



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council
held at the Village Hall, St Osyth
on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7.00 pm



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

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor

Martin Walsh (Responsible Financial Officer (RFO))
(arrived at 7.30 pm)

MINUTES: Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Three

OM-23-187 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.

Cllr. Venables declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of planning application 23/01654/VOC.

OM-23-188 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	23/01654/VOC Mr & Mrs Beaumont 7 Castle Way St Osyth	Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 08/01552/DETAIL to substitute the previously approved drawings with new drawings, to convert the loft space and install new windows. The Parish Council object to the changes proposed and would request that should the District Council be minded to approve the application, then a condition of any approval be that the glass in the skylights be obscure/frosted.
b.	23/01743/FUL Mr C Gibbs The Little House Clay Lane, St Osyth	Erection of 1.5 storey replacement dwelling. No objections.
c.	23/01756/FULHH & 23/01783/FULHH A Ahmed 106 Clacton Road St Osyth	Proposed single storey rear extension. Proposed new drop kerb to give access to parking on front garden. No objections.

d.	23/01770/TCA c/o Absolute Tree Services 52 Mill Street St Osyth	To crown reduce 1 Oak Tree by 30%. This application is referred to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
e.	23/01820/LBC Messrs R.A T.R D.R & A.I Sargeant St Osyth Priory The Bury, St Osyth	Internal fixtures and fittings and service runs to Darcy House. No objections.
f.	23/01751/VOC Environment Agency The Promenade Belsize Avenue Jaywick	Variation of Conditions 2 (approved plans) and 7 (temporary footbridge) of planning permission 23/00181/FUL to make amendments to the approved scheme. No objections.

OM-23-189 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) from 8th December 2023 to 4th January 2024.

OM-23-190 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 14th December 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. Ball and seconded by Cllr. French. All agreed.

OM-23-191 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-23-176 b vii a). The Clerk informed the Council that the street light in South Close was now working. The Clerk thanked Cllr. Goggin for his assistance in resolving the matter.
- b. OM-23-179 a i a). The Clerk informed the Council that having received the relevant files, he was in the process of compiling the outdoor gym instruction sheet, which would be manufactured locally.
- c. OM-23-179 b ii a). The Clerk reminded the Council that Cllr. White was to discuss the issue of an organised litter pick with the Women's Institute (WI).
- d. OM-23-180 d i. The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr. Atkins would report on the possible formation of a Working Party later in the meeting.

OM-23-192 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

OM-23-193 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust (E&HAAT) with regard to funding.
- b. Correspondence from the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) with regard to the Essex Minerals Local Plan Review.

- c. Correspondence from Essex County Council (ECC) with regard to the Climate Action Annual Report 2022/2023.

OM-23-194 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Cllr. Goggin gave the following report:
 - i. That he had been liaising with the Project Director for St Osyth Priory, following concerns from the latter as to the condition of the Priory walls along Colchester Road and Mill Street, both of which were listed as part of a Scheduled & Ancient Monument. Cllr. Goggin stated that it was the view of the Project Director that the condition of the walls was a matter for Essex Highways due to:
 - a) the volume of water being splashed against the Colchester Road wall, as a result of problems with the surface water drainage system; and
 - b) the proximity of the carriageway to the Mill Street wall.
 - ii. That as a result of a recent email from the Clerk with regard to a missing bollard at the cul-de-sac end of St Clairs Road, following work undertaken by Cadent, it was his [Cllr' Goggin's] suggestion that the Parish Council look to have the bollard replaced and raise an invoice to Cadent for the cost of the work.
 - a) The Chairman agreed that this was a possibility, adding that something needed to be done, given the fact that drivers were using the gap created by the missing bollard as a means by which to access the bypass (B1027), which was extremely dangerous.
 - b) Cllr. Ward confirmed that vehicles were indeed using the gap, adding that on one occasion she had witnessed a vehicle towing a trailer exit St Clairs Road onto the bypass.
 - iii. That he had, earlier that week, forwarded information concerning the proposed change in the speed limit along the B1027 to the Clerk. He continued that the proposals would be advertised in the local press as of 27th January 2024, as part of a three-week consultation.
 - a) The Clerk stated that he had not forwarded the email, as it had been received after the agenda had been published. He continued that it was to be an agenda item at the February meeting of the Council, and that Councillors would receive all relevant information as part of their agenda packs.
 - b) Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that he had been contacted by local media to comment on the proposed changes. Cllr. Talbot stated that he had made mention of the concerns raised by Cllr. Goggin, from his first appointment as County Councillor, at the variety of different speed limits along the B1027.
 - c) The Chairman enquired as to how soon, following the consultation process, would the changes in speed limit come into effect.

- i) Cllr. Goggin stated that there was a slight issue in that all posts on which signs were mounted, were to be replaced by 'passive' poles, which in simple terms meant that poles were designed to crumple if collided with.
 - ii) Cllr. Goggin added that the change of all poles throughout the county would obviously impact on both the budget and schedule of works.
- iv. That during a recent Cabinet meeting, one of the main topics of discussion had been the number of educational days lost as a result of non-attendance by pupils. Of the 12,900 recorded days of absence, 12,100 were as a direct result of pupils being withdrawn for holidays.
- v. That he was assisting a resident of Point Clear, who was housing a Ukrainian family, to obtain a place in a local school for the family's child.
- vi. That on 20th December 2023, he had, accompanied by the Chairman and Clerk, judged the Christmas Decorations competition.
- vii. That the County Council was likely to increase its share of Council Tax by the maximum of 4.99%. This, Cllr. Goggin continued, would include the funding of adult social care, which amounted to approximately 43% of the County Councils annual budget of £2 bn.
- viii. That there was an ongoing review of the effectiveness of the changes to the County Councils recycling centres. Cllr. Goggin stated that the changes were popular and had improved the efficiency of the centres.
 - a) The Chairman expressed concern at the increase in fly-tipping throughout the Parish.
 - i) Cllr. Goggin stated the type of items being dumped would not have been accepted at the recycling centres and therefore could not be associated with the changes to the booking system.
 - ii) The Chairman stated that as a result of the increase in fly-tipping, the Clerk had submitted a Freedom of Information request to the District Council to obtain information such as:
 - the number of reported cases of fly-tipping in 2023;
 - the total cost for the removal of items dumped; and
 - the number of prosecutions by TDC.
 - b) Cllr. Moore stated that he regularly experienced difficulties in trying to book a slot, especially for larger vehicles, which were limited.
 - i) Cllr. Goggin responded that the system was easy to use and that slots could always be found, even for larger vehicles.

- c) A general discussion ensued as to the efficiency of the booking system, the effectiveness of the changes and the assistance of the recycling centre staff.

Due to having to attend the meeting of Brightlingsea Town Council, Cllr. Goggin left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

OM-23-195 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for December 2023, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
 - i. Cllr. Ward enquired as to the 'follow up treatment' charged by Royds Services Ltd.
 - a) The Chairman stated that it related to pest control at the allotments.
 - ii. Cllr. Ball enquired as to whether the contractor who cleaned the bus shelters in St Osyth and Point Clear was also responsible for the shelter at the Orchards roundabout, which she [Cllr. Ball] stated was in need of cleaning.
 - a) The Clerk stated that he would look at the bus stop and liaise with the contractor.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:
 - i. Current a/c: £135,959.57
 - ii. Deposit: £53,569.46

OM-23-196 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

- a. **Cemetery Committee:**
 - i. The draft Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting of 2nd January 2024 having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited questions. None were forthcoming.
 - ii. Cemetery Fees:
 - a) The Chairman informed the Council that the main topic of discussion had been the increase in fees, which with the exception of child related burials would see an increase of 7%, which was in line with both Tendring District and Colchester City Councils.
 - b) 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 £850.00 to £910.00.
 - ii) Exclusive Right of Burial (ash) from £550.00 to £590.00.
 - iii) Scattering of Ashes from £80.00 to £85.00.
 - iv) Administration fee from £250.00 to £270.00.
 - v) Use of the Chapel from £150.00 to £160.00.
 - vi) Permission to erect a plaque on the Memorial Wall from £200.00 to £215.00.
 - vii) Permission to erect a memorial from £200.00 to £215.00.
 - viii) Permission to add an additional inscription from £75.00 to £85.00.
- c) **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council ratify the recommendation of the Cemetery Committee, made during its meeting of 2nd January 2024, (C-24-027 d refers), to increase certain fees for 2024/2025. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. White. All agreed.

b. **Finance Committee:**

- i. The draft Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 10th January 2024 having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited questions of Cllr. Cooper, in his capacity as Chairman of the Finance Committee.
- ii. Cllr. Ball enquired as to why grants were not being paid to several organisations.
 - a) The Chairman stated that it would be best to defer this enquiry until such time as the grant applications were discussed.

OM-23-197 APPROVAL OF GRANT APPLICATIONS:

The Clerk informed the Council that with the exception of three applications, details of which he would provide shortly, the Finance Committee had agreed to recommend all grant applications, which amounted to £15,005.00, and which were to be paid in October 2024.

- a. The Clerk informed the Council of the three applications which had been refused/ deferred were:
 - i. The People's Club: The Clerk stated that whilst an initial provision had been made to allocate funds to the People's Club, on the basis that applications had been received in previous years, as no application or evidence of accounts had been received, the People's Club had been removed from the list.
 - ii. BASICS ESSEX: The Clerk informed the Council that during the meeting of 6th December 2023, the Finance Committee had discussed the application during which concerns had been raised as to whether the Council could guarantee a response from BASICS ESSEX were it to provide funding. Furthermore, the Council already provided funding to the Essex & Hearts Air Ambulance Trust, which was known to have provided an emergency response within the Parish on numerous occasions.

- iii. St Osyth Business Association: The Clerk stated that it was, at this time, unknown as to whether there would be a 'Music on the Meadow' event in 2024. This, he continued, was primarily down to the fact that the person who had organised previous events was unsure as to whether they would be able to facilitate/meet all of the legal requirements and organisational demands associated with the event.
 - a) The Clerk stated that the Finance Committee had agreed to review any application from the Business Association should it be forthcoming.
- b. **RESOLVED:** Having been previously circulated, it was proposed by Cllr. Moore and seconded by Cllr. Atkins, that St Osyth Parish Council approve the payment of grants to the amount of £15,005.00, payable in October 2024, as recommended by the Finance Committee at the meeting of 10th January 2024. All agreed.

OM-23-198 AWARD OF CONTRACTS:

Having been previously circulated by way of the Finance Committee minutes of 10th January 2024, the Clerk gave an overview as to which contractors had been awarded maintenance contracts for 2024-2027.

- a. The Clerk informed the Council that whilst the contracts were for a period of three years, they would include a clause which would allow the Parish Council to terminate the contracts in the event of unsatisfactory work on the part of the respective contractors.
 - i. Cllr. Ward informed the Council that where possible the Council always tried to use local contractors.
 - ii. Cllr. White stated that he was in favour of using multiple contractors, as there had been occasions whereby single contractors had been unable to complete work on time and to the satisfaction of the Council.
- b. Having been recommended by the Finance Committee at its meeting of 10th January 2024, the following contracts were approved:
 - i. **RESOLVED:** That the contract for the cutting of area 1 (Village entrances) be awarded to Leisure Fame Ltd. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.
 - ii. **RESOLVED:** That the contract for the cutting of area 10 (Dumont Avenue play area) be awarded to Majestic Gardens. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.
 - iii. **RESOLVED:** That the contract for the cutting of the remaining areas:
 - 2: St Osyth - Clacton Road
 - 3: St Osyth - Village
 - 4: St Osyth - The Bury/ Mill Street
 - 5: Point Clear
 - 6: B1027 (east)
 - 7: B1027 (west)
 - 8: Chisbon Heath
 - 9: Cowley Park
 - 11: Priory Meadow

be awarded to Kyte Home Maintenance & Upgrades Ltd. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.

- iv. **RESOLVED:** That the contract for the cutting of Cowley Park (football pitches and Arboretum) be awarded to Matthew Ford Gardening Services. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.
 - v. **RESOLVED:** That the contract for the cutting of sections 1 to 3 (inclusive) and the Garden of Remembrance, within the Cemetery, be awarded to Kyte Home Maintenance & Upgrades Ltd. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.
 - vi. **RESOLVED:** That the contract for the cutting of Sections 4 and 5, the area to the rear of the Chapel, the Memorial Wall Garden, within the Cemetery, and the exterior verge be awarded to James Handscombe Grass Cutting. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.
 - vii. **RESOLVED:** That the contract for the cutting of sections 6 and 7, the Strewing Lawn, Hearse Approach and paths within the Wildlife Area of the Cemetery be awarded to Matthew Ford Gardening Services. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.
 - viii. **RESOLVED:** That the contract for the annual maintenance/ cutting of the Wildlife Area be awarded to Matthew Ford Gardening Services. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Ward. All agreed.
- c. The Chairman informed the Council that in order to avoid a repetition of 2023, when areas of the village had not been cut for a number of months, the Parish Council staff would be contacting Tendring District Council a month prior any grass cutting be required.

OM-23-199 APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET:

- a. At the request of the Chairman, the RFO briefed the Council with regards to the budget for 2024/2025.
 - i. The RFO informed the Council that whilst the budget as reviewed by the Finance Committee on 6th December 2023 had forecast a deficit of £2,504.00, this had been prior to receipt of the Tax Base figures and Ready Reckoner from the District Council.
 - ii. That having received both documents from the District Council, he had, together with the Clerk, reviewed the budget in association with the Management Plan for 2024/2025, and had been able to deliver a balanced budget, meet the requirements of the Management Plan and not exceed the 4.9% self-imposed limit of the Council.
 - iii. That the budget covered all expenditure within the Management Plan with the exception of two items of play equipment, which given their respective costs, would have to be funded by way of grants or Public Open Spaces Contributions (POSC)/ Section 106 (s106).

- iv. That the setting of the budget for 2025 and beyond would be challenging, if inflation had not levelled out by the end of 2024.
- b. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council approve the Budget for 2024/2025, as recommended by the Finance Committee on 10th January 2024. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ball and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.

OM-23-200 SETTING OF THE PRECEPT:

The RFO informed Councillors that taking into account planned expenditure for 2024/2025, as per the budget and Management Plan and having used the Ready Reckoner to calculate necessary income for the same period, the Council would not exceed its 4.9% self-imposed limit.

- a. The Clerk informed the Council that an increase of 4.9% would result in a Precept of £173,800.00.
- b. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council ratify the recommendation of the Finance Committee, of 10th January 2024, that the Precept request to Tendring District Council for 2024/2025 be set at £173,800.00, giving an annual payable sum of £87.44 for a Band D property. This would represent an increase of £4.09 or 4.9% to the Precept from the previous year. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Blockley and seconded by Cllr. Ball. All agreed.
- c. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked the RFO and Clerk for their work in preparing the Budget.

The RFO departed the meeting at 7.55 pm.

OM-23-201 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Public Realm Working Party:**
 - i. Cllr. Ward enquired of the Clerk the reason for estimates within the Public Realm specific sections of the Management Plan. The Clerk stated that this was largely due to the District Council now requiring three quotations for any POSC/ s106 applications, which therefore meant that the Clerk was unable to provide an exact figure until such time as it was confirmed which contractor would be carrying out the work.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** The Clerk reported that he had sent an email to Andrew Brown, ECC Land Operations Manager, requesting suitable dates for a meeting in February.

OM-23-202 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Allotments:** Cllr. Blockley gave the following report:
 - i. Over the past year we have had a serious infestation of rats at the allotments.

- ii. This resulted in many crops being eaten and we've had to employ the services of a professional pest control company, who have confirmed that we do have a serious rat problem.
 - iii. Consequently, their work on site is imperative but, of course, it comes at a cost. The Parish Council has already paid £245.00 for the initial outlay for rat boxes, and one follow up visit. The Allotment Association has also paid £65.00 for a further visit. However, the recommendation of the company is that there should be six weekly visits.
 - iv. Therefore, having taken advice from the RFO, it is proposed that the current rent of £40.00 should be increased by £10.00 to £50.00 per annum per plot, to cover the additional cost of pest control.
 - v. The rules of the National Allotment Society, of which we are a member, require that when any increase in rent is to be implemented, all allotment holders must receive one year's notice in advance.
 - vi. Therefore, my request to the Parish Council tonight is to confirm their agreement that twelve months' notice be given, now, to each allotment holder, so that in April 2025, the annual rent for each plot will be increased by £10.00 to £50.00 per plot.
 - vii. **RESOLVED:** That one year's notice be given, in writing, to all allotment holders informing them of the increase in allotment fees, from £40.00 to £50.00, and to £25.00 for a half plot, to take effect as of 1st April 2025. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. White. All agreed.
- b. **Community Matters & Well-being:** Cllr. Venables gave the following report.
- i. That the resident who was suffering from loneliness, and who required modification to their property, had yet to be visited by an Occupational Therapist.
 - a) Cllr. Venables stated that she would continue to monitor this situation and would ensure that an assessment by an Occupational Therapist was carried out.
 - ii. A discussion ensued as to the legitimacy of visitors, purporting to represent organisations such as the British Red Cross and Macmillan Cancer Support, especially when they were knocking on people's doors as late as 9 pm.
- c. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, Cllr. Cooper briefed the Council on reported crime during November 2023 in St Osyth and Point Clear, by offence and location, and where practicable the status of the investigation.
- i. St Osyth
 - a) Criminal Damage/ Arson
 - ii) Norman Close – under investigation

- b) Public Order
 - i) Church Square - under investigation
- c) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Golding Way x 3 - all under investigation
 - ii) Church Square - under investigation
 - iii) Priory Meadow (recreation area) - unable to prosecute suspect
 - iv) Point Clear Road (Mill Street car park) - unable to prosecute suspect
- ii. St Osyth Beach
 - a) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Beach Road x 2 - both under investigation
- iii. Bel Air Chalet Estate
 - a) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Club Parade - under investigation
- iv. Point Clear
 - a) Criminal Damage/ Arson
 - i) Beacon Heights x 2 - both under investigation
 - ii) Beacon Heights - investigation complete; no suspect identified
 - b) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Point Clear Road (near Five Stacks) - investigation complete; no suspect identified
- v. Point Clear Bay
 - a) Burglary
 - i) Seaview Terrace - investigation complete; no suspect identified
 - b) Drug Related
 - i) Cruce Way - under investigation
 - c) Shoplifting
 - i) Mersea View - investigation complete; no suspect identified
 - d) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - ii) Cruce Way - investigation complete; no suspect identified
 - iii) North Wall x 2 - both under investigation

- vi. Chisbon Heath
 - a) Public Order
 - i) Highbirch Road - unable to prosecute suspect
- vii. Flag Hill (not Oaklands Holiday Park)
 - a) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Martin's Farm Country Park (car park) - under investigation
- viii. Outcome & Percentage
 - a) Under investigation x 15 (65%)
 - b) Investigation complete; no suspect identified x 5 (22%)
 - c) Unable to prosecute suspect x 3 (13%)

d. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Atkins informed the Council that whilst he still intended to draft an article for inclusion in the Parish magazine, to gauge interest in establishing a P3 working party, he felt it would be better to include it in the April edition, by which time the weather would have improved and the days would be starting to lengthen.

e. **Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.

f. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**

Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

- i. The Tendring District Association meets next Wednesday, 24th January, but this is a real clash of times in my diary that evening. We have a Councillor Development session at 6 pm. I also have a Pre-Council meeting ready for Full Council on 30th January 2024. Not only do these TDC clash with each other, but then at 7.30 pm, TDALC meet via Zoom for their remote meeting.
- ii. There actually has been nothing of significance to report over the Christmas period, but this will be the first meeting for Karen, our Parish Council Chairman, and obviously I would like to be present. I will see if there is something I can drop.

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

- i. Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
 - a) The District Council has now published its Corporate Plan Themes for the period 2024 to 2028, entitled Our Vision, it sets out actions for the first year to deliver against the plan. The plan is currently out for consultation, which runs until 11th February.
 - b) Suggested highlight priorities include delivery of the Clacton Airshow and re-introducing the Tour de Tendring, completing an examination and improvement of our CCTV system and looking at ways to tackle nuisance vehicles.

We are looking to improve the coverage provided by cameras across the town, part-funded from a £317,000.00 award from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Essex Safer Streets Fund, along with £82,000.00 in match-funding from TDC. As well as the upgrading above of twenty existing camera sites, the project proposes to add new cameras providing coverage in additional locations.

- c) The plan calls for action to be tough on littering and fly-tipping, which in some areas is almost of plague proportions and we will be revising the Council's overall Housing strategy and delivering projects such as major long-term sustainable projects around town centres in Dovercourt and Clacton. We will also be continuing with our Climate Change Action Plan, which aims to make the Council Net Zero in terms of noxious emissions from Council controlled activities in the District by year 2030.
 - d) Young people in Tendring area invited to take part in a survey about arts and culture in the area. The Youth Voice project, a collaboration between Tendring Cultural Education Partnership, Tendring District Council, the Arts Council England and Colchester Arts Centre working with Clacton Creatives, is looking to capture views of people aged 10-18 in Tendring, with part of the initiative being a Culture and Creativity survey.
 - e) Young people can have their say, with those taking part also able to be entered into a prize draw to win a £100.00 Amazon voucher. The survey closes on 5th February, but the Youth Voices video, available on social media, can be accessed by using <https://lnk.bio/clactoncreatives>
- ii. Cllr. Venables enquired as to the status of the current refuse collection system and whether the tins and plastic bottles/ containers which were separated by residents were being recycled or were in fact going into landfill sites.
- a) Cllr. Talbot stated that although nothing had yet been decided, the District Council was in the process of preparing for the renewal of its contract, which in two years' time, would see changes to the existing system.
 - b) Cllr. Talbot stated that Cllr. Venables was correct in terms of the system likely to be introduced, which would be a 'co-mingled' collection, where all items were collected together. He continued that for recycling to have any resale value it would have to be separated, and that this had to be done manually.
 - c) Cllr. Talbot stated that there would be an additional cost should glass collections be introduced.

- d) Cllr. Talbot gave an overview of the regulations implemented by the Environment Agency in 2001, in which a minimum collection system had been introduced for all authorities. This, he continued, meant that when a new system for waste collection was introduced by a collection authority, the Government would consider the part funding of any new scheme. Cllr. Talbot continued that whilst TDC did have both glass and textiles collection schemes ready, the District Council would have paid the entire cost and would not have received any funding, due to the schemes being deemed to be in place.
 - e) Cllr. Talbot stated that once approved, the new contract would go out for European wide tender. He added that whilst only £5m - £6m, the new TDC contract would not be the most valuable contract which companies would undertake, but it was the single largest expense for the District Council itself.
 - f) Cllr. Venables asked for clarification as to why, if the current system meant that tins and plastics were going to landfill, residents were separating their waste.
 - i) Cllr. Talbot stated that there were ten different types of recycling, and that it was that which incurred more cost.
 - ii) Cllr. Talbot explained that the District Council was the collection authority, with the County Council being the disposal authority. The District Council did receive payment, from the County Council, for recycling tonnage as it meant that as the disposal authority, the County Council had not had to pay for landfill.
 - iii) The Chairman remarked that this was akin to Environmental Credits.
 - g) Cllr. Venables stated that it was a case of carry on separating recyclable materials even though there was no need to.
 - h) Cllr. Thomas stated that she had read comments on social media as to how residents had reported seeing refuse and recycling going into the same vehicles.
 - i) Cllr. Talbot stated that there was an income stream for the recycling of plastic bottles/ containers.
- h. **Website:** The Clerk informed the Council that work on the new website was ongoing, and that having had sight of the proposed layout, it would be very user friendly.
- i. The Chairman informed the Council that the Clerk would be taking photographs of Councillors for use on the website.

OM-23-203 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:**
Cllr. Sinclair reported that the next meeting was scheduled to take place in February 2024.

- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:**
Cllr. Thomas reported that whilst Elmden Rovers were parking on Cowley Park during the week, visiting teams were continuing to park on The Bury and Mill Street at weekends.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Thomas gave the following report:
- i. That the Association was, following the resignation of Cllr. Blockley as a member of the Committee, looking for a new member.
 - ii. That the Association was still pursuing grants towards the air-to-air heating system.
 - a) For the benefit of Cllr's Talbot and White, in their capacity as District Councillors, Cllr. Thomas reported that the District Councils Rural Prosperity Fund was not particularly well organised, with little or no information about dates being passed to applicants.
 - iii. That the Association had received five years' worth of historic funding from the collection of bottles in the bottle banks at the front of the Hall. However, payment of a further seven months' worth of funding, from June 2023 to date, had yet to be paid.
 - iv. That the Association would, for the time being, stop fund raising events. This was largely due to the drop in attendance at such activities, which often involved a lot of work for very little reward.
 - v. That the Dumont Luncheon Club would, on 25th January 2024, be visited by Rupert Marks, Deputy Lieutenant of Essex, a representative of The Kings Award, as the Luncheon Club was one of twenty-one voluntary organisations, from over four hundred, left in line for an award.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:**
Cllr. Thomas reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 25th January 2024.
- e. **St Osyth Priory & Parish Trust:**
Cllr. Thomas reported that she had not had any contact from anyone on the Trust since the initial contact from its Chairman in October 2023.

OM-23-204 CASUAL VACANCY - CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR:

The Clerk informed the Council that an advertisement would be included in the February 2024 edition of the Parish magazine, with the closing date for applicants being 8th March 2024.

OM-23-205 MANAGEMENT PLAN:

- a. Having previously been distributed, the Chairman reminded the Council of the work involved in the preparation of the Management Plan. The Chairman requested that the Plan be referred to at each meeting of relevant Committee and Working Parties.

- b. **RESOLVED:** That having been agreed in principle at the Council meeting of 16th November 2024, scrutinised by the Finance Committee at its meeting of 6th December 2023 and costed by the RFO and Clerk ahead of the Finance Committee meeting of 10th January 2024, the Management Plan for 2024 - 2026, as distributed, be formally approved. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. French. All agreed.

OM-23-206 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND CONSULTATION (ESSEX):

- a. By way of a PowerPoint presentation, the Clerk produced a series of maps detailing the proposed changes to the County Councils electoral divisions, as published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCfE).
- b. The Clerk subsequently narrated an email from Cllr. Goggin, in which the latter had expressed an intent to retain his existing electoral division, citing reasons such as:
- i. The working and community relationship between St Osyth and Brightlingsea.
 - ii. The working relationship between the five Parish Councils within his division.
 - iii. The link, by way of the B1027, shared by four of the five Councils.
 - iv. The obvious inclusion of St Osyth, a rural Parish, into an urban setting should the proposed changes come into effect.
 - v. The possible oversight of issues affecting St Osyth, in favour of those in areas such as West Clacton and Jaywick, especially the latter, which had been the beneficiary of millions of pounds of national and European Union (EU) funding.
- c. Cllr. White informed the Council that the last major change to electoral boundaries had been in 1972, and that at one time the eastern boundary of the Parish had been along the middle of Jaywick Lane.
- d. Cllr. White agreed with the concerns expressed by Cllr. Goggin, stating that he [Cllr. White] was opposed to any changes.
- e. Cllr. Talbot stated that whilst he had no concerns about the proposed changes, he felt that the existing boundaries were sufficient.
- f. Following a general discussion as to the areas to be lost and gained by Cllr. Goggin were the changes to be implemented, together with concerns as to how the inclusion of St Osyth in an urban division might affect future funding opportunities for the Parish Council, it was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a response which, once approved by the Chairman, would be shared with Councillors for comments before submission to the LGBCfE by 19th February 2024.

OM-23-207 ANTI-SOCIAL USE OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC):

The Clerk informed the Council that a meeting of interested parties was scheduled to take place on Monday 29th January 2024 at 9.15 am. The Clerk stated that in addition to representatives of the Parish Council, invitations had also been sent to Brightlingsea Harbour Master, Essex Police, the Orchards Holiday Park and Cllr. Goggin.

OM-23-208 CLIMATE CHANGE:

- a. The Chairman suggested that this item be reported on quarterly rather than monthly. All agreed.

OM-23-209 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. White informed the Council of the pending closure of the Clacton on Sea branch of Barclays Bank. He requested that the Clerk write to Barclays on behalf of the Parish Council to object to the closure.
- b. Cllr. Atkins enquired as to whether the verges, both those cut by the District Council and those for which the Parish Councils contractors would be responsible, would be left uncut as part of 'no mow May.'
 - i. The Chairman stated that this would be discussed nearer the time, as the areas left uncut by the District Council, in 2023, had become a safety issue, especially for motorists, whose line of sight was obscured by excessive growth.
 - ii. The Clerk informed the Council that the way in which the new contracts were set out meant that the parish had been broken down into sections, which could be included or excluded from any planned cuts.
- c. In referring to the earlier conversation about recycling, Cllr. Atkins requested confirmation as to whether residents should or should not be separating refuse and recyclable items.
 - i. Cllr. Talbot stated that it was absolutely worth recycling, and that whilst some items did not have any value, co-mingled collections meant that these items were removed, leaving only items for which the District Council would receive a form of income.
 - ii. Cllr. Venables stated that currently nobody was sorting co-mingled collections, so was there any point to the recycling scheme.
 - iii. Cllr. Talbot stated that the separation was being carried out by individual households, using red bins for paper and green bins for tins and plastics.
 - iv. The Chairman enquired as to whether, if items with no recyclable value were being placed in the recycling bins, it affected the value of the items within the bin.

- v. Cllr. Talbot stated that he believed that it did make a difference, but as the District Council was only the collection authority, and the County Council was the disposal authority, the decision as to whether there should be a county-wide co-mingled collection, meant that the County Council would be responsible for the cost of separating any recyclable items.
- vi. Cllr. White suggested that there might be an element of confusion, as Cllr. Talbot was talking about the changes to the scheme which might be implemented in two years' time, where everything would be put into one bin and separated elsewhere.
- vii. Cllr. Venables stated that the concern of residents was what was happening now, as for example tins and plastics were put into a single container for collection, taken to Basildon and then transported elsewhere to be placed into landfill sites.
- viii. Cllr. Talbot stated that he doubted this to be the case.
- ix. The Chairman stated that the Clerk would make enquiries of the District Council as to the workings of the current system.

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 15th February 2024, at St Osyth Village Hall.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 18th January 2024

OM-23-191 c	WI Litter Pick	Cllr. White to action
OM-23-195 a ii a)	Orchards Bus Stop	Clk to action
OM-23-202 h i	Cllr's Photographs	Clk to action
OM-23-206 f	LGBCfE Consultation	Clk to action
OM-23-209 c ix	TDC Refuse & Recycling	Clk to action