



ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council
held at St Osyth Village Hall
on Thursday 19th December 2024 at 7.00 pm



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

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (arrived at 7.50 pm)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Susan Ball (Illness)
Cllr. Alma Blockley (Medical Appointment)

MINUTES: Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

OM-24-131 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

The Chairman reminded 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-24-132 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	24/01755/TCA Mrs J Clinton Summer Cottage The Quay, Mill Street St Osyth	Trees in a Conservation Area Notification - To crown reduce 1 x Willow Tree by 50%. This application is referred to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
b.	24/01756/TCA Mr I Leggett The Old Chapel 30 Colchester Road St Osyth	Trees in a Conservation Area Notification - To fell 1 x Acer Sycamore to a 10ft stump. This application is referred to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
c.	24/01773/FUL Haven Ltd Orchards Holiday Village Colne Way Point Clear Bay	Planning Application - Installation of a modular single storey building to serve a hot food offering. Albeit that the Parish Council is unable to comment on individual statements, the Council supports the residents of Point Clear Bay in their objections to this application. If the Planning Authority is minded to approve this application, the Parish Council would request that all deliveries be internal, or via the delivery/service vehicular access on Eastern Way, as per the approval granted on 6 th August 2021, in respect of 21/00831/LUEX, so as not to increase traffic, especially HGV deliveries, on Colne Way.

OM-24-133 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) for the period of 15th November 2024 to 6th December 2024.
- b. Letter of 19th November 2024 from the Planning Inspectorate, regarding the dismissal of Appeal APP/P1560/W/24/3338935 (TDC 23/00924/TELCOM) The Orchards Holiday Village, Point Clear Bay.
- c. Email of 2nd December 2024 from TDC regarding Call for Heritage Sites Consultation (2nd December 2024 – 2nd June 2025)

OM-24-134 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 21st November 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. Moore and seconded by Cllr. Atkins. All agreed.

OM-24-135 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-24-119 e i. The Clerk informed the Council that having made provisional enquiries with the Marine Management Agency, it had been ascertained that the applicant, in this case either The Orchards Holiday Park or Brightlingsea Harbour Master, would be responsible for the purchase of the buoys, in addition to the cost of the installation and application itself.
- b. OM-24-121 b i. The Clerk reminded the Council that in addition to responding to the consultation in respect of Remote Meetings on behalf of the Council, he had also forwarded the email from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) to Councillors, should they wish to respond themselves.
- c. OM-24-124 b iv. The Clerk informed the Council that having discussed the subject with Councillor Goggin, the latter had confirmed that should the Parish Council wish to submit an application for the renewal of signage in Stone Alley as part of the Member-Led Repair Programme, then he [Cllr. Goggin] would endorse the application, although there was no guarantee that it would be accepted as part of the scheme.
 - i. The Clerk requested confirmation that the Council wished to proceed with the application. All agreed.
- d. OM-24-130 a i. Cllr. Talbot offered his apologies for not having been able to raise the issue of Rush Green Road Recycling Centre at District Council level. He stated that he would do so before the meeting scheduled for 16th January 2025.
- e. OM-24-130 c. The report of the Point Clear Bay Interest Group having been previously distributed, the Chairman requested that Councillors liaise directly with Cllr. Ball should they have any questions or comments in respect of the report.

OM-24-136 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

OM-24-137 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence of 20th November 2024 and 2nd December 2024 respectively between St Osyth Parish Council and Cllr. Cunningham, Essex County Council (ECC) Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Sustainable Transport with regard to the maintenance of amenities and verges.
 - i. Cllr's Cooper and Thomas both commented that Cllr. Cunningham had missed the point of the correspondence from the Parish Council and had focused on what the Parish Council should not be doing rather than what the County Council should be doing.
 - ii. Cllr. Talbot stated that the response from Cllr. Cunningham was most unsatisfactory and that he would, with the agreement of the Council, raise the matter with Cllr. Goggin when he arrived. All agreed.
- b. Correspondence of 21st November 2024 from ECC with regard to the Essex Wide Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- c. Correspondence of 3rd December 2024 from St Osyth Parish Council to Cllr. Goggin, concerning the request for works as part of the Member-Led Repair Programme in respect of the County Council of Essex (Stone Alley, St Osyth) (Prohibition of Through Traffic) Order dated 6th March 1972/Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).
- d. Correspondence of 9th December 2024 from a resident concerning the upkeep of the flowerbed at the Clacton Road entrance to the village.
 - i. The Clerk reminded the Council that this would be a point for discussion later in the meeting.
- e. The report of 12th December 2024 from Cllr. Susan Ball regarding the Essex Rural Crime Summit, which had previously been emailed to Councillors.

OM-24-138 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for November 2024, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:
 - i. Current a/c: £70,263.70
 - ii. Deposit: £150,000.00
- c. Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for the Year Ending 31st March 2024.

- i. The Clerk informed the Council that whilst there were no adverse comments in respect of how the Council was conducting its financial affairs, which were in accordance with proper practices, regulatory requirements and relevant legislation, the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn had made several comments with regard to the Council's Asset Register and the Exercise of Public Rights.
 - a) The Clerk reported that due to the renewal of safety surfacing and the purchase of additional play equipment, via Public Open Spaces Contributions (POSC)/ Section 106 (s106) funds, the estimated current value of assets for financial year 2023/2024 had increased from that of 2022/2023. The Clerk continued that the auditor has stated that the value applicable for 2023/2024 should be listed against 2022/2023, even though, in the opinion of the Clerk, the value of assets would not have been similar.
 - b) The Clerk informed the Council that when dealing with the auditor, the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) had submitted and dealt with all enquiries from the auditor within the allotted time. The auditor had subsequently stated that the Parish Council had *failed to make proper provision during the year 2024/25 for the exercise of public rights, since the approval date was after the start of the period for the exercise of public rights*. The Clerk stated that All submissions had been within the allocated time and that the comment from the auditor referred to a financial year which had not yet finished.
 - c) The Clerk concluded that he had sent a chronological record of emails between the Parish Council and PKF Littlejohn, together with the Audit Report, to the Council's Independent Internal Auditor (IIA) for comment.
- ii. **RESOLVED:** That the Council acknowledge the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the Year Ending 31st March 2024. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Moore and seconded by Cllr. Talbot. All agreed.

OM-24-139 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

a. Finance Committee:

- i. The draft Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 12th December 2024 having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited questions of Cllr. Cooper in his capacity as Chair of the Finance Committee. None were forthcoming.
- ii. Having been previously circulated, the Council reviewed the grant applications to be paid in October 2025, as recommended by the Finance Committee.
 - a) **RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr. French and seconded by Cllr. Atkins, that St Osyth Parish Council approve the payment of grants to the amount of £17,360.00, payable in October 2025, as recommended by the Finance Committee at the meeting of 12th December 2024. All agreed.

OM-24-140 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

a. Public Realm Working Party:

- i. By way of a PowerPoint presentation, the Clerk displayed a number of photographs of the recent and ongoing installation of junior gym equipment and the activity tower respectively, at Priory Meadow. The Clerk informed the Council that the installation of the activity tower would be completed by 27th December 2024.
- ii. Having been raised under correspondence, the Clerk reminded the Council of the request from a resident concerning the upkeep of the flowerbed at the Clacton Road entrance to the village. The Clerk continued that the maintenance of the flowerbed had been raised at the Finance Committee meeting of 16th October 2024, during the discussion in respect of the Management Plan for 2025.
 - a) The Clerk informed the Council that the resident had offered to provide a planter, similar to those on The Bury, on the basis that a sponsorship sign be placed on the planter. The Clerk added that the resident had also stated that the area of the flowerbed had very poor soil with little or no drainage, therefore they would be reluctant to maintain the area as it would be a waste of money, being that plants would die due to lack of water. Were the planter to be approved, the resident would fill it with good quality compost and moisture retained pellets, as well as a good selection of plants.
 - b) Cllr. White stated that whilst in favour of the request, he did not wish to see the entrance to the village become a mass of advertising, such as the roundabouts in Clacton on Sea.
 - c) The Chairman reminded the Council of the previous request from the Primary School to place a banner at the entrance to the village, which was refused.
 - d) Cllr. Thomas enquired as to the size of the sign to be placed on the planter.
 - i) The Clerk stated that he did not know.
 - ii) Cllr. Thomas stated that it would be inappropriate to have any form of advertising.
 - e) Cllr. Cooper stated that if approved it would set a precedence.
 - f) Cllr. Atkins enquired as to the alternative were the Council to refuse the request.
 - i) The Chairman suggested that the Council could purchase a self-watering planter.
 - g) Cllr. Moore enquired as to the wording on the sign.

- i) The Clerk stated that he assumed it would be the name of the resident's business.
- ii) Cllr. Talbot suggested that the sign would take the form of a plaque which would presumably need to be visible from the road.
- h) Cllr. Thomas enquired as to the reason behind the flowerbed.
 - i) The Chairman stated that a former Councillor, whom the resident was related to, had planted and maintained the flowerbed.
- i) The Chairman suggested that the matter be referred to the Public Realm Working Party for further consideration. All agreed.

b. Highways Working Party:

- i. The Clerk reported on the site meeting of 25th November 2024, attended by himself, on behalf of the Parish Council, Matthew Bynoe, Director of the St Osyth Priory Estate, Sonia Grantham, St Osyth Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Matthew Lang, TDC Senior Planning Officer, during which the following had been noted:
 - a) Phase one of the works to The Bury, the temporary car park, would be completed before Christmas.
 - b) Phase two would see the repair of the wall along Mill Street.
 - i) The Clerk informed the Council that parts of the wall were currently being supported by one-ton bags of ballast, due to the wall being undermined by water from the carriageway on the Mill Street side of the wall, which was approximately 24-36 inches higher than that of the Priory side of the wall.
 - ii) The Clerk stated that if all went to plan, the repair of the wall would take between three and four months, during which time Mill Street would be reduced to a single lane and subject to traffic lights.
 - c) Phase three would see the creation of a new entrance way in the Priory wall and car parking spaces, of which approximately fifty would be allocated for use by the community, within the grounds of The Priory, behind Mill Street Wall.
 - i) The Clerk stated that the need to repair the wall accounted for why the creation of the car park was listed as phase three.
 - d) Phase four would see the removal of the temporary car park and enhancement of The Bury.
 - i) The Clerk stated that if all went according to plan and there were no unnecessary delays, phases two (once approved) to four, would take approximately 24-30 months to complete.

- ii) Cllr. Thomas enquired as to the possibility of the corner of the wall, opposite the War Memorial, being moved back, which would improve both the width of the carriageway and safety for road users.
 - iii) The Clerk stated that having enquired about the repositioning of the wall, he had been informed that it would not be possible due to the difference in ground level on the inside of the wall.
 - iv) Cllr. White suggested that the wall could be set back if the difference in ground level was built up by way of additional foundations.
 - v) Cllr. Venables remarked that The Bury would look fantastic once it was completed.
 - ii. The Clerk informed the Council that he had, on 3rd December 2024, received a telephone call from the owner of the land used for parking adjacent to the Vicarage, informing him [the Clerk] that following the closure of The Bury over the weekend of 30th November - 1st December 2024, the parking would be withdrawn, due largely to a member of the owners family being unable to exit their property because of the way in which vehicles had been parked.
 - a) The Clerk stated that having explained the works on The Bury to the landowner, the latter had informed a third party that the withdrawal of parking would not be immediate, however, it would definitely happen.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** Nothing to report.
 - i. Cllr. Venables commented on the number of trade vans parking along the Wellwick Wharf approach road in the evenings and at weekends.
 - a) The Clerk stated that this was due to Oaklands Holiday Camp, which was now essentially a residential estate, not permitting trade vehicles to be parked on site.
 - b) The Clerk stated that as the road on which the vehicles were being parked was privately owned, by St Osyth Priory, all he could do was bring the matter to the attention of the Estate Director.

OM-24-141 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 7.50 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave the following report:
 - i. That Devolution would happen and that the Government seemed determined to 'get the ball rolling.'
 - ii. That as Devolution would potentially see a merger between District Councils, it was unlikely that it would have a direct impact at Parish Council level, other than which authority would provide services.

- iii. That there were deemed to be too many authorities, and that merging District Councils would create authorities which were smaller than the current County Council, but which would be larger than the existing District Councils.
 - iv. That when Devolution occurred, Essex County Council would effectively cease to exist, and that District Councils throughout the county would merge to create four separate authorities.
 - a) Cllr. Goggin stated it was likely Tendring District Council would merge with Colchester City Council, Braintree District Council and possibly Uttlesford District Council, to create, for example, North East Essex Council.
 - b) Cllr. Cooper stated that were this to be the case, it was likely that any savings in staff costs would be as a result of cuts to senior management, as, for example, there would only need to be one Chief Executive, as opposed to the current four, one Head of Planning, as opposed to the current four etc.
 - c) Cllr. Goggin stated that he expected there to be no more than five new authorities, each of which would have its own Mayor.
 - d) Cllr. Talbot gave an overview of the reorganisation of Local Government in 1964, when the London Borough Councils as known today were first created. Cllr. Talbot added that it had been a complicated matter, which had long lasting effects.
 - v. Cllr. Talbot informed Cllr. Goggin that the response from Cllr. Cunningham, Essex County Council (ECC) Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Sustainable Transport, to the concerns raised by the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council, was most unsatisfactory and was critical of the Parish Council for undertaking work which should have been actioned by the County Council/ Essex Highways.
- b. **Community Matters & Well-being:** Cllr. Venables reported that there were to be a number of 'Warm Hubs' in the next few months, details of which could be obtained via the Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST) website.
 - c. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, Cllr. Cooper briefed the Council on reported crime during October 2024 in St Osyth and Point Clear, by offence and location, and where practicable the status of the investigation.
 - i. St Osyth
 - a) Anti-social Behaviour
 - i) Old School Close x 2
 - b) Criminal Damage/ Arson
 - i) Park Road - investigation complete; no suspect identified

- c) Drug Related
 - i) Bypass Road x 2 - investigations complete; no suspects identified
 - d) Public Order
 - i) Park Road - under investigation
 - e) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Castle Way x 2 - unable to prosecute suspects
 - ii) Kings Close x 2 - under investigation
 - iii) West Field Lane - unable to prosecute suspect
- ii. St Osyth Beach
- a) Burglary
 - i) Beach Road - under investigation
 - b) Criminal Damage/ Arson
 - i) Beach Road - under investigation
 - c) Public Order
 - i) Beach Road - investigation complete; no suspect identified
 - d) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Beach Road x 2 - investigations complete; no suspects identified
 - ii) First Avenue x 3 - under investigation
 - iii) First Avenue x 2 - unable to prosecute suspects
 - iv) Second Avenue - under investigation
- iii. Bel Air Chalet Estate
- a) Vehicle Crime
 - i) Club Parade - investigation complete; no suspect identified
 - b) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Seawick Road - unable to prosecute suspect
 - ii) Rose Gardens - under investigation
 - iii) Lilac Avenue - unable to prosecute suspect
 - iv) Club Parade - unable to prosecute suspect
- iv. Point Clear
- a) Possession of Weapons
 - i) Oakmead Road - under investigation

- b) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Alpha Road - under investigation
- v. Point Clear Bay
 - a) Anti-social Behaviour
 - i) Colne Way
 - b) Criminal Damage/ Arson
 - i) Mersea View x 2 - investigations complete; no suspects identified
 - ii) Colne Way - under investigation
 - c) Public Order
 - i) Colne Way - investigation complete; no suspect identified
 - d) Theft (Other)
 - i) Mersea View - investigation complete; no suspect identified
 - e) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Mersea View x 2 - both under investigation
- vi. Chisbon Heath
 - a) Anti-social Behaviour
 - i) Highbirch Road
 - b) Shoplifting
 - i) Clay Lane (near Tasmic Services) - under investigation
- vii. Flag Hill
 - a) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Martin's Farm Park (car park) - investigation complete; no suspect identified
- viii. Outcome & Percentage
 - a) Under investigation x 16 (45%)
 - b) Investigation complete; no suspect identified x 12 (33%)
 - c) Unable to prosecute suspect x 8 (22%)
- d. **Footpaths:** Nothing to report.
- e. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. Atkins reported that together with the Chairman, Cllr's Blockley and Thomas, and the Deputy Clerk, he had, on 28th November 2024, planted thirty saplings and a twenty-five metre length of hedging within the wildlife area of the Cemetery.

- i. The Chairman stated that the area would look very good once established.
- f. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):** Cllr. Sinclair gave the following report:
 - i. The Association met on Wednesday 27th November.
 - ii. An update was given by the Offshore Windfarm and Pylons group. This matter is now with the Planning Inspectorate.
 - iii. A report was given by the Tendring Orbital Coastal Route (Sunshine Coast Route). This route will link villages and encourages active travel for work and leisure. The aim is to promote less dependency on the car and more on walking and cycling. The group is trying to engage with Essex County Council. The project hopes to create routes totalling 140 kilometres and has a budget cost of between £800,000.00 and £900,000.00.
 - iv. We had a report from the Emergency Planning and Community Resilience Team who are looking to link Town and Parish Councils together to share information. I reminded them that various community halls also function as emergency centres and that they should be included in any information sharing. They stated that they would look to include representatives from these organisations so this would impact on the Village Hall and Dumont Hall. The meeting will be held in the Town Hall.
 - v. There is a new Chair of the Essex Association of Local Councils. This is Mr Mike Eldred. There are still issues with recruitment, but they are hopeful that a new Chair will be able to address this issue as it has a direct impact on training courses and support to members.
 - vi. Michael supported me very strongly when I raised the issue of paying a Councillor's allowance to co-opted members. This issue was discussed at length at our own Finance Committee and the inequity of the non-payment of the allowance. It was particularly good to have Michael speak on the history of this issue as it has been raised before right up to National level. The Chair of TDALC has promised to raise this at the next regional meeting. On a personal level, I feel very strongly about this issue as it is very unfair so I would like to ask the Council's permission to write to the Local Government Minister at national government level.
- g. **District Councillor's Report:**
 - i. Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
 - a) Last night we had another of our 'All Member Briefings', an elected member session where Ian Davidson, the Chief Executive, led on his recent meetings discussing Devolution and Local Authority mergers.

- b) I did speak about this at our last Parish Council meeting, but it seems to be a rapidly changing background pushing the Governments plans to see areas being represented by Mayors. *In my 'personal' opinion I can see the Civil St. Osyth Parish Council disappearing!*
- c) The hunt is on to find the most beloved heritage sites and historic buildings in Tendring. The Council has launched a 'Call for Heritage Sites' as part of a six-month public consultation. It comes after TDC adopted criteria for a Local Heritage List. It will help to create a list of sites that are important to local people, but do not necessarily meet the specifications to be 'listed' as officially designated heritage assets.
- d) The Department for Transport (DfT) confirmed that train operators Greater Anglia will return to Public Ownership in the Autumn 2025. It means that from the point of changeover, everyone at Greater Anglia will transfer to a new wholly-government owned company, which is going to be renamed as DfT Operator Ltd.
- e) The Prime Minister recently set out in a speech the government's 'Plan for Change', and whilst this is not strictly 'Local' business, many of them will quite definitely concern us in Tendring. I list the main aims here in case you missed them:
 - i) Raising living standards by the end of the Parliament.
 - ii) Build 1.5 million homes in England and fast-track planning decisions on at least 150 major economic infrastructure projects.
 - iii) Tackling hospital backlogs.
 - iv) To employ 13,000 additional officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Special Constables in England and Wales.
 - v) To enable more five-year-olds in England to be ready to learn when they start school.
 - vi) Working towards clean power by 2030 and net zero.

These are ambitious targets, which nail his colours to the masthead!

- ii. Although he did not give a report, Cllr. White stated that Devolution, with the introduction of a Mayor by 2026 was ambitious.
- h. **Website:** Having logged into the draft website, the Clerk briefed the Council on the new website, which he said should be up and running in January or February 2025. Councillors agreed that the format and appearance of the new website was an improvement on the existing website, which relied on 'drop-down' menus.

OM-24-142 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair reported that the next meeting was scheduled for January 2025.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 9th January 2025.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the next meeting was scheduled for January 2025.

OM-24-143 MANAGEMENT PLAN:

- a. The Management Plan for 2025/2026 having been previously distributed, the Clerk informed the Council that the Plan, as approved in principle at the meeting of 21st November 2024, which had been fully costed ahead of the Finance Committee meeting of 12th December 2024, contained all projects/items as submitted by the relevant Committees, Working Parties and responsible Councillors.
- b. **RESOLVED:** That having been agreed in principle at the Council meeting of 21st November 2024, costed by the RFO and Clerk and scrutinised by the Finance Committee at its meeting of 12th December 2024, the Management Plan for 2025/2026, as distributed, be formally approved. The motion was proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.
- c. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked the Clerk and RFO for their work in preparing the Management Plan.

OM-24-144 APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET:

- a. At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk briefed the Council with regards to the budget for 2025/2026.
 - i. The Clerk reported that as a result of the increase in grants to be paid in 2025, the RFO was forecasting a small deficit for 2025/2026, which would more than likely equate to a breakeven budget.
 - ii. The Clerk stated that when calculating the budget, in association with the Management Plan for 2025/2026, both he and the RFO had recommended that the Council exceed the 5% increase which it had historically set. This had subsequently been presented to, and approved by, the Finance Committee at its meeting of 12th December 2024.
- b. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council approve the Budget for 2025/2026, as recommended by the Finance Committee on 12th December 2024. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Moore. All agreed.

OM-24-145 SETTING OF THE PRECEPT:

The Clerk informed the Council that when taking into account planned expenditure for 2025/2026, as per the budget and Management Plan, and having used the Ready Reckoner to calculate necessary income for the same period, an increase of 6.1% would result in a Precept of £190,000.00.

- a. The Clerk added that this would enable the Council to, if necessary, again undertake work such as the cutting back of vegetation along Colchester Road, which although the responsibility of Essex Highways, had resulted in criticism of the Parish Council on social media.
- b. The Chairman stated that it was unrealistic to keep the Precept request at 5% or lower, given the expectations of residents, even when the comments/ complaints related to issues were not the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- c. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council ratify the recommendation of the Finance Committee, of 12th December 2024, that the Precept request to Tendring District Council for 2025/2026 be set at £190,000.00, resulting in an annual sum of £92.77 for a Band D property. This would represent an increase of £5.33 or 6.1% to the Precept from the previous year. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Moore. All agreed.

OM-24-146 CASUAL VACANCY - CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR:

The Clerk informed the Council that having been advised by the District Council to fill the casual vacancy by way of co-option, a notice would be published in the February 2025 edition of St Osyth Life. The Clerk added that notices would also be affixed to the Parish Council's notice boards and displayed on the website.

- a. The Clerk reminded the Council that he had received an application for co-option in respect of the vacancy for Point Clear, from a resident of St Osyth, however, given that a vacancy now existed for St Osyth, it would hopefully allow for the applicant, if successful to fill the vacancy for St Osyth and a resident of Point Clear fill the vacancy for that Ward.

OM-24-147 MEETING DATES FOR 2025/2026:

The dates of Council meetings for 2025/2026 having been previously distributed, the Chairman requested that the Chairmen of Committees and Working Parties provide the Clerk with proposed dates of meetings for their respective Committees/ Working Parties.

OM-24-148 IMPLEMENTATION OF A SAFE SWIMMING AREA IN POINT CLEAR BAY:

In the absence of Cllr. Ball, the Chairman suggested that this item be deferred until the meeting scheduled for 16th January 2025. All agreed.

OM-24-149 POINT CLEAR BAY INTEREST GROUP:

The report of the Point Clear Bay Interest Group (PCBIG) having been previously distributed, the Chairman stated that should any members have any questions, comments or concerns, they liaise directly with Cllr. Ball.

OM-24-150 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that he had received an email from a resident of Point Clear Bay concerning the removal of cycle barriers from Footpath 29, which he [Cllr. Talbot] had referred to the Clerk, who was aware of the reason for the removal of the barriers.
 - i. The Clerk stated that the barriers, had been removed as they prevented mobility scooters from being able to negotiate the path, and were in some cases corroded, would be replaced by Essex Highways.
 - ii. The Clerk stated that he would liaise with the residents and advise them as to the reason for the removal of the barriers.
- b. Although Cllr. Venables did not have anything to raise, the Chairman acknowledged a recent email from Cllr. Venables, in respect of speeding along Colchester Road.
 - i. The Chairman stated that Cllr. Venables' concerns would be raised at the next meeting of the Highways Working Party.
- c. Cllr. Atkins enquired as to who was responsible for the tree outside of 140 Clacton Road, part of which had snapped.
 - i. The Clerk confirmed that the tree was on Highways land.
 - ii. Cllr. Atkins stated that he would be willing to remove the broken branch.
 - iii. The Clerk stated that it would be quicker were Cllr. Atkins to remove the branch than if the matter was reported to Highways. All agreed.
- d. Cllr. White informed the Council that there had been two serious collisions at the crossroads within the last month.
 - i. The Chairman stated that this would be discussed by the Highways Working Party at its next meeting.
 - ii. Cllr. White reported that one of the collisions had occurred when a car travelling along Spring Road, in the direction of the crossroads, had collided with a car exiting the junction in the direction of Point Clear. He added that due to cars being parked outside of the butchers, the car on Spring Road had been on the wrong side of the road when the collision occurred.
 - a) Cllr. Venables remarked that the yellow lines in the vicinity of the crossroads, especially outside of the butchers were faded to the point that they were barely visible.
 - b) The Clerk stated that he had reported the faded lines to Essex Highways, who had deemed the matter to be of low priority which would be scheduled for future non-urgent works.
 - iii. The Chairman stated that the only solution was that of red lines.

- a) A discussion ensued as to the effectiveness and enforcement of red lines by the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP).
- b) Cllr. White stated that not only would the implementation of red lines stop vehicles from parking outside of the butchers, but that they would also prevent deliveries.
- c) The Clerk informed the Council that during a meeting with a Technical Officer from the NEPP, the latter had confirmed that it would be possible to incorporate delivery bays into red lines.
- d) Cllr. Thomas stated that there was nothing to stop drivers from parking in the delivery bay.
 - i) The Clerk stated that any vehicle, other than those making bona fide deliveries, would receive an instant fine if observed by NEPP officers.
- e) The Chairman suggested that the issue of red lines, together with the effectiveness of the speed cushions, between which some vehicles could pass without having to slow down, be discussed at the next meeting of the Highways Working Party. All agreed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.47 pm.

The date and time of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 16th January 2025, at St Osyth Village Hall.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 19th December 2024		
OM-24-135 c i	Member-Led Repair Programme Application	Clk to action
OM-24-140 a ii i)	Clacton Road Flowerbed	PRWP to discuss
OM-24-140 c i b)	Parking on Wellwick Wharf Approach Road	Clk to action
OM-24-141 f vi	Letter to Local Government Minister re Councillor's Allowances	Chair/ Clk to action
OM-24-146	Co-option of Councillors	Clk to action
OM-24-147	Meeting Dates for 2025/2026	Cllrs to action
OM-24-150 a ii	Removal of Barriers along Footpath 29	Clk to action
OM-24-150 b i	Speeding	HWP to discuss
OM-24-150 d i & iii	Crossroads / Red Lines / Speed Cushions	HWP to discuss