



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL

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



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

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Sue Ball (Medical)
Cllr. John White (Holiday)

MINUTES: Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: One

OM-24-001 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-24-002 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	24/00361/FUL c/o Prime Oak Linshire, Heath Road St Osyth	Planning Application - erection of 1 x dwelling following removal of existing mobile dwelling. No objections.
b.	24/00411/FUL Mr C Gibbs Anvil Barn Farm, Clay Lane St Osyth	Planning Application - erection of a lambing shed with an ancillary agricultural workshop. No objections.
c.	24/00476/TCA Diocese of Chelmsford The Vicarage The Bury St Osyth	Trees in a Conservation Area Notification: T1 - Prunus Tree - Reduce by 2-3m overall. T2 - Silver Birch Tree - Fell to ground level. T3 - Prunus Tree - Reduce by 2-3m overall. T4 - Walnut Tree - Reduce by 2m overall. T5 - Prunus Tee - Reduce by 2m overall. T6 - Lilac Tree - Fell to ground level. T7 - Prunus Tree- reduce by 2-3m overall. T8 - Prunus Tree - reduce 2-3m overall. This application is referred to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
d.	24/00479/FULHH Mrs C Ragan 19 Colne View Point Clear	Householder Planning Application - Single storey rear extension. No objections.

e.	24/00488/FULHH Mr R Freeman 147 Clacton Road St Osyth	Householder Planning Application - Removal of existing conservatory and replace with new single storey rear extension. Extension to be a depth of 8508mm. Amendment to application 23/00978/FULHH. No objections.
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OM-24-003 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) from 12th April 2024 to 3rd May 2024.

OM-24-004 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 21st March 2024 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Chairman, as a true and accurate record.

- a. Cllr. Cooper informed the Council that the wording in respect of OM-23-237 b iii b) should be amended to read:

***RESOLVED:** That the Clerk should amend the application to the Local Highways Panel, to request that a bollard or bollards be positioned in Stone Alley. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Ward.*

- b. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Atkins and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.

OM-24-005 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-23-233 a. The Clerk informed the Council that eight bags of compost had been delivered to the resident who had volunteered to maintain the ornamental flower bed near the junction of Point Clear Road and Dumont Avenue.
 - i. The Chairman added that whilst the resident had originally requested that the Parish Council provided the necessary plants and shrubs, they [the resident] would now be providing the plants and shrubs.
- b. OM-23-234 a ii. The Clerk informed the Council that he had submitted a further request, by way of the Freedom of Information Act, to the District Council in respect of fly-tipping, but that he had yet to receive a response.
- c. OM-23-234 b i. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the Chairty providing information on the Council's Grant Funding Policy.
- d. OM-23-234 c ii. The Clerk informed the Council that having written to the Primary Schools Eco Council & Student Council representative, to invite them to the April meeting, it had been confirmed that the representative would, together with some of the older pupils, attend the Council meeting on 20th June 2024.

- e. OM-23-234 d i. The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to Giles Watling, Member of Parliament for Clacton on Sea, with regard to fly-tipping, but that there had been no response to date.
- f. OM-23-234 e i. The Clerk reminded the Council that the Manager of the Priory Education Centre was present and would be addressing the Council during public participation.
- g. OM-23-245 a i. The Clerk reported that he had informed the Primary Schools Eco Council & Student Council representative of the litter pick scheduled for 18th May 2024, and that subject to the receipt of a flyer, for inclusion in the school newsletter, it was hoped that schoolchildren would attend the event.

OM-24-006 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- a. In her capacity as the Manager of the Priory Education Centre, Mrs Helen Brown addressed the Council regarding the proposal for a memorial in respect of the victims of the 1582 witch trials, which had been launched on 8th March 2024, as part of International Women's Day.
- b. Having provided a brief history as to the injustice faced by those from the village, Mrs Brown stated that the only reference of the trials in the village was a small, inaccurate, plaque on the side of the private dwelling referred to locally as 'the Cage' in Colchester Road.
- c. Mrs Brown informed the Council that she was, together with a pupil from St Osyth Primary School, and Mr Nigel Jeskins, the curator of the Village Museum, part of a group which was hoping to raise the profile of the victims of the witch trials by erecting a memorial within the village, ideally on the Village Green opposite The Priory.
- d. By way of a PowerPoint slide, Mrs Brown was able to show the Council two examples of memorials, the first being in Colchester, opposite the Castle, and the second in Admirals Park, Chelmsford. Mrs Brown informed the Council that the cost of the two memorials were £2,400.00 and £1,600.00 respectfully. She continued that any memorial in the village, which could be funded by members of the community, some fifty of whom had attended a presentation in the Education Centre on 8th March 2024, could also provide a link to the centre's webpage by way of a QR code, which would provide further information about the witch trials.
- e. Mrs Brown finished by stating that she hoped the Council would support the proposal for a memorial, especially if it were to be sited on the Village Green.
- f. The Chairman thanked Mrs Brown for her presentation, stating that it would be an item for discussion at the meeting on 16th May 2024.

OM-24-007 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence of 9th April 2024 from St Osyth Parish Council to Cllr. Stephenson, Leader of Tendring District Council with regard to fly-tipping

- b. Correspondence of 11th April 2024 from St Osyth Parish Council to Giles Watling, Member of Parliament for Clacton on Sea with regard to fly-tipping.
- c. Correspondence of 11th April 2024, by way of a request under the Freedom of Information Act, from St Osyth Parish Council to Tendring District Council with regard to fly-tipping.

OM-24-008 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Cllr. Goggin gave the following report:
 - i. That an additional £8.5 million, for use on highway repairs throughout the county, was being made available by central government. This money, once divided between districts would see the creation of between seven and nine 'gangs' to be rotated through respective divisions, which based on initial proposals, would see a gang assigned respective divisions for five days every six weeks. The primary focus would be to "catch up" on outstanding repairs/ defect, with the priority being that of roads. Repairs to footways would be the next priority. Cllr. Goggin reiterated that this was additional funding for extra works.
 - a) Cllr. Goggin informed the Council that he had already received two list of defects from the Clerk.
 - b) The Chairman enquired as to whether St Osyth would be the first ward within Cllr. Goggin's division to have repairs carried out.
 - c) Cllr. Goggin stated that he was unable to confirm which parish would be first, but that the works were due to commence on or about 29th May 2024.
 - d) Cllr. Ward stated that it would be good to have repairs carried out sooner rather than later, especially now that the holiday parks were open.
 - ii. That whilst there were no proposed sites for gravel and mineral extraction within the parish, it did not mean there would be no impact on the parish, if for example the site at Thorrington was selected.
 - a) Cllr. Goggin informed the Council that there was a distinct possibility that were Thorrington selected, any heavy goods transporting gravel and ballast could travel through St Osyth, along the B1027, towards Clacton on Sea, rather than negotiate narrow country roads between Thorrington and Frating.
 - b) Cllr. Goggin stated that to date he had attended six public meetings, during which there had been a lot of negative comments with regard to the proposed sites within his division.
 - iii. That there had been several objections with regard to the lowering of the speed limit along the B1027, such as the length of the road affected by the changes should be longer. Whilst such comments were understandable, they were actually classed as objections, which only served to delay the works further.

- a) Cllr. Goggin informed the Council that what was as first glance a simple scheme, was actually complex, given the requirements for changes to signage and roundels.
- iv. That he had attended a meeting earlier in the day concerning an overspend of £5.1 million by the County Council in respect of home to school transport for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) children, which the Council had no choice but to fund.
- a) Cllr. Goggin informed the Council that the SEND budget was more than that allocated to Essex Highways for the repair of potholes.
 - b) Cllr. Goggin stated that there were some 8,169 children who were classed as SEND within Essex. Some of these might only require accompanied transport, with journeys taking up to forty minutes. In one case a child attended a specialist school in Hull, but this was not a daily journey.
 - c) There were 125 children of asylum-seeking status with the SEND system.
 - d) That there were approximately 1,000 children in care, which ranged from fostering to 2 carers 24/7. The cost of care varied per child, but in one case, the annual cost amounted to £711,000.00 for a single child, with the cost of care for two other children costing £600,000.00 per child.
 - e) Cllr. Goggin stated that overall there was an overspend of £21 million in terms of SEND and the provision of specialist care.
 - f) The Chairman enquired as to whether it made more economic sense to increase funding/ facilities for SEND children in mainstream schools rather than provide transport.
 - g) A conversation ensued as to requirements for SEND children, and that whilst it might be preferable to have a SEND 'hub' in every school, the majority of parents did in fact not want this.

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

OM-24-009 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for March 2024, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:
 - i. Current a/c: £119,525.47
 - ii. Deposit: £53,950.78
 - iii. Petty Cash: £52.84

OM-24-010 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

a. **Public Realm Working Party:**

- i. Cllr. Ward informed the Council that TDC had confirmed that the full amount of £29,947.64, by way of the Deed of Variation in respect of the development at Melinda Lane, was now available to spend at Priory Meadow.
 - a) The Clerk informed the Council that whilst it had initially been thought that the legal fees would be taken from the overall amount, which would leave in the region of £27,947.64 available to spend at Priory Meadow, these fees would now have to be paid directly by the Parish Council.
- ii. Cllr. Ward informed the Council that climbing walls had been ordered for each of the three play areas, which would be installed in June 2024.
 - a) By way of a PowerPoint presentation, the Clerk was able to show Councillors the climbing walls.
- iii. The Chairman stated that the Council would have to give careful consideration as to how it utilised future Public Open Spaces Contributions (POSC)/ Section 106 (s106) funds, and even request that funds allocated to Dumont Avenue be spent elsewhere, as the play area could no longer accommodate any additional equipment.
- iv. The Chairman stated that consideration would now be given to the installation of inclusive play equipment, particularly at Cowley Park, which has easy access.
- v. Cllr. Talbot stated that during a recent conversation with Mike Carran, TDC Assistant Director for Economic Growth & Leisure, he [Cllr. Talbot] had made reference to the recent improvements to the Parish Council's play areas.
 - a) Mr Carran had confirmed that TDC were in the process of compiling a directory of play areas throughout Tendring District, as whilst some Parishes, such as St Osyth were doing a lot to improve their respective play areas, others were not.
 - b) Cllr. Talbot stated that Mr Carran might be able to advise as to funds available.
 - c) Cllr. Talbot concluded by stating having observed the items being used, that if positioned carefully, and well maintained, apparatus such as the gym equipment installed in each of the three play areas, could become a community asset.

b. **Highways Working Party:** Nothing to report.

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

OM-24-011 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Allotments:** Nothing to report.
- b. **Community Matters & Well-being:** Cllr. Venables informed the Council of the next Coffee & Chat morning, which was scheduled to take place between 10 am and midday on Monday 13th May 2024, in the Village Hall Annex.
 - i. The stated that if Cllr. Venables could provide a flyer, he [the Clerk] would advertise the event on the Council's social media pages.
- c. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, Cllr. Cooper briefed the Council on reported crime during February 2024 in St Osyth and Point Clear, by offence and location, and where practicable the status of the investigation. Cllr. Cooper stated that some 69% of the crimes reported were of a violent or sexual nature.
 - i. The Clerk informed the Council that payment for the damaged bin at Cowley Park had finally been received.
 - ii. The Chairman informed the Council that the donkey springer at Cowley Park had been pulled from its mounting.
 - a) The Clerk stated that whilst he was trying to identify those responsible, it was proving difficult due to the damage having been caused during the hours of darkness on 30th March 2024.
 - b) The Clerk informed the Council that the exact same springer was available from Wicksteed at a cost of £2,491.26. less fitting, or that PlayQuip could install a different springer, which would include the removal of the existing base, installation of a new springer and wet pour surfacing, at a cost of £1,120.40.
 - c) The Clerk suggested that the matter be referred to the Public Realm Working Party, and that he was reluctant to make a claim via the Council's Insurance Company as it could result in a higher premium.
 - d) Cllr. French stated that even reporting it to the Insurance Company would result in a higher premium, even if the Council did not submit a claim.
- d. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Atkins informed the Council that an advert requesting volunteers to form a Working Party would be published in the May edition of St Osyth Life.
- e. **Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.
- f. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):** Cllr. Sinclair gave the following report:
 - i. TDALC met on Wednesday 27th March via Zoom.

- ii. The high cost of subscriptions to EALC was raised, especially the high cost of training courses. Great Bentley is running a refresher course for Councillors, but no further details were given at this time.
 - iii. The matter of quarries was discussed. The consensus was that you could not object but that the consultation was just asking for comments. There were concerns expressed about the impact of all the extra lorries using the country lanes within villages.
 - iv. Councillor Mark Stephenson, the Leader of Tendring District Council, addressed the meeting and I had the opportunity to raise our concerns on fly-tipping. He stated that he did not understand how there have been no prosecutions whatsoever. He actually said that 'All it would take would be a few prosecutions to have a big impact'. I told him about our Freedom of Information request and the unsatisfactory answer that we had received, and he has asked me to write to him personally about the issue. I have written about the fly-tipping, the booking system at the Recycling Centre and Neil has written about the Freedom of Information request.
 - v. Mark spoke about a government grant of £75 million to be filtered through to County and District Councils for Natural Play Areas. This could be of interest to this Parish Council as we look at installing play equipment for children with disabilities.
 - vi. Other members raised the issue of planning meetings starting at 5 pm. He appreciated the concerns and said that the public can always ask for an item on the agenda to be moved to a later time so that the interested party can attend.
 - vii. He finished his section of the meeting by asking what he could do for rural parishes such as St Osyth. He stated that he will be attending the next meeting with a surprise guest!
- g. **District Councillor's Report:**
Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
- i. First, the upcoming election for the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner taking place on 2 May. Voters are reminded that they need to bring photo ID to be able to vote. If they do not have photo ID, or even if they cannot find a photo ID, they can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate at www.tendringdc.gov.uk/services/elections-and-voting. TDC is saying "If you are planning to vote in person then please also make sure you have a valid form of photo ID or the free alternative Voter Authority Certificate."
 - ii. Those who have a postal vote should actually 'post it', as whilst delivery by hand at the Town Hall or at a Polling Station can be made, it will require a form to be completed by the person delivering the vote, or else the vote will be treated as spoilt.

- iii. COVID Vaccines are available for any person aged 75 years and over including those in care homes. Bookings for the spring booster vaccination will be offered between April and June, with those at highest risk being called in first. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is keen to encourage everyone who is eligible to come forward.
- iv. Just a reminder that Prescription Charges and Prescription Prepayment Certificates (PPCs) will increase by 2.59% (rounded to the nearest 5 pence) from 1st May 2024.
- h. **Website:** The Clerk informed the Council that he was liaising with the software developer from Naglotech on the content for the website.

OM-24-012 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Nothing to report.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 25th April 2024.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 25th April 2024.
 - i. Cllr. Thomas subsequently requested that Cllr. Cooper attend the meeting in her behalf, as she would be at the PCCA meeting.
 - ii. Cllr. Cooper agreed to attend the meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee.

OM-24-013 PARKING:

The Clerk informed the Council of the meeting of 4th April 2024, held at short notice, between himself and the Project Director of St Osyth Priory, in which the latter had provided an overview of a meeting attended by Historic England, Essex County Council Place Services and Tendring District Council, to discuss parking within the grounds of St Osyth Priory. The Project Director had subsequently requested a copy of the parking survey commissioned by the Parish Council, which the Clerk had provided.

- a. The Clerk informed the Council that parking on The Bury would cease this year, and that the seventeen parking spaces which the Council had been told would be provided did in fact not have planning permission. The suggestion was therefore, that parking, for up to fifty vehicles, would be provided within the grounds of The Priory, with access by way of a new entrance on The Bury.
- b. The Clerk stated that a further meeting between the Project Director, Historic England, Essex County Council Place Services and Tendring District Council, had taken place on 11th April 2024, and given that the Project Director had requested the support of the Parish Council, he [the Clerk] had drafted a letter of support, which prior to distribution had been approved by both the Chairman of the Highways Working Party and the Chairman of the Parish Council.

- c. By way of a PowerPoint presentation, the Clerk briefed Councillors on what he perceived to be the proposal for controlled parking within the grounds of St Osyth Priory, which he stated would be free, albeit with time restrictions.
- d. Following a brief discussion in which the need for parking was acknowledged, Councillors agreed that they would have to await any application related to parking before they could discuss the matter further.

OM-24-014 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Cooper informed the Council that he had recently watched a programme on fly-tipping, part of which had focused on the introduction of the Landfill Tax, implemented in 1996. Cllr. Cooper stated that in the past thirteen years, the cost for disposing of waste had increased from £7.00 per ton to £103.00 per ton, with a further increase of 20% coming into effect in 2025.
 - i. Cllr. Cooper reminded the Council of his comments of 21st March 2024, in respect of having to hire a bona fide contractor to remove building waste in February, at which time the contractor had apologised for the cost. Cllr. Cooper stated that ultimately the government was at fault for the increase in fly-tipping due to the increase in costs for the disposal of waste.
 - ii. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that at one time taxing for waste disposal had been a Local Authority responsibility, with the funds going to the County Council. The government had subsequently deemed the tax a reliable source of income and had therefore redirected the funds to central government.
- b. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that following a minor health issue, he had informed the District Council that he did not wish to be reappointed as Chair of the District Council's Standards Committee.
- c.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.20 pm.

The date and time of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 16th May 2024, at St Osyth Village Hall.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 18th April 2024		
OM-24-006 f	Witches Memorial	May Agenda
OM-24-011 b i	Coffee & Chat Morning Flyer	Clk to action
OM-24-012 d ii	Village Hall Management Committee Meeting	Cllr Cooper to attend