



**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council
held at St Osyth Village Hall
on Tuesday 16th September 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, Michael Talbot, Michele Thomas, Catherine Venables
& John White

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (arrived at 7.40 pm)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Judith Hall (Holiday)

MINUTES: Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: One

AGM-25-074 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-25-075 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	25/01251/ADV City and Country Wellwick Ltd The Priory Estate The Bury St Osyth	Application for Advertisement Consent - Development advertisements, including board signs and flags, in relation to the development at land known as Wellwick. Whilst the Parish Council does not object to the advertising of the Wellwick development, the number of signs and flags is deemed excessive, especially when a request to Essex Highways for a single additional sign warning motorists of wildlife crossing the road was refused on the grounds that it would be considered as visual clutter and a distraction to motorists.
b.	25/01271/FULHH Mr P Maffia 16 Broadstrood St Osyth	Householder Planning Application - Convert and extend existing garage to serve as annexe accommodation for the main dwelling, and erection of new fence to the boundary. No objections.
c.	25/01285/TCA Miss J Stephenson 26 Point Clear Road St Osyth	Trees in a Conservation Area Notification - To crown reduce 2 x Conifers and 2 x Holm Oaks. Due to its nature, this application is referred to the District Council's Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.

d.	25/01289/WTPO Mr T O'Dell 35 Clacton Road St Osyth	Works related to Tree Preservation Order (06/00018/TPO) - T1 Oak tree - Reduce by 30%. Due to its nature, this application is referred to the District Council's Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
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OM-25-076 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) for the period of 15th August 2025 to 5th September 2025.
- b. Email of 20th August 2025 from Bluefield Solar Developers with regard to the development of Hartley Wood Solar Farm (22/00518/FUL refers), in particular to ensure that construction of the solar farm will have minimal impact on breeding skylark pairs, and to establish a more suitable skylark mitigation area including the addition of 40 acres of wildflower meadow habitat designed to promote nesting skylark and other wildlife once the solar farm is operational.
- c. Email of 27th August 2025 from TDC with regard to Enforcement Appeals APP/P1560/C/22/3309012 (Western side of Cow Lane, Point Clear) and APP/P1560/C/22/3308415 (Forty Winks, Cow Lane, Point Clear).
 - i. The Clerk informed the Council that despite the Enforcement Appeals having been initiated nearly three years ago, they had been dismissed due to a technicality. The Clerk continued that the District Council was currently reviewing the appeal decisions with a view to the reissue of revised Enforcement Notices.

OM-25-077 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 21st August 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. Cohen and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.

OM-25-078 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-25-064 c i a). The Clerk informed the Council he was waiting for a response from the District Council's Dog Warden with regard to the Parish Council's request for patrols of Martin's Farm Country Park.
- b. OM-25-064 h i. The Clerk informed the Council that City & Country's Planning Manager had been invited to attend the meeting scheduled for 20th November 2025 to address the Council on the possible development of land between the Cemetery and Wellwick.
- c. OM-25-067 b ii h) i). The Clerk informed the Council that he had that morning, together with Cllr. Cooper, met with the Traffic Regulation Engineer from the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) to discuss the proposed use of red lines. The Clerk added that whilst not an agenda item, Cllr. Cooper would report further on the on the meeting under Highways Working Party.

- d. Cllr. Talbot enquired as to whether the Holland on Sea Residents Association (HRA) had taken up the offer to attend a meeting of the Parish Council.
 - i. The Chair stated that whilst the invitation had not been taken up, it remained extant. The Chair added that the HRA was still at the stage of deciding whether to proceed with establishing a Parish Council or to remain under the umbrella of Clacton on Sea.

OM-25-079 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

OM-25-080 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence of 21st August and 4th September 2025 between St Osyth Parish Council, Tendring District Council and Colchester City Council (CCC) in respect of the creation of a safe swimming area in at Ray Creek, Point Clear Bay.
 - i. The Clerk informed the Council that despite being advised that TDC were responsible for the area, the Assistant Director for Place and Economy at the District Council had confirmed that CCC were in fact responsible.
 - ii. The Clerk continued that the Parks & Open Spaces Improvement Officer at CCC had informed him [the Clerk] that CCC were in the process of confirming whether they were responsible for Ray Creek.
 - iii. Cllr. Talbot stated that to the best of his knowledge, the creek was owned by a local farmer.
 - a) The Clerk stated that he would liaise with the respective farmer.
- b. Correspondence from a resident criticising the Parish Council for displaying the Union Flag and Flag of St George throughout the village.
 - i. The Clerk narrated extracts of his response to the resident, in which he [the Clerk] had informed the resident that their assumption of Council involvement in the displaying of the flags was incorrect. The Clerk added that he had not received a response from the resident.
 - ii. Cllr. Atkins remarked that a number of the Union Flags had been displayed upside down.

OM-25-081 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for August 2025, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
 - i. Cllr. Cooper enquired as to the expenditure in respect of the notice board.

- a) The Clerk informed the Council that the existing notice board was no longer fit for purpose and that the cost of the replacement, which was made of recycled plastic, was being split between the Council and the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:
 - i. Current a/c: £52,178.65
 - ii. Deposit: £151,082.56

OM-25-082 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

- a. **Cemetery Committee:**
 - i. The draft Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting of 28th August 2025 having been previously distributed, the Chair invited questions. None were forthcoming.
 - ii. The Chair informed the Council that having investigated the possibility of living memorials, i.e. standard roses, being implemented in the Cemetery, it was the recommendation of the Cemetery Committee that the Council abandon the proposal due to the cost of maintenance. The Chair continued that the Deputy Clerk had contacted a number of Burial Authorities which offered living memorials, which cost in the region of £6,000.00, to offset the cost of maintenance and replacement of the plants where necessary.
 - iii. **RESOLVED:** That the Council ratify the recommendation of the Cemetery Committee that the proposal to implement living memorials be abandoned, due to the excessive cost. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All agreed.

OM-25-083 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

- a. **Public Realm Working Party:**
 - i. The notes of the Working Party meeting of 28th August 2025 having been previously distributed, the Chair invited questions. None were forthcoming.
- b. **Highways Working Party:**
 - i. Cllr. Cooper reported that together with the Clerk he had, that morning, met with the Traffic Regulation Engineer from the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) to discuss the problem of parking in the vicinity of the crossroads.
 - a) Cllr. Cooper gave an overview of the meeting, which had been hosted by the proprietor of The Hoy, so as to facilitate the viewing of parking outside of the butchers. Cllr. Cooper reported that the Engineer had stated that the implementation of red lines was unlikely to resolve the problem of parking as, in his opinion, the existing parking restrictions were sufficient and that the main problem was that of motorists ignoring the restrictions.

- b) Cllr. Cooper reported that the proprietor of The Hoy had stated that in their opinion, whilst unrelated, the continued parking outside of the butchers helped to reduce the speed of traffic at the crossroads.
- c) Cllr. Cooper informed the Council that the Engineer had stated that he would approve the repainting of the existing yellow lines, which could take up to eight weeks to action.
 - i) Cllr. Thomas stated that red lines on the corner of Clacton Road and Colchester Road would at least prevent vehicles from parking so close to the junction.
 - ii) The Clerk stated that he would liaise with the NEPP to ascertain whether this would be possible.
- d) Cllr. Cooper informed the Council that it might be prudent to invite the proprietor of The Hoy to the next meeting of the Working Party, so that members could hear firsthand the observations in respect of both parking and safety of pedestrians and motorists negotiating the crossroads. All agreed.

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

OM-25-084 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 7.40 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave the following report:
 - i. That the next full meeting of the Council, on 18th September 2025, would focus on Local Government Reorganisation. The preference at County/ Unitary Authority level was for the creation of three new Unitary Authorities, whereas the preference at District/ Borough level was for five.
 - ii. That Council finances were precarious in so far as the annual expenditure of £2bn, which included the obligation to fund both Adult Social Care (ASC) and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) could see the Council, and presumably new Unitary Authorities, bankrupt in 2030, if the obligations for ASC and SEND, over which the County Council had no control, were to continue at their current rate. The final decision as to this continuing obligation would be a government decision to which the Council or new authorities would have commit.
 - iii. That the County Council's stance on the recent flying of flags on street lights and telegraph poles was that the flags would only be removed if they presented a danger to the public, i.e. motorists and/ or pedestrians.
 - iv. That all of the potholes along the B1027 in the vicinity of the Wellwick development had been repaired.
 - a) The Chair enquired as to when the potholes along Clacton Road, near the allotments, were to be repaired, being that they had been marked several months ago.

- b) Cllr. Goggin stated that if the Council were to submit an application as part of the Member-Led Repair Programme (MLRP), he would in turn submit it as the priority for St Osyth.
 - i) The Clerk stated that he would submit an application on 17th September 2025.
 - c) Cllr. Venables enquired as to whether the additional Highways gangs, which were allocated to Cllr. Goggin every six weeks were still in operation.
 - i) Cllr. Goggin stated that they were, adding that he would be notified of the planned works for October within the next week.
 - v. That the weight restriction on the bridge at Alresford was to be increased from 18-20 tonnes.
 - a) Cllr. Thomas enquired as to how this would affect the lorries transporting aggregate from the proposed quarry at Thorrington Hall Farm.
 - i) Cllr. Goggin stated that it was now unlikely that the site would be used.
 - vi. Cllr. Talbot wished Cllr. Goggin a speedy recovery from his recent surgery.
- b. **Community Matters & Well-being:** Nothing to report.
 - c. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, Cllr. Cooper briefed the Council on reported crime during July 2025 in St Osyth and Point Clear, by offence and location, and where practicable the status of the investigation.
 - d. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Atkins reported that whilst he had received an email from the Clerk advising of the dates for first-aid courses being organised by the County Council's Parish Paths Partnership (P3) team, he [Cllr. Atkins] had not received the email himself.
 - i. The Clerk stated that he would confirm whether Cllr. Atkins had been included within the email recipients.
 - e. **Tree Warden:** Nothing to report.
 - f. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):** Cllr. Sinclair reported that the Association had met on Wednesday 10th September 2025, during which the Chief Executive of the District Council, Ian Davidson, had given a brief on Local Government Reorganisation.
 - i. Cllr. Talbot stated that the brief had been troublesome due to IT problems.
 - ii. Cllr. Sinclair reported that Ian Davidson would be attending the October meeting of the Council to brief the Council on Local Government Reorganisation.

g. District Councillor's Report:

i. Cllr. Talbot gave the following report

- a) The last full Council meeting was due to be held tonight but has been cancelled because of a lack of business, or so we are told, but I guess somewhere in the cancellation is 'Local Government Reorganisation'. The next scheduled full Council meeting is Thursday 25th November 2025.
- b) The controversial Norwich to Tilbury line of electricity pylons crossing the countryside, to which many authorities, including Essex County Council and Tendring District Council have objected, have now submitted a Development Consent Order application. This submission follows more than three years of consultation with landowners, local communities and stakeholders. If accepted, the submission documents will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's website. The Secretary of State then has three months to decide whether to approve the application.
- c) Freeport East, in which we play a significant role with Harwich, is launching a new initiative in partnership with the University of Essex to help local businesses in the East of England improve their cyber security defences and explore the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in digital risk management.
- d) Whilst all the work I have previously reported as going on in preparation for Local Government Reorganisation, ordinary Council Business still has to be undertaken. You may be interested in what I mean by this, so here is a list of new business currently in hand:
 - i) The new waste contract;
 - ii) The Housing Strategy and engagement with the new Regulator;
 - iii) The new Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
 - iv) Continuing developments such as Garden communities and Hartley Gardens;
 - v) A huge range of economic growth funding, to be spent on major projects;

and all this in addition to the everyday services provided to our residents and businesses by TDC.

- e) Essex 'Housings' planning application for the redevelopment of Clacton Library, was approved by Essex County Council on Tuesday 19th August. A new multi-storey building will be built on the existing library site. It will include a modern library, a centre for Adult Community Learning (ACL) and a new community space, covering a multitude of activities. The building will also include Local Registration Services.

- ii. Having arrived at 7.55 pm, due to having been at another meeting, Cllr. White gave the following report
 - a) That having attended a meeting in respect of the proposed Hartley Gardens development, which was expected to deliver 1,700 homes built over the next 20 years, it had been recommended that the development would start from the north down. This would see the creation of a road from the roundabout at the junction of the A133, St Osyth Road and Progress Way, south of Hartley Wood to the roundabout at the junction of the B1027 and Jaywick Lane.
 - i) Cllr. White stated that this would cause gridlock along the B1027.
 - ii) Cllr. White reported that a Public Consultation would run from 6th October 2025 to 17th November 2025.
 - b) Cllr. Thomas enquired as to whether any consideration had been given to her suggestion, raised during the meeting between the Council and John Pateman-Gee, TDC Head of Planning and Gary Guiver, the then Planning Policy Manager, now Corporate Director responsible Planning, that the District Council look to change the residential status of caravan parks, which would add to the housing stock, whilst removing the need for the District Council to pursue enforcement action.
 - i) A conversation ensued as to the payment of Council Tax versus site fees.
- h. **Website:** The Clerk reported that he had been occupied with other matters but that he would progress the website at the earliest given opportunity.

OM-25-085 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair reported that an advertisement for the vacant property in Clacton Road had been omitted from the September edition of St Osyth Life and would now be published in the October edition. Cllr. Sinclair added that following an enquiry about the property on social media, her mobile phone number had been given out.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas stated that as the Committee meetings were now being held on the same dates as that of the Parish Council, she was unable to give any report.
- d. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Thomas reported that a Quarterly Meeting was scheduled for 22nd September 2025.

OM-25-086 PREPARATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The Chair informed the Council that all Committees, Working Parties and Councillors with individual responsibilities were required to submit their respective contributions for inclusion in the Management Plan to the Clerk by 13th October 2025.

OM-25-087 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Goggin informed the Council that it was to receive a payment of £1,500.00 from the now defunct Community Reach Grant.
- b. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council that an emergency meeting of the Horticultural Society was being held at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 17th September 2025, to discuss its future, being that there were no members willing to serve on the Committee.
 - i. Cllr. Venables enquired as to whether members of the public were able to attend the meeting.
 - ii. Cllr. Talbot stated that he was not sure, but anyone interested in being appointed to the Committee should attend regardless of whether they were a member of the Society.
- c. Following a question from Cllr. Atkins, a conversation took place in respect of the recent 'St Osyth Summer Sounds' held within The Priory on 30th and 31st August 2025.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.17 pm.

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

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 16 th September 2025		
OM-25-080 a iii a)	Ownership of Ray Creek	Clk to action
OM-25-083 b i c) ii)	Use of Red Lines (Clacton Road/ Colchester Road)	Clk to action