

**LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE**  
**YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY,**  
**8 DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 PM**

**PRESENT**

**Cllr J Couzens in the Chair**

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

**There were 5 residents present.**

**ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

**Two residents wished to know what was happening to the children's playground on the Harold Lilley Field as they had cleared the ground of broken glass and various other objects including drug making equipment. Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie and Cllr Cutting had also cleared the ground one Monday morning of unsuitable debris. Cllr Dunnett said that discussions had taken place at the Village Hall Committee to see how to resolve the matter. It had been decided to cut down the hedge in front of the playground so that it would be in full view of any passers-by. The Parish Council felt this would be a good step forward and felt that any application for financial assistance would be looked at sympathetically.**

**The Chairman welcomed Cllr Robert Smith to the meeting and wished him well.**

**APOLOGIES**

**Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dass.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 November 2009**

**There were approved and signed by the Chairman.**

**MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) Vacancy for Parish Councillor**

**Mrs Janet Carter had confirmed her resignation from the Parish Council. The Clerk will commence the usual formalities to appoint a successor but mentioned that with the Christmas holiday period, it was unlikely that the Council would receive clearance until after the January meeting.**

**MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD**

**(a) Internet – nothing to report**

**(b) Highway Matters. – Cllr Watson reported he had received an email from Terry Knight at County Highways regarding traffic management and speed strategy. Following our request for updated information on this topic, he has passed our request to Ray Smith who will advise us on any changes to the speed strategy that are approved and in the meantime advise us on where we can access the circular 1/2006, a document relating to current guidelines to speed control.**

**Regarding the claim by a resident in Elm Road, we have been requested by our insurers to confirm how we were aware that EDF had been working on the electrical supply in the road prior to the alleged incident. The lighting maintenance contractor reported 'no supply' to units and it was confirmed by nearby residents that engineers had recently been working in the road. It**

- appears that the claimant has tried to involve ECC in the claim but had been unsuccessful and it is felt that he is now trying ways to recover his legal costs. No further action required by us at this time.
- (c) Affordable Housing – the Chairman has a copy of the 106 agreement which he will read and circulate
  - (d) Parish Archives – these will be moved to the pavilion whilst the work is being undertaken
  - (e) Youth and Community Building Extension – following a considerable amount of chasing, the Architect eventually arranged a pre-contract meeting. At the meeting three representatives from the Parish Council, the Architect, the selected contractor and the health and safety advisor set out a construction programme and cleared some of the outstanding queries. It was agreed that the contractor will complete the ground work by the end of December ready to start actual building on returning from the Christmas break on 5 January 2010. The extension is scheduled for completion by end of April followed by completion of work to the existing hall by the end of May. It will be difficult at times to maximise the hire use of this building during the construction period. The Parish Field Committee will discuss and make arrangements with those using the hall to minimise the disruption to their activities or hold up construction. Cllr Bellamy said that the water supply has been interrupted when the work commenced on 7<sup>n</sup> December.

#### **POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION**

Cllr Wood reported that there had been occurrences of suspicious circumstance in The Street, Harwich Road and Meadowview Park; obstruction in Leys Drive (2); theft of metal Holland Road (radiator); common assault and nuisance youths at the Lodge in Harwich Road; criminal damage in Holland Road (house window smashed); nuisance vehicles in London Road; dog fight in Holland Road ; hare coursing in Tan Lane; road traffic collisions in St Osyth Road and Harwich Road; road traffic collision in Tan Lane with injury.

#### **WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

##### **Maintenance and Services**

Cllr Watson reported that servicing the hot water and heating gas boiler here did not overcome the problems we had recently been experiencing. Following several visits by the heating engineers it was established that a couple of ignition components needed to be replaced, these were ordered and have been fitted and, so far, the boiler has fired up on time and most importantly done so regularly. The entrance gates to the pavilion compound have been erected and result in an improvement in keeping the site tidy, secure and visually attractive/. The Christmas lights have been checked and were turned on for 1 December with approval and help from both Methodist Chapel and Romodorns.

ECC are considering a Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative to help improve street lighting stock. It would involve all of Parish owned street lights being transferred to the PFI contractor. If we were to take up their offer they would carry out an inspection of our lighting stock and replace any old lighting units. We would then have to meet the cost of these replacements and the lights would then be maintained by the contractor for 25 years. What the position of ownership or

continued maintenance after that period is not clear. Many of our lighting units are quite old and many of them are bracket mounted and replacement would require a new column and lantern. The cost of such a unit is in excess of £817 (2006 price) plus £180 for reconnection and there could be in excess of 40 units in this situation – a considerable expense. Considering the maintenance costs we have incurred over this year as typical annual costing (£850) I would not recommend we enter the scheme.

The two containers used to store the Parish Council tractors, mowers and other maintenance equipment are leaking water and almost rusted through along the lower side panels and floor. We have tried repairing the metal roof and side panels but there is very little metal in many areas to enable a repair to be made. We have considered purchasing second hand containers but the cost of these is prohibitive. A storage area has to be provided and we are recommending that we erect a light metal framed and clad enclosure in the pavilion compound to house the equipment. The cost of an erected store 6.250m x 3.750m x 2.500m high (20ft x 12ft x 8ft) with height clearance for the tractor would be £4,322.00. The old containers would be removed from site and it is hoped to recover the cost of removing the old containers from the sale of the scrap steel. Cllr Watson recommended we proceed with the new enclosure. This was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Wood and agreed.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Watson for all the work he has done.

Street Lights – Cllr Ward reported lights out in Holland Road, Harwich Road, Elm Road and Homing Road. Two residents from Elm Road have telephoned about the light out there as it is very dark. She explained that the light had been reported to the contractor and has since chased them for an urgent response. Two County lights are not working in Progress Way/London Road and these have been reported. Footpaths – nothing to report.

#### **Planning and Development**

Cllr Wood reported on the following applications

09/01170/FUL – change of use to relocate displaced caravan pitches from Firs Park on adjacent land with 45 additional pitches in a low density informal layout including landscaping and tree and woodland planting allied to the proposed upgrading and restructuring of the existing park (new informal low density layout and landscaping) Firs Caravan Park, 29-31 London Road, Clacton.

Following an adjournment between 8.45 and 8.50 pm, the matter was discussed resulting in a majority decision of 7 members to continue to oppose any incursion into the green wedge. The Chairman agreed to speak to the planning officer and to provide a suitable written reply (which is attached to the Minutes)

09/01252/FUL – replacement dwelling at The Orchard Grove Road

It was agreed to write to TDC reiterating our previous objections to this application.

#### **Applications determined:**

09/00707/LBC – retention of replacement window at Grove Farm, Tan Lane – approved – listed building consent

09/01034/FUL - two storey extension etc West View, Batemans Lane - approved

Finance and Organisation of Business

- (a) Precept – Cllr Bellamy reported that the Finance Committee have reviewed progress on this year’s budget and are pleased to report that all areas of Council activity are operating within agreed limits and are expected to do so until the end of the financial year. They had, similarly, reviewed anticipated expenditure for next year and as a result are pleased to recommend no increase in the precept for 2010/11. It was proposed by Cllr Bellamy, seconded by Cllr Watson and agreed that the precept for 2010/11 should be £68,000
- (b) VAT – the Clerk reported that she had received the VAT which she had reclaimed in full.

#### **TDALC**

Cllr Leatherdale reported on the discussion about the PCSOs and that Supt Willan is to visit Parish Councils asking what the PCSOs should be doing. The rest of the meeting was a discussion on the shorelines in the district.

#### **LITTLE CLACTON PARISH FIELDS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cllr Bellamy reported that the playing fields and the Youth and Community Hall continue to be in regular use. He had to bring to the Council’s attention a problem regarding a dog walker who brings between 5 and 7 dogs on to the field. The dogs are allowed to run free and on more than one occasion have threatened the Groundsman and other users of the field. The matter has been referred to the Dog Warden and also the local PCSO who will speak to the owner. Hopefully, the problem will be resolved but it was felt the Parish Council should be informed in case of possible repercussions.

#### **VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Dunnett said there were similar problems with dogs on the Harold Lilley Playing Field.

#### **MILLENNIUM GREEN**

No report

#### **TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The Chairman said that he had been told that this Parish Council has political views and makes political reports which he had strenuously denied.

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie spoke about trying for a conservation area for the church and village. He spoke about the refusal of the Council to accept the new housing proposed for St Johns Road and that some of the proposed works will encroach on the village entrance road if it is passed. He had attended the St Helena Hospice service. The Earls Hall Farm turbines had been agreed despite the serious opposition.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Essex County Council  
Tendring District Council

Making the Links  
Forward Plan 98  
Consultation of Budget and Council Tax  
Setting – 14 January  
Town & Country Planning Act 1990 –  
Enforcement Appeal – Mr L D Collins,  
Meadowview Park

Communications Eastern ) Bradwell – proposed new nuclear power  
Dept Energy & Climate Change) station  
Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie Christmas greeting and a donation of £50  
Parish Council thanked him and will decide on a suitable item  
Village Hall Thanks for £500 grant  
RCC Community Led Planning

#### **FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION**

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

#### **Receipts:**

VAT reclamation £15,407.76

#### **Cheques issued:**

	£
E.ON Energy	273.17
Local Landscapes (Mill.field )	256.25
Kendall Contract Services	379.73
Kendall Contract Services (planting)	256.45
Ashby Metalworks 9WP96, 97 PCM99/1)	426.71
Ashby Metalworks (SF96)	2281.60
Village Hall (grant Harold Lilley Playing Field)	500.00
Walther Environment Ltd (asbestos survey)	617.55
Bendale Web Design	44.00

#### **ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

None.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Cutting had bought plants from TDC and had put them in the boat etc.

Agreed to reimburse him,

Cllr Watson reminded members of the Carol Service on the Village Green at 7.00 pm on 15 December

The Chairman thanked everyone and wished them all a very happy Christmas.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm

The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30 pm on Monday, 4 January 2010

**Chairman**  
**4 January 2010**