

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2012 AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT

Cllr P Watson (chair)

Cllrs R Bellamy, J Dunnett, R Smith, J Cutting, M Joyce, P De-Vaux Balbirnie, G Bush, Miss L Gray, Mrs A Wood

There was 1 resident present

The Chairman apologised for changing the meeting date, due to the risks to safety caused by snow and ice in the last week.

Apologies: Cllrs D Land, Mrs E Ward, Mrs M Balbirnie

ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

There were no items raised by residents.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 9th JANUARY 2012

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Watson reported that he had received a copy of an email sent by ECC regarding various concerns on highways matters. A copy of the email had been given to Cllr Smith who will cover the relevant points.

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD:

(a) Highway Matters

Cllr Smith reported receiving a copy of the email denying that he had contacted them regarding various highway matters, although he had evidence of considerable amounts of emails and letters sent by him. Cllr Watson recommended that Cllr Smith should draft a new letter to Network Rail regarding the Bridge in particular, as it is now a dangerous risk, copying to ECC Highways, County Cllr Mick Skeels and Tendring District Council.

(b) Parish Business

Cllr Bellamy reported that following a request from Tendring District Council we have provided a summary of our Gross estimated Expenditure and Income in support of our Precept request. We have included a £5000 contingency figure in the estimated expenditure figure.

(c) Queens Diamond Jubilee

Cllr Cutting reported that the Village Jubilee show is well under way with some acts confirming their bookings and others still to commit. A second letter has been distributed to local organizations to try to involve them. A leaflet has been printed explaining the Jubilee Show to be distributed to households in the village, larger copies have been made to display in the Parish Noticeboards. The local press and Parish magazine have also been informed. The next scheduled meeting is for Thursday 1st March with an open invitation for all to attend.

POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION

Cllr Cutting reported that there were 35 reported incidents and 2 crimes reported.

Cllr Watson suggested that Cllr Cutting should contact with the police regarding the Considerate Parking Scheme, and asked Ginette Loach to look into creating a byelaw to stop parking on greenswards and verges.

WORKING PARTY REPORTS

(a) Maintenance and services

Cllr Watson reported that the ditch that runs alongside the playing fields area at Parish fields has been dug and cleared, holes in the internal road filled and levelled as well as a grass area cleared of tarmac that is now ready for seeding. A large hole at the entrance to the car park was also filled. In all, 6 tonnes of hardcore and a further 6 tonnes of topsoil were used to complete the work. Within days, one of the residents living alongside the field were caught filling in a section of the ditch to give them easy access to the field. They were stopped and Cllr Watson requested that Cllr Bush keep a watch. An avenue of 25 trees have been planted between the playing area and the internal road and when established should enhance the site.

Cllr Watson reported that there had been no response from the village shop regarding the complaints of litter.

i) Street lights

Cllr Watson stated that the maintenance cost of our street lights is showing a 50% increase from the same time last year. Some 4/5 years ago, we placed an order to inspect, clean and replace the consumables to the Parish Council owned street lights, resulting in quite a long period of very few call outs. In view of the increased maintenance costs we are incurring, Cllr Watson suggested that we seek estimates for a similar exercise with our current and two other contractors. It was agreed to proceed.

ii) Footpaths

Cllr Gray stated that there was nothing to report.

(b) Planning and Development

i) Applications to date

Cllr Wood reported on the following applications:

12/00097 Yan Tara 39 London Road

It was agreed to object to this application, due to the fact that none of the previous issues raised by the Planning Officers and the Inspectorate on an appeal have been resolved.

Determinations

11/01464/FUL The Apple Tree Public House - Proposed 4 flats and 2 bungalows. Refused on parking issues.

INTERNET

Cllr Bellamy reported that the internet was operating smoothly, and that the scrolling headline was utilised to advise cancellation and rescheduling of this months Parish Council Meeting. This was ideal to draw immediate attention to the date change.

TDALC

Cllr Cutting reported that Parish plans were discussed in detail and Parishes must consult with their Planning Department to create one, at a cost to the Parish Council. This is to ensure compliance with the Local Development Framework.

There was a debate on speeding through the villages and communication problems that councils are having with ECC Highways department. A meeting is being sought with the Highways Department to resolve this problem.

Dog fouling was discussed and if there are problems in villages then arrangements can be made for the Dog Wardens to visit.

The TDALC are looking to arrange a forum for Parish Councils to meet and discuss the best way forward for the TDALC to act on their behalf.

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH FIELDS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Bellamy reported that some activities at Plough Corner have been adversely affected by the weather and ground conditions, mainly in respect of the playing fields.

Site security remains a problem and a meeting has been arranged with Social Services to resolve these matters.

The programme of events following the end of the Football Season is taking shape:

Football Tournaments 5th and 6th May and 2nd and 3rd June.
Carnival /Diamond Jubilee procession 4th June.
Classic Car Shows 20th May and 23rd September.
Car Boot sales when football season ends.
Coin and Stamp Fairs first Sunday of each month starting 4th March.

VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Dunnett reported that a cheque had been received from Mr & Mrs Patrick as a result of last summers garage sale. The sum received was £325.97, to be used on the playground equipment. As the 'sale' was originally discussed at PC meeting Cllr Watson suggested that we should write thanking and congratulating them on arranging such a successful event.

The Village Hall AGM will be held on March 21st 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. New committee members are needed as the present numbers are dwindling.

Everyone in the Village is invited on Saturday 31st March at 1.00pm to the Official opening of the new improvements at the Village Hall. Refreshments will be provided. A volunteer bookings secretary is still required.

A hole has appeared in the pavement outside the Village Hall near the car park entrance. Cllr Dunnett asked the chairman who would be responsible for the repair. Could the trashed waste bin be removed and replaced if possible.

MILLENIUM GREEN

Cllr. M Balbirnie's written report stated that a letter had been written to Lynette Darnell with regards to the final grass cut. Lynette has advised that the grass cutter is away at the moment but she will speak to him on his return with regard to picking up the cuttings.

The seats have been removed from the Green to Swains Farm for refurbishing, all except for the seat provided by Harold Wagstaff who has given instructions that he does not want it touched.

A letter was sent to Lynette Darnell requesting a copy of correspondence to the Elm Road resident as further work had been carried out at the Millenium Green including cutting down trees and painting stumps with weed killer. Lynette advised that she had not yet written to Harold but she, her husband Roger and David Wilkin would be visiting Harold to try to make him understand the dangers associated with him working on the Green, and to explain that this must not continue. Lynette will report back on how the meeting has gone and a short time will be given to Harold to adjust, following which, if he still persists in working on the Green, a solicitors letter will be sent.

It was confirmed by the Highways Rangers that they had not touched the trees, the Trust Chairman and Cllr M Balbirnie had no knowledge of whom and when the work had been done. It was then established that a nearby resident was asked by Mr Wagstaff to cut down the trees. He is sorry that he had taken on the job but he had not realised that Mr Wagstaff had no authority to implement such work. A further independent witness has confirmed that the trees had been marked with paint prior to cutting down and the stumps coated with weed killer by an elderly gent with a walking frame.

The pond is full of water and the bulbs are starting to make an appearance.

Lynette has been asked by letter to provide for the meeting on 13th February, a copy of the Trust Deed and all relevant correspondence held by the solicitor for the Little Clacton Parish files, to date these are not to hand. We understand from Lynette that there is no constitution.

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie reported the following issues:

LDF

No further news at the present time.

The ditches have been cut back at St Osyth Road East and the water is running away nicely. Residents are pleased with the work that has been done. Arrangements have been made for Little Clacton to receive 30 bollards – 10 in return for those removed after the car boot sales and 20 for use around the village on the day of the Diamond Jubilee. Bonny Hill, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, has agreed to officiate at the opening of the Little Clacton Village Hall extension on Saturday 31st March. Tendring District Council's Tree and Landscape Officer, Clive Dawson has said that the Council is actively looking for land to plant trees. If anyone has about one acre that they would like to plant with trees, please get in touch

with Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie or Clive Dawson on 01255 686155 or cdawson@tendringdc.gov.uk.

CORRESPONDENCE

ECC

Village Hall Committee

Fw: Highway Issues

Thank you for Little Clacton Parish donation

FINANCE AND CHEQUE AUTHORISATION

The Clerk is unable to provide financial information at this meeting due to illness.

ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie congratulated Little Clacton's Oldest Resident, Mrs Genery, for turning 103 at her recent birthday.

Cllr Cutting requested that anyone available could take Jubilee leaflets to post along their street, or further if possible.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 5th March 2012.

Chairman

5th March 2012