



**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council
held at St Osyth Village Hall
on Thursday 21st August 2025 at 7.00 pm**



PRESENT:

Chair: Cllr. Karen Sinclair, Vice-Chair: Cllr David Cooper
Cllr's Clive Atkins, Susan Ball, Alma Blockley, Harvey Cohen,
Ray French, Judith Hall, Michael Talbot, Michele Thomas &
Catherine Venables

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (arrived at 7.55 pm)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. John White (Clacton Air Show Parking Coordinator)

MINUTES:

Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Five

OM-25-057 RESIGNATION OF A COUNCILLOR:

At the request of the Chair, the Clerk narrated a letter of resignation from Cllr. Jake Moore. The Chair requested that the Clerk record the appreciation of the Council for Cllr. Moore's input during his tenure as a Councillor.

- a. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council formally accept the resignation of Cllr. Jake Moore. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.
- b. The Clerk subsequently informed the Council of the process for the filling of the casual vacancy resulting from the resignation of Cllr. Moore. The Clerk stated that he would forward to TDC the Notice of Vacancy which would be displayed as of 28th August 2025, and that an election would be held if, within 14 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays) after the date of the notice, a request for an election to fill the vacancy was made to the Returning Officer by 10 electors or more.
 - i. The Clerk continued that if no request for an election was received, the Parish Council would then be instructed to fill the vacancy by way of co-option. The Clerk stated that if this was the case, he would look to submit an article advertising the vacancy in the October edition of St Osyth Life.

AGM-25-058 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

The Chair 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 or Non-Pecuniary Interests in any matter to be discussed.

OM-25-059 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	24/00390/FUL Mrs H Carter High Birch Farmhouse High Birch Road Weeley Heath	Planning Application - Demolition of disused butchers and abattoir. Replace with holiday lets, with associated hard and soft landscaping, lighting scheme and biodiversity enhancements. In acknowledging the response of Essex County Council Place Services of 22nd August 2025 (08067 refers), the Parish Council would request that if approved, the number of holiday lets be restricted to a maximum of two.
b.	25/01001/FULHH Mr K Butcher Woodlands Farm Rectory Road Weeley Heath	Householder Planning Application – Single storey workshop. Detached garage with annex/storage above ancillary to the dwelling. The Parish Council objects to this application on the basis that the annex could be used as a holiday let or that the garage/ annex could, in due course, be converted into a residential accommodation.
c.	25/01098/ROC Mr C Gibbs The Partridge Retreat Clay Lane St Osyth	Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act for Variation of Condition 3 of application 23/00542/FUL, and Removal of Condition 4 of applications 23/01314/VOC and 24/00979/VOC to allow for holiday occupancy in the month of February. No objections.
d.	25/01125/TCA Mrs J Unknown 26 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Trees in a Conservation Area Notification - to crown reduce 2 x conifers; crown reduce 2 x holm oaks. Due to its nature, this application is referred to the District Council's Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
e.	25/01218/TCA St Osyth Parochial Church Council Church Square St Osyth	Trees in a Conservation Area Notification - to fell three self-seeded holly trees. Due to its nature, this application is referred to the District Council's Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
f.	25/01220/WTPO Miss C Bryant Orchards Holiday Village Colne Way Point Clear Bay	Works related to Tree Preservation Order (95/00016/TPO) - 3 Poplar trees in G4 of TPO - 1 x partially dead tall poplar trunk with minimal foliage. Decay present at bottom and vavity at ground level. 2 x Previously pollarded poplar trees that need to be re-pollarded due to proximity to caravans. Due to its nature, this application is referred to the District Council's Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.

g.	25/01079/COUNOT Mr K Stone Lakeside Studios 62 Mill Street St Osyth	Prior Approval Application under Part 3, Class MA of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for change of use to residential. <i>Noted - for information only - no comment required.</i>
h.	25/01103/AGRIC Mr C Gibson Land South of Heath Road St Osyth	Prior Approval Application under Part 6, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for general purpose agricultural building. <i>Noted - for information only - no comment required.</i>
i.	25/01128/LUPROP Mr Ian Gentry - Hart Wilcox Production House High Birch Farm Highbirch Road St Osyth	Application for Lawful Development Certificate for Proposed Use or Development for over cladding of roof, removal of dangerous insulated cladding boards and replacement with new safe materials, replacement doors, new roller shutter door, new window on east elevation, and replacement of upper wall cladding. <i>Noted - for information only - no comment required.</i>
j.	25/01214/TELLIC OpenReach O/S 137 Clacton Road St Osyth	Installation of Fixed Line Broadband Apparatus. <i>Noted - for information only - no comment required.</i>

OM-25-060 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) for the period of 11th July 2025 to 8th August 2025.
- b. Letter of 23rd July 2025 from TDC with regard to Breach of Planning Control - Alleged Unauthorised Building Works - Building in Conservation Area: 37A Clacton Road, St Osyth (25/00529/BWK refers).
- c. Email of 1st August 2025 from TDC with regard to an Appeal under Part 2 of the Town & Country Planning (Appeals) (Written Representations Procedure) (England) Regulations 2009 re APP/P1560/W/25/3369466 (TDC 24/01562/VOC) St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth.
- d. Whilst not an agenda item, the Clerk informed Councillors of the response of 20th August 2025 from Morgan Engineering Consultants Ltd, on behalf of Lighthouse Development Consulting, in respect of concerns raised by the Parish Council on the installation of a ground mounted solar farm on land to the east of Clay Lane, St Osyth (25/00939/FUL refers), the extraction cabling for which would pass within 20 centimetres of a private dwelling.
- i. The Clerk narrated an extract of the correspondence, which stated;

To mitigate this risk, the edge of the trench should be kept a minimum of 1.2 m clear of the building. At this distance the excavation remains outside the theoretical zone of influence, reducing the likelihood of undermining to acceptable limits.

On this basis, we are satisfied that the proposed works, provided they maintain this clearance, will not present a risk to the stability of the property.

OM-25-061 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 17th July 2025 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Chair, as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. Atkins. All agreed.

OM-25-062 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-25-052 a i. The Clerk informed the Council that he had received a response from the company which had installed the activity tower at Priory Meadow, and that having assessed the information and photograph provided by the Clerk, the company had advised that there was no cause for concern, however, the condition of the equipment should be monitored as part of the weekly inspections.
- b. OM-25-054 b i m. The Clerk informed the Council that he had discussed the use of the pavilion with the Chair of Elmden Rovers Football Club.
- c. OM-25-054 b ii e). The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the secretary of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) with regard to a meeting, following the request to use Cowley Park recreation ground for parking, but that he had yet to receive a response.

OM-25-063 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Adam Nixon, Essex Wildlife Trust's Coastal Recovery Officer and the Colne Point Ranger for Birds Aware Essex Coast addressed the Council on the following:

- a. That Colne Point was home to ringed plovers, oyster catchers and terns, with the colonies of ringer plovers and oyster catchers being the largest in the county.
- b. It had been a very good year for ringed plovers, with 49 chicks being recorded, 10 of which were at the fledgling stage.
- c. That there was still a need to eliminate human disturbance to the colonies. Whilst this had been achieved for those on foot, by way of blocking access, the problem of Personal Watercraft (PWC) disturbing the colonies from the water remained an ongoing problem. In one day, three separate PWC had been filmed acting recklessly and disturbing the nesting areas, resulting in the adult birds fleeing and abandoning the nests until such time as the threat had disappeared.
- d. Adam continued that the threat was not just from PWC, but also wind/ kite surfers, who regularly landed metres from the nests and in one case a fisherman, who had used a protective cage to dry his clothes, resulting in the death of one of the chicks.

- e. Adam stated that it was the intention of Birds Aware Essex Coast to improve the education for PWC users as to the impact they had at Colne Point, which was both an important and beautiful area. Adam continued that in 1981 there had been ten times the number of birds in the area, and that the main cause for their decline was human interference.

OM-25-064 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence between St Osyth Parish Council and Essex Police with regard to the Tendring District Commander attending a Parish Council meeting.
 - i. Cllr. Talbot suggested that the District Commander be invited to the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting.
 - ii. The Chair informed the Council that whilst the District Commander had attended a number of meetings throughout the district, it would be difficult for him to have visited every Council since his appointment.
 - iii. Cllr. Thomas stated that given the increase in the population of the parish, as a result of visitors to the many holiday parks, together with the level of crime, she felt that the District Commander should attend a meeting of the Parish Council.
- b. Correspondence from St Osyth Parish Council to James McMahon MP, Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution concerning Councillor's Allowances.
- c. Correspondence from a visitor to Martin's Farm Country Park with regard to dangerous dogs.
 - i. Cllr. Thomas suggested that if the owner of the alleged dangerous dogs was a regular visitor to the country park, the District Council's Dog Warden should visit the site and enforce the 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), especially the requirement for dogs to be on leads.
 - a) The Clerk stated that he would liaise with the Dog Warden.
 - ii. The Clerk informed the Council that consideration had previously been given to the creation of a dog free enclosure, rather than an enclosure specifically for dogs.
- d. Correspondence from Essex Police with regard to enforcement activity.
- e. Invite from the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) to the Annual General Meeting on 25th September 2025.
 - i. The Clerk stated that he would forward details to Councillors via email.
- f. Correspondence from Essex Highways in respect of the Essex Transport Strategy Public Consultation.

- g. Invite from Community Voluntary Services Tending (CVST) to the Annual General Meeting on 17th September 2025.
 - i. The Clerk stated that he would forward details to Councillors via email.
- h. Correspondence from City & Country concerning the possible future use of land between Wellwick and St Osyth Parish Cemetery.
 - i. It was agreed that City & Country's Planning Manager be invited to meet with the Council.
- i. Correspondence from St Osyth Parish Council to Cllr. Cunningham, ECC Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Sustainable Transport with regard to the closure of the entrance to Martello Beach Holiday Park, Jaywick and the subsequent access via St Osyth.
 - i. Cllr. Talbot stated that as the original response from Tendring District Council was far from satisfactory, the Council should consider lodging a complaint with the Local Government Ombudsman.
 - ii. Cllr. Venables stated that there had been a significant increase in traffic using Colchester Road and parking along the road since the access to the Martello Beach Holiday Park had been changed to St Osyth Beach Holiday Park.

OM-25-065 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for July 2025, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
 - i. Cllr. Thomas enquired as to the recent amount paid to contractors in respect of grounds maintenance.
 - a) The Clerk informed the Council that due to personal reasons, one of the contractors had not submitted an invoice since March 2025. The Clerk subsequently gave an overview of the frequency of, and work undertaken by the relevant contractors.
 - b) The Clerk stated that having reviewed the respective invoices, he was satisfied that all of the work had been completed and that he had notified the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) of the Cost Codes against which the work should be allocated.
 - ii. Cllr. Cooper enquired as to the location of the work invoiced by GCS Alarms.
 - a) The Clerk reported that the invoice related to the servicing of the alarms and fire extinguishers at the Cemetery Chapel and Museum.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:
 - i. Current a/c: £62,233.78
 - ii. Deposit: £151,082.56

OM-24-066 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

a. Finance Committee:

- i. The draft Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 6th August 2025 having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited questions. None were forthcoming.
- ii. Approval of Standing Orders:
RESOLVED: Standing Orders (as amended by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) in March 2025) having been previously circulated, it was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Blockley, that the Council ratify the adoption of Standing Orders, as recommended by the Finance Committee at its meeting of 6th August 2025. All agreed.
- iii. Approval of Financial Regulations:
RESOLVED: Financial Regulations (as amended by NALC in March 2025) having been previously circulated, it was proposed by Cllr. Atkins and seconded by Cllr. Ball, that the Council ratify the adoption of Financial Regulations, as recommended by the Finance Committee at its meeting of 6th August 2025. All agreed.
- iv. Approval of Financial Risk Assessment:
RESOLVED: The Financial Risk Assessment having been previously circulated, it was proposed by Cllr. Hall and seconded by Cllr. Thomas, that the Risk Assessment, as reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee at its meeting of 6th August 2025, be approved. All agreed. The Chairman subsequently signed the Financial Risk Assessment.
- v. Approval of Financial Rerves Policy:
RESOLVED: The draft Financial Reserves Policy having been previously circulated, it was proposed by Cllr. Ball and seconded by Cllr. Hall, that the policy, as reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee at its meeting of 6th August 2025, be adopted by the Council. All agreed.

OM-25-067 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

a. Public Realm Working Party:

- i. The Clerk informed the Council that having again contacted UK Power Networks (UKPN) in respect of the two unallocated street-lights in Chapel Lane, UKPN had stated that the supply to the lights would cease if they were not the responsibility of the Parish, District or County Council. The Clerk continued that having discussed the issue, it was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Council assume responsibility for the lights, which would initially see a slight increase in electrical consumption, but which would subsequently reduce if fitted with LED lights in line with the Council's policy.
- ii. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council assume responsibility for the two unallocated street-lights in Chapel Lane, so as not to impact on the residents who used the lane. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. Cohen. All agreed.

b. Highways Working Party:

- i. The exchange of emails between the Clerk and the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) in respect of the use of red lines in the vicinity of the crossroads having been previously distributed, the Clerk narrated several pertinent paragraphs, adding that he had submitted a dozen photographs to support the application for the implementation of red lines.
- ii. A conversation ensued, during which the following comments were noted:
 - a) Cllr. Cooper reminded the Council that the implementation of red lines had been an objective of the Management Plan for several years.
 - b) The Chair reported that when she had visited the Post Office earlier that day, there had been two cars parked on the existing double yellow lines outside of the butchers.
 - c) Cllr. Thomas enquired as to whether cones could be used to prevent parking.
 - i) The Chair stated that cones were placed outside of the butchers, however, even this did not prevent people from parking.
 - d) Cllr. Atkins remarked that the emails from the NEPP did not answer the concerns of the Parish Council.
 - e) Cllr. Thomas stated that the benefit of red lines was that it would result in an immediate ticket.
 - i) Cllr. Atkins stated that tickets would only be issued if there was someone present to enforce the restrictions.
 - ii) Cllr. Thomas remarked that the NEPP would benefit from issuing tickets for those who chose to park on red lines. Cllr. Thomas added that word would soon spread were people to receive parking fines.
 - iii) Cllr. Atkins questioned as to whether word would spread amongst those staying at the many holiday parks with the parish.
 - iv) Cllr. Thomas stated that everyone knew that there should be no parking on red lines.
 - v) The Chair stated that people didn't pay any attention to the existing double yellow lines and in some cases even parked on the speed cushions.
 - f) Cllr. Talbot gave an overview of how the NEPP operated, adding that, in his opinion, red lines were a 'cash cow' for the organisation.

- i) Cllr. Talbot added that whilst he was not objecting to the proposal for the implementation of red lines, their use would be very restrictive would not facilitate arrangements for deliveries.
 - g) Cllr. Thomas suggested that at the very least there should be red lines on the corners at the crossroads, particularly in front of the accountants, where vehicles were often parked.
 - h) The Chair enquired as to whether the Council should pursue its objective of having parking restrictions by way of red lines implemented in the vicinity of the crossroads. All agreed.
 - i) The Clerk was requested to liaise with the NEPP and if necessary, invite the Traffic Regulation Engineer with whom he [the Clerk] and Cllr. Cooper had previously met.
- c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:** Nothing to report.

OM-25-068 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Community Matters & Well-being:** Nothing to report.
- b. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, Cllr. Cooper briefed the Council on reported crime during June 2025 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) Parking area at The Quay
 - b) Public Order
 - i) Church Square - under investigation
 - ii) Brook Vale - under investigation
 - c) Theft (Other)
 - i) Point Clear Road (Mill Street car park) - under investigation
 - d) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Park Road x 4 - all under investigation
 - ii) Rochford Road - under investigation
 - iii) Botanical Way - unable to prosecute suspect
 - iv) Mill Street - under investigation
 - ii. St Osyth Beach
 - a) Anti-social Behaviour
 - i) Fourth Avenue

- b) Criminal Damage/ Arson
 - i) First Avenue - under investigation
 - c) Public Order
 - i) First Avenue - under investigation
 - ii) Second Avenue - under investigation
 - d) Theft (other)
 - i) Beach Road - Under investigation
 - e) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Beach Road - unable to prosecute suspect
 - ii) First Avenue x 2 - both under investigation
 - iii) First Avenue x 2 - both awaiting court outcome
 - iv) First Avenue - unable to prosecute suspect
 - v) Second Avenue - under investigation
 - vi) Fourth Avenue - under investigation
- iii. Bel Air Chalet Estate
- a) Vehicle Crime
 - i) Club Parade - unable to prosecute suspect
 - b) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Club Parade - unable to prosecute suspect
 - ii) Club Parade - investigation complete; no suspect identified
- iv. Point Clear
- a) Burglary
 - i) Alpha Road - under investigation
 - b) Criminal Damage/ Arson
 - i) Beacon Way - under investigation
 - ii) Oakmead Road - unable to prosecute suspect
 - c) Shoplifting
 - i) Greenland Grove x 2 - both awaiting court outcome
 - d) Theft (other)
 - i) Point Clear Road - investigation complete; no suspect identified
 - e) Violence & Sexual Offences

- i) Greenland Grove - under investigation
 - ii) Point Clear Road (near Five Stacks) - under investigation
 - iii) Dumont Avenue - unable to prosecute suspect
 - iv) Beacon Way - investigation complete; no suspect identified
 - v) Alpha Road - under investigation
 - vi) Alpha Road - unable to prosecute suspect
 - v. Point Clear Bay
 - a) Criminal Damage/ Arson
 - i) Mersea View - under investigation
 - ii) Mersea View - investigation complete; no suspect identified
 - iii) Colne Way - under investigation
 - b) Theft (other)
 - i) Cruce Way - unable to prosecute suspect
 - c) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Mersea View x 2 - both unable to prosecute suspect
 - ii) Cruce Way x 3 - all unable to prosecute suspect
 - iii) Norman Way - under investigation
 - vi. Chisbon Heath
 - a) Criminal Damage/ Arson
 - i) Rectory Road - under investigation
 - vii. Flag Hill
 - a) Violence & Sexual Offences
 - i) Martin's Farm Country Park (car park) - under investigation
 - viii. Outcome & Percentage
 - a) Under investigation x 27 (55%)
 - b) Unable to prosecute suspect x 14 (29%)
 - c) Investigation complete; no suspect identified x 4 (8%)
 - d) Awaiting Court Outcome x 4 (8%)
- c. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Atkins informed the Council that he was awaiting dates for first-aid courses from the County Council's parish Paths Partnership (P3), which himself and the three volunteers were required to attend before they could conduct activities on the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the parish.
- d. **Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.

- e. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):** Cllr. Sinclair reported on the meeting of Wednesday 23rd July 2025.
- i. There was a brief overview given of the present situation with devolvment.
 - ii. Subscriptions are now due to be paid to TDALC if not already done so.
 - iii. There was a discussion on speeding. The Safer Essex Roads Partnership has had three days of enforcement across the district. The results of this enforcement were distributed to all Councillors.
 - iv. Mark Platt, Chair of the Essex Highways Panel gave a current position of the Highways Panel. Planning is now in place for “closing up shop” ready for the hand over to the new unitary authority. Priority is being given to schemes that can be completed quickly. There is a possibility of moving schemes down the list so that they will take longer to complete. The proposed work to the A12 was discussed now that the government has stopped the scheme. I asked about the possibility of a Highways Officer attending one of our meetings to discuss issues in the village, but I was told that there is no possibility of an officer being available.
 - v. We were informed of a QR fraud that is happening in car parks across the district. False QR codes are being placed over the real codes so that when people scan the code, they are directed to a scam that can then access their bank account. People are being encouraged to use the app instead of scanning on the QR codes.
 - vi. At our next meeting we will be having a talk on the safe removal of asbestos.
- f. **District Councillor’s Report:** Cllr. Talbot gave the following report
- i. The last full Council meeting had been postponed for a month to enable as much information on Local Government Reorganisation to be available for members before they made any decision on behalf of our District. This meeting was held last Thursday 14th August, which both John and I attended.
 - ii. Over the next three years, the number and structure of Councils across Essex will change to create larger ‘Unitary Authorities’ which will combine County and District responsibilities under one roof.
 - iii. Quite exceptionally, our Chief Executive, Ian Davidson, gave members a PowerPoint presentation of the proposals currently being developed. Among the business cases to be submitted to the Government in September there are likely to be proposals for creating a number of different unitary authorities including a three-council proposal, four-council proposal and a five-council proposal, which will replace both the Essex County Council and all the districts in Essex.

- iv. We had a good debate which both of us joined lending support for the five-council proposal. This option would have Tendring District Council merged with Colchester City Council and Braintree District Council. No vote was taken at the meeting as the final decision will be taken by the Cabinet, who will of course, be guided by what members have said at this meeting, and events in the other two authorities above.
- v. As a slight aside at the meeting I did remind members that on 1st April 1974, Harwich, Frinton and Walton, Clacton, Brightlingsea and Tendring Rural District Councils were all abolished as authorities, and Tendring District Council was formed in their place. Now we know that in April 2028, on Vesting Day, a new authority takes over, and the old authorities, like us closed down and abolished, so Tendring District Council will have lasted for 54 years and 14 days. While the final decision ultimately rests with Government, we are committed to representing the interests of our community throughout the whole process.
- vi. On a totally different subject, the Government reminded eligible households to ensure they are named on their electricity bill to automatically receive the £150.00 Warm Home Discount this winter. Eligibility now includes those receiving one of the following means-tested benefits:
 - i) Housing Benefit;
 - j) Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA);
 - k) Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA);
 - l) Income Support;
 - m) Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit); and
 - n) Universal Credit.
- g. **Website:** The Clerk reported that he had been occupied with other matters but that he would progress the website at the earliest given opportunity.
- h. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 7.55 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave the following report:
 - i. That due to the ongoing discussions in respect of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), it was an unnerving time for both Councillors and staff of the County, District/ Borough Councils, in addition to the existing Unitary Authorities.
 - a) The most likely option for LGR would be the creation of five Unitary Authorities, which in the case of Tendring, would see the District Council merge with Colchester City Council (CCC), Braintree District Council (BDC) and elements of the incumbent County Council to form North East Essex Council.
 - b) The benefits for the new authority would include:
 - i) Financial resilience from day one.
 - ii) Protection of critical services and integration.

- iii) Enabling of strategic economic and housing growth.
 - iv) Strengthening of community-government links.
 - v) £53m net benefit over 5 years and £32m annual benefit thereafter.
 - vi) Financial sustainability.
 - vii) Investment in prevention and innovation.
 - viii) Easier commissioning of specialist services.
 - ix) Alignment with NHS, Police, schools.
 - x) No new regulatory burdens
- ii. That the potholes along the B1027, in the vicinity of Wellwick, had been repaired.
- a) The Chair stated that several potholes, within a short distance of the repairs had been left.
 - b) Cllr. Goggin reported that he had requested that these potholes be considered for repair as part of the Members Initiative. Cllr. Goggin subsequently explained the process for carrying out the repair of potholes during silent hours, adding that the County Council could be fined if the repairs ran over the allotted time.

OM-25-069 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair reported on the meeting of Tuesday 12th August 2025.
 - i. We had a discussion on the rent levels, and they will remain at the rate of TDC Housing Benefit.
 - ii. Contractors are now on site at Clacton Road and are repairing the blown plaster at the front of the building. Thankfully, the blown plaster was restricted to a small area. The area has been replastered. The metal edges to the front doors have rusted through and have been replaced. The front of the building is to be repainted along with the windows. The side gate will be replaced. We have decided to replace the back doors, and these will be completed on a rolling programme. We are looking for local contractors to do this work.
 - iii. The empty property at 23 Clacton Road had little interest shown in it so the Trustees have decided to readvertise the vacant property in the parish magazine.
 - iv. The next meeting of the Trustees is on 28th October 2025.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Nothing to report.

- d. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Thomas reported on the Executive Committee meeting of 21st July 2025
- i. All works paid for which included light/motion sensors and push taps all required due to negligence of hall users.
 - ii. Financial Policy adopted for annual review.
 - iii. As at 21st July expenditure exceeded income due to payment of several large maintenance invoices and utility bill mayhem by the providers. It is anticipated that income and expenditure will realign as no further expensive refurbishments are planned for this year.
 - iv. The attempt to get PostLockers installed has been unsuccessful to date as the company do not come as far as Point Clear, this is disappointing as it is not the first time Point Clear has been deemed to be outside the area for inclusion e.g. Citizens Advice Bus. We will continue to pursue the initiative.
 - v. Bookings remain stable.
 - vi. Asbestos management is being reviewed regarding the requirement for a register as the building is more than 20 years old.
 - vii. A Craft Fair is being held on Saturday 22nd November 2025, and a Cheese & Wine tasting evening is being planned in collaboration with Thorington Vinyard on a date to be confirmed.
 - viii. The Treasurer, Ken Belcher, was having surgery on 24th July 2025. It was agreed that there would be no meeting in August. The next meeting is on 22nd September 2025.

OM-25-070 TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL SPECIAL EXPENSES:

The Clerk informed the Council of the request from the District Council to consider the need for special expenses if there was likely to be any change in the functions on which expenditure was incurred.

- a. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that the special expenses were a means to avoid double taxation. In the case of St Osyth, residents paid towards the Parish's Cemetery, whilst at the same time contributing, via Council Tax, towards the upkeep of the District Council's Cemeteries. The District Council could be asked to compensate the Parish, as residents were effectively paying twice, however, as the fee to be interred within the Parish Cemetery charged to those from outside of the Parish not discounted, this negated the requirement for special expenses to be claimed by the Parish Council.
- b. **RESOLVED:** That St Osyth Parish Council has no requirement to claim special expenses. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Blockley and seconded by Cllr. Talbot. All agreed.

OM-25-071 ANTI-SOCIAL USE OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC):

The Clerk reported on the meeting of 22nd July 2025, facilitated by the Parish Council, attended by representatives of the Orchards Holiday Park, Brightlingsea Harbour Master, the Chair of the Council and himself, during which the installation of a gate at the base of the sea wall ramp, to restrict access of unregistered Personal Watercraft (PWC) to Stone Point was discussed.

- a. The Clerk reminded the Council of the resolution passed at the meeting of 19th September 2024, during which it was agreed that the Council support the actions of both Brightlingsea Harbour Master and the Orchards Holiday Park in the management of unregistered PWC accessing Stone Point for the purpose of launching.
- b. The Clerk reported that the gate, which would be funded by the Orchards Holiday Park, Tower Estate Residents Association and Brightlingsea Harbour Master, should have been installed on 18th August, however, due to the involvement of a District Councillor from Clacton on Sea, the installation had been delayed.
 - i. The Clerk informed the Council that he had raised concerns over the involvement of the Councillor, who had not had the courtesy to liaise with either the Chair of the Council or the District Councillors for St Osyth, with the District Council's Monitoring Officer, but that he [the Clerk] had yet to receive a response.
- c. The Clerk informed the Council that the gate would be two thirds of the width of the access ramp, so as to allow pedestrians to access the beach at Stone Point. He continued that the purpose of the gate was not to restrict access to Stone Point but to ensure that PWC, specifically jet skis, were registered with either the Orchards Holiday Park or Brightlingsea Harbour Master.
- d. The Clerk reminded the Council that as a registered Town and Village Green there should be no vehicle movement over Stone Point without the permission of the landowner, in this case the Orchards Holiday Park. The Clerk reminded the Council that statute legislation existed to protect registered Town and Village Greens.
- e. The Clerk informed the Council that he had received numerous enquiries, both in person and via telephone, as to the reason for the gate. He continued that he had advised all who had enquired that the gate was being installed to ensure that all PWC users registered, thereby removing their anonymity.
- f. The Clerk reported that several residents had informed him that the Councillor from Clacton on Sea had informed them that planning permission was required in order to erect the gate.
 - i. The Clerk informed the Council that having discussed the gate at length with the District Council's Planning Department, it had been confirmed that the gate did not require planning permission. This, he continued, had been relayed to the relevant parties.
- g. The Chair invited comments from Councillors, during which the following was noted:

- i. Cllr. Thomas enquired as to whether the Councillor from Clacton on Sea had been asked to intervene by residents.
 - a) The Chair replied that she did not know as there had been no approach to the Parish Council.
- ii. Cllr. Venables enquired as to whether there would be a list of registered users permitted access to Stone Point.
 - a) The Chair replied that lists would be held by the Orchards Holiday Park and Brightlingsea Harbour Master.
 - b) For the avoidance of doubt, the Clerk stated that anyone would be able to access the beach at Stone Point on foot, that those who required vehicular access would be able to do so with the permission of the landowner but that PWC users would have to prove that they were registered with either the Orchards Holiday Park or Brightlingsea Harbour Master.
 - c) The Clerk stated that there had been allegations that a local resident who launched PWC was doing so knowing that the craft were not registered. The Clerk added that the easiest solution would be for the landowner to restrict all vehicular access, however, the installation of the gate would allow for the regulation of those seeking to launch PWC.
- iii. Cllr. Atkins enquired as to the fees associated with the launch of PWC.
 - a) The Clerk informed the Council that the 1927 Brightlingsea Harbour Act (Revised 2010) gave the Harbour Master power to charge Harbour Dues, as opposed to launch fees. The Clerk continued that if it was a legal requirement for the Harbour Master to charge Harbour Dues, this was not a matter which the Parish Council could contest.
 - b) The Clerk subsequently reminded the Council of the services 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, its 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.
- c) The Clerk reported that several residents had enquired as why they should pay Harbour Dues if launching from Stone Point. The Clerk stated that it was the water into which they were launching, which was the jurisdiction of the Harbour Master, not Stone Point.
 - d) The Clerk informed the Council that he had been informed by the Harbour Master that any craft launching from Stone Point would be classed as PWC regardless of size, as they were trailer launched.
- iv. The Clerk reminded the Council that the subject of the anti-social use of PWC had been a matter of discussion for a number of years and had included organisations and agencies including The Orchards Holiday Park, Brightlingsea Harbour Master, Essex County Council, Tendring District Council and Essex Police. He continued that as agreed by the Parish Council at its meeting of 19th September 2024, the only viable solution to the ongoing problem of anti-social behaviour by PWC users was the implementation of a registration scheme and installation of some form of physical control, such as the proposed gate.
 - v. Cllr. Ball enquired as to whether Harbour Dues, the cost of which Cllr. Talbot stated were £86.00, were payable annually.
 - a) The Clerk confirmed this to be the case.
 - vi. Cllr. Thomas enquired as to whether the resident who launched PWC was authorised to do so by the Harbour Master, as there was nothing to prevent them from opening the gate for and launching unregistered PWC users.
 - a) The Clerk stated that currently the Harbour Master employed a security firm to prevent unregistered PWC from accessing Stone Point but that the gate would be secured by way of coded padlocks.
 - vii. Cllr. Talbot stated that he was totally opposed to the decision to install the gate and that it was absolutely wrong of the Parish Council to invite the Harbour Master onto 'our land.' Cllr. Talbot stated that he wished his objection to be recorded, adding that he was opposed to the actions of the Council of which he was ashamed.

OM-25-072 HOLLAND ON SEA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION:

Cllr. Sinclair informed the Council of the meeting of 28th July 2025 with the Chair of the Holland on Sea Residents Association (HRA), at which the potential creation of a Parish Council in Holland on Sea had been discussed as part of the Local Government Reorganisation.

- a. Cllr. Sinclair continued that she had offered for members of the Residents Association to attend a meeting of the Parish Council should they wish to do so, and that both herself and the Clerk were willing to answer any future questions from the Residents Association ahead of the deadline for their decision.

OM-25-073 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Ball requested that the information in respect of the QR code scam on which the Chair reported as part of her TDALC be published in St Osyth Life.
 - i. The Chair stated that the information would have to be published in the October edition, as the submission date for the September edition had passed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.30 pm.

The date and time of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 18th September 2025, at St Osyth Village Hall.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 21st August 2025		
OM-25-064 c i a)	Patrols by TDC Dog Warden	Clk to action
OM-25-064 h i	Meeting with City & Country Planning Manager	Clk to action
OM-25-067 b ii h) i)	Meeting with NEPP Traffic Regulation Engineer	Clk to action

OM-25-064 c i a)	Patrols by TDC Dog Warden	Clk to action
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OM-25-067 b ii h) i)	Meeting with NEPP Traffic Regulation Engineer	Clk to action