



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council
held at St Osyth Village Hall
on Thursday 15th August 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
Michael Talbot, Michele Thomas & Catherine Venables

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (arrived at 8.00 pm)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Susan Ball (Personal)

NOT PRESENT: Cllr. Jake Moore
Cllr. John White

MINUTES: Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Two

OM-24-065 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	24/01006/FULHH Mrs J Martin Oakwood, Rectory Road St Osyth	Householder Planning Application - Three bay car port to front of property. No objections.
b.	24/01047/PIP Mr Clarke Land South of Plough Lodge Rectory Road St Osyth	Application for Permission in Principle - Erection of a single self/custom-build dwelling. The Parish Council is unable to comment until such time as it has had sight of detailed plans. Furthermore, the Parish Council acknowledges the concerns raised in the objections listed.
c.	24/01052/FULHH Miss V Peck 139 Clacton Road St Osyth	Householder Planning Application - Erection of two storey side extension. No objections. Cllr. Ward wished her objection to the application on the grounds of over-development be recorded.
d.	24/01041/DOVO5 Messrs R.A T.R D.R & A.I Sargeant & St Osyth Priory Estates Ltd St Osyth Priory The Bury St Osyth	Deed of variation, under the Town and Country Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligations) Regulations 1992, of the terms of the legal agreement dated 30 November 2018 linked to planning permission 16/00671/FUL and 16/00656/FUL in respect of the holding of escrow monies. No objections.

e.	24/01148/FULHH Mr C Cook 140 Point Clear Road Point Clear	Householder Planning Application - Single storey flat roof rear extension and single storey flat roof side extension. No objections.
f.	24/01069/NMA Mr P Brown Hill House Flag Hill St Osyth	Non material Amendment to 23/01522/FULHH - to amend ridge height of the garage roof from 6.4m to 6.8m. <i>For information only – no comment required.</i>

OM-24-066 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) from 12th July 2024 to 2nd August 2024.
- b. Letter of 23rd July 2024 from TDC regarding Breach of Planning Control – Alleged Change of Use to House of Multiple Occupancy (HMO): 2 Spring Road, St Osyth (24/00242/COUHMO refers)

OM-24-067 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 18th July 2024 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Chairman, as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Venables and seconded by Cllr. Blockley. All agreed.

OM-24-068 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-24-057 c i. The Clerk reminded the Council that the subject of the Witch Heritage Trail would be discussed later in the meeting.
- b. OM-24-059 a ii b). The Clerk informed the Council that he was in the process of collating quotations with regard to the installation of new play equipment at Priory Meadow play area.
- c. OM-24-059 b vi. The Clerk informed the Council that the Highways Working Party had met on 30th July 2024 and that the notes of that meeting had been distributed to the Council.
- d. OM-24-060 a v b). The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to Cllr. Goggin requesting that he [Cllr. Goggin] support the Parish Council's attempt to seek reimbursement from Essex County Council (ECC) for the removal of vegetation and weeds from areas which were the responsibility of the County Council. The Clerk added that the correspondence also enquired as to the possibility of entering into a Service Level Agreement (SLA), which if approved, would fund and allow for the Parish Council to ensure that work to remove vegetation and weeds was undertaken in a timely and efficient manner.
- e. OM-24-061 d i. The Clerk informed the Council that he had raised the subject of changing the nights on which Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) meetings were held, so as not to clash with Parish Council meetings. The Clerk continued that the VHMC Chairman would discuss the request with members of the Executive Committee and report back to the Clerk.

- f. OM-24-064 b. The Chairman reported that together with Cllr's Cooper and Thomas she would be attending the District Council's Code of Conduct training in Harwich on 19th August 2024.
 - i. A conversation ensued during which the Clerk confirmed that the training was mandatory for all Town and Parish Councillors, and that to date only four Councillors had completed the training.
 - ii. The Clerk stated that he had offered the District Council the use of both the Village Hall and Dumont Hall, however, no dates had been confirmed. The consensus of the Council, including those scheduled to attend the training in Harwich, was that it would be preferable to attend training sessions held closer to, or indeed in St Osyth.

OM-24-069 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

OM-24-070 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence of 28th June 2024 from Essex County Council in response to an enquiry submitted to former Member of Parliament for Clacton on Sea, Giles Watling, with regard to fly-tipping.
- b. Correspondence of 31st July 2024 from Tendring District Council's Licensing Section:
 - i. Licensing Enforcement & Inspection Policy 2024-2028.
 - ii. Gambling Policy 2025-2028.
 - iii. Sex Establishment Policy 2024-2028.
 - iv. Pavement Licence Policy 2024-2028.
- c. Correspondence of 8th August 2024 from TDC with regard to the implementation of Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2024.
 - i. The Chairman gave an overview of a meeting she had with a District Council Enforcement Officer during the morning of 15th August 2024. The Chairman stated that the Enforcement Officers were able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) to anyone contravening the new PSPO, which covered all public land throughout the district, including land owned by Town and Parish Councils.
 - a) The Chairman stated that the PSPO included enclosed play areas, such as Dumont Avenue.
 - b) Cllr. Talbot stated that it would be beneficial for Parish Council staff, such as the Community Warden, to be trained by the District Council and authorised to issue FPN within the parish.
 - i) The Clerk informed the Council of a previous District Council scheme which would have seen himself and the Community Warden trained by Essex Police to issue FPN's. The Clerk added that despite submitting all necessary forms, including DBS checks and Parish Council policies, the District Council had withdrawn from the scheme.

- c) Cllr. Venables stated that it would be good to see the Enforcement Officers or Police down at St Osyth Beach.
 - d) Cllr. Blockley requested that a sign detailing the PSPO be displayed at the entrance to the allotments.
- ii. The Chairman stated that she had written about the implementation of the new PSPO for inclusion in the September edition of St Osyth Life.
 - iii. A conversation ensued about the issuing of FPN and fines in respect of fly-tipping. The Chairman informed the Council that the District Council officer responsible for fly-tipping was in the process of ensuring that the Council's policy would make the issuing of fines easier.

OM-24-071 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for July 2024, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
 - i. Cllr. Cooper enquired as to the payment made to a local contractor on 10th July 2024.
 - a) The Clerk stated that the payment related to the clearance of vegetation and weeds, following complaints from residents and criticism of the Parish Council on social media as to the appearance of the village.
 - b) Cllr. Cooper noted receipt of income of 22nd July 2024 in respect of the Willow Plantation.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:
 - i. Current a/c: £112,571.80
 - ii. Deposit: £104,390.33

OM-24-072 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

- a. **Finance Committee:**
 - i. The draft Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 17th July 2024 having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited questions. None were forthcoming.
 - ii. Grant Award Policy:
 - a) The Grant Award Policy dated 30th April 2018 having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited comments.
 - i) The Chairman stated that other grant awarding bodies requested the completion of a form to prove expenditure related to the project for which funding had been requested. The Chairman reported that although invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 8th May 2024 to report back on how grant funding had been spent, some organisations/ clubs had not even attended the meeting.

- ii) Cllr. Talbot stated that if accepting a grant from the Parish Council then it was only right that organisations/ clubs send a representative to the Annual Parish Meeting.
- iii. Addendum to Grant Award Policy:
 - a) The proposed addendum to the Grant Award Policy having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited comments.
 - i) Cllr. Talbot stated that it was very good addition to a well written policy.
 - ii) The Clerk stated that the placement of the additional wording within the existing policy had yet to be finalised.
 - iii) The Chairman requested that the completed document be presented to the Council for approval at the meeting scheduled for 19th September 2024.

OM-24-073 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Public Realm Working Party:**
 - i. The Clerk reported that having met with representatives of play equipment providers he was awaiting several quotations which were needed to satisfy the requirement of the District Council for at least three quotations to be submitted when requesting the release of Public Open Spaces Contributions (POSC)/ Section 106 (s106) funding.
 - ii. The Clerk stated that he would have all quotations ahead of the meeting scheduled for 12th September 2024.
- b. **Highways Working Party:** In the absence of Cllr. Goggin it was agreed to defer this item until his arrival.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** Cllr. Atkins reported that a meeting had been held on 13th August 2024, the notes of which would be received at the Council meeting scheduled for 19th September 2024.
 - i. Cllr. Atkins stated that it had been a good meeting, during which the subjects of maintenance and the PSPO had been discussed.

OM-24-074 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Allotments:** Nothing to report.
- b. **Community Matters & Well-being:** Cllr. Venables reported that a new 'Care 4 Carers' support group was starting in Clacton on Sea as of 19th August 2024, and that a new Veterans support group would be held on the last Monday of each month in Jaywick Enterprise Centre.
- c. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, Cllr. Cooper briefed the Council on reported crime during June 2024 in St Osyth and Point Clear, by offence and location, and where practicable the status of the investigation.

- d. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Atkins gave the following report:
- i. That he had received a complaint about the accuracy of maps detailing walks within the parish and that having checked the website it was apparent that some of the information was considerably out of date. Cllr. Atkins continued that the Clerk had since removed the historic footpath guides, which had been provided by a former Councillor.
 - ii. That he had received a complaint from a resident as to the condition of the permissive footpath behind Cowley Park.
 - a) The Clerk informed the Council that the footpath had since been cut by a contractor and that the problem arose as people only reported the condition of footpaths when they became impassable, as opposed to informing the Council when the vegetation was reaching the point where it would be advantageous to cut the growth, so as to ensure the footpath remained accessible.
- e. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. Atkins reported on the recent felling of trees within the Willow Plantation. He continued that, in his opinion, the area had been left in a good condition, albeit that one area was a bit messy. Cllr. Atkins stated that the brash had been left in such a way as to create habitats, which was a positive aspect of the felling, and that having walked the length of the plantation, he considered the work and resultant habitats to be good.
- i. By way of a PowerPoint presentation, the Clerk was able to show photographs of the Willow Plantation.
 - ii. As a result of considerable criticism of the felling on social media, the Clerk informed the Council of the following:
 - a) That the felling had been conducted under a compulsory licence from the Forestry Commission and that the contractors carried out all necessary surveys prior to felling.
 - b) That some 23 trees had been felled on land owned by the Parish Council and that of these, some had been harvested, whilst a number had been felled on safety grounds due to being unstable and posing a risk to neighbouring properties.
 - c) That trees had also been felled on privately owned land adjacent to the Parish Council land. The felling of these trees had also been under compulsory licence from the Forestry Commission
 - d) That new 15 ft four-year old sets would be planted later this year.
 - e) That despite claims that the trees had been in situ for the past 40 years, a substantial felling programme had been undertaken approximately 15 years ago, at which time new trees had been planted.
 - f) That there had been incorrect statements on social media that the trees had been felled to create space for a housing development.

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

Cllr. Sinclair gave the following report:

- i. TDALC met on Wednesday 24th July 2024.
- ii. There was a detailed report from Ardleigh Parish Council on the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury project. Overhead lines, pylons and a huge substation are just some of the works planned. Ardleigh is possibly the worst hit village in the whole scheme. The devastation and impact to the village will be enormous. It is said that there will be 539 HGV's a day, 12 hours a day though the week and 8 hours at a weekend. The plan for the substation shows it to be the size of the centre of Ardleigh, 1.6 million trees are at risk plus hedging. Machinery such as cranes that are 17m long, low loaders with cables and girder delivery vehicles which are 60m long. These statistics are based on the project overall.
- iii. TDALC thanked all members for the swift payment of the subscriptions this year. Some has already been sent to Ardleigh Parish Council to offset the cost of printing leaflets informing residents about the pylon project.
- iv. Some courses at the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) have had to be cancelled. Tutors for the courses were given new contracts of employment and four resigned as they were not happy with the new terms offered. EALC are in the process of recruiting new tutors. The last EALC meeting held at Great Dunmow was four hours long which was considered unreasonable by members. Some attend via Zoom but people also attend in person.
- v. A discussion was held on crime statistics in general and it was noted that cases of Domestic Violence had increased significantly. Interestingly Little Clacton said that all their domestic violence figures came from their care homes where residents had attacked other residents or staff. Once reported to the police this is classed as domestic violence.
- vi. There was a lengthy discussion around Essex County Highways and I raised the matter of grounds maintenance as one that has been a massive problem in our village. Surprisingly our village was not the only one affected as all villages present said that they had the same problems. The TDALC representative on the Essex County Council Highways panel said that he will raise this issue as a matter of urgency. I spoke about the possibility of entering into a Service Level Agreement with ECC so that we are paid for the work that we have to undertake because of health and safety and that we are actively seeking reimbursement for work already carried out. I hope that other local councils follow our lead on this. We also discussed having a point of contact for an officer at Essex County Council for reporting potholes to go alongside the present reporting regime.
- vii. Little Clacton Parish Council have a deployable camera and were able to catch a fly-tipper. They recorded the car draw up to the side of the road, dump rubbish and then drive away.

The registration number was recorded together with facial recognition of the people in the car and this was reported to the Police. The Police were only interested in the intelligence gathering as the car was traced to North London and they were already known to the Police for other matters. Little Clacton were told it was a civil matter by the Police and to report it to the District Council. This they have done and are awaiting news of a possible prosecution. It has always been that the evidence needed for prosecution was insufficient but, in this case, they have all the information they need, and Little Clacton are not prepared to let the matter drop. They are going to write to the Leader of the Council and the MP for their support.

viii. The next meeting is on 25th September 2024.

Cllr. Talbot stated that it had been a good meeting and that Cllr. Sinclair had played a big part in highlighting and addressing issues affecting the majority of Councils within TDALC membership,

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Talbot for his kind words.

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

Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:

- i. The first new residents are already being lined up for a brand-new £3.25million housing development for the elderly in Lawford. TDC is creating 13 single-storey senior living homes on the site of the former Honeycroft sheltered housing scheme in Waldegrave Way, which was closed by the Council in 2018 and subsequently demolished in 2021.
- ii. The proposed new Electric Power Line from Norwich to Tilbury, using electricity Pylons to transport the energy raised by windmills at sea, has once again been discussed. At a meeting of the Full Council on Tuesday 6th August, Councillors unanimously voted in favour of a motion proposed by Councillor Zoe Fairley, which states the pylons could have a "potentially devastating effect" on Tendring. National Grid recently held a statutory consultation into its proposals for the 184 km power line that would cut through the north Essex countryside. In response to the consultation, Tendring District Council has said it remains "strongly opposed" to proposed plans following concerns over the impact on the countryside and the transport network. Zoe's motion called on the Leader of the Council, to write to Ed Miliband MP, the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, calling on him to re-examine the Norwich to Tilbury proposals and to instead look at an integrated offshore grid, which is something I support and have spoken about in Council and at other meeting over the last two years.
- iii. Pantomime fans of all ages are being invited to experience the magic of 3D at Clacton's Princes Theatre. The magnificent 3D special effects are being used as TDC's theatre hosts Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs from 7 to 29 December. The groundbreaking panto experience promises a visual spectacle like no other, with the audience being handed 3D glasses for special sections of the show.

- iv. According to the Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2024 half of businesses and a third of charities suffered a Cyber Breach or attack in the past year. Public Sector organisations are no exception to these attacks. Neither are Councillors. I had a series of slightly distressing e-mails from a fellow Councillor of longstanding. I made enquiries on his behalf, I found web links for him, but every reply I received back, was to show he was unable to do what was necessary himself. After about the eighth exchange he asked me to make a financial transaction on his behalf. I was suspicious and checked his e-mail address which looked okay, but on close inspection another character had been made part of the address, I will not flog it, but it was a 'scam' in the making. When I told him, he was staggered and said he would report it.
- v. Cllr. Venables enquired as to whether Cllr. Talbot had any information with regard to the reported closure of the Careline system.
 - a) Cllr. Talbot stated that he was not aware and that he did not wish to mislead anyone by speculating.
 - b) The Chairman stated that she understood the system to have been taken over by a private firm, which was responsible for other areas.
- h. **Website:** The Clerk reported that he would be forwarding photographs of Councillors and various documents to the website host for inclusion on the website.

OM-24-075 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 20th August 2024.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Thomas reported that Dumont Hall had been the venue for a Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST) Village Hall Forum on 18th July 2024 and that the meeting of the Executive Committee had been held on 25th July 2024. Cllr. Thomas continued that the Association was still awaiting a response from the District Council with regard to a grant application, which was currently being paid to organisations elsewhere by other local authorities. Cllr. Thomas concluded that that the District Council had delayed any details of successful applications/ payment of the grant until September 2024.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the next quarterly meeting was scheduled for October 2024.

OM-24-076 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.00 pm, and his report having been previously circulated, Cllr. Goggin invited questions from those present.

- i. The Chairman stated that there was no evidence to suggest that any repairs had been carried out by the additional Highways gangs.
 - a) Cllr. Goggin stated that he had received notification that eleven sites in St Osyth were due to be repaired in the near future. He added that the repair works, which would be trialling a new method, would be more than an emergency repair but not quite to the standard of a full repair.
 - b) Cllr. Goggin stated reported that according to the information he had, some three kilometres of surfacing along Point Clear Road was to be repaired.
 - c) Cllr. Thomas enquired as to why a pothole, outside of the Village Hall, which had been reported over a year ago had yet to be repaired.
 - i) Cllr. Goggin stated that he was unable to provide a reason for the delay, however, should the condition of the pothole deteriorate further it could be reported again.
- ii. Cllr. Goggin reported that he had received correspondence from the Clerk with regard to the possibility of entering into a Service Level Agreement with Highways for the maintenance of vegetation.
 - a) The Chairman stated that the Parish Council was also seeking reimbursement for the works funded by the Council, which had been carried out for Health & Safety reasons, such as the clearance of vegetation obstructing the footpath along Colchester Road, which had forced residents to have to walk in the road.
 - b) Cllr. Goggin stated that it was unlikely that the Parish Council would receive any form of recompense, as whilst the Parish Council had no control over when any work was carried out, there was no evidence to suggest that Highways would not have carried out the necessary work.
 - c) The Clerk informed all present that the clearance of vegetation had previously been carried by the TDC Highway Rangers, who had been funded by ECC, however, this service had stopped when funding was withdrawn.
 - d) The Clerk reported on a similar situation in 2023, when having reported the obstruction of footways by vegetation, the response from Highways had been:
 - i) *We have investigated and risk-assessed this issue. Our recent inspection of this issue has prioritised it as not as serious as some of the other defects we are aware of, so we have recorded it and will consider it when we are planning future works in the area. This does not mean that this issue is not important to us; we will repair it just as soon as is humanly possible given the constraints explained.*

and the subsequent response from the then Portfolio Holder for Highways & Sustainable Transport, Councillor Lee Scott had been:

- ii) *I have had Officers check this enquiry and although we recognise the defect there is not currently a timescale for the work to be completed.*
 - e) Cllr. Thomas reported on a recent incident whereby ECC had failed to respond to a claim for compensation, therefore the resident had taken the matter to the Small Claims Court, which had ruled in favour of the resident.
 - f) The Chairman suggested that it was as if Highways were hoping that if they ignored a problem for long enough it would go away.
 - g) A conversation ensued as to the criteria and process for reporting defects as an emergency.
- iii. Cllr. Goggin informed the Council that the works to reduce the speed limit along the B1027, near Westwood Park, which involved some 224 action points, was the largest safety project of its kind in Essex in the current financial year.

OM-24-077 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

a. Highways Working Party:

- i. The notes of the Highways Working Party meeting of 30th March 2024 having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited questions of Cllr. Cooper in his capacity as Chair of the Working Party. None were forthcoming.
- ii. At the request of Cllr. Cooper, the Clerk reminded the Council of the site meeting at Stone Alley, on 26th June 2024, at which the issue of parking had been discussed.
 - a) The Clerk reported that the County Council of Essex (Stone Alley, St Osyth) (Prohibition of Through Traffic) Order dated 6th March 1972/ Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), received following the meeting, made no reference to the 'Except for Access' plates, displayed at either end of the alley, which could therefore be removed. This, the Clerk continued, would then make the enforcement of vehicles in the alley a matter for the Police, however, they would have to physically observe the vehicles driving in the alley in order to take any action.
 - b) The Clerk reported that during the meeting, it had been suggested that, subject to the approval of Highways, the placing of items, such as a planter, could be a way to prevent parking in the alley, however, this would potentially contravene the TRO.
 - c) The Clerk informed the Council of the process for applying to have parking restrictions, by way of double yellow lines, implemented, which could take up to two years, as applications to the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP), the organisation responsible, were only accepted once a year, at the end of July.

- i) Any application, even if submitted now, would not be reviewed until October 2025 at the earliest, and that was only if approved by the District Council, which could only submit six applications. Were such an application to be successful, the restrictions would be implemented in 2026.
 - ii) The Clerk added the Parish Council could self-fund an application, which could be implemented in approximately three to four months, however, this would cost in the region of £2,000.00 to £3,000.00.
 - d) The Clerk stated that regardless of which option was chosen, the use of double yellow lines was only effective if regularly monitored by NEPP Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO).
 - i) It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain confirmation from Highways as to the siting of obstacles in the alley.
- iii. By way of a PowerPoint presentation, the Clerk showed Councillors photographs of parking in the vicinity of the crossroads.
 - a) The Chairman suggested that the time had come to reconsider the use of double red lines.
 - b) Cllr. Goggin stated that the Council should 'be careful what they wished for' as the regulations for red lines meant that anyone parked on red lines would be receive a fine, including blue badge holders and deliveries.
 - c) Cllr. Talbot stated that TDC were opposed to red lines, which was a means of funding for the NEPP.
 - i) The Chairman stated that red lines were becoming more prevalent throughout the district, citing locations such as the hospital in Clacton on Sea and the train station and High Street in Thorpe-le-Soken.
 - ii) The Clerk stated that he could liaise with the NEPP Parking Project Engineer to ascertain whether there were any exemptions in respect of red lines, such as delivery bays etc.
 - d) A conversation with regard to red lines followed, during which the following comments/ observations were made:
 - i) Cllr. Goggin stated that he would support an application to the NEPP, however, the Parish Council should be mindful of the implications of red lines, and that the NEPP had allocated its budget for the current financial year.
 - ii) Cllr. Goggin cited that recent implementation of red lines outside of the Colne School in Brightlingsea, which had been effective in stopping parking.
 - iii) The Chairman stated that if the Council did move for the implementation of red lines, it would be on safety grounds and not as a means of revenue for the NEPP.

- iv) **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council investigate the possible implementation of parking restrictions, by way of red lines, in the vicinity of the crossroads. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Atkins and seconded by Cllr. Venables. With the exception of Cllr. Talbot, all agreed.
- iv. By way of a PowerPoint presentation, the Clerk showed Councillors CCTV footage of a number of incidents which had occurred at the crossroads during a period of four days, two of which had resulted in collisions. The Clerk stated that a number of observations could be made, including vehicles driving between the speed cushions, larger SUV type and 4x4 vehicles straddling the cushions, and despite there being signage, painted instructions on the carriageway and a solid white line, some vehicles failing to stop at all.
- a) The Council discussed the crossroads, during which the following comments/ observations were made:
 - i) Cllr. French suggested that the speed cushions needed to be relocated.
 - ii) The Chairman noted that the white marking on the cushions themselves had faded.
 - iii) Cllr. Thomas stated that a third cushion was required, so that the obstacle was the full width of the carriageway.
 - iv) Cllr. Cooper reported that the proprietor of The Hoy had again offered to host representatives of the Parish Council and Essex Highways, so that the standard of driving could be observed without the sight of fluorescent clothing deterring drivers from their normal driving habits.
 - v) The Clerk stated that in playing devil's advocate, the incidents at the crossroads could not be fully attributable to the effectiveness of the speed cushions and that driver error/ failure to obey road signs played a significant part.
 - vi) Cllr. Ward stated that she agreed with the Clerk in that bad driving was the primary cause, especially as all residents were aware of the requirement to stop at the crossroads.
 - vii) The Chairman stated that given the speed at which some vehicles drove over the speed cushions it must impact on the drivers control of the vehicle.
 - b) Cllr. Cooper enquired as to whether having spent in excess of £100,000.00 in respect of safety improvements at the crossroads, Essex Highways had undertaken a review of the effectiveness of the scheme.
 - i) Cllr. Goggin stated that bad driving aside, the Parish Council would need to provide evidence as to the failings of the speed cushions, such as the number of collisions reported.

- ii) Cllr. Goggin continued that when Highways reviewed road safety, it was graded by incidents involving fatalities, followed by serious injury/ injuries, followed by collisions without injury, and finally near misses.
 - iii) The Clerk stated that he would liaise with the proprietor of the The Hoy and try to obtain additional CCTV footage.
- c) A discussion ensued as to the use of traffic lights, which Cllr. Goggin stated had been discussed some forty years ago.
- i) Cllr. Talbot gave a brief overview of the original proposal to install traffic-controlled signals.
 - ii) Cllr. Ward stated that primary reason why the signals had not been installed as due to the need to suspend the signals over the crossroads, which would impact of the movement of larger vehicles, such as agricultural machinery and caravan transporters.
 - iii) Both the Chairman and Cllr. Cooper reminded the Council that the reason for the dismissal of traffic lights being included in the recent improvements was due to the build-up of traffic which would arise, given that in some cases, the signals would need to be some 100 to 150 metres from the actual junction.
- d) It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Essex Highways to request a formal review of the effectiveness of the safety measures implemented in March 2023.

OM-24-078 WITCH HERITAGE TRAIL:

Having previously received a presentation from the Manager of the Priory Education Centre at the meeting of 18th April 2024, with regard to the proposal for a memorial in respect of the victims of the 1582 witch trials, the Clerk reminded the Council of the subsequent correspondence from TDC, requesting that a memorial bench and information board be sited on The Bury, as part of the district-wide Witch Trail.

- a. The Chairman stated that there was, in her opinion, too much in the way of street furniture already on The Bury and that it might be sensible to place a memorial bench and preferably a memorial stone, as opposed to an information board, on Cowley Park.
- b. Cllr. Ward enquired as to whether a bench and memorial stone/ information board would be seen if located in Cowley Park.
 - i. The Chairman stated that the location would be detailed on 'The Witches Trail'.
- c. Cllr. Thomas enquired as to where the bench would be sited on Cowley Park.
 - i. The Chairman explained where she envisaged the bench being located, which she believed was a quite area.

- d. Cllr. Thomas enquired as to the owner and reasons for the existing benches on The Bury.
 - i. The Clerk gave an overview of the benches.
- e. Cllr. Thomas suggested that rather than place the bench and board on Cowley Park, the Council consider relocating an existing bench from The Bury to Cowley Park and replace it with the memorial bench, with the information board being sited near the museum in the Cemetery.
 - i. Cllr. Thomas stated that she had seen a number of people, including walkers, stop to and look at the existing memorial stone on The Bury and that placing the Witches Trail bench there would add to the appeal of The Bury.
 - ii. For the purpose of clarification, the Clerk confirmed that the proposal was to remove the existing Council bench from The Bury, retaining the replica of the Bar Corner bench; relocate the Council bench to Cowley Park and site the Witches Trail bench on The Bury.
 - iii. Cllr. Thomas confirmed this to be correct.
- f. In discussing the proposed memorial, as suggested at the meeting of 18th April 2024, the Council reaffirmed its willingness to consider a memorial stone, similar to that at Colchester Castle.
- g. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the respective TDC officer to appraise them of the Councils view.

OM-24-079 ANTI-SOCIAL USE OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC):

The notes of the meeting of 30th July 2024 having been previously distributed, the Chairman gave an overview of the meeting at which it had been agreed to investigate the installation of a bollard to manage access to Stone Point, together with the registration of all PWC launching from that area. The Chairman subsequently invited questions.

- a. Cllr. Talbot stated that he objected to residents of the parish having to pay harbour dues.
- b. Cllr. Ward stated that as the land was a registered village green, she agreed with Cllr. Talbot.
- c. The Chairman reminded all present of the services provided by the Harbour Master, which were funded by way of harbour dues, which included:
 - i. The safe management of the navigational ways.
 - ii. The surveying and charting of depths within the harbour.
 - iii. The removal of wrecks or other hazards in the harbour.
 - iv. The dredging of navigational channels.
 - v. The navigational buoys and their maintenance.

- vi. The use of the jetty, it's management and maintenance.
 - vii. The speed buoys marking the zones in which speed limits apply and zones which they don't.
 - viii. The preparation of signs and leaflets for harbour users.
 - ix. The recovery of vessels breaking down and grounding.
 - x. The deployment of river patrols to ensure the safety of harbour/ river users.
 - xi. Environmental management, oil spill response capability and training.
 - xii. Waste management.
 - xiii. The employment of the staff required to carry out these tasks.
- d. Cllr. Thomas stated that the services provided far outweighed the amount being charged. Cllr. Thomas added that perhaps residents could receive a reduction rather than pay the full amount.
- i. The Chairman stated that this would be included on the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 11th September 2024.

OM-24-080 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. French enquired as to who was responsible for the maintenance of the properties in Clinton Close.
 - i. The Chairman informed him that the properties were owned and maintained by East Light Housing Association.
- b. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that he had, on 6th August 2024, received a £100.00 fine for parking in the Village Hall, whilst attending a meeting of the District Council in Clacton Town Hall. Cllr. Talbot stated that he had parked his car at the Village Hall so as not to cause inconvenience to residents of St Clairs Road, being that he had been given a lift to the meeting by Cllr. White.
 - i. The Clerk reported that the system for issuing fines, about which Cllr. Thomas had reported at the time, had been implemented by the Village Hall Management Committee sometime in early 2023, when a number of hirers had to cancel events, classes etc due to there being insufficient parking spaces when they arrived, primarily due to the school drop-off and pick-ups and people who were visiting residents of Clacton Road using the car park.
 - ii. Cllr. Talbot stated that as both a Parish and District Councillor, he felt that it was permissible to park at the Village Hall when on Council business.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.20 pm.

The date and time of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 19th September 2024, at St Osyth Village Hall.

**Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 15th August 2024**

OM-24-072 a iii a) iii)	Grant Award Policy	Clk to action
OM-24-073 c	Notes of Martin's Farm Park Meeting	Clk to action
OM-24-077 a ii d) i)	Contravention of TRO/ Use of Obstacles	Clk to action
OM-24-077 a iii c) ii)	Exemptions for Parking on Red Lines	Clk to action
OM-24-077 a iii d) iv)	Implementation of Parking Restrictions	Clk to action
OM-24-077 a iv b) iii)	Footage of Incidents	Clk to action
OM-24-077 a iv d)	Review of Safety Improvements	Clk to action
OM-24-078 d	Witch Heritage Trail	Clk to action
OM-24-079 d i	Reduction in Harbour Dues	Clk to action