii. Cllr. Lockwood was requested to liaise with the member of the public.
- c. A member of the public expressed concern at the lack of sufficient street lighting along Point Clear Road, where there were considerable distances between street lights, something which was of major concern to some residents. They continued that it would be appreciated if the Parish Council would consider additional lighting.
 - i. Cllr. Kelly stated that she had, together with a former member of the Council, measured the distances between all of the street lights along Point Clear Road, the findings of which had been forwarded to Essex Highways.
 - ii. Cllr. White commented that some of the lights were deemed as footpath lights, hence why they were set so far back from the road. He confirmed that the Council had previously tried to have additional lights installed, however, Highways had not supported the request.

- iii. The Clerk stated that he had the relevant information about the number of lighting units and the distances between each, which we would bring to the attention of the Council.

OM-22-238 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities regarding the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.
- b. Correspondence from 20's Plenty for Essex regarding the lowering of the speed limit throughout residential areas.
- c. Correspondence from a resident of The Bury expressing concern over the number of potholes and condition of certain footways.
- d. Correspondence from a resident of The Bury expressing concern over the effectiveness of the recently installed speed cushions at the crossroads.

OM-22-239 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for February 2023, as per the circulated list were agreed by the Council.
 - i. Cllr. Sinclair enquired as to the payment to A&J Lighting, in respect of the repair of a street light in Alpha Road. The Clerk stated that the street light in question was one of the 34 lights throughout the Parish for which the Parish Council was responsible.
 - ii. Cllr. Ward enquired as to the payments to Majestic Gardens. The Clerk informed the Council that this was the company name of the contractor who undertook certain work for the Parish Council, such as the fixing of bins which had been ripped from their mounts at Cowley Park, or the fixing of loose benches in the Cemetery.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:

Current a/c	£134,792.26
Deposit	£53,268.77

OM-22-240 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

- a. **Cemetery Committee:** Having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Cemetery Committee of 20th February 2023, were noted.
 - i. Cemetery Fees:
 - a) The proposed increase to the existing fees having been previously circulated, Cllr. Sinclair reminded the Council of the recommendation of the Cemetery Committee, that there should be an increase in respect of the purchase of Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial, administration fees, the use of the Chapel and the permission to erect a memorial or add an additional inscription, with the following increases being recommended:

- i) Exclusive Right of Burial (burial) from £820.00 to £850.00.
- ii) Exclusive Right of Burial (ash) from £520.00 to £550.00.
- iii) Administration fee from £220.00 to £250.00.
- iv) Use of the Chapel from £120.00 to £150.00.
- v) Permission to erect a memorial from £180.00 to £200.00.
- vi) Permission to add an additional inscription from £45.00 to £75.00.

b) **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council ratify the recommendation of the Cemetery Committee, made during its meeting of 20th February 2023, (C-22-036 d refers), to increase certain fees for 2023/2024. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Coe and seconded by Cllr. French. All agreed.

ii. Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

a) Cllr. Sinclair informed the Council of an email which she had received from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission seeking permission for the siting of a commemorative sign detailing CWGC graves located within the Cemetery.

i) Cllr. Sinclair thanked the Community Warden for locating the four graves within the Cemetery, before suggesting that the Council should increase public awareness of the graves by not only mounting the plaque to be provided by the CWGC, but by also placing information about the four servicemen in the notice board in front of the Chapel.

ii) Having named the four servicemen;

Aircraftman 2nd Class James Herbert Amor.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Aircraftman 2nd Class Charles Edward Bush.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Pilot Officer John Edgar Gunning.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Major Cecil Walter Wright.
9th Super Heavy Battery, Royal Artillery.

Cllr. Sinclair narrated the London Gazette article detailing the actions of Major Wright, in Flanders on 22nd October 1918, for which he was awarded the Military Cross.

b) **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council endorse the request of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to site a commemorative plaque in St Osyth Parish Cemetery, and that details of the four servicemen be displayed in the Cemetery notice board. The motion was proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. French. All agreed.

iii. Opening of the Cemetery Chapel

- a) Cllr. Sinclair reported on the opening of the Chapel between 2 pm and 4 pm on Saturday 18th March 2023, for residents to lay flowers and reflect on loved ones, ahead of Mother's Day. Cllr. Sinclair stated that she would be in attendance, but that Councillors would be more than welcome should they wish to join her.

OM-22-241 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** Cllr. Ward reported that she would be asking the former Chairman, Mrs Sonia Grantham, to accompany her to look at plants ready for the summer blooms.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** It was agreed that this matter be deferred until the arrival of Cllr. Goggin.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The Clerk informed the Council that a meeting had been arranged for 11th April 2023.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:** The notes of the meeting of 21st February 2023 having been previously circulated, Cllr. Ward invited questions from those present. None were forthcoming.
 - i. Cllr. Ward informed the Council that the Working Party was in need of an additional member. It was agreed that this gap be filled following the elections on 4th May 2023.

OM-22-242 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the crime statistics for January 2023. For the benefit of the public present, Cllr. Kelly stated that the figures reviewed by the Council were always 2 months behind, due to the way in which they were published on a Police website.
 - i. Cllr. Kelly informed the Council of offences in Point Clear by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.
 - ii. In the absence of Cllr. Cooper, the Clerk informed the Council of offences in St Osyth by location and where practicable the status of the investigation.
- b. **Footpaths:**
 - i. Cllr. Atkins informed the Council that he had removed a damaged and out of date map from Footpath 18. He continued that the respective landowner was willing to allow for a new updated map to be sited on their land, detailing the permissive section of the footpath.
 - ii. Cllr. Atkins informed the Council that he had a number of way markers but had no posts on which to mount them. The Community Warden stated that he could purchase posts for Cllr. Atkins. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the RFO about funding.
- c. **Benches:** Nothing to report.

- d. **Litter Bins:** Cllr. Ward reported that the heritage bins in the centre of the village were due to be cleaned in the near future.
- e. **Planters:** Nothing to report.
- f. **Tree Warden:**
 - i. Cllr. French gave an update on the planting of the Queen Elizabeth II Arboretum, which had taken place on Friday 17th February 2023, during which 49 trees had been planted by a specialist team, residents of the Parish, or by representatives of Parish organisations and businesses. Cllr. French subsequently passed round a sample of the engraving for the planned interpretation boards which were to be sited in the area of the Arboretum.
 - ii. Cllr. Thomas explained that the interpretation boards would list amongst other things, the species of trees, names of residents, organisations and businesses who had sponsored the trees, together with a 'social history' board which would provide a snapshot of the Parish in 2022/2023.
 - a) It was requested that the Parish Council have sight of the wording for the social history board before it was finalised.
 - iii. A conversation ensued as to how the boards would stand up to the elements, with Cllr. Atkins enquiring as to whether they would be covered with perspex. The Clerk stated that the existing board at the entrance to the play area, which had been erected in 2017, had to the best of his knowledge, not been treated since its installation.
 - a) The Community Warden corrected the Clerk, stating that he had oiled the board in 2022.
 - iv. Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that there had been an occasion whereby young children had been observed playing football in the vicinity of the trees, however, following an approach to the Headteacher of the Primary School by Mrs Grantham this had ceased.
- g. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**

Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

 - i. The next meeting of TDALC is next Wednesday, and I will report at the next meeting, which is of course the last meeting of this four-year cycle.
- h. **District Councillor's Report:**
 - i. Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
 - a) This is now the period before the District and Parish Council Elections on 4th May, which has always been known as 'Purdah' but now, to comply with modern sensibilities, has been renamed as the "Pre-Election Period".

- b) The importance of this, particularly for your District Councillors, is that they must not use methods to publicise themselves, that are not available to any other election candidates. Any report John or I give could be regarded as publicity provided and paid for by the Parish Council, so any report will be very guarded until after 4th May 2023.
- c) Last night during a virtual All Members Briefing on the subject of Climate Change, Jules Pretty, a Professor of Environment and Society from the University of Essex, introduced himself by referring to 'Net Zero Carbon' targets, stating that if as a country we are still talking about the subject by the end of 2030 we are too late. I think this professor liked the dramatic statement. I wanted to ask him how his statement compared with the Government target of 2050, but I had problems with my computer, so when I was called to speak nobody could hear me.
- d) Preparation work for the new Waste and Recycling contract is well under way, but I must not commit a new Administration, after 4th May, to the expense of a decision which I have been partly responsible for.

Cllr. Talbot concluded by stating that he hoped his report gave members of the public present an insight into his role as a District Councillor.

ii. Cllr. White gave the following report:

- a) That there had been a number of complaints concerning the lack of Planning Enforcement by the District Council, which now had 4 officers dealing with cases, some of which had been ongoing for some 18 years.
- b) That of the 123 outstanding cases throughout the District, 84 were in the Parish of St Osyth, the majority of which were on the Bel-Air Chalet Estate. The next largest number of enforcement cases in a single Parish was 23.
 - i) Cllr. Kelly stated that the enforcement officers had recently visited some of the holiday parks in the area, requesting to see proof of the owners' main address, by way of ID, to confirm that the caravans were not being used as a main residence.

i. **Website:** Cllr. Lockwood reported that he had fixed a bug on the website and that following the meeting of Monday 30th January 2023, attended by himself, the Clerk and Andy Booth of Naglotech, improvements to the website, were under way.

At 8.18 pm, the meeting was paused to allow for a comfort break. The meeting resumed at 8.21 pm.

OM-22-243 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair reported that the next meeting of the Charity was in April 2023.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:**
 - i. The Clerk reported on the installation of the new CCTV system at Cowley Park.
 - ii. The Clerk informed the Council that the roller had been sold for the sum of £1,000.00, and that with the removal of other items, the garage could now be used by Elmden Rovers Youth Football Club.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:**
 - i. Cllr. Thomas reported that a defibrillator had been installed in the main foyer of the Village Hall, and that a video on how to use the device had been forwarded to members of the Management Committee and representatives of organisations which used the hall.
 - ii. Cllr. Thomas reported that the next meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for May 2023.
 - iii. Cllr. Coe enquired as to how many parking tickets had been issued since the Management Committee had stopped non hall users from parking in the car park. The Clerk stated that he was aware of 2 tickets being issued which had resulted in fines.
- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** Nothing to report.

OM-22-244 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.25 pm, Cllr. Goggin began his report by addressing the Council on the installation of the speed cushions at the crossroads.
 - i. Cllr. Goggin stated that having previously resided in Point Clear for 23 years, he was fully aware of the need for safety improvements to the crossroads, and that he had been present on the evening of 6th March 2023, when the speed cushions had been installed.
 - ii. He added that he had returned on 9th March, to view the effectiveness of the cushions, during which time he had entered the Warm Hub which was being held in The Hoy, at the request of the former Chairman of the Council, Mrs Sonia Grantham.
 - iii. Cllr. Goggin stated that the reality was that the speed cushions should not be there at all, as the onus was on drivers to obey the existing signs and to negotiate the crossroads safely. However, the problem of safety had been evident for many, many years, during which time every possible solution had been considered.

- iv. Cllr. Goggin informed all present that the issue of safety did not extend simply to the installation of the speed cushions, which were deemed the most suitable compromise, and that when taking into account other factors such as new signage, the repainting of existing road markings and resurfacing works to enable the cushions to be laid, he estimated the scheme to be in excess of £100,000.00.
- v. Cllr. Goggin stated that he had not seen a way for motorists to avoid the speed cushions and that he had not received any reports of collisions since they had been installed. There would also need to be a period of assessment, with the summer months being the ultimate test as to their effectiveness.
- vi. A number of Councillors stated that they had witnessed some motorists driving between the cushions, especially those on The Bury or Colchester Road, or that vehicles were simply driving straight over them as they were too low. These observations were reiterated by a member of the public, who stated that they were also able to drive straight over or between the cushions.
 - a) Cllr. Goggin stated that he could not condone the act of driving between the cushions, as this meant drivers were deliberately driving on the wrong side of the road in order to avoid a traffic calming measure.
 - b) He continued that he was aware of numerous comments on social media, many of which were ill-informed.
 - c) The Clerk cited one post on Facebook, where a resident had stated that they had been able to drive over the speed cushions towards the crossroads at a speed in excess of 30 mph, without the speed cushions having any effect.
 - i) The Clerk stated that such mentality was ridiculous, as the resident was knowingly driving at a speed of 30+ mph into a known accident blackspot. He continued those actions were the problem, not the height or width of the cushions, not the lack of traffic lights which many residents claimed to be the only solution, but the actions of residents themselves, or indeed visitors to the holiday parks, all of whom were aware of the crossroads.
- vii. Several Councillors stated that they had been under the impression that the speed cushions would be the full width of the road. Cllr. Goggin stated that the process of planning for the installation of the speed cushions involved consultations with the bus companies and Highway safety experts, who had advised against the use of full width cushions.
 - a) Cllr. Ward stated that the plans which had been viewed by the Parish Council did indicate that there would be 2 cushions on each road, as opposed to a single full width cushion.

- b) Cllr. Goggin stated that ultimately the cushions, which had been deemed the most practicable solution by 3 different safety experts, were there to save lives.
- viii. Cllr. Goggin addressed the Council on the lack of a response from Cllr. Lee Scott to the Clerk, stating that the member of staff who had been given the task of compiling the response was no longer an employee of the County Council, and that Cllr. Scott had been of the understanding that the response had been forwarded to the Parish Council prior to the departure of the former employee.
- a) Cllr. Goggin added that the matter had been referred to the County Council's Scrutiny Committee and that such a situation would never happen again. He continued that it had been acknowledged that the project had involved instances of bad planning and the involvement of too many people. The lessons learnt would not be ignored.
- ix. Cllr. Lockwood stated that the issue appeared to be the lack of a nominated Project Manager, as the entire process had been plagued from start to finish.
- a) Cllr. Goggin stated that the project had been overseen correctly, however, two of the principal officers associated with the project had left the employment of the County Council before the project came to fruition, which resulted in the loss of local knowledge. He continued that project surrounding the safety improvements to the crossroads was the single biggest amount spent by the Local Highways Panel in 2022/2023.
- x. Cllr. White stated that whilst the cushions had been installed, the problem of drivers parking in the immediate vicinity of the crossroads, especially outside of the butchers continued. He continued that whilst the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) did carry out occasional patrols and had previously been paid directly by the Parish Council for additional enforcement, they were not there enough.
- a) Cllr. Goggin stated that parking was an entirely separate issue from that of safety.
 - b) Cllr. Lockwood remarked that he was aware that the NEPP were responsible for matters such as the marking and enforcement of red lines, and implementation of 20 mph zones.
 - i) Cllr. Goggin stated that the Council should be 'careful what they wish for' with regards to red lines, as all Parking Partnerships were self-funding, with the quickest form of income being the issuing of fines. In the case of red lines once a fine was issued that was it, there would be no mitigating factors or possibility of challenging the fine. With regards to 20 mph zones, Cllr. Goggin stated that these were deemed as unenforceable and that even the Police would not look to enforce them.

- xi. In concluding, Cllr. Goggin advised the Parish Council to monitor the effectiveness of the speed cushions and that once collated any findings should be forwarded to Essex Highways.

OM-22-245 PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL PARISH REPORT:

The Clerk reminded the Council that this matter had already been discussed earlier in the meeting (OM-22-223 c refers).

OM-22-246 COUNCIL ELECTIONS – THURSDAY 4TH MAY 2023:

The Clerk informed Councillors that he was in possession of Nomination Packs, which they could obtain from him after the meeting.

- a. The Clerk informed all present of the new changes to voting, by way of the Elections Act 2022, which now required anyone voting to produce an acceptable form of photo ID, which included a driving licence, passport or bus pass.
- b. The Clerk reported that if a person did not have a form of photo ID, it would be possible to complete and download a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) via the Gov.UK website. The Clerk continued that he had drafted an article for the Parish magazine informing residents that if they did not have any form of photo ID or access to the internet, the Parish Council staff would assist them in obtaining a Voter Authority Certificate.

OM-22-247 MAINTENANCE OF PARISH STREET SIGNS:

The Clerk informed Councillors that he was in possession of the respective lists of street signs, which would be distributed at the end of the meeting. The Clerk informed Councillors that their respective lists were required by 31st March 2023.

OM-22-248 TDC SURVEY OF THE BEL-AIR CHALET ESTATE:

At the request of Cllr. Sinclair, Cllr. White informed the Council that TDC had undertaken a survey of unauthorised occupation on the Bel-Air Chalet Estate, and that officers were looking at taking enforcement action against those found to be in breach of planning conditions.

OM-22-249 CULLING OF DEER:

Cllr. Lockwood informed the Council of a recent incident, which had been the subject of numerous posts on social media, whereby 9 deer had been culled in the Deer Park of St Osyth Priory, in full view of the public. He continued that having been shot, the deer were then butchered in sight of both the public and remaining deer.

- a. A discussion ensued during which the general consensus was that whilst there was a recognised need for the culling of deer herds, those responsible for the culling should have been more discreet and should also have moved the carcasses before butchering the felled animals.
- b. The Clerk was requested to write to Mr Tim Sargeant to express the concerns of the Council at how the situation had been managed.

OM-22-250 CLIMATE CHANGE:

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

OM-22-251 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Thomas thanked Cllr. Blockley for her time as Chairman of the Parish Council.
- b. Cllr. Lockwood requested that the subject of Personal Water Craft be an agenda item at the April meeting.
- c. Cllr. Coe raised the issue of parking along Rochford Road during the school drop-off and collection times, stating that whilst he could appreciate the concerns of the Village Hall Management Committee in respect of parents parking in the Village Hall car park, it would be sensible if it could be used as an overspill car park.
 - i. Cllr. Thomas stated that the Primary School had previously been asked to inform parents that they should not use the Village Hall and should instead park in the area of the garages on Johnson Road, which was in fact larger than the car park at the hall.
- d. Cllr. Goggin reported that some pupils were now having to travel considerable distances to attend school, as their parents had only submitted one choice, often for the nearest school, which had subsequently been rejected.
- e. Cllr. Sinclair thanked the PCCA for hosting the meeting and the members of the public for attending, adding that they were more than welcome to attend meetings at the Village Hall.

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 20th April 2023, at St Osyth Village Hall.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 16th March 2023

OM-22-233 c	Planning Inquiry	Clk to write to PINs
OM-22-237 a iii	Dumont Hall Bottle Bank	Clk to liaise with TDC
OM-22-237 b	Use of PWC	Cllr. Lockwood to action
OM-22-237 c iii	Street Lighting along Point Clear Road	Clk to action
OM-22-242 b ii	Posts for Way Markers	Clk/CW to action
OM-22-242 f ii a)	Interpretation Boards	Clk to action
OM-22-247	Maintenance of Street Signs	Cllr's to action
OM-22-249 b	Culling of Deer	Clk to action
OM-22-251 b	PWC as an Agenda Item	Clk to action

Signature: *[Signed on Original]*
KJE Sinclair
Acting-Chairman