



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL

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



PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Karen Sinclair, Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Julie Ward
Cllr's Clive Atkins, Sue Ball, Alma Blockley, David Cooper, Jake
Moore, Michael Talbot, Michele Thomas, Catherine Venables &
John White

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor

Mr James Thomas, Brightlingsea Harbour Master (BHM)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Ray French (Recuperating)

MINUTES: Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Nine

OM-23-151 POINTS OF ORDER AND CONDUCT OF MEETING:

Prior to the meeting commencing, the Clerk narrated the following:

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.

For members of the public:

Should you wish to address the Council, you may do so during public participation only, 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.

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.

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.

Please do not raise any matters which are not on the agenda. Should you wish the Council to discuss a particular matter then you are to contact me directly.

Please do not talk amongst yourselves, as this may delay discussions and possibly result in a matter being deferred until such time as it can be discussed without interruption.

For members of the Council:

I would ask that any questions or comments be directed through the Chairman.

OM-23-152 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-23-153 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- a. A member of the public addressed the Council on the safety of cyclists, especially those using Point Clear Road. Having previously received information from the Clerk regarding the shared use of public footpaths, about which they [the member of the public] acknowledged that there were legal issues preventing this, the member of the public enquired as to the incorporation of cycle lanes into the existing carriageway.
 - i. The member of the public stated that there were already white lines, approximately 12" from the kerb, along the length of Point Clear Road, which if moved an additional three feet into the carriageway would create a cycle lane. This could be facilitated on either side of the road, providing a safe area for the use of cyclists, which could then be used by motor vehicles when there were no cyclists present.
 - a) As a member of the Tendring Local Highways Panel (LHP), Cllr. Goggin informed all present that there was an official Highways publication on cycle safety which he would forward to the member of the public. Cllr. Goggin added that in order for a cycle lane to be considered there had to be at least 300 cyclists per hour and that a two-way cycle lane, from which motor vehicles would be prohibited, would have to be four metres in width. He continued that it was unlikely that Highways would sanction the moving of the existing white lines as this would significantly reduce the width of the road for motor vehicles, and that it would also require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), which would have to include a public consultation.
- b. A member of the public addressed the Council on the use of Personal Watercraft (PWC) in the area of Point Clear Bay, stating that the anti-social use of PWC was not as bad as was being reported and that many of the residents who were complaining simply didn't like seeing the craft on the water.
 - i. The member of the public questioned why some of those complaining had moved to a seaside area, knowing full well that PWC were permitted to launch from and use the water in the vicinity of Point Clear Bay.
 - ii. The member of the public stated that it was the responsibility of the Police to deal with any anti-social behaviour arising from the use of PWC, and that if not launched from Stone Point, users would simply launch from Brightlingsea and make use of the waters in and around Point Clear Bay, including Ray Creek.

- iii. The member of the public stated that not all complaints of anti-social behaviour were as a result of PWC and that kite surfers, many of whom did not abide by the speed limit, posed a greater risk to public safety. The member of the public cited several incidents involving kite surfers which had resulted in fatalities or the launch of RNLI craft to rescue kite surfers.
- iv. The member of the public stated that statistically kite surfers were more of a risk to public safety, and that it was unfair to consider the use of PWC as being anti-social, especially as there appeared to be an intent on the part of the Harbour Commissioners to take control of Stone Point, something which went back over a number of years.

OM-23-154 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

a. Essex County Council:

- i. Cllr. Goggin stated that as a County Councillor, he was required to attend the meetings of Councils within his Ward, and that like two other Councils, St Osyth met on the same night as one of the other Councils, in this case Brightlingsea Town Council. Cllr. Goggin stated that he would have to depart the meeting by 7.50 pm at the latest, due to a matter which needed to be resolved in Brightlingsea. Cllr. Goggin stated that he was, as ever, grateful for the assistance of the Parish Council Chairman and Clerk in dealing with matters within the Parish. Cllr. Goggin gave the following report:
 - a) That some form of Devolution was likely to come into effect within the County, possibly as early as May 2024. In such an event, the County Council would not incur the debts of either Thurrock or Southend.
 - b) Consultations on Devolution would be required, which could cover issues such as public transport, including franchises over which the County Council currently had no control, and which at the current time were purely commercial enterprises.
 - c) That there was an overspend of £16.6 million in respect of children's services and £4.8 million in respect of adult/ OAP care. Given that the County Councils annual budget was £2,000 million, and that the income from ratepayers just about covered the expense of adult social care, there was concern as to increased costs for both children's and adult services.
 - d) That because of recent heavy downpours, some of the drainage systems were unable to cope with the sheer deluge of water, which meant that in some areas water was taking longer to drain from the roads.
 - e) Cllr. Thomas enquired as to the Minerals & Local Plan Members briefing. Cllr. Goggin reported that this related to the quantity of aggregates to be obtained from sites within the county, not only to facilitate construction within the county, but for sale elsewhere within the country.

OM-23-155 ANTI-SOCIAL USE OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC):

The Chairman welcomed James Thomas, Brightlingsea Harbour Master (BHM), and introduced him to the members of the Council. The Chairman stated that before Mr Thomas addressed the Council there were two matters which were to be raised.

- a. On behalf of a resident of Point Clear Bay, Cllr. Ball narrated the following email.
 - i. *As I am unfortunately unable to attend the November council meeting could you please ask the Harbour Master if St.Osyth/Tendring councils could apply for a PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) to cover from Stone Point to Ray Creek inclusive, to protect water users and the environment from antisocial behaviour.*
- b. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the Chief Executive of Bourne Leisure, and that despite several additional emails he had yet to receive an acknowledgment yet alone a response.
- c. At the request of the Chairman, the Harbour Master addressed the Council on the subject of Personal Watercraft.
 - i. The Harbour Master stated that he was not giving a report as such, and that neither himself nor the Harbour Commissioners had any desire or intent to have control of Stone Point. He continued that he was present simply to ask for the support of the Parish Council in engaging with other stakeholders, such as Essex Police, the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex (PF&CCfE), the Orchards, Tendring District Council (TDC) and Colchester City Council (CCC) to work together to address the anti-social use of PWC.
 - ii. The Harbour Master stated that he was not looking to introduce any form of ban on the use of PWC within the vicinity of Point Clear Bay but was looking to defeat the anonymity associated with some PWC owners/ users.
 - iii. The Harbour Master informed the Council that his staff did not have powers of arrest, and that Essex, which has the largest coastline in England, only had a small Marine Police unit. He reiterated that he was not looking to, nor did he want to, stop the use of PWC, but that it was vital to remove the anonymity of certain owners/ users, whose behaviour was at the very least anti-social.
 - iv. The Harbour Master briefed the Council that any PSPO would have to be introduced by Colchester City Council as the authority responsible for the Colne Estuary. He continued that there was a desire for CCC to introduce such legislation, but that it would require persistence on the part of the stakeholders previously mentioned.
 - a) The Harbour Master stated that a PSPO had been successful in Southend and that the introduction of a similar scheme, whatever, it covered, would not be a quick process.
 - b) The Harbour Master stated that it was important to establish a working group and that whatever was implemented could have an effect on the residents of Point Clear Bay.

- d. The Chairman invited members of the Council to comment.
 - i. Cllr. Atkins enquired as to how a PSPO would affect Stone Point and Ray Creek.
 - a) The Harbour Master stated that if the wording of a PSPO was only concerned with anti-social behaviour, there would be no issue if there was no anti-social behaviour.
 - ii. Cllr. Cooper enquired as to the point of a PSPO why Colchester City Council would be the authority to implement it.
 - a) The Harbour Master stated that a PSPO was akin to an Anti-social Behaviour Order (ASBO) and that CCC was the authority responsible for the Colne Estuary. He continued that it would be down to CCC as to the subject of the PSPO, but that it could, for instance, include the need for all PWC to wear a life jacket, to comply with the statutory speed limit on the water, and anything else they [CCC] wished to include.
 - b) The Harbour Master continued that there could be a threshold for the issuing of fines before any ban was implemented, and that the introduction of a PSPO would include a consultation process.
 - iii. Cllr. Moore stated that if the introduction of a PSPO made activities on the water safer for all he had no objection.
 - iv. Cllr. Ball agreed with the comments of Cllr. Moore.
 - v. Cllr. Blockey agreed with the comments of Cllr. Moore.
 - vi. Cllr. Talbot stated that he had strong views on the matter, and that it was his opinion that the problem of anti-social use of PWC was another attempt by the Harbour Commissioners to take control of Stone Point, something which had been ongoing since April 2001.
 - a) Cllr. Talbot narrated an historic email, in which the subject of the installation of a barrier at the ramp over on the sea leading to Stone Point had been detailed. Cllr. Talbot stated that now, like then, he was against any control of access to Stone Point and that the issue of anti-social behaviour by a few PWC owners/users was a matter for the Police.
 - b) The Chairman reminded Cllr. Talbot that neither the Council nor the Harbour Master were looking to ban PWC or restrict access to Stone Point, and that the issue was that of anonymity.
 - vii. Cllr. White stated that he was of the opinion that a law should only be implemented if it could be enforced, and in this case the only organisation which would be able to enforce a PSPO was Essex Police, who were already short of personnel. He continued that the only option was to make an example of those caught operating PWC in an anti-social manner, so that word would spread.
 - viii. Cllr. Venables agreed with the comments of Cllr. White.

- ix. Cllr. Thomas stated that the idea of PWC having to register with the Harbour Master's office, was presumably to show proof of address and ensure that owners/ users had insurance. She continued that payment to the Harbour Master was an issue for some and that like some other members the implementation of a PSPO was questionable.
 - a) The Harbour Master reminded all present that the subject of a PSPO had been raised by a resident, and that it would only be enforceable if owners/ users were doing something contrary to the rules stipulated in a PSPO, if approved.
 - b) The Harbour Master reiterated that he was not looking to ban PWC, adding that by registering with his office it removed the anonymity and made it much easier to identify those responsible for anti-social behaviour.
 - c) Cllr. Thomas suggested that it would be sensible if residents of Point Clear and St Osyth were to receive some form of concession if registering with the harbour master.
 - d) The Chairman suggested that this could be achieved by the production of proof of residency, such as a current Council Tax bill.
- x. Cllr. Venables enquired as to whether other areas charged a fee to register.
 - a) Cllr. Moore stated that almost all launch sites charged a fee.
 - b) The Harbour Master stated that the fee payable to the Harbour Commissioners, by way of harbour dues, was essentially for the use of the water and the harbour facilities.
- xi. Cllr. Ward stated that the problem of PWC had been ongoing for some 20 years, and that she personally was annoyed that there was still no legislation to govern the use of PWC.
- xii. Cllr. Goggin stated that as the Chair of Brightlingsea Waterski Club, a former member of the Colne Estuary Partnership, and the owner of a beach hut, he favoured registration of PWC.
 - a) Cllr. Goggin continued that all members of the waterski club had to be registered, have valid insurance and users' certificate, in addition to paying fees to the Harbour Master.
 - b) Cllr. Goggin stated that anything which increased safety was beneficial and that he was in favour of registration, even if there was a cost involved.
- e. The Chairman informed the Council that she intended to form a Working Party to progress the problem of anti-social use of PWC, adding that it would be good to see the problem resolved by the Spring.

- a) The Chairman informed the Council that she would liaise with the Clerk as to the makeup of the Working Party and report back to the Council once all interested parties had been written to.

Due to having to attend the meeting of Brightlingsea Town Council, Cllr. Goggin left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

The Harbour Master and five members of the public also departed the meeting.

OM-23-156 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	23/01438/TCA Mr I Legett The Old Chapel, 30 Colchester Road, St Osyth	To crown reduce by 50% 1 x Acer Sycamore. This application is referred to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
b.	23/01459/LUEX Mr A Gibson Chapel Barn Crosslands Game Farm Clay Lane St Osyth	Certificate of Lawfulness for the use of the front/side part of the site for the storage of gas bottles for more than 10 years before the date of the application, and the development of the siting of gas tank/bottling equipment on the side/rear part of the site for more than 4 years before the date of the application. Whilst the Parish Council has no objection to the application itself, there remain concerns as to the storage of cylinders, and the requirement for proper and regulated safety measures.
c.	23/01492/FULHH Mr & Mrs Harman 60 Oakmead Road St Osyth	Proposed single storey front extension and two storey side extension. The Parish Council object to this application on the grounds that it is deemed over-development of the western side of the plot, especially given that the neighbouring property will be overlooked by a window in the proposed first floor extension. Additionally, the Parish Council has concerns as to the effects of which the proposed development will have on the neighbouring property by way of loss of light, overshadowing and visual intrusion. The Parish Council would ask that should the District Council be minded to approve this application, then at the very least, the window which will overlook the neighbouring property should be fitted with obscured glass.
d.	23/01522/FULHH Mr P Brown Hill House Flag Hill St Osyth	Proposed revisions to design of replacement garages, approved 3rd October 2014 under application number 14/01130/FUL. The Parish Council have no objections to the application itself, however, there should be a caveat to prevent the garage/ workshop being converted into a dwelling.

OM-23-157 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) from 13th October 2023 to 3rd November 2023.
- b. Letter of 30th October 2023 from the Planning Inspectorate, regarding the approval of Appeal APP/P1560/D/23/3318207 (TDC 22/01763/FULHH) Highbirch Farmhouse, Highbirch Road, St Osyth

OM-23-158 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 19th October 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. Moore and seconded by Cllr. Atkins. All agreed.

OM-23-159 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-23-137 g. The Clerk informed the Council that the Chairman would comment on the appointment of a second representative of the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) later in the meeting.
- b. OM-23-142 d i a) i). The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr. Ward would report on the installation of gym equipment later in the meeting.
- c. OM-23-142 d i d) i). The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr. Ward would report on notifying the Primary School on the installation of gym equipment later in the meeting.
- d. OM-23-143 c i. The Clerk informed the Council that he had drafted a letter to Essex Police, specifically the Tendring District Commander, with regards to the lack of action in respect of the criminal damage in Cowley Park which occurred on 14th June 2023, adding that he was awaiting clarification as to a possible update from PCSO 42073475 Moss, before submitting the letter to the District Commander.
- e. OM-23-144 b vi a). The Clerk informed the Council that items from the pavilion could be stored in the Museum Archives if necessary, and that he was awaiting confirmation of when the items were to be removed by Elmnden Rovers Football Club.
- f. OM-23-148 b. The Clerk reminded the Council that the Essex Police Marine Unit publication had been distributed prior to the meeting.
- g. OM-23-150 a. The Clerk informed the Council that the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) were powerless to take any action due to there being no enforceable parking restrictions in Clinton Close, and that the Police could only deal with any instances whereby the highway or footway were obstructed by a parked vehicle.
- h. OM-23-150 b. The Clerk informed the Council that he had yet to liaise with the Church Warden to ascertain whether there would be Warm Hub in the village for residents this year.

- i. OM-23-150 d iii. The Clerk informed the Council that the concerns over the stability of the Priory walls, caused by the splashing of water, had been raised with Cllr. Goggin, who was escalating the matter with Highways.

OM-23-160 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from Essex County Fire & Rescue Service and SOPC concerning flooding in Point Clear Bay.
- b. Correspondence from a resident of Chisbon Heath about flooding along Rectory Road and Heath Road.
- c. Correspondence from the organisers of the Rally Tendring & Clacton advising of the cancellation of the 2024 event.
- d. Correspondence from Brightlingsea Harbour Master thanking the Parish Council for the Annual Parish Grant.
- e. Correspondence from the Carpet Bowls Club thanking the Parish Council for the Annual Parish Grant.
- f. Correspondence from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) detailing the Local Government Service Pay Agreement for 2023/2024.
- g. Correspondence from a resident expressing concern at the reliability of the No74 Hedingham bus.

OM-23-161 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for October 2023, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:
 - i. Current a/c: £179,291.54
 - ii. Deposit: £53,569.46

OM-23-162 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

- a. **Finance Committee:**
 - i. The draft Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 25th October 2023 having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited questions of Cllr. Cooper, in his capacity as Chairman of the Finance Committee. None were forthcoming.
 - ii. The Clerk drew the attention of the Council to the content of draft Minutes F-23-023 f ii a - c, stating that both the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Public Realm Working Party favoured the replacement of the benches on The Bury, with recycled plastic benches, similar to those recently installed at Priory Meadow.

- iii. In her capacity as Chairman of the Public Realm Working Party, Cllr. Ward informed the Council that she was very impressed with the recycled plastic benches.
- iv. The Chairman added that the benches were manufactured by a company who employed people who were disadvantaged and/or disabled.

OM-23-163 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

a. Public Realm Working Party:

- i. Cllr. Ward informed the Council that the outdoor gym apparatus for each of the three play areas would be installed during the week commencing Monday 20th November 2023.
 - a) Cllr. Ward stated that the project to install the equipment had taken a long time, and that the Council should be proud of its achievement.
 - b) Cllr. Ward added that she had spoken with Mrs Sonia Grantham, the former Chairman of the Parish Council who had requested that pictures of the equipment be included in a future edition of the Parish magazine.
- ii. Cllr. Sinclair reiterated Cllr. Wards comments as to the achievement of the Working Party.

b. **Highways Working Party:** The Clerk informed the Council that together with the Community Warden, he had, on 7th November 2023, met with the consultant who would be preparing the report following the parking survey in the area of The Bury and Mill Street. The Clerk stated that whilst the number of vehicles parked on The Bury during the survey was not as high as had been witnessed on previous occasions, the results proved there was a definite need for off-road parking within that area of the village. The Clerk reported that he hoped to have the report in December or early January 2024.

c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** Nothing to report.

OM-23-164 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Allotments:** Cllr. Blockley reported that there had been a need to employ the services of a pest control firm, at £65.00 per visit, due to an increase in rats on the site.
 - i. The Clerk reported that the situation was exacerbated by the fact that someone was putting food down near the bin at the junction of The Chase and Clacton Road. He continued that the Deputy Clerk was preparing signs to request that this practice cease immediately.
- b. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, Cllr. Cooper briefed the Council on reported crime during September 2023 in St Osyth and Point Clear, by offence and location, and where practicable the status of the investigation.

- i. Cllr. Cooper reported that one of the five crimes listed as having occurred at Great Bently Country Park, was in fact an incident of Violence or Sexual Offences, which had occurred at Westwood Park.
- c. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Atkins reported that he had yet to receive a response from the new Public Rights of Way (PRoW) officer with regards to funding for the production of a footpaths map.
- d. **Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.
- e. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**
Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
 - i. TDALC meets next Wednesday on 22nd November. It will be the usual Zoom Meeting arranged by Frank Belgrove, our Chairman. The agenda includes a visit and talk from Laura Atkinson, the Housing Adviser for the Rural Community Council for Essex (RCCE) Community, and a visit from Cllr Mark Stephenson, Leader of Tendring District Council.
 - ii. May I remind the Council that we are still entitled to two member representatives on the TDALC body.
 - iii. The Chairman informed the Council that she would be attending the virtual meeting.
- f. **District Councillor's Report:**
 - i. Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
 - a) The financial difficulties that beset the country and everyone living here, also has its effect on Local Authorities where 'belt tightening' in financial terms must be a major consideration in every decision we make as Councillors. We in Tendring have been fortunate in receiving considerable grants from Government sources to aid us as an area in need, but do not expect existing services to be expanded to meet expectations.
 - b) It is in circumstances such as this that TDC have been landed with a planning cost award of £101,886.00 against us, for we as a Parish Council, leading support for, and defending the objections of our residents in St John's Road, to plans for a major 180 property development behind their properties. I suppose you could say the Price of Democracy.
 - c) Changes are being brought in by the Government through the Elections Act 2022 that are being phased in over time, with the introduction of Voter ID being the first significant change. The major change will affect postal voters identification, but current postal voters are okay, but need to be aware that change is coming.

- d) Earlier this month residents were told to prepare for the arrival of Storm Ciaran, and here in St Osyth Ward some properties were flooded. The Council's Emergency Teams were here very quickly giving aid where necessary and assuring people that they were present when needed. Fortunately, despite winds of 60 mph and high tides, I am not aware that any resident was hurt because of the storm.
- ii. Cllr. White gave the following report:
- a) That the award of costs against the District Council belittled the work of the Clerk in preparing the objections, on the grounds of transport, to the application for 180 properties on the site of St John's Plant Centre.
 - b) That the statement of the former Portfolio Holder for Housing & Planning, who had been in position at the time of the decision of the District Council's Planning Committee to refuse the application, that the Committee required further training was wholly unwarranted.
 - c) Cllr. White informed that Council that when the application had been refused at the first Appeal, the applicant had addressed all four of the reasons for refusal, before resubmitting a further application. It was the refusal of this second application by the District Council, on the grounds of transport, that had resulted in the second Appeal.
 - d) Cllr. White stated that he maintained that the Planning Committee had been correct in refusing the application in support of residents.
 - i) The Clerk stated that it was the failure of the planning department, not members of the Committee, which had resulted in the award of costs against the Council, as despite receipt of new data from the appellant in October 2022, the Council had not considered the new data, which addressed its [the Councils] concerns until shortly before the Appeal hearing in March 2023.
- g. **Website:** The Clerk informed the Council that he would be liaising with Naglotech the week commencing 20th November 2023, for a progress report.

OM-23-165 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair gave the following report:
- i. That the Almshouse Charity met on 6th November, and we were pleased to welcome a new Trustee, Mr Danny Wilcox, who will be the Parish Church representative.

- ii. The Trustees discussed the replacement of the roof at the Clacton Road properties. It was decided to appoint a building surveyor to manage the project on our behalf. He will carry out a full inspection of the roof, both externally and internally, and prepare tender documents. In the meantime, the bequest has been deposited in a high-interest account.
 - iii. We have also received four years back ground rent for the properties in Clinton Close.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** The Clerk reported that together with the Deputy Clerk, he was researching matting to be used for parking, and that he had met with the groundsman responsible for the marking of the pitches to discuss the rotation of the pitches and area required to facilitate parking.
- i. Cllr. Thomas requested that Cllr. Moore leave the room due to a Pecuniary Interest in a matter which she wished to raise.
 - a) Cllr. Moore subsequently left the room.
 - ii. Cllr. Thomas informed the Council that Cllr. Moore had offered to purchase the frame of the disused practice nets for the sum of £200.00, which included the removal of the frame itself.
 - a) **RESOLVED:** That Cllr. Moore be allowed to purchase the frame of the disused practice nets for the sum of £200.00. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All agreed.
 - b) Cllr. Moore was invited to rejoin the meeting.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** The following report by Cllr. Thomas was noted:
- i. That the last Committee meeting had been held on 26th October.
 - ii. More work had been completed, including loft insulation which had been found to be minimal, if any present. The timely grant from the Parish Council didn't cover the cost but was a major contribution. There were still minor works to be completed, but this would be carried out by Committee members at minimal cost for materials only.
 - iii. A new flag pole had been purchased and erected by Committee members.
 - iv. Grants continued to be pursued as matter of urgency for an air-to-air system in order to greatly reduce the exorbitant cost of gas. The Association had managed to markedly reduce the cost of electricity with the solar panels and batteries, but gas costs could be its nemesis.
 - v. Fund raising efforts had not been rewarded. Bingo was poorly attended and did not even cover hall rental. Quiz nights were monopolised by the Village Hall, so the Association was hopeful that the New Years Eve party would bring some success.

- vi. Bookings were poor despite competitive pricing. The main income was from the affiliated groups including snooker, table tennis, carpet bowls, dog training, Luncheon Club and the Horticultural Society. Occasional tea dances. The Association was now trying to work in collaboration with the Village Hall's newly appointed booking officer.
 - vii. The situation surrounding the bottle bank had moved forward slightly, in that the Association was expecting a payment back dated for 12 years. Payment had been expected by 9th November, however, due to the absence of a main player at TDC this payment had been further delayed. There were still concerns that the tonnage was being mixed in with that of the Village Hall's bottle banks and that the Association was not being afforded the correct weight but as bottle banks may well go in 2026 due to changes in refuse and recycling collections, the Association was making the most of what it currently had.
 - viii. The next quarterly and monthly meetings are to be held on 26th November 2024.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** The following report by Cllr. Thomas was noted:
- i. That the Annual General Meeting (AGM) had been held on 2nd November 2023, during which the Premises Officer had been on holiday and several other affiliated members had failed to attend.
 - ii. Catherine Venables was thanked for setting up the automated booking system during her tenure as Bookings Officer, a role now assumed by Christine Harman.
 - iii. Colin Westripp had been appointed as the new Treasurer, with Steve Coles remaining as Chairman.
 - iv. The account balance, which had been audited by the Rural Community Council for Essex (RCCE), £52,701.00.
 - a) Lettings were up post Covid (£34,137.00)
 - b) The income from the bottle bank had fallen from £2,592.00 to £1,697.00.
 - c) Utilities had increased from £4,696.00 to £7,611.00.
 - v. A National Lottery grant of £10,000.00 for roof repairs had yet to be utilised.
 - vi. There were 25 plus groups using the hall, which could not accommodate any further group bookings.
 - vii. The custodian thanked clubs for the good treatment of the hall such as leaving the premises clean with tables and chairs being stored in the correct place.

- viii. That 27 parking tickets had been issued to people who were not using or attending events in the Hall, but who had nonetheless parked their vehicles in the car park.
- ix. That the Village Hall Open Day on Saturday 11th May 2024 would coincide with the Horticultural Show.
- x. That the third defibrillator training session was scheduled for 29th November 2023.
- xi. That the badminton court had been refurbished, but signs of damage were already evident.
- xii. That the fencing around the recycling area needed renewing.
- xiii. That it had been suggested to locate a 'book exchange' in the foyer outside of the Council office.
- xiv. That there would be an increase in booking fees in line with inflation of 5%, which would see the rate for affiliated groups increase from £10.00 to £10.50 per hour.
- xv. Reciprocal notice boards the Village Hall and Dumont Hall were suggested, so as to maximise the use of each location.
- xvi. The next Quarterly Meeting was scheduled for 25th January 2024.

OM-23-166 PREPARATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The draft Management Plan for 2024 - 2026 having been previously circulated, the Chairman thanked all Councillors who had contributed towards the Management Plan, and reminded Councillors that they would have to formally approve the plan, to enable the Finance Committee to review costs in preparation for the setting of the budget for 2024/2025 and beyond.

- a. **RESOLVED:** That the Council approve, in principle, the Management Plan for 2024/2025 and beyond. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Moore and seconded by Cllr. Ball. All agreed.

OM-23-167 CLIMATE CHANGE:

- a. Cllr. Ward informed the Council that the benches recently installed at Priory Meadow, which were made of recycled plastic, were very good, and that the firm which manufactured the benches employed people with disabilities or those who had learning difficulties.
- b. The Chairman suggested that consideration be given to the planting of a fir tree, for use as a Christmas Tree, at each entrance to the village, which could be decorated with solar lights.
 - i. Cllr. Moore stated that this was a good idea, especially if the trees were sourced locally.

OM-23-168 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Ball informed the Council of the meeting of 15th November 2023, attended by herself and Councillor Talbot, representatives of the Orchards Holiday Park and residents of Point Clear Bay.
 - i. The Chairman requested that the subject of the meeting be an agenda item for the December meeting.
- b. Cllr. Venables informed the Council that due to connections with other agencies and organisations she was aware of events within the District which might be of interest to fellow Councillors. These included:
 - i. A show at the Village Hall on Saturday 9th December at midday and 4 pm, the profits for which would go to community projects, including a free lunch on Christmas Eve in Holland on Sea, for those by themselves.
 - ii. Harwich Hive, who were gathering toiletries for families in need, would be holding a 'pop up' at St Osyth Beach in early 2024.
 - iii. That Greater Anglia now offered virtual tours of stations, which could be looked at by those with disabilities or who were nervous of travelling, in order to familiarise themselves with the layout of a particular station.
- c. Cllr. Ward requested that the Clerk produce a sign for Priory Meadow, requesting that dog owners pick up after their animals, due to the amount of dogs' mess within the park.
- d. Cllr. Atkins enquired as to whether the two trees for use as Christmas Trees would replace the tree on The Bury or would be in addition to it.
 - i. It was agreed that this would be discussed at a future meeting, early in 2024.
- e. The Chairman reminded the Council that as the December meeting, to be held at the Village Hall, was traditionally followed by a small gathering for Councillors and staff, she would liaise with the Clerk to truncate the meeting.
- f. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman congratulated Cllr. Moore and his partner on the birth of their daughter.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.50 pm.

The date of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 14th December 2023, at St Osyth Village Hall.

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

OM-23-153 a i a)	Safe Cycling Publication	Cllr. Goggin to action
OM-23-164 a i	Feeding of Birds/ Pests	D/Clk to action
OM-23-164 e iii	TDALC Meeting	Chairman to attend
OM-23-168 a i	Point Clear Bay Meeting	Include on Dec agenda
OM-23-168 c	Dog Fouling Notices	Clk to action