



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



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

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Quinn Atkins (Holiday)
Cllr. Susan Ball (Holiday)
Cllr. Catherine Venables (Unwell)

MINUTES: Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

OM-26-042 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

OM-26-043 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION & ADDRESS	PROPOSAL
a.	26/00850/OUT Ms A Hobson Sunny Croft Cow Lane Point Clear	Outline Planning Application (all matters reserved) - 3 single storey residential units. The Parish Council objects to this application on the basis that the site is outside of the defined Settlement Development Boundary, contrary to Policy SPL2 of the Tendring District Local Plan (2013–2033 and Beyond). Furthermore, the application constitutes backland development in that: • the proposed development is within the curtilage of an existing dwelling, and the proposal would involve developing land that currently forms the garden/amenity area of Sunny Croft; • the subdivision of the existing residential property to create three new dwellings, would be a gross overdevelopment behind the established frontage and which would rely on an access through or alongside the existing property; and • the site lies within the Coastal Protection Belt and is therefore governed by Policy PPL2. The application, which conflicts with several policies within the Local Plan, would seem to rely on the Council's supply of housing to justify the development. However, the provision of only three dwellings is insufficient to outweigh these clear policy conflicts.

		Were the District Council to approve this application, it would set a precedent for further residential development outside of the Settlement Development Boundary, in clear contravention of its own policies.
b.	26/00892/FULHH Mr F Jordan Oakhurst Bentley Road Weeley Heath	Two-storey rear extension and single-storey side link to a proposed two-storey side extension with carport below and annexe accommodation above. Erection of front boundary wall and gates. No objections.
c.	26/00950/LBC St Osyth Beach Estate Ltd Cockett Wick Farm Cockett Wick Lane St Osyth	Application for Listed Building Consent - Partial dismantling, rebuilding and restoration of Cockett Wick Farmhouse including replacement roof, restoration or replacement of building and roof timbers, masonry repairs, replacement glazing, restoration or replacement of first floor, internal layout changes; Restoration of Cockett Wick Barn, including the removal of existing add-on structures and provision of extensions to the north west and south east corners of the barn. Works to include repairs and part replacement of timber frame, necessary provision of thermal insulation, re-cladding and replacement roof, provision of glazing, internal works to the walls, mezzanine and floor. No objections.
d.	26/01022/AGRIC Mr C Gibbs Anvil Barn The Stackyard Clay Lane St Osyth	Application to determine if prior approved is required under Part 6, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for agricultural storage barn. <i>No objections – noted for information only.</i>

OM-26-044 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) for the period of 12th June 2026 to 3rd July 2026.
- b. TDC letter of 15th June 2026 detailing an Alleged Breach of Planning Control – Alleged Breach of Conditions – Unauthorised Use of Site: Pump Hill Caravan Park, Clacton Road, St Osyth (25/00131/BOC refers).
- c. TDC email of 25th June 2026 detailing an Appeal under Section 78, Town & Country Planning Act 1990, in respect of Appeal 6010949 (TDC 25/01896/FUL) Pitch 1 at 20 Greenland Grove, Point Clear.

- d. TDC email of 25th June 2026 detailing an Appeal under Section 78, Town & Country Planning Act 1990, in respect of Appeal 6010950 (TDC 26/00060/FUL) Pitch 2 at 20 Greenland Grove, Point Clear.
- e. Email of 6th July 2026 from a resident of Point Clear with regard to a development at Cow Lane, Point Clear (26/00850/OUT refers).

OM-26-045 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 18th June 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. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. C Atkins. All agreed.

OM-26-046 SUMMARY OF ACTION:

- a. OM-26-034 b i. The Clerk reminded the Council that Cllr. Cooper had forwarded the link for the 20mph for Safer Streets Campaign webinar to members.
- b. OM-26-034 e i. The Clerk informed the Council that he had emailed the General Manager of the Orchards Holiday Village, Tower Residents Association and Brightlingsea Harbour Master with regard to the installation of the gate on the sea wall at Stone Point. The Clerk added that only the Harbour Master had responded, in which he had provided an update in respect of recent Personal Watercraft (PWC) activity in Point Clear Bay.
- c. OM-26-040. The Clerk informed the Council that he was awaiting dates for training, which he would forward to the Council once to hand.

OM-26-047 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence from the Director of St Osyth Priory requesting the support of the Parish Council with regard to the removal of the traffic lights from along the Mill Street Wall.
- b. TDC detailing changes to Section 32A of the Localism Act 2011, by way of Section 65 of the English Devolution * Community Empowerment Act 2026.
- c. Correspondence, received via Weeley Parish Council, from a resident of Rectory Road raising concerns over speeding.
 - i. The Clerk that he would discuss the matter further with Cllr. Cooper, with a view to scheduling a meeting of the Highways Working Party.
- d. Correspondence from a resident of Point Clear requesting the removal of the traffic lights from along the Mill Street Wall
- e. Correspondence from St Osyth Parish Council to Essex Highways (F206/17/26/1 refers) in support of St Osyth Priory for the removal of the traffic lights from along the Mill Street Wall.

OM-26-048 FINANCE:

- a. Approval of payments for June 2026, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.

- i. Cllr. Cooper informed the Council that the payment of £130.00 to Royds Services related to pest control at the Allotments and Cowley Park respectfully.
- ii. Cllr. Cooper informed the Council that the payment of £468.84 to Deans related to the hanging baskets, the cost of which would be recovered by way of sponsorship.
- iii. Cllr. Cooper informed the Council that the payment of £16,039.20 to PlayQuip related to the repair of the skate ramps at Cowley Park.
 - a) The Clerk informed the Council that the amount included VAT, which would be reclaimed in line with Section 33 of the VAT Act 1994.
 - b) The Clerk added that the Council would also be receiving the sum of £2,403.75 by way of Public Open Spaces Contributions (POSC)/ Section 106 (s106) towards the cost of the repairs, which would bring the actual cost of the repairs to approximately £10,960.00.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:
 - i. Current a/c: £83,338.92
 - ii. Deposit: £152,946.64

OM-26-049 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

a. Cemetery Committee:

- i. The draft Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting of 27th May 2026 having been previously distributed, the Chair invited questions. None were forthcoming.

OM-26-050 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

a. Public Realm Working Party: Nothing to report.

b. Highways Working Party:

- i. Given the correspondence in respect of speeding, Cllr. Cooper suggested that it would be prudent to arrange a meeting of the Working Party.

c. Martin's Farm Country Park:

- i. Cllr. C Atkins reported that a meeting was scheduled for the end of July 2026.

OM-26-051 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

a. Community Matters & Well-being: No report given.

- b. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, Cllr. Cooper briefed the Council on reported crime during May 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 May 2025 and May 2026, during which the following was noted:
 - a) May 2025: 53 reported crimes, of which 29 (55%) were classed as violent or sexual.
 - b) May 2026: 79 reported crimes, of which 32 (41%) were classed as violent or sexual.

A increase of 26 reported crimes or 49%, and a decrease of 3 violent or sexual offences, which equated to 10%.
- ii. Cllr. Cohen reported on the visit of Chief Insp Austin, Tendring District Commander, on 23rd June 2026, during which the following was noted:
 - a) That in addition to Chief Inspector, Inspector Fryatt and two Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) all from the Community Policing Team (CPT), and a representative of Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECF&RS), there had been six attendees from St Osyth and Weeley Parish Councils respectively.
 - b) That whilst there was generally a reduction in crime throughout the district, there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, noise complaints and car theft.
 - i) The main offender for the majority of car thefts, who had 53 convictions to his name had been apprehended.
 - c) That the Police are looking to regain public confidence and trust in the service.
 - d) The Police are actively targeting those who use e-bikes and scooters in an anti-social way, as opposed to people who genuinely use them as a mode of transport.
 - e) Tendring Council came top of eight Councils for trust and confidence.
 - f) That when asked about the input of both the Police and ECF&RS with regard to planning applications for holiday parks, neither organisation were asked for their comments in respect of the increase in population.
 - g) That concerns about bonfires should be referred to the District Council's Environmental Protection Team.
 - h) Chief Inspector Austin gave his thoughts on how members of the public could assist the Police in the future, which included:
 - i) Communication.
 - ii) Reporting of incidents and crime.
 - iii) Praise for good work and results.
 - i) A discussion had taken place with regard to speeding. Possible deterrents included:

- i) The use of speed cameras.
 - ii) Appointment of a Special Constable for St Osyth.
 - iii) Funding of a PCSO, primarily for tasking within the Parish.
 - iv) Use of specialist personnel (at cost) from Maldon District Council who are able to prosecute offenders.
- c. **Footpaths:** Cllr. C Atkins reported that he was continuing to replace way marker signs as and when necessary, and that he had written an article about the footpaths within the Parish for the August edition of St Osyth Life.
- d. **Tree Warden:** Cllr. C Atkins reported that he had yet to receive the unused tree guards from the grounds of St Osyth Priory.
- e. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):** Cllr. Sinclair reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 22nd July 2026.
- f. **District Councillor's Report:**
 - i. Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
 - a) For once, for the first time in many months, my report is not about Local Government Reorganisation, as at the top of any agenda today, is the Local Election for our Member of Parliament, with polling day being on Thursday 13th August. Our M.P. Mr Nigel Farage, who is the Leader of the Reform Party, has resigned his seat as our MP, but is standing again for re-election, for tactical political reasons. This election will have National and International significance, because of his Party's recent support in all areas of British Political Life. All the election preparation work is the job of TDC.
 - b) Yesterday was the scheduled meeting of TDC Standards Committee, and one item on the agenda was a revised 'Licensing and Registration Probity Protocol', that after consultation with all bodies and persons concerned, including a revised 'Licensing and Registration Committee', was agreed to be put before the next Full Council meeting for approval. I used the opportunity, being Cheeky, right outside the agenda item, to protest strongly that as an elected member of St Osyth, I had not been informed that our 'Working Men's Club' license to sell alcoholic drink had been withdrawn, and that subsequently the Club had shut its doors. I said that as a Local Member, I had received a barrage of questions about this wherever I went, but I just have to say that I do not know and have not been advised of this withdrawn license. I said I think this lack of contact from our Licensing Department was quite disgraceful and showed a complete lack of understanding of the role of a Local Member. All I could say to residents was that it must be a breach of regulations.
 - c) The above meeting also discussed a Review of 'Social Media Guidance' for all Members, a document on their relationship with Social Media, with do's and don'ts to protect all members in particular from any action that might be libelous if they extemporise or make unsustainable guesses, reminding members that if they are sued by an aggrieved party, then the cost of that action is the members and not TDC, if what they were saying publicly was not true.

I think the guidance was long overdue and will be welcomed by the Full Council and hopefully be sent to each member and I think, for information to all Towns and Parishes.

ii. Cllr. White gave the following report:

- a) That the Social Club had reopened today, on a Temporary Events Notice, for one month, while an application for a permanent members licence or public house licence was processed.

OM-26-052 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 11th August 2026.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** The Clerk gave the following report:
 - i. That the Playing Field Charity (PFC) had funded a skip to facilitate the clearance of the storeroom in the corridor, which contained old/ broken equipment mainly from the old, pre covid, youth club. Two volunteers from Elmden Rovers undertook the clearance and also cleared the garages. One is now purely for them, the other for the men's team and other hirers.
 - ii. The Chair of Elmden Rovers was able to call in a favour and had a Fire Assessment carried out at no cost to them or the PFC. There were a number of areas which needed to be addressed. The Clerk would liaise with the Chair, Cllr. Thomas and the Community Warden as to how best to progress the findings.
 - iii. There are still a number of areas where work is required, however, without knowing whether the Charity will receive any assistance by way of a Unilateral Undertaking from the proposed development to the south of Clacton Road, it is difficult to say whether we proceed with work such as the replacement of the shutters, which is likely to be several thousand pounds alone.
 - iv. There has been an excessive electricity bill, however, this has been addressed and signs are being placed within the pavilion.
 - v. Child & Provide will again be running their activity club during the school holidays.
 - vi. An Expression of Interest with regard to the taking on the responsibility for the Charity is likely from Elmden Rovers.
- c. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the next meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for 6th August 2026.
- d. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Thomas provided an overview on the meeting of 23rd June 2026, during which the following was noted:
 - i. That it had been necessary to reshuffle some of the ongoing and upcoming projects, due to the installation of the InPost locker.

- ii. That the Association was looking to retain the bottle banks, replace the carpet in the snooker room and refurbish the toilets.
- iii. The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for 4th August 2026.

OM-26-053 CHANGE OF ELECTRICITY PROVIDER FOR STREETLIGHTS:

The Clerk informed the Council that he was looking to obtain quotations for the supply of unmetered electricity to the Parish Council maintained streetlights. The Clerk stated that whilst there was no guarantee that a cheaper provider could be identified, it was a prudent exercise nonetheless.

- a. The Chair requested that the matter be raised with the Finance Committee at its next meeting.

OM-26-054 FURTHER MATTERS:

- a. Cllr. Thomas requested that the August meeting be held at Dumont Hall, as it had been a while since a meeting had last been held there.
- b. Cllr. Hall enquired as to whether it was possible to resolve the ongoing problem of cars parking on double yellow lines, especially outside of the butchers, where people often moved the cones placed by the butcher himself.
 - i. The Chair provided a brief history of previous attempts by the Parish Council to resolve the matter, which she suggested be reviewed by the Highways Working Party.
- c. The Chair stated that she wished the Council to formally recognise the passing of the late Peter Tidy, who had contributed so much to the village.
- d. Cllr. Talbot informed the Council of the passing of former Parish Councillor Jean Smith.
- e. The Clerk informed the Council that together with the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) he had agreed a new deal with Evolve Business Solutions, from Ipswich, for the office photocopier, which would see the Council provided with a new copier at a cheaper rate than the previous deal.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.58 pm.

The date and time of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 20th August 2026 at Dumont Hall, Point Clear.

Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 16th July 2026

OM-26-050 b i	Highways Working Party	Mtg tba
OM-26-053 a	Unmetered Electricity Supply	FinCom to discuss
OM-26-054 a	Location of August Meeting	Clk to action
OM-26-054 b i	Parking on Yellow Lines	HWP to discuss