

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY 5TH MARCH 2012 AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT

Cllr P Watson (chair)

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

There were 8 residents present

ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Items raised by residents will be discussed in the appropriate section of the Agenda.

Cllr Watson had received an email from the owner of the land located in The Street alongside Swains Farm House, offering to attend the Parish Council meeting, to give both Councillors and residents an opportunity to ask questions regarding his submission for this site to be considered for inclusion in the new LDF document.

The Chairman said that before any questions were asked, he would outline the history of the proposed site, as some councillors were new to the Council and as a refresher to the others. A copy of the statement he made is attached to the minutes.

APOLOGIES: None

MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 13th FEBRUARY 2012

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

None

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD:

(a) Highway Matters Cllr Smith reported that Douglas Carswell MP had asked ECC for an update. Cllr Smith had sent a letter to Network Rail, but no reply has been received yet.

Cllr Watson reported that Mrs Loach had obtained a copy of a set of documents covering 'guidance and a model byelaw application form' as set out by the Department for Communications and Local Government. It appears that there are appropriate sections covering 'ball games adjacent to the highway, ball games causing a nuisance to nearby residents and a further section on vehicles parked on margins and verges'. Cllr Watson requested that Cllr Bellamy takes a look at the paperwork and gives an opinion, together with any other Cllr who has an interest in the subject. A response and proposal to be prepared for the next Parish Council meeting.

(b) Parish Business

Cllr Watson reported that now that dates have been published, Mrs Loach is booked to go on the introductory Course for New Clerks and as previously agreed we will pay for her hours and expenses.

(c) Queens Diamond Jubilee

Cllr Cutting reported that the Diamond Jubilee leaflets had been distributed around the village. The Press release to the local newspaper which stated that the show was being organised by the Parish Council. This was incorrect and Cllr Cutting confirmed that the newspaper had not been told this. The show is being run by the Diamond Jubilee committee including the Carnival committee. The Committee meeting on 1st March was poorly attended and two groups originally interested have now withdrawn (Pipe band and Archery group). New acts are now being sought. A beer tent is to be run by the Relay for Life. Car Parking has been secured at the old Motel Site. The meeting was exhaustive with a full agenda, which is still ongoing. A site visit has been arranged for Sunday, 11th March at 9.00am. Cllr Cutting asked for help on the

day, which would be greatly appreciated. The next committee meeting will be Thursday, 5th April, where anyone can attend for an update of current progress.

Cllr Watson has been informed that this item should not be on the Parish Council agenda or be recorded in the minutes as the Jubilee Committee is not a working party within the Council. The Council has granted a sum of money towards the event and any intended expenditure of that grant by the 'Jubilee Committee' will be discussed in the Finance and Cheque Authorisation section of the agenda. If and when approved by Council a cheque will be prepared.

POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION

Cllr Cutting reported that there was no response from PC. Haycroft who is on annual leave. He also mentioned that the Considerate Parking Scheme was community based, and that there was no paperwork as such, just tickets to put on cars along with information shown on the Tendring District Council website.

Cllr Watson had previously asked Cllr Cutting to find out about details and information regarding the considerate parking scheme, and now the areas to be included in the scheme will need to be agreed by the whole Council.

WORKING PARTY REPORTS

(a) Maintenance and services

Cllr Watson reported that the cost of purchasing an Oak tree to record the Queen's Jubilee, would be £400 + VAT for a 40cm diameter tree trunk, £188 + VAT for 14cm diameter trunk and £143 + VAT for a 12cm diameter trunk. If we went for the largest tree, we would overspend the allocated amount by £20. Cllr Watson proposed that we take a look and if justified overspend the £20. This was seconded by Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie and it was agreed to proceed with the larger tree.

Cllr Watson raised the issue of the Parish Field pedestrian entrance gate being very muddy, and requested that plastic matting that we already have in stock is used. The plastic panels have an open pattern that can be filled with sand and thus allow the grass to grow through it.

i) Street lights Cllr Ward stated that there had been various problems with the lights in Harwich Road. These have now been repaired. After discussion with the Chairman, Cllr Ward compared the cost of street lighting repairs for last year to this year, and agreed to contact two additional contractors to obtain prices for lighting maintenance. Cllr Ward will report back with the findings, for a decision to be taken.

Cllr Watson thanked Cllr Ward for all the hard work done regarding the street lighting contractors invoicing resulting in a considerable saving of Parish Council finance.

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:

12/00144/FUL- 17 Harwich Road, 2 storey extension

It was agreed to object to this application, due to the fact that the bungalow next door (no.19) would be completely overshadowed and light obstructed and that we had concerns over parking.

12/00187/FUL & 12/0188/FUL – Bovills Hall Farm Barn, change of use of existing grade 2 traditional building to B2 general industrial use and B8 storage.

12/00189/FUL – 23 Weeley Road, timber ramp to enable wheelchair access and widened front door.

These were both agreed with no objections by the Parish Council, subject to the Highway authority agreeing the access facilities to The Bovills Hall Farm Barn.

ii) Determinations : None

INTERNET

Cllr Bellamy reported that there was nothing new to report.

TDALC

Cllr Cutting reported that there was a meeting coming up at the end of the month.

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH FIELDS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Bellamy reported that all parts of Plough Corner continue to be in use on a regular basis.

The playing fields are particularly busy at weekends. This does create some parking difficulties when it is not possible to use any of the playing field for parking.

A meeting has been held with Essex Cares to remind them of our requirements in respect of site security and related matters. Their recently installed floodlights have now been adjusted to reduce light pollution and nuisance to residents. We have also spoken to the Officer Commanding A.T.C. to ensure they also understand our needs regarding security.

VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Dunnett stated that the snooker table has now been recovered and is available for public hire. The alterations and refurbishment to the hall are all completed in the hall and the facilities are continuing to be well used.

It has been reported to the Council that in the Childrens play area, on the Harold Lilley Playing Field, the waste paper bin is beyond use, there is broken glass around the base of the slide and there are nails sticking out from the broken fence. In addition, there is an elderly gentleman who frequently allows his dog to roam freely around the playing field at the same time as the children leave school. A parent of one child was so concerned with the dog, running free, that it could frighten or even attack one of the children, they had threatened the dog owner. The Parish Council were asked if there were any byelaws to control when dogs are allowed to run free in public places.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council has no jurisdiction over the Playing Field as it is owned and run by a Trust. Cllr Dunnett, who is a member of the Trust, stated that he would raise the issues at their next meeting, which is later in the month. The problem regarding the dog will be reported to our local police officer.

Cllr Dunnett reminded everyone that the Village Hall AGM will be held on March 21st 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Cllr Dunnett also reminded everyone that the official opening for the new improvements is on Saturday 31st March at 1.00pm at the Village Hall. Light refreshments will be provided at the meeting.

MILLENNIUM GREEN

Cllr. M Balbirnie reported that following correspondence written to Lynette Darnell, Chairperson of the Millennium Trust, a letter was received by Cllr Watson together with copies of documentation from the solicitors file including the Trust deed. A copy to the Parish Council representative, Cllr M Balbirnie, sent by post has not yet been received.

Following the investigation to find out who had cut trees down inside and outside of the Millennium Green, we found out that a resident of Elm Road had been asked to cut down trees by Harold Wagstaff. He was under the impression that Mr Wagstaff had the authority to give this order. He was told that this was not the case and he has apologised and understands that in future, he must refuse to do any work on the Millennium Green if asked by Mr Wagstaff. The safety of Harold Wagstaff is of upmost importance as is the position of the Trustees should any accidents happen. In her correspondence to Lynette Darnell, Cllr M Balbirnie has requested that a solicitors letter be sent to Harold Wagstaff.

Cllr Watson explained that in the letter from the Trust chairperson, they confirmed that they do not want the East & South boundary hedges maintained. Cutting the hedges was part of the schedule used to obtain tenders and was included in the awarded contract documents. The hedge cutting is a considerable part of the contracted work and the Parish Council cannot be party to paying for work that is not carried out. The maintenance contracts negotiated by the Council are for a three year period and careful negotiations will have to be held with the contractor to amend or adjust the work content of the original contract. A letter sent to the Trust, firstly explaining that the Parish Council are the employers and as stated in our letter of May 2011 containing a detailed specification and schedule, clearly stating that any alterations to the contract documents must be made through and with the approval of the Parish Council. Any deviation from these conditions could result in the contract being cancelled and require it to be re-negotiated.

TDC will be informing residents of Elm Road when cars need to be moved off of land beside the Green so that chippings can be laid.

The person who has offered to provide details of the plants and insects that can be seen on the Green is putting together

details at the moment and we are hoping to display this information in the spring.

Notice boards are to be installed at the entrances to the Green requesting parental control of young children playing on the Green especially around the pond.

Fund raising will be discussed with the Trustees so that the Millennium Green is self funded and will meet projects which can be carried out for the enjoyment of the local people.

Cllr Watson stated that Cllr M Balbirnie had sent a letter to the Trust Chairman setting out in the strongest terms, our continual concerns over safety and numerous other items that are going on at the site. Land Registry and other documents were received, which will be kept in the Parish Files.

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie reported the following issues:

LDF – no further news at the present time.

Earls Hall Farm (Wind Turbines) - Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie has looked into the noise problem related to the wind turbines that are being built at Earls Hall Farm, on the boundary of Little Clacton, and will contact concerned residents as soon as all the information has been received.

Harwich Road Drainage Problem – Although this problem was reported to Highways in January, this has still not been resolved. Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie is arranging a site visit with Highways to see the drain outside properties which needs clearing and checking, as well as the worn away dropped kerb which results in water running off the road causing flooding and dangerous slippery mud. One resident has already fallen over as a result. Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie is also dealing with highway concerns on speeding through villages and, as this has been ongoing for many years now, needs action taken.

Access to Land by Travellers – The importance of keeping our areas of recreation and the fields in our District safe cannot be stressed enough. Quite recently travellers had to be moved off of the Factory Outlet Centre car park and this is only just outside the Little Clacton boundary. Tendring District Council planners have agreed recent applications put forward by Travellers for Weeley land but one of these has been withdrawn at the present time by the owner of the land and the other comes before the Planning Committee on 6th March.

Weeley Bridge weight restrictions – There is suggestion that , because of the weight restrictions still in place on Weeley Bridge, that traffic should come into Weeley southbound and therefore would result in traffic using the main road through Little Clacton. Other options would be Harwich Road and into Thorpe, or using the Tye Bridge at Great Bentley, which is in poor condition, and following the road though to Weeley. However, a Highways engineer has confirmed in a letter dated October 2011, that the Weeley Bridge is safe to use and the weight restrictions could now be lifted. The extra approximately 4 miles to take other routes is not only bad for the environment due to CO₂ emissions but adds to the stress on our village roads, as well as costing hauliers extra expense by using other routes.

CORRESPONDENCE

ECC

Making the links

Mobile Library Service, Little Clacton Meadowview Park

Tendring District Council

Forward plan 124

Little Clacton Village Hall

Invitation to formal opening of Village Hall on Saturday 31st March at 1pm.

Little Clacton Methodist Church

Thanks for the donation

Cyan

Commemorative Benches

FINANCE AND CHEQUE AUTHORISATION

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

Cheques issued for January:	£	Cheques issued for February:	£
May Gurney Ltd	537.44	Family Support, Clacton (January)	100.00
Family Support, Clacton	100.00	RB Design Solutions (January)	100.00
Glasdon UK Ltd (SF1110/1)	149.76	Ashtead Plant Hire (SF1111)	577.08
Romadorns (Lt Clacton)	107.01	Viking (Stationery)	106.25
Lt Clacton Village Hall (HLPF grant)	500.00	E.ON	285.48
Lt Clacton Methodist Church (donation)	40.00	Mr J Cutting (re: Diamond Jubilee)	180.30
P A Bray Ltd (PCM 116 & 118)	400.00	Dynamic Fireworks (deposit)	240.00
Euro-Fire Ltd	175.46	HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE)	641.72
LB Maintenance (WP115)	632.50	S Root (boiler repair)	117.00
Glasdon UK Ltd (re: bollards)	734.88	EALC (course fee)	60.00
Original Landscape Design (re-issue)	<u>444.62</u>	RB Design Solutions (February)	100.00
		Family Support, Clacton (February)	100.00
		CPRE (annual subscription)	29.00
		EALC (Course fee extra)	<u>5.00</u>

ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie reminded everyone that the Relay for Life will be held at Engaines School on the 14th/15th July 2012, fifteen in a team.

Cllr Watson requested that anyone interested should look at the Byelaw paperwork , which has now been passed to Cllr Bellamy, and forward their response before the next meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.00pm on Monday, 2nd April 2012. The meeting will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm.

Chairman
2nd April 2012

Public Section;-

I, the Chairman have recently received an email from the owner of the land adjacent to Swains Farm, advising us that he had submitted the site to be included in the new LDF. The owner, Mr Barrington-Fuller, is attending the meeting tonight, giving us the opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed development.

Before there are any questions, I would like to remind us all of the events that have taken place previously regarding this site, thereby saving time going over the same points. A group of Parish Councillors did some 18 months or more ago, meet the applicant regarding this parcel of land. Although at the time of the meeting there were no plans available, the discussion was to outline their proposals – 40 properties – and for them to find out what the Parish Council would expect to be included in such an application – gains for the village.

Our comments and suggestions were:-

We did not support social/affordable housing, but we would support an 'Alms Housing Trust' arrangement, there should be a green open space, an area set aside for allotments and there should be some infrastructure ie. a community building for use by a doctor, nurse or chiropodist to save villagers having to travel out of the Parish for appointments.

No further contact was made until last October when a phone call from the owners Agent informed me that they were about to submit a planning application for the site. I suggested that in view of the residents concerns, when advised by Tendring District Council that Little Clacton was scheduled for 40 properties in the next 15/20 years, I suggested a public presentation would be well received and beneficial, the Agent said he would contact and discuss details with his client.

There has been no further contact until recently when we received details for this same site, applying for inclusion in the new LDF – but this time not for 40 but for 100 properties. The Parish Council discussed and agreed on each of the submitted applications, but in this case, did not support the inclusion of this site.

It is an interesting fact that the applications recently submitted for inclusion in the new LDF for Little Clacton amounted to 400 new properties, ten times the original considered requirement nominated by the Planners.

To compound the concern of both the residents and the Parish Council, there were several further applications submitted by adjacent authorities for inclusion in the LDF, that encroached into our Parish and would result in several hundred more dwellings within our boundary if approved. The identity, character and visual impact that would have on our village would be so vast it is difficult to imagine and would result in us being absorbed as a suburb of Clacton.

To the best of my knowledge we are not considering a planning application but an application to be included in the new LDF document. Would Mr Barrington-Fuller like to comment or would he prefer Councillors to ask him questions on the proposal?

Peter Watson

5th March 2012