



**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council
held at St Osyth Village Hall
on Thursday 16th April 2026 at 7.00 pm**



PRESENT:

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

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (arrived at 8.15 pm)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Susan Ball (Personal)

MINUTES:

Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Ten

OM-26-001 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-26-002 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- a. A member of the public addressed the Council, on behalf of residents of Mill Street, in respect of planning application 26/00338/FUL, during which the following comments were noted:
 - i. That the erection of the two holiday lets, within the Conservation Area, would be an overdevelopment of the site and out of character with the area.
 - ii. The effect on wildlife, especially bats and hedgehogs which were prevalent at the site, in addition to pets of those living at Mill Court.
 - iii. That the area on which the holiday lets were to be built provided a valuable amenity space for the residents of Mill Court.
 - iv. That an application in 2002 (02/00242/OUT refers) for the development of land to the rear of properties at 39-45 Mill Street had been refused, with one of the reasons for refusal being the limited visibility, which could result in conflict with other highway users.
 - v. That the development could restrict access by emergency and utilities vehicles.
 - vi. That the creation and use of holiday lets would adversely impact the residents of Mill Court and that, if approved, it could set a precedence for the creation of further holiday lets within the Conservation Area.

OM-26-003 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	26/00338/FUL Miss V Link Mill Court Mill Street St Osyth	Planning Application - Erection of two eco-friendly holiday lets. The Parish Council strongly object to this application for the following reasons: Whilst the site of the proposed holiday lets is within the Conservation Area boundary, it is outside of the Settlement Development Boundary, as defined by the approved Policies Map for South East Tendring (12.0.4 refers) detailed in Section 2 of the Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond adopted on 25th January 2022. The proposed development, the design of which is not in keeping with other buildings in the area, is in close proximity to several Grade II listed buildings, notably the White Hart and the Old Mill House. The Parish Council would argue that the proposed development is contrary to Policy PPL 9 of the approved Local Plan. The proposed development, if approved, would result in the loss of two parking spaces, together with a valuable amenity area for the residents of Mill Court. The Parish Council has concerns that the use of the proposed development as holiday lets would have a detrimental impact on the residents of Mill Court, especially where noise is concerned. Were the application to be approved, it would set a precedence whereby residents could apply for the creation of holiday lets where development would ordinarily be unacceptable. Additionally, there is the possibility that were the venture to fail, the proposed holiday lets could become residential dwellings simply by the submission of an application for a Change of Use and would for all intents and purposes avoid refusal of an application which would otherwise be deemed as Backland Development. There is already a vast amount of holiday accommodation within the district, especially St Osyth.

Having heard the objections of the Parish Council in respect of planning application 26/00338/FUL, the members of the public left the meeting.

b.	26/00443/FUL Mr C Gibbs The Partridge Retreat Clay Lane St Osyth	Planning Application - Additional glamping pods and extension to car park. Whilst there are no objections to this application, the Parish Council are of the opinion that in order to maintain aesthetics, the site should now be deemed to be at capacity.
c.	26/00444/LBC St Osyth Priory Estate Limited St Osyth Priory The Bury, St Osyth	Application for Listed Building Consent - Jib door between BF01 and BF02 Darcy House. No objections.
d.	26/00492/VOC Mr M Weirrs 54 Western Promenade Point Clear Bay	Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act for Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) of application 26/00100/FULHH to allow a larger space to safely house two cars. No objections.
e.	26/00506/TELCOM Freshwave Facilities Limited Land at The Orchards Holiday Village Colne Way Point Clear Bay	Prior Approval Application under Part 16, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for proposed installation of a telecommunications base station comprising a 20m monopole supporting of 12no. antennas, together with 3no ground based equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto. <i>Noted - for information only.</i>

OM-26-004 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) for the period of 13th March 2026 to 3rd April 2026.
- b. Letter of 30th March 2026 from TDC with regard to the implementation of a Tree Preservation Order (26/00008/TPO refers) on land to the south of The Leys, Clay Lane, St Osyth.

OM-26-005 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 19th March 2026 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Chair, as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Q Atkins and seconded by Cllr. Venables. All agreed.

OM-26-006 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-25-179 f. The Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Ball had forwarded a copy of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy presentation to the Chair.
- b. OM-25-182 a i. The Clerk informed the Council that he had discussed the grazing of sheep within the Cemetery with a local contractor, and that a formal agreement would be implemented before the sheep were placed in the Cemetery in the autumn.

OM-26-007 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from St Osyth & Point Clear Rotary Club confirming the Village Litter Pick on 16th May 2026.
- b. Correspondence from Essex Highways with regard to the Safer Speeds Strategy Consultation.
- c. Correspondence between St Osyth Parish Council and a resident of Spring Road with regard to the provision of an additional waste bin.
- d. Correspondence from TDC concerning additional waste bins.
- e. Correspondence from St Osyth Parish Council to Colchester City Council (CCC) supporting the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

OM-26-008 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments March 2026, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
 - i. Cllr. Cooper enquired as to the payment made to PlayQuip.
 - a) The Clerk informed the Council that the expenditure related to the remedial repairs of play equipment at Dumont Avenue and Priory Meadow, which the Council had agreed be completed within the financial year 2025/2026.
 - ii. Cllr. White noted that that whilst the list showed the payment of the Annual Grant to the Playing Field Charity (PFC), it did not detail any income in respect of the Charity.
 - a) The Chair stated that income and expense in respect of the PFC was a matter for the Charity and not the Parish Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:
 - i. Current a/c: £47,260.43
 - ii. Deposit: £152,076.63
- c. The Clerk informed the Council that due to an error with the Council's financial accounting system, it had not been possible to provide Councillors with a record of income, therefore, the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) had annotated the list of payments made to include receipts.
 - i. Following a brief discussion, the Chair stated that the general consensus was that the layout of the document received was preferable to the actual reports generated by the accounting system.
 - a) The Clerk stated that he would inform the RFO.

OM-26-009 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

a. Public Realm Working Party:

- i. A report detailing the condition of the skate ramps at Cowley Park, particularly the supporting frames, having been previously distributed, together with a quotation for the cost of repairs, the Clerk gave an overview of the report, which included photographs depicting the condition of the equipment.
- ii. The Clerk informed the Council that, on the grounds of health and safety, it had been necessary to fence off the skate park using heras fencing. He continued that having liaised with TDC, it had been confirmed that there was £2,403.75 available by way of Public Open Spaces Contributions (POSC) which could be used to offset the cost of the repairs, quoted at £12,918.00, however, this did not include the hire of the heras fencing.
- iii. Cllr. Q Atkins enquired as to whether the Clerk had obtained any other quotations and the length of any guarantee associated with the repairs, especially given the suggested use of marine plywood.
 - a) The Clerk stated that he would look to obtain further quotes, however, when doing so for a previous fault, the specialist companies all charged mileage for attending the site of repairs, which in the case of Cowley Park, would have resulted in approximately £300.00 on mileage alone.
 - i) The consensus was that the Council should accept the quotation received.
 - b) With regard to the length of a guarantee, the Clerk stated that he would liaise with the respective company.
- iv. Cllr. Cooper stated that, whilst the Council could make use of General Reserves, following a discussion with the RFO with regard to the end of year figures, it was likely that there could be a surplus of approximately £14,234.00 which, if accurate, would cover the cost of the repairs. Cllr. Cooper continued that an EarMarked Reserve could be created to fund the repair of the skate ramps.
 - a) **RESOLVED:** That St Osyth Parish Council, by way of General Reserves or surplus from financial year 2025/2026, fund the repair of the skate ramps at Cowley Park as soon as possible. The motion was proposed by Cllr. C Atkins and seconded by Cllr. Talbot. All agreed.

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

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

OM-26-010 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Community Matters & Well-being:** Cllr. Venables reported that as part of the Dementia Action Week in May, a Music & Afternoon Tea event was being held on 21st May at the Holland on Sea Stroke & Wellness Centre.

- b. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, Cllr. Cooper briefed the Council on reported crime during February 2026 in St Osyth and Point Clear, by offence and location, and where practicable the status of the investigation.
 - i. Cllr. Cooper provided a comparison of crimes reported during February 2025 and February 2026, during which the following was noted:
 - a) February 2025: 18 reported crimes, of which 9 (50%) were classed as violent or sexual.
 - b) February 2026: 42 reported crimes, of which 25 (60%) were classed as violent or sexual.

An increase of 24 reported crimes or 133%, and an increase of 16 violent or sexual offences, which equated to 177%.
 - ii. The Clerk informed the Council that the District Commander would be carrying out a tour of the district and this year would be visiting the Village Hall on Tuesday 23rd June between 1 pm and 3 pm.
- c. **Footpaths:** Cllr. C Atkins reported that he was in the process of replacing missing, broken or faded way marker signs. Cllr. Atkins requested that members contact him should they be aware of any signs which required replacing.
- d. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. C Atkins gave the following report:
 - i. That a contractor had sprayed the grass at the base of the trees at the Arboretum and that once the grass had died off, mulch would be applied around the trees to retain moisture.
 - ii. Cllr. Atkins reported that a resident had expressed concern over the condition of a rowan tree on the verge before the junction of the B1027 and Colchester Road. Cllr. Atkins continued that the tree, which was now displaying buds, would benefit from the support of a stake.
- e. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):**
Cllr. Sinclair gave the following report:
 - i. TDALC met on 25th March.
 - ii. We discussed the Essex Highways Speed Strategy document, which is out for consultation. This will now consider how housing development affects speed. It is suggested that all local roads which pass through villages should be a mandatory 30 mph. Country lanes should be reduced even further and on new housing developments the speed limit should be 20 mph.
 - iii. There will be community led pilot schemes where a village can request speed reductions, especially where speed can be directly attributed to accidents.

- iv. The Government has introduced a White Paper on fly-tipping. It will give local authorities extra powers to deal with fly-tipping and littering. They propose on-the-spot fines, and any drivers caught fly-tipping could lose their licence and receive a prison sentence and/or a hefty fine.
- v. Concern was raised by a number of Councillors about the time taken to respond to 999 calls. This varied across the district and an example of a 999 call, following a burglary, didn't see a response until the following day, yet three calls were made over this one incident. TDALC decided to write to the District Commander for his comments. We've received a letter in response, and I will forward this to you once its been discussed at our next TDALC meeting.
- vi. There have been staffing changes at the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC), as the CEO has resigned and the Finance Officer has now taken over temporarily. EALC have secured the contract for the training of three new Councils at Holland on Sea, Jaywick and Clacton.
- vii. In the members forum part of the meeting, we were told about schemes run by the Plymouth Brethren who conducted a litter pick in Frating and who will also undertake hedge cutting and similar jobs.
- viii. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 27th May 2026.

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

- i. Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
 - a) As I have reported to you before, so much of our business is conducted with one eye on 2028 when Essex and TDC cease to exist as Administrative Authorities and becomes part of the new Unitary Authority covering the Areas of Tendring, Colchester and Braintree to be known as the North East Essex Council, lead by an Executive Mayor. Since this is a personal report, I can admit to my Parish colleagues that I find it all a bit confusing, some of which is probably age related, but most is asking myself where all this is going.
 - b) The Local election on 7th May for a County Councillor, who will serve for the final years of Essex County Council, is an opportunity for us to vote in a new Electoral Division, to be known as West Clacton and St Osyth, which will link us to Jaywick, and that part of Clacton known as West Clacton. I personally am delighted to know that a fellow Independent Candidate is standing that I can vote for, but I must say that as a member of St Osyth Parish Council, Alan Goggin, our current Essex County Councillor is an absolutely first class representative of the County Council and will be a very hard act for anybody to follow.
 - c) The Royal Air Forces Red Arrows are returning for Clacton Airshow on 27th and 28th August. TDC are very pleased that the world-famous Aerobatic Team are back here to Clacton for the 2026 show.

- d) A new Crisis and Resilience Fund is now available for residents. The fund offers support for individuals and families facing urgent financial hardship, while also helping people build longer-term financial resilience. The fund can help with:

- Crisis payments for low-income households
- Support for people at risk of losing heating or hot water, including due to rising heating oil prices
- Financial guidance and resilience support services

You can apply online or speak to someone by calling 0300 790 0124.

- e) TDC have now moved to the summer opening times for public conveniences throughout the district. All public conveniences will be open between 8am and 8pm, however, these may vary slightly. The Toilet in Church Square, St Osyth, is included in these revised hours.

- ii. Cllr. White gave an overview of a recent discussion during which it had been agreed that elections for Parish Councils would take place at the same time as those for the new Unitary Authority, in May 2027, and that representatives of existing authorities such as Tendring District Council would remain in post until 2028, with the old and new authorities running in tandem for one year.

- a) Cllr. White stated that by combining both elections, the cost would be absorbed by the District Council.

- i) The Clerk reported that Town and Parish Councils were charged an administrative fee by the District Council, citing the 2023 elections, when the fee was £588.00. This, the Clerk continued, had been for uncontested elections, and that contested elections could be in the region of £5,000.00.

OM-26-011 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Nothing to report.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** Nothing to report.
- c. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the next meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for 30th April 2026.
- d. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the next meeting of the Community Association was scheduled for 21st April 2026.

OM-26-012 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Cooper stated that with the pre-Election Period commencing on 27th March 2026, he had that day received his postal voting papers. A brief discussion followed as to the number of political flyers received by some members of the Council.

- b. Cllr. Cohen enquired as to whether there had been any progress with regard to the installation of a gate or barrier along the track leading to the allotments, which was still being used as a cut through to and, more worryingly, from the bypass. He continued that the problem, which occurred throughout the day, was getting worse, and that larger vehicles such as work vans were using the track to access Park Farm on the opposite side of the bypass.
 - i. The Clerk stated that the question had been posed to the landowner, however, to date no response had been received. The Clerk added that he would contact the landowner again.
- c. Cllr. Thomas reported that the dead-heading of daffodils had been completed along Clacton Road, including the junction with the B1027, Rochford Road and Mill Street. The junction of Colchester Road and the bypass was going to be done on Monday 20th April at 11 am and any help would be appreciated.
 - i. The Chair stated that due to other commitments, she would go to the Cemetery on Sunday 19th May to dead-head the flowers there.
- d. Cllr. Talbot reported that the late Sir David Amess, Member of Parliament for Southend West, and who had been a member of Cllr. Talbot's scout group in 1962, had been nominated for the posthumous award of America's highest civilian honour, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- e. Given the presence of traffic lights on Spring Road, Cllr. White enquired as to the possibility of having a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) monitor parking, as people were parking outside of the butchers which was creating chaos.
 - i. Cllr. Thomas stated that the lights had been removed.
 - ii. The Chair stated that people would continue to park outside of the butchers, and that was the reason why an approach for double red lines had been made to the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP).
- f. Cllr. Hall reminded the Council of the information given by Cllr. Ball at the previous meeting in respect of the local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Cllr. Hall continued that Cllr. Ball had emailed Elias Watson, LNRS Co-ordinator, but had yet to receive a response. Cllr. Hall enquired as to whether, in addition to herself and Cllr. Ball, anyone would like to attend the Nature Recovery Action Planning event on Wednesday 6th May 2026.
 - i. The Chair requested that anyone interested in attending should inform the Clerk.
 - ii. Cllr. Hall enquired as to whether the topic of Nature Recovery would come under Public Realm.
 - a) The Chair stated that it would and that it could be discussed at the next meeting of the Public Realm Working Party.

- g. Cllr. Q Atkins informed the Council that there was now a second set of traffic lights along Mill Street, and that the potholes along Clacton Road, adjacent to the allotments had been painted.
- i. The Clerk informed the Council that the potholes had been reported again on 13th April 2026, and that the online report had included measurements and photographs.
- ii. The Clerk added that he had requested the matter be escalated to an emergency, which the call handler had actioned, however, on 14th April, he [the Clerk] had received an email from Highways stating that the potholes had been '*risk assessed and recorded this issue as requiring future non-urgent works.*'
 - a) The Clerk continued that he had subsequently reported the lack of action by Highways to Cllr. Goggin, who having attended the area in person, had referred to the potholes as being "bloody dangerous."
 - b) The Clerk stated that Cllr. Goggin would likely report further on the matter as part of his report to the Council.

OM-26-013 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.15 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave the following report:
 - i. That having been contacted by the Clerk with regard to the potholes adjacent to the allotments along Clacton Road, he had visited the scene. Cllr. Goggin stated that he found both the condition of the road and the response from Essex Highways disgraceful and had therefore raised the matter with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport.
 - ii. That he would have liked to have seen the project to reduce the speed limit along the B1027, in the vicinity of Flag Hill, completed during his tenure, however, due to four objections during the consultation period, the project would now be delayed further.
 - a) Cllr. Goggin stated the four people who had objected had been written to and asked to reconsider their response, however, all four had refused to withdraw their objections.
 - b) Cllr. Goggin informed the Council that whilst the Cabinet Member had the authority to overrule the objections, this would not be without additional legal proceedings on the part of the County Council.
 - iii. That he would not be standing for re-election, therefore, his role as County Councillor would finish on 10th May 2026. Reflecting on his time as a Councillor, he stated that he would not have been able to achieve as much as he did without the support of the Councillors and staff.
 - a) Cllr. Goggin expressed concern at the growing trend for people to criticise councils via social media, adding that there was a huge amount of ignorance, which was often mistaken for fact.

- b) He continued that those who made such remarks should attend Council meetings, where it would become apparent that members of the Parish Council gave their all in trying to improve the parish for its residents, and that he did not know of any other council whose commitment mirrored that of St Osyth.
- iv. On the occasion of his final meeting as County Councillor, the Chair thanked Cllr. Goggin for all that he had done to support the Council and residents of St Osyth.
 - a) The Chair stated that Cllr. Goggin had made a considerable impact and that his assistance was greatly appreciated, especially in respect of the crossroads and the problems associated with the anti-social use of personal watercraft at Point Clear Bay.
 - b) The Chair stated that whilst there were still concerns in respect of the number of potholes throughout the parish, she was cognisant of everything Cllr. Goggin had done to help with the repair of potholes and other highways defects.
 - c) The Chair thanked Cllr. Goggin for his personal support and advice. The Chair stated that Cllr. Goggin would be missed and that whoever was elected to represent the parish of St Osyth would have a very hard act to follow.
 - d) On behalf of the Parish Council and residents, the Chair then presented Cllr. Goggin with a card, gift and plaque of the Parish Coat of Arms.

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 21st May 2026, at St Osyth Village Hall.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 16th April 2026		
OM-26-008 c i a)	Layout of Income & Expenditure Report	RFO to action
OM-26-009 a iii b)	Length of Guarantee	Clk to action
OM-26-009 a iv a)	Repair of Skate Ramps	Clk to action
OM-26-012 b i	Installation of Gate along Allotments Track	Clk to action

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