

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY,
2 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT

Cllr J Couzens in the Chair

Cllrs R Bellamy, De Vaux Balbirnie, J Dunnett, Miss L Gray, Mrs E Ward, P Watson and Mrs A Wood

There were no residents present.

ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

None

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cutting, Dass and Leatherdale.

Mrs J Carter had advised the Clerk verbally that she had resigned. The Clerk is to write confirming this verbal communication and to thank her for her services to the Council.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 October 2009

There were approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

(a) The Apple Tree Public House

There are still problems occurring but it would appear that the licensee is living on the premises so the licence remains in his name although managers are running the facility. It was agreed to write to the Licensing Authority seeking clarification.

(b) Vacancy for Parish Councillor

Tendring District Council has confirmed that no application for an election has been received. The Parish Council must, therefore, fill the vacancy by co-option.

There has been one application to be considered for co-option from Mr Robert Smith of Ayre Cottage, Holland Road.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie and agreed that Mr Smith be asked to join the Parish Council.

(c) Meeting of Parish Council Chairmen

The Chairman reported on a very interesting meeting at St Cleres Hall Farm, St Osyth. There is money available for bus shelters from a special fund from County Council. The governance of TDC was discussed and was totally non-political. Parish Councils are sickened by the constant bickering between councillors and wished to write a strong letter complaining about the present situation with copies to various official bodies. The Chairman said that he needed to get the Parish Council's agreement to write such a letter saying that we are not satisfied with the governance of Tendring District Council. This was proposed by Cllr Bellamy, seconded by Cllr Watson and agreed.

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

- (a) Internet – nothing to report**
- (b) Highway Matters – Cllr Watson reported he had emailed Terry Knight at County Highways seeking a reply to his letter sent six weeks ago and was advised a response will be sent within 10 working days. However, a letter has been delivered by hand which gives information as to the timetable of works. The Harwich Road footpath will be dealt with before Christmas, the section of London Road is not urgent but will be included for completion by the end of January 2010. The speed management strategy is awaiting approval by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.**
- (c) Affordable Housing – The Rural Enabler has advised us that she has asked for a copy of the 106 agreement with Great Bentley Parish Council to be sent to us by Hastoe Housing Association.**
- (d) Parish Archives – nothing to report**
- (e) Youth and Community Building Extension – an asbestos survey covering the new work area has been agreed and carried out. This means there should be no further hold ups to the pre-contract meeting.**

POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION

Cllr Wood reported that there had been occurrences of suspicious circumstance at Meadowview Park and Barrington Close; obstruction in St Osyth Road East; car fire also in St Osyth Road East; suspects on premises in London Road; disturbance at the Lodge in Harwich Road also an assault; theft from motor vehicles in Harwich Road (number plates) and two in Clapgate Drive (tools from vans); road traffic collisions in St Osyth Road East, London Road and Harwich Road

WORKING PARTY REPORTS

Maintenance and Services

Cllr Watson reported that the hot water and heating gas boiler here has been serviced and the appropriate certificates obtained to enable the building to be used by the public. The Methodist Chapel has thanked us for clearing the overgrown area alongside its building. A new waste bin has been positioned on the verge alongside the seat at the junction of St Osyth Road and London Road.

Cllr Watson proposed that the Christmas lights be run again on the two Greens. This was agreed. The Remembrance Day service is on the Village Green at 10.30 am and Cllr Watson will ensure the chains are fitted at the war memorial in time for the service. The entrance gates to the pavilion compound are fabricated, galvanised and painted and will be erected this week. This should complete the capital work at Parish Fields for this financial year. The area alongside the ATC fence opposite this building has been cultivated and planted with a range of both decorative and evergreen shrubs. The four trees on order will be planted within the same border to complete an effective and decorative screen.

St James Church together with the Salvation Army would like to hold a carol service on the Village Green during the evening of Tuesday 15 December at 6.00 pm. The Parish Council was happy for this event to take place.

Street Lights – nothing to report

Footpaths – nothing to report.

Planning and Development

Cllr Wood reported on the following application:

09/01034/FUL – proposed two storey side extension, first floor rear extension and porch at West View, Bateman’s Lane

It was agreed to write to TDC with no objection

Applications determined:

09/01057/FUL – porch style link, 31 Sunnyside Way – permitted development

Applications 09/00706/LBC and 09/00707/LBC – Grove Farm replacement windows – these applications are to be considered at the next Development Control

Committee following a site visit.

Finance and Organisation of Business

(a) Risk Assessment

Cllr Bellamy reported that the Finance Committee has carried out a risk assessment in respect of the Council’s physical assets and their maintenance and protection, financial arrangements, services to the public and other activities and procedures of the Council. Where potential or possible risks were identified, the Committee is satisfied that these would be dealt with by either insurance cover, internal arrangements or by the independent internal audit. With regard to insurance we are satisfied as to the adequacy of the cover held. All these matters are subject to annual review and in respect of financial matters by regular scrutiny of records, income and expenditure throughout each financial period. Copies of the assessment were before members.

It was proposed by Cllr Bellamy, seconded by Cllr Gray and agreed to accept the risk assessment proposed by the Finance and Organisation of Business Committee. The Chairman explained about the problems with the reclamation of VAT and said that the various explanations given to Customs and Excise were now under consideration.

TDALC

No report

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH FIELDS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Bellamy reported that the Car Boot season ended on 11 October, The football season is well under way with between 3 and 5 matches being played each weekend. The Youth and Community Hall continues to be in regular use.

VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Dunnett asked for a grant towards the maintenance of the Harold Lilley Field. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Watson and agreed to make a grant of £500 towards the maintenance of the Harold Lilley Field.

MILLENNIUM GREEN

No report

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie reported on the problems being experienced by blind and partially sighted people due to inconsiderate parking on pavements by car drivers. The RNIB are introducing a campaign to deal with this matter. He mentioned the salt bins which should be filled before winter; Children in Need event at TCVS; Site visit to St Johns Road and the first phase of 157 affordable houses proposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Essex County Council

Making the Links

Tendring District Council	Forward Plan 97 Tree Planting Grant Statement of Accounts Chairman's Visit
Rural Services Network Agreed to complete questionnaire	State of Rural Services in England
Rural Services Community	Rural News Focus
EALC	Plunkett Foundation Survey
Monster Play Systems Ltd	Playbuilder Funding
Rural Services Network	Membership – no action
RNIB	Car Parking Hazards

FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

The up-to-date balance of the Council's funds were noted.

Receipts:

2nd instalment of precept £34,000

Cheques issued:

	£
E.ON Energy	273.17
Local Landscapes (Mill.field – Aug)	256.25
Local Landscapes (Mill.field – Sept)	256.25
Kendall Contract Services	379.73
Daniel Connal Partnership (Y&CC)	515.78
Mr L Lane (PCM97, WP98)	452.78
RBL Poppy Appeal (wreath)	16.50

ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman wished to change the date of the December meeting to Tuesday 8 December as he would not be available on the Monday evening and neither would the Clerk. The members were happy to meet on the Tuesday evening.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie said that the LDF meetings are still in progress

Cllr Watson advised the Council that Mr John Cupman had died and as Mrs Cupman had been a longstanding member of the Council until recently, it was agreed to send a letter of condolence to her.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm

The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 8 December 2009

Chairman
8 December 2009