



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council
held at Dumont Hall, Point Clear
on Thursday 20th July 2023 at 7.00 pm



PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Karen Sinclair, Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Julie Ward
Cllr's Sue Ball, Alma Blockley, David Cooper, Ray French,
Mandy Kelly, Michael Talbot, Michele Thomas & John White

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Clive Atkins (Prior Engagement)
Cllr. Jake Moore (Work Commitment)

MINUTES: Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Eleven

OM-23-066 RECEIPT OF ELECTRONIC AGENDA:

The Chairman enquired as to whether Councillors had experienced any problems where the emailing of the agenda pack was concerned.

- a. The Clerk informed the Council that having learnt that Cllr. Talbot had experienced difficulties with his Parish Council email account, he [the Clerk] had visited Cllr. Talbot and had resolved the issue. The Clerk stated that he was willing to assist any Councillor who might be experiencing an issue with their email accounts.
 - i. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that thanks to the Clerk, he [Cllr. Talbot] was now able to switch between accounts without having to log out of individual accounts.
- b. Cllr. White stated that as he already had six different email addresses, he did not want an additional account for the Parish Council.
 - i. The Chairman stated that as Council related emails should not be forwarded to private email accounts, the Clerk would forward all emails to Cllr. White's Tendring District Council email account.

OM-23-067 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, Other Registerable or Non-Registerable Interests in any matter to be discussed.

OM-23-068 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	<p>22/01100/FUL Mr & Mrs Hooper Land south of St Cleres Hall Cottages & St Cleres Hall St Cleres Hall Lane, St Osyth</p>	<p>Proposed erection of single self-build/custom build dwelling with access onto the highway.</p> <p>The Parish Council reaffirms its objections of 22nd August 2022, detailed below:</p> <p>The Parish Council object to this application on the basis that it is outside of the Settlement Development Boundary (SDB), is located within the Coastal Protection Belt, as defined by paragraphs 7.2.1 – 7.2.3 (highlighted by the South East Tendring District Policies Map), of the Local Plan and point a of Policy PPL 2, which states:</p> <p><i>Within the Coastal Protection Belt, as shown on the Policies Maps and Local Maps, the Council will:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>a. protect the open character of the undeveloped coastline and refuse planning permission for development which does not have a compelling functional or operational requirement to be located there.</i></p> <p>Furthermore, the application is contrary to point e of Policy PPL 3, which states that:</p> <p><i>The Council will protect the rural landscape and refuse planning permission for any proposed development which would cause overriding harm to its character or appearance, including:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>b. protected lanes, other rural lanes, bridleways and footpaths.</i></p> <p>It is also the view of the Parish Council that the application fails to comply with Policy LP 7 of the Local Plan, in that whilst it is deemed as a proposed self-build/custom build dwelling, it is not being built</p> <p><i>‘as part of the mix of housing on large residential developments and the one-for-one replacement of an existing dwelling, of any size, in the countryside outside of settlement development boundaries.’</i></p> <p>Were the District Council to approve this application, it would set a precedence for development, both along St Cleres Hall Lane and other rural lanes within the Parish/ District.</p>

b.	23/00707/LBC Messrs R.A T.R D.R & A.I Sargeant St Osyth Priory The Bury, St Osyth	Proposed internal fixtures and fittings pursuant to 22/00662/LBC. No objections.
c.	23/00826/FULHH Mr J Morton Sunnydene Nassau Road, St Osyth	Erection of part single storey part two storey rear extension. No objections.
d.	23/00879/FULHH Mr & Mrs Nazaru Lakeside Oaks 19 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Proposed single storey rear extension to form kitchen/lounge area. No objections.
e.	23/00978/FULHH Mr R Freeman 147 Clacton Road St Osyth	Proposed removal of existing conservatory and replace with new single storey rear extension. No objections.
f.	23/00924/TELCOM Freshwave Facilities Limited c/o Orchards Holiday Village Colne Way Point Clear Bay	Prior Approval Application under Part 16, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for proposed erection of a 22.5m monopole, supporting 3 no. antenna apertures and associated ancillary work. No objections. <i>For information only – no comment required.</i>
g.	23/00994/TELLIC Telefonica UK Limited The Warren Cow Lane, Point Clear	Proposed installation of an electronic communications apparatus in an emergency, as defined in Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984, as amended by the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003 (as amended). Approved on 18th July 2023. <i>For information only – no comment required.</i>

OM-23-069 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) from 9th June 2023 to 7th July 2023.
- b. Correspondence from St Osyth Church of England Primary School with regards to the siting of permanent advertising at the entrance to St Osyth. The Clerk informed the Council that during a conversation with the author of the correspondence, he [the Clerk] had advised that the author liaise with the District Council, as the proposal would almost certainly require planning permission.
- c. Correspondence from Tendring District Council with regards to a Breach of Planning Control in respect of Unauthorised Advertising (23/00178/ADV refers).

The Clerk informed the Council that having discussed the numerous posters throughout the district, advertising events in Weeley in August 2023, with the District Council's Planning Enforcement Team, it had been confirmed that the posters, which had been erected without permission, could be deemed as flyposting and could therefore be removed.

OM-23-070 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 15th June 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. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.

OM-23-071 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-23-051 a iv a). The Clerk reminded the Council that a visit to the Willow Plantation would be included as part of the Annual Parish Appraisal on 1st August 2023.
- b. OM-23-054 a ii. The Clerk informed the Council that the blooms at Chisbon Heath were being watered by a contractor.
- c. OM-23-054 b. The Clerk reminded the Council that the Highways Working Party had met on 12th July 2023, and that several matters resulting from that meeting would be discussed later in the meeting.
- d. OM-23-058 c. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the District Council with regards to the maintenance of open spaces within the village, but that he had yet to receive any response.
 - i. The Chairman enquired of Cllr's Talbot and White whether they had, in their capacity as District Councillors, raised the concerns of the Parish Council, as had been requested at the June meeting.
 - ii. Neither Councillor reported having liaised with the District Council.
- e. OM-23-061. The Clerk reminded the Council that the proposal to increase Councillor's Allowances would be discussed latter in the meeting.
- f. OM-23-063. The Clerk informed the Council that two residents had submitted applications to fill the vacant position by way of co-option. It was agreed that the Personnel Committee should oversee the co-option process and submit a recommendation to the Council at its next meeting.
- g. OM-23-064. The Clerk informed the Council that he had yet to liaise with the St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust with regards to the appointment of Cllr. Thomas as the Council's representative.
- h. OM-23-067 a i. The Clerk reminded Councillors that the issue of email accounts had been discussed, and that Councillors should contact him directly if they had any email related problems.

OM-23-072 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- a. A member of the public addressed the Council on a previous request to have cycle paths integrated into the existing Public Right of Way (PRoW) network. The member of the public stated that an organisation named Essex Pedal Power had been successful elsewhere in creating shared pathways, and subsequently requested that the Parish Council take up this matter again with Essex Highways.
- b. A member of the public expressed concern over the appearance and condition of Point Clear Bay. They stated that area, which could be a lovely environment, was rapidly deteriorating and that despite previous assurances from the Orchards Holiday Park with regards to the repair of potholes and street lighting, these had not yet materialised.
 - i. The member of the public continued that many of the residents of Point Clear Bay felt disenchanted with the current situation, even more so when visitors to the holiday park were overheard making detrimental remarks about the residential area of the bay.
 - ii. The member of the public stated that despite speaking with the management team of the Orchards Holiday Park, there had been no progress, and that residents deserved better.
 - iii. The Chairman stated that together with the Vice-Chairman and a Councillor from Point Clear Bay, she would look to meet with the management team, to discuss how the area could be improved.
 - iv. Cllr. Kelly stated that she would draft a report on previous interactions with the management team, and that she was in possession of a Land Registry document which detailed all areas for which the Orchards Holiday Park was responsible.
- c. A member of the public addressed the Council on the concerns of residents of Westwood Park in respect of the speed limit along the B1027, stating that there had been three fatal road traffic collisions in recent years in the vicinity of the residential park. They continued that whilst the three fatalities had not been attributed to speed, it had been a factor in all three collisions. The member of the public added that with the reopening of the gravel works at Wellwick Wharf, numerous tipper trucks were now passing the residential park daily, often travelling as fast as 60 mph.
 - i. The member of the public informed the Council that despite liaison with Cllr. Alan Goggin, former County Councillor, Andrew Erskine and Cllr. Lynda McWilliams of Great Bentley Parish Council, and the approval of funds in March 2021, there had been no progress to date, other than a public consultation, which highlighted the red tape and bureaucracy associated with the Local Highways Panel.
 - ii. Having acknowledged the concerns of the member of the public, the Chairman enquired as to what was being asked of the Parish Council.

- a) The member of the public requested that the Parish Council write to the Local Highways Panel in support of the residents of Westwood Park, who often did not feel that they were considered part of the village.
- iii. Cllr. Goggin informed the Council that although this was the first occasion on which he had met the member of the public, they had exchanged some 40+ emails. Cllr. Goggin added that he had been involved with the project to reduce the speed along the B1027 since its inception, and that there were certain processes and systems which had to be adhered to.
- iv. For reasons of clarification, Cllr. Goggin informed the Council that there had in fact been ten fatal road traffic collisions along the B1027, and that the three fatalities to which the member of the public had referred were not attributable in any way to speed. One collision had involved two foreign nationals riding a motorcycle on the wrong side of the road, with the third fatality resulting from a motorcyclist colliding with a stationary lorry.
- v. Cllr. Goggin stated that he would personally like to see the entire length of the B1027 reduced to a 40-mph speed limit, adding that at the meeting of the Local Highways Panel on 7th July 2023, the Flaghill project, as it had become known, was the number one priority for the panel, and that the project was currently at stage 8 of 9.
 - a) The member of the public stated that they had previously liaised with Cllr. Mark Carroll, who had confirmed that the design phase had been completed in March 2022, and that the implementation of the scheme was down to the Local Highways Panel.
 - b) Cllr. Goggin stated that he did not know a Cllr. Carroll or what his involvement was with the Local Highways Panel.
 - c) In drawing public participation to a close, the Chairman confirmed that the Clerk would write to the Local Highways Panel.

OM-23-073 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from Cllr. Frank Belgrove, Chairman of the Tendring Association of Local Councils (TDALC) concerning affiliation fees & elected representatives.
- b. Correspondence between a resident of Lee-Over-Sands and Giles Watling, Member of Parliament for Clacton on Sea, copied to St Osyth Parish Council, concerning the anti-social use of off-road motorcycles along the sea wall between Jaywick and Lee-Over-Sands.
- c. Correspondence from Essex Highways regarding the Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy.
- d. Correspondence between a resident and the Clerk with regards to the lack of maintenance of verges within the village.

- e. Correspondence between a resident and the Clerk with regards to various issues within the village.
- f. Correspondence from Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR Pageantmaster concerning the D-Day 80 commemoration/ celebrations. The Chairman stated that it would be sensible to form a Working Party to oversee arrangements, the composition of which would be discussed with the Clerk.
- g. Correspondence between St Osyth Parish Council and Tendring District Council with regards to the maintenance of verges within the village.
- h. Correspondence from St Osyth Parish Council to Cllr. Ivan Henderson, TDC Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism, concerning the Corbeau Rally held on 23rd April 2023.
- i. Correspondence from a resident with regards to the Corbeau Rally held on 23rd April 2023.

OM-23-074 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Cllr. Goggin began his report by stating that it was nice to be back at Dumont Hall, and that it was equally as nice to see an old friend amongst the members of the public present. Cllr. Goggin gave the following report:
 - i. That the number of Highways Repair Teams had increased from 56 to 68, and that there was now a major purge on road surfacing repairs.
 - a) Cllr. Kelly enquired as to why none of the potholes along Point Clear Road were being repaired.
 - b) The Clerk stated that he was in the process of finalising the Parish Council's Member-Led Repair Programme submission to Cllr. Goggin, and that all of the potholes being reported as part of the scheme were in Point Clear.
 - ii. That the recent weather conditions had made many of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) impassable, and that he was looking to organise a meeting with representatives of the Councils within his Ward and the PRoW officers, to discuss the Service Level Agreement, of which St Osyth was already part of.
 - iii. That a consultation regarding subsidised bus routes was ongoing. Cllr. Goggin urged residents to respond to the consultation which was looking to increase the subsidised amount of £5.00 per journey to £10.00 per journey.
 - iv. Having been discussed during public participation, Cllr. Goggin's report in respect of the Local Highways Panel was noted.

Due to having to attend the meeting of Brightlingsea Town Council, Cllr. Goggin left the meeting at 7.59 pm.

Five members of the public also left the meeting at 7.59 pm.

OM-23-075 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for June 2023, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
 - i. Cllr. Kelly enquired as to the invoice raised by Kipper's Keys.
 - a) The Clerk stated that this was a repair to the door at the rear of the Cemetery workshop.
 - ii. Cllr. Kelly enquired as to the invoice raised by A&J Lighting.
 - a) The Clerk stated that this was for the installation of 4 x LED lighting units.
 - iii. Cllr. Kelly enquired as to the invoice raised by Roger Peak.
 - a) The Clerk stated that this was for the cutting back of vegetation along the footway on Point Clear Road, at Wigboro Wick Corner, following the decision of Essex Highways not to carry out any work, despite the footway being impassable.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:
 - i. Current a/c: £170,989.58
 - ii. Deposit: £53,569.46

OM-23-076 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Blooms in St Osyth:** Cllr. Ward reported that together with Cllr. Blockley, she was watering the blooms as necessary.
 - i. The Chairman thanked both Cllr's Ward and Blockley.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** The notes of the meeting of 12th July 2023 having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited questions of Cllr. Cooper, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Party. None were forthcoming.
 - i. At the request of Cllr. Cooper, the Clerk gave an overview of the decision of the Working Party to recommend that a Parking Survey be commissioned to support the Parish Council's case for the need of parking in or near the centre of the village.
 - a) The Clerk informed the Council, having contacted a number of consultants/ firms, only one within the budget allocated by the Council had responded.
 - b) **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council approve the commission of a parking survey, by Ayen Highway Transport Engineering Consultants, at a cost of £3,561.50. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Ball. All agreed.

- ii. At the request of Cllr. Cooper, the Clerk informed the Council of numerous complaints with regards to the parking of vehicles along Stone Alley, which due to the lack of any enforceable parking restrictions meant that organisations including Essex Highways, the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) and Essex Police were unable to prevent parking within the alley.
 - a) The Clerk informed the Council that having discussed the issue at length, the Working Party had, subject to the approval of the Council, recommended that an application for parking restrictions or the pedestrianisation of Stone Alley should be submitted the Local Highways Panel.
 - b) **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council approve the submission of an application to the Tendring Local Highways Panel for the implementation of parking restrictions in, or the pedestrianisation of, Stone Alley. The motion was proposed by Cllr. French and seconded by Cllr. White. All agreed.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The Clerk informed the Council of several recent incidents whereby the padlocks on the gate of the access road to the car park had been tampered with.
 - i. The Clerk stated that in one case a padlock had been rendered unusable after what seemed to be the end of a screwdriver had been snapped in the lock.
 - ii. On another occasion, the locking mechanism of a padlock had been cut through, and an attempt made to saw through the bolting mechanism of the gate.
 - iii. The Clerk stated that a replacement security padlock, costing £128.00, which would be reimbursed by Essex County Council, had been placed on the gate, since which there had been no further reports of attempts to gain access to the park.
- d. **Playground, Youth & Open Spaces Working Party:**
 - i. Cllr. Ward reported that weather depending, the replacement of the safety surfacing at Dumont Avenue play area was due to begin the week commencing 7th August 2023.
 - ii. At the request of Cllr. Ward, the Clerk briefed the Council as to the progress of the Variation of Condition in respect of the reallocation of the Public Open Spaces Contribution (POSC) from the development at Melinda Lane planning application 18/00379/OUT refers.

OM-23-077 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Allotments:** Cllr. Blockley informed the Council of a request from the Allotment Association to permit the siting of polytunnels on the allotments.
 - i. Cllr. Blockley stated that Clause 5g of the current tenancy agreement stated:

The Tenant must not erect any building temporary or permanent or fencing on the Allotment Garden without prior written consent from the Parish Council.

- ii. Cllr. Blockley stated that members of the Association were requesting permission to use polytunnels measuring no more than 3 m in length by 2.4 m in width by 2 m in height. This, she continued would significantly extend the growing season.
 - iii. **RESOLVED:** That St Osyth Parish Council approve the use of polytunnels (not to exceed 3m x 2.4m x 2m) on the Clacton Road allotments site, and that the Tenancy Agreement be amended accordingly. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Talbot. All agreed.
- b. **Dumont Luncheon Club:** Cllr. Ward reported that the Luncheon Club had not met last week, however, 78 dinners had been present earlier that afternoon.
- c. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the crime statistics for May 2023.
- 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.
- d. **Footpaths:** No report received.
- e. **Tree Warden:** In the absence of Cllr. Atkins, who had taken on the role of Tree Warden from Cllr. French, the Clerk provided a synopsis of the Tree Condition Survey in respect of the Holm Oak in the Cemetery, adding that the tree was to be reassessed on 2nd August.
- i. The Chairman thanked Cllr. French for his work during his tenure as Tree Warden.
- f. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**
Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
- i. TDALC, next meets via Zoom, on Wednesday 26th July, at 7.30 pm. This, once again, clashes with a District Council 'All Member's briefing' which starts at 6 pm. Luckily these meeting are both remote so I can leave one and go straight to the other all from my computer seat.
 - ii. Having been appointed as Chairman of the District Council's Standards and Conduct Committee, I will also chair the TDC/ TDALC/ Parish and Town Council Conduct sub-committee, on which TDALC appoint three senior members. I did ask if I had any 'Conflict of Interest' having been my Parish TDALC representative since 1998, 25 years in all, but was assured I did not have any conflict. A report on business at our next meeting.

- iii. The Clerk informed the Council that every member Council of TDALC was permitted to have two representatives.
 - a) Following a discussion, Cllr. Kelly stated that she would volunteer to be the second TDALC representative for the Parish Council.

g. **District Councillor's Report:**

- i. Cllr. White gave the following report:
 - a) That having received a number of telephone calls complaining about the constant stream of tipper trucks passing through the village, he had visited St Osyth Beach and Cockett Wick Lane, where it had been ascertained that there were in fact two different schemes underway. The first involved the building up of the level of the land at the former breakers yard in Cockett Wick Lane, whereas the second was part of the Environments Agencies improvement of the sea defences at St Osyth Beach/ Jaywick.
 - b) That it would be possible to prebook parking spaces at this year's Air Show, to which 250,000 people were expected to attend.

ii. Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

- a) District Council business has for ten weeks now been undertaken by the new Administration led by Cllr. Mark Stephenson, and all seems to be going smoothly.
- b) At the last Full Council meeting, there was much discussion on the so-called Norwich to Tilbury upgrade proposals by the National Grid. The proposal being to supply London with additional electricity resources, by routing overland, via pylons, through Tendring, connecting where necessary with the offshore windfarms on the way. The discussion was a on a motion seeking some quantifiable benefit to the communities who will have new pylons on their horizon. There is a view that the proper way to bring the offshore electricity across the whole of East Anglia, is to site the cables under the sea around the coast, just as we currently use cables under the sea to obtain some of our electricity from Europe as we have done since 1986.
- c) Today about 4.6% of our electricity come by cable under water, but for the Norwich to Tilbury connection, we are told it is too expensive. We do not accept that answer and continue to press for a route round the coast undersea, to connect Norwich to Tilbury for London's needs!

- h. **Website:** The Clerk informed the Council that he was liaising with Naglotech as to the requirements for the new website.

OM-23-078 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Nothing to report.

b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Cllr. Thomas gave the following report:

- i. That someone had been interfering with the trees in the Arboretum, possibly in the belief that they were helping with the maintenance, however, their actions were creating additional issues.
- ii. That James Choat, the Arboriculturist who had designed the Arboretum, had inspected the site on 19th July 2023, during which time he had identified several minor issues which required action. Cllr. Thomas stated that one positive comment made by James Choat was that ordinarily there could be a 10% tolerance for trees not rooting and therefore dying, however, in this case all 54 trees had rooted and appeared to be doing well.
- iii. That parents of children who were part of Elmden Rovers Youth Football Club were continuing to park on The Bury and along Mill Street.
- iv. At the request of Cllr. Thomas, the Clerk briefed the Council on the request by the St Osyth Rotary Club to place a defibrillator within the Pavilion. The Clerk stated that following the previous request, the Rotary Club had secured funding which had resulted in the actual purchase of a defibrillator. A discussion took place during which the following points were noted:
 - a) Cllr. Ward stated that it would, in her opinion, be better to have the defibrillator mounted on the exterior of the pavilion, so that it was accessible 24/7.
 - b) Cllr. Kelly agreed with Cllr. Ward, adding that the installation of outdoor gym-equipment would warrant the external mounting of the defibrillator.
 - c) Cllr. French informed the Council that despite concerns over vandalism, the device at the King's Arms had never been damaged.
 - d) The Chairman requested that the Council refrain from any further comment until after that they had seen CCTV footage of an incident at Cowley Park.
 - e) At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk, by way of a projector and screen, showed the Council CCTV footage of an incident at Cowley Park, where a bin had been deliberately damaged by several youths, who had kicked the bin from its base in order to move it so that they could kick a ball against the pavilion.
 - i) The Clerk stated that the matter had been reported to the Police, who were now investigating a case of criminal damage, and that having posted a picture of those responsible on social media, to establish their identities, which he was entitled to do, some of the parents of those responsible had responded stating that their children had only moved the bin, or had moved it after it had been knocked over.

- ii) Having seen the CCTV footage, Councillors agreed that the those responsible should be prosecuted, unless they were prepared to make financial restitution.
- f) The Council returned to the discussion about the defibrillator.
 - i) Cllr. Ward suggested that the defibrillator be installed in an area where it would be covered by the CCTV.
 - ii) Following a conversation as to whether the defibrillator should be located within the pavilion or mounted on the exterior of the building, the Council voted that should the Rotary Club wish to provide a defibrillator, it would have to be mounted on the exterior of the pavilion.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Whilst there was no report, the Chairman invited two representatives of the PCCA to address the Council.
 - i. A Trustee of the Association informed the Council that the PCCA could expect to receive an offer for backdated income from the bottle banks, from the District Council within the next three weeks.
 - ii. The Treasurer informed the Council that having received the first electricity bill since the installation of the solar panels, the monthly usage, in monetary terms, had fallen from £267.00 to £31.00, of which £30.00 was attributable to the standing charge.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the next meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for 7th August 2023.
- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:** The Clerk reported that he had yet to write to the Trustees notifying them of the appointment of Cllr. Thomas, as the Council's representative.

OM-23-079 COMMITTEE/ WORKING PARTY MEETING DATES:

- a. Having been previously circulated, the dates of Council / Committee Meetings for July 2023 to May 2024 were noted.
 - i. The Chairman stated that the dates for Cemetery Committee meeting had yet to be confirmed.
 - ii. Cllr. Kelly requested that the times of Playground, Youth and Open Spaces meetings be amended, as due to the bus timetable she would not be able to make a 2.15 pm meeting. It was therefore requested that these meetings commence at 1.45 pm.
 - iii. The Clerk stated that he would forward the amended list once the Cemetery Committee meeting dates had been discussed with the Chairman.

OM-23-080 COUNCILLOR'S ALLOWANCES:

Further to his address to the Council of 18th May 2023, Cllr. White reminded the Council of the increase in allowances, to a maximum of £980.00 for Councillors and £1,305.00 for Chairman, as set by the Tendring District Council Parish Independent Remuneration Panel.

- a. Cllr. White moved that the allowance paid to elected members of the Parish Council increase from £400.00 to £600.00.
- b. Before receiving a formal motion, the Chairman requested the views of individual Councillors:
 - i. Cllr. Ward stated that she was totally against the idea of an increase in allowances, as Councillors should be there to help the residents, and not for financial gain.
 - ii. Cllr. Cooper reminded the Council that at its meeting of 19th January 2023, Councillors had approved an increase of 7% to the existing allowance, and that future increases to Councillor's allowances be in line with that of the District Council. He continued that the increase of 7% had been recorded in the Internal Auditors Report of 26th May 2023.
 - iii. Cllr. French stated that he agreed with Cllr. White, adding that the Council had achieved a lot in recent years.
 - iv. Cllr. Blockley stated that she agreed with Cllr. White, as she spent about £50.00 per week on petrol.
 - a) Cllr. Ward stated that expenses were not intended to cover subsistence or travel costs.
 - v. Cllr. Talbot stated that Cllr. White's proposal was justified and that he would happily second the proposal.
 - vi. Cllr. Thomas stated Councillors should not compare their work to that of the Council staff, who, whenever she visited the office were always working, often under incredible pressure.
 - a) Cllr. Thomas stated that the Council had agreed an increase of 7%, and to suggest that the Council revisit this increase based on past achievements of the Council was nonsense.
 - vii. Cllr. Kelly stated that she agreed with Cllr. White, adding that the current amount had been paid to Councillors since 2014.
 - a) Cllr. Kelly stated that Cllr. Ward did not have to accept her allowance if the increase was approved.
 - b) Cllr. Kelly stated that the Council should find out how much was paid to Councillors from the other Councils in Band 1 of the Parish Independent Remuneration Panel Review, adding that she expected all to be paying their Councillors more than the amount paid to members of St Osyth Parish Council.

- c) Cllr. Kelly stated that given the amount which the Parish Council spent on items such as blooms, an increase in allowances was justified.
- viii. Cllr. Ball stated that she had not been aware that Councillors received an allowance, and that like Cllr. Ward, she had joined the Council to help people.
- ix. The Chairman stated that in the current financial crisis facing the country, it would be impossible to justify an increase of £200.00, and that she could not support an increase which amounted to 50%.
 - a) The Chairman continued that she used her allowances to offset the cost of being a Councillor, when for instance, she would have to take time off from work to attend a Council meeting, or to cover the cost of printing.
 - b) The Chairman reminded the Council that the allowance was exactly that, an allowance, not a source of income.
- c. The Chairman requested that the Clerk provide guidance prior to any vote taking place.
 - a) The Clerk informed the Council that a resolution to increase allowances had already been passed, and that Cllr. White's suggestion that the subject should be revisited due to the Clerk having informed the Finance Committee that he was awaiting the 2023 Independent Remuneration Panel Review was incorrect, as at the time when the resolution had been moved, neither he [the Clerk] nor the RFO had been aware of the existence of the 2023 report.
 - b) The Clerk stated that there was no reason why the Council shouldn't increase allowances, however, to do so on the grounds of previous accomplishments, or as a means of countering previous recommendations of Finance Committee, approved by the Council, not to increase allowances was wrong.
 - c) The Clerk stated that it was his belief that the proposal by Cllr. White was contrary to Standing Orders, and that until such time as he had discussed the matter with the District Council' Monitoring Officer, it was his recommendation that the matter be deferred. He continued that if the Monitoring Officer stated that the resolution, as proposed, could be put to the Council, then he would happily accept that advice, however, in the meantime it would be remiss of him to allow the Council to make a decision which could essentially be ultra vires.
- d. Cllr. Talbot stated that the Council should accept the advice provided by the Clerk.

OM-23-081 ST OSYTH PRIORY:

Having been distributed, the notes of the meeting of 15th June 2023, between the Parish Council, Mr Tim Sargeant and Harriet Vincett-Wilson, City & Country were noted.

- a. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the subjects discussed with Mr Sargeant and Ms Vincett-Wilson should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis when the respective applications were received by the Council.

OM-23-082 CORBEAU SEATS MOTOR RALLY:

Having received additional correspondence from a resident whose property along Frowick Lane had been damaged during the rally held on 23rd April 2023, the Clerk, by way of a projector and screen, showed Councillors video footage of a competitor careering out of control into a field of crops, before performing a doughnut in the field and accelerating through the crop.

- a. The Clerk stated that although he had yet to receive a response to previous correspondence, that he would forward the footage to Cllr. Ivan Henderson, TDC Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism.

OM-23-083 CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR:

The Clerk informed the Council that he had received two applications from residents interested in being co-opted onto the Council.

- a. It was agreed that in order to expedite the appointment of a Councillor, the Personnel Committee should oversee the co-option process and make a recommendation to the Parish Council at its next meeting.
- b. **RESOLVED:** That the Personnel Committee oversee the co-option process for the appointment of a new Councillor, by conducting interviews of the applicants and submitting a recommendation to the Parish Council. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. French. All agreed.

OM-23-084 ANNUAL PARISH APPRAISAL:

The Chairman reminded the Council that the Appraisal was scheduled for 4 pm on Tuesday 1st August 2023.

OM-23-085 CLIMATE CHANGE:

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

OM-23-086 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that the sum of £1,500.00 from the Community Reach Trust had been awarded to the scheme to install grass matting at Cowley Park. Cllr. Talbot stated that the money would not be paid directly to the Council, but that the invoice should be forwarded to the panel, for payment, once installation was complete.
- b. Cllr. Whie offered his apologies for the Annual Parish Appraisal, owing to a District Council Planning Committee site visit and meeting that same day.
- c. Cllr. Kelly enquired as to whether the Council should change its meeting dates from the third Thursday of each month to that of the fourth Thursday, to allow Cllr. Alan Goggin to remain for the duration of the meeting. The Chairman stated that she would discuss his [Cllr. Goggin's] attendance at alternating meetings directly with Cllr. Goggin.

- d. Cllr. Ball informed the Council that there had been an increase in the anti-social use of Personal Water Craft (PWC) and that a Police investigation was ongoing following an incident on 25th June.
- i. Cllr. Ball stated that when she had discussed the problems of PWC with a member of Essex Police, their response had been ‘what are St Osyth Parish Council doing about it.
- ii. Cllr. Ball informed the Council that having met with Cllr. Moore, the latter had suggested a roped of area be created purely for use by swimmers. This would have to be discussed with the Orchards Holiday Park and the Police.
- iii. Cllr. Ball requested that the subject of PWC be an agenda item at the August meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.00 pm.

The date of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 17th August 2023, at St Osyth Village Hall.

Summary of ‘Action Required’ from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 20th July 2023

OM-23-072 a	Use of PRow by Cyclists	Clk to liaise with ECC
OM-23-072 b iii	Meeting with Orchards Holiday Park	Clk to action
OM-23-072 c v c)	Local Highways Panel – B1027 Progress	Clk to write
OM-23-073 f	D-Day 80 Working Group	Chair & Clk to discuss
OM-23-076 b i b)	Commission of Parking Survey	Clk to action
OM-23-076 b ii b)	Parking Restrictions in Stone Alley	Clk to action
OM-23-077 a iii	Use of Polytunnels	Clk to action
OM-23-078 b iv f ii)	Siting of Defibrillator	Clk to liaise with RC
OM-23-078 e	Appointment of Cllr. Thomas	Clk to action
OM-23-079 a iii	Amended List of Meeting Dates	Clk to action
OM-23-082	Corbeau Seats Rally Video Footage	Clk to action
OM-23-083 b	Co-option of a Councillor	PersCom to action
OM-23-086 c	Attendance of Cllr. Goggin	Chair to action
OM-23-086 d iii	Anti-social Use of PWC	August agenda

Signature:
KJE Sinclair
Chairman

[Signed on Original]