

**LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY,
4 JULY 2011 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT

Cllr Peter Watson in the Chair

Cllrs Mrs M Balbirnie, R Bellamy, J Cutting, De Vaux Balbirnie, J Dunnett, Miss L Gray, R Smith and Mrs A Wood.

There were 8 residents and PCSO Bradley Haycraft present.

ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Mr Sealy thanked the police for successfully dealing with the problems he had raised.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Couzens, Land and Ward. A letter of resignation has been received from Mrs T Ismaili. It was agreed to write to her with thanks for all she had done during her term of office. The Clerk will arrange for the usual advertising procedure to commence.

ANY ARISING URGENT MATTERS

Cllr Watson advised that the annual accounts were presented and approved at the meeting held on 28 June and are now submitted for final audit.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 6 JUNE AND 28 JUNE 2011

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Parish Shield will be presented to Mr and Mrs Meyers at the August meeting
- (b) Parish Paths Partnership. Following some discussion it was agreed to leave matters as they are at present and not get involved with the partnership scheme.

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

(a) Highway Matters: Cllr Watson had spoken with Network Rail and asked them to contact Cllr Smith. Cllr Smith was very concerned about the lack of response from County Highways and it was agreed to put the matter in the hands of our Member of Parliament to see what he can do to speed up matters.

(b) Parish Business - Cllr Watson reported that the advertisement for the Assistant to the Clerk has been agreed, published and we now await responses.

(c) Youth and Community Building Extension - Cllr Watson reported that we have asked for four items to be detailed in the final account and with satisfactory answers we will be happy to finalise the account. The architect must advise us when it is the correct time to sign the account off.

(e) Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Cllr Watson set out his ideas for the celebration which included setting aside an amount of money in next year's precept to cover the occasion. He felt all village organisations should be involved in a 'Village Day' culminating in a firework display but there should be a permanent feature.

Meeting closed from 8.10 to 8,20 pm

Following the closure, members discussed the various items raised.

POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION

PCSO Haycraft reported on the various incidents which had occurred during June, which included criminal damage, suspicious circumstances, burglary, civil dispute, RTCs, missing persons, faulty traffic signals and a fire. Members raised concerns about motor cycles using the bridle way around the Hundred Acre field, problems with site security at Plough Corner as youths have learned how to get the gates open and a lock has been damaged.

WORKING PARTY REPORTS

Maintenance and Services

Cllr Watson said that the bollards have been delivered and erected around the entrance to parish fields. Unwanted visitors are gaining access out of normal hours to the parish field site by racking the gates until they break the lock. We are looking at ways to stiffen the gates and install a much heavier duty locking arrangement. A refurbished seat has been installed on the triangle at the top of Station Hill, Harwich Road and the bollards are erected outside the Village Hall. We are going to apply for a TDC tree planting grant to replace any trees that have not survived the recent very dry period and are also looking to form an avenue of trees down the side of the playing field running parallel with the internal roadway.

Street Lights – nothing to report

Footpaths – nothing to report

Planning and Development

Cllr Wood reported on the following applications:

11/00648/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling to be replaced with a new dwelling
Greenacres, Betts Green Road

It was agreed to write to TDC with no objection.

11/00677/FUL New pitched roof to replace existing flat roof and to provide an additional bedroom at 28 Amerells Road

It was agreed to write to TDC with no objection

Applications determined:

11/00521/FUL – 78 Holland Rod, specialist bathroom: approval – Full

INTERNET

Cllr Bellamy reported that following the agreement at the last meeting, our new webmaster – RB Design Solutions – is now maintaining our site and the site remained live throughout the changeover.

Cllr Watson said that an agreement and order have been sent confirming the arrangements and he thanked Cllr Bellamy for the time and effort he had spent setting up the new webmaster and maintaining the site.

TDALC - No meeting.

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH FIELDS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Bellamy reported all the facilities at Plough Corner continue to be used on a regular and expanding basis. Since the last report, the District Cubs and Scouts have each held football tournaments and we are in negotiations with a new Triathlon Club being formed in the District who wish to utilise the playing fields and all weather courts. Site security continues to be an issue as some youths seem to have found a way of forcing open the locked road gates. The matter is being discussed with our contractors and we hope to have a solution shortly.

which will overcome the problem. We have the registration numbers to two vehicles, the owners of which may have been responsible and the information has been passed to the police.

VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Dunnett said that £266.70 has been donated from Parish Fields and will be used for playground equipment. Phases 2 and 3 of the work on the village hall is now going ahead and will complete the project. The funding is in place.

The Chairman spoke about the purchase of the playground equipment on behalf of and selected by the Village Hall Committee for which the Parish Council can obtain a TDC grant towards the overall cost. He said that he appreciated that other parties are raising funds towards the purchase/improvements to the Village Hall play equipment but he must make it perfectly clear that these parties are not involved in the purchases we have just made. His concerns were based on a newspaper report that due to TDC cut backs, Little Clacton would lose out on the funding and also the Parish Council would provide cash alongside any grants. The Parish Council has been told that TDC has around £8,500 set aside for Little Clacton play equipment and he would hate them to read those articles and say 'well they don't expect any grant' so it can go elsewhere. He did not recall the Parish Council agreeing to make up any shortfall.

He reminded members that it was agreed that, if you are talking to press or public, you speak as an individual councillor and not on behalf of the Parish Council. Reporting Parish Council activities is the responsibility of the Clerk as directed by the Parish Council.

MILLENNIUM GREEN

Cllr Mavis Balbirnie reported that she had carried out a series of inspections at the millennium field and had discovered the presence of lizards/newts and frogs in the pond. The walkways were easy to access and the grass was regularly cut. She had spoken with Mrs Darnell of the Millennium Green Committee regarding the condition of the field and especially about the pond. An expert had been to look at the field and was very favourably impressed with what he found there and was prepared to give advice and help on the way to proceed to improve the area.

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie reported on flooding outside the Chinese takeaway and across the road. He reported on the various activities he had attended. The travellers site report to be deferred for about six months. Staffing at TDC is undergoing changes with various amalgamations which will be monitored by the Cabinet and Group Leaders.

CORRESPONDENCE

Essex County Council
Tendring District Council

Making the Links
Forward Plan 117
Tree Planting Programme
Final Account
Audit

Tim Venn

DCK Beavers

FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

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

Cheques issued:	£
Mrs A L Owens (salary etc)	551.10
Mrs A L Owens (expenses)	40.13

J Cutting (plants)	17.50	
Kendall Commercial Services	499.20	
E.ON	285.48	
Mrs A L Owens (gratuity payment)	1400.00	
Ashby Metalworks (PCM119)	318.00	
Smiths Service Centre (keys)	5.00	
Viking (stationery)	94.36	
Glasdon UK Ltd (bollards)	1275.00	
Ashby Metalworks (maint.contract)	1286.40	
TDC (election costs)		72.05
DCK Beavers (accounts)	552.00	
Dell Incorporated (ink)	249.96	
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ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie reminded members of the Relay for Life

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.14pm
The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on
Monday, 1 August 2011.

Chairman
1 August 2011