

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY,
3 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT

Cllr Peter Watson in the Chair

**Cllrs Mrs M Balbirnie, R Bellamy, G Bush, J Cutting, De Vaux Balbirnie,
J Dunnett, Miss L Gray, M Joyce, R Smith, Mrs H Smith, Mrs E Ward and Mrs A Wood.**

There were 3 residents and 2 juveniles present.

Mrs Hazel Smith accepted and signed the declaration to be a Parish Councillor.

ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

The juveniles enquired about progress on the proposed skate park. The Chairman stated that he had made contact with a local supplier who is currently preparing a series of options and prices and he hoped to get some information regarding possible grant funding. The Chairman asked if the boys could find out about other possible funding opportunities and report back.

APOLOGIES

None

ANY ARISING URGENT MATTERS

None

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6th AUGUST 2012

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman said that a tree dedication service for the new Jubilee Oak was arranged for 11am on Saturday 8th September at Parish Fields. Councillors and a guest are invited to take part in the service and afterwards for light refreshments in the Youth and Community Building.

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

(a) Highway Matters: The Chairman stated that there had been no response from ECC regarding the removal of weight restrictions on Weeley Railway viaduct. Cllr Smith said that he had not received any correspondence from Highways and asked if anyone receiving any information regarding The Street could pass it on to him.

The Chairman also asked the Clerk to write and advise ECC before resurfacing The Street as attention is required for the damaged and broken kerbs outside properties numbered 32 – 34 The Street.

(b) Parish Matters

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Hazel Smith as the new Parish Councillor.

(i) Code Of Conduct : The Chairman proposed that the new Code of Conduct is adopted, Cllr Bellamy seconded and it was unanimously agreed.

(ii) Declaration of Interests:

The Chairman said that a new simplified and less intrusive version of the DPI document would be distributed for completion for the website. The Clerk confirmed that this document would not require a signature as long as the long form was signed.

(iii) Clerks Course:

The Chairman stated that the dates had been released for the next CiLCA Clerks Course which is to begin in October at a cost of £385 plus a registration fee of £150, and there will be a cost regarding travel and additional hours worked. This qualification would be a step towards the Council becoming a Quality Council. It should be understood that to enter onto the course requires commitment by both sides. Mrs Loach will forgo holidays, travelling and study time and the Parish hopes, gain a further qualification. The Parish Council will not just foot the bill, but should provide practical experience, training and guidance in all aspects of our council activities. The full costs are to be costed and reported back at the next meeting. To enable the administration to move forward with this, the Chairman proposed that the application form for Ginette Loach is submitted to secure a place and the Council commits to supporting the application, Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie seconded and it was agreed.

(c) Village Development Boundaries:

A member of the public enquired if the Chairman had seen the draft Planning Document which is to be approved subject to consultation on the 11th September at Tendring District Council. He said that some of the areas that Little Clacton Parish Council had said were part of the Green Gap were now being included in the local plan, although the majority of the areas were left how Little Clacton Parish Council had agreed with the Planning Department. New policy under section SD5 of the draft report overrides section SD6 and this would allow prospective developers to argue for development in green areas outside the village boundary if they can say ' there was not anywhere else to put this development within the Village Envelope'. Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie urged the Chairman to write with these objections before the meeting on the 11th. The Chairman called a private meeting in camera after this meeting to discuss the issues.

POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION

Cllr Cutting reported on his communications with PCSO Haycraft, stating that there had been 27 reported incidents between 16th July and 15th August. The Chairman enquired if there had been any response from the Police regarding the mini motorcycles on the footpath. Cllr Cutting said that he had not had a response, and that as Little Clacton was generally a low crime area, the Police may feel that this is a trivial problem until a crime had actually been committed. The Chairman asked if it was possible for a Senior Police Community Officer to attend and asked the Clerk to send a note. The Chairman also asked the Clerk to make enquiries with regard to broken kerbs at 32-34 The Street.

WORKING PARTY REPORTS

Maintenance and Services

The chairman reported that a broken inspection hole cover and ring at the back of the pavillion have been replaced and that the drain from the playing field ditch to the ditch along the west boundary has been cleaned. Bollards to be placed outside Cherry Tree Garage.

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie stated that the Village sign in the field on the right of Weeley Road was leaning over and could be dangerous. The Chairman said it was an ongoing problem with agricultural equipment hitting the sign and he would look into costs for repairing it.

Street Lights – Cllr Ward said that we are waiting for the number of lights out to be sufficient to warrant the use of the Cherry Picker lorry.

Footpaths – Cllr Gray had nothing to report. The Chairman said that the illegal footpath that has been formed in the North West corner of the Playing Field had been blocked off.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Applications received - None.

Cllr Wood reported on the following determinations:

12/00805/TPO Oak and Horse Chestnut trees junction Holland Road and The Street – **Full**

Approval

INTERNET

Cllr Bellamy said that there was nothing new to report. The website is running smoothly with updates as and when required. Cllr Bellamy issued a reminder that local non-profit organisations are welcome to publicise their fund raising activities on the Special Events page.

TDALC

Cllr H Smith will be taking on responsibility for the TDALC. Meetings are held bi monthly, and it is expected that there will be a meeting in the next month. Cllr Cutting is to pass on the email address for the organiser (Janet Russell) of the TDALC meetings so that direct contact can be made.

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH FIELDS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Bellamy reported that the car boot season continues until the end of September, although there will be no sale on 23rd September when a Classic Car show is being held. One sale was lost in August due to heavy rain. The Football Season has started and the pitches are now fully booked for the 2012/13 season. The Youth and Community Hall is regularly used for band practise, art groups, photo shoots and the monthly Coin and Stamp Fairs. Starting next week there will also be weekly Bridge Classes and Slimming Club meetings. The committee will be

meeting shortly to discuss more active marketing of the Hall as a venue for functions, and our price structure for 2013.

VILLAGE HALL

Hedge Cutting: Cllr Dunnett said the order had been given to proceed with the work, which should be carried out within the next few weeks.

Playground: Cllr Dunnett reported that the picnic table and seat are in the process of being repaired. The litter bins are also due to be replaced.

Advertising: Cllr Dunnett stated that there would be a review of advertising , particularly with regard to the meeting room and Snooker.

MILLENNIUM GREEN

Cllr M Balbirnie has still not received a reply from the committee chairperson regarding information about meeting dates and insurance matters, and thought that the Millennium Green was not currently covered by any public liability or other insurance.

The hedgerows and trees are encroaching on the walkways and this and other work is becoming urgent. The committee members were waiting for David Wilkin to fit the work in around harvesting.

Cllr M Balbirnie stated that although the pond weed had now been removed and a rubbish bin had been installed, it was apparent that people are not clearing up after their dogs, which needs to be addressed.

People in Elm Road are now using the allotted area to park on instead of the roadway and pavements.

The Council asked the Clerk to write to the Chairperson expressing resident's concerns over insurance and other matters.

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie gave a written report to members of the activities at TDC during the past month which included **LDP, Travellers sites, Skateboard Details;** Information received from Mistley Parish;

Relay for Life – is to be held at Alton Park School on 15/16 September, could all those that had put their name down for July confirm that they are still available;

The Jubilee Torch Relay successfully led the Clacton Carnival with funds raised to be divided between many local charities.

TDC Tree Planting programme 2012/13 for Parish or Town Councils is to be completed by 19th October in consultation with the tree warden.

Woodlands Tree Planting Scheme for larger scale tree planting schemes (2 acres plus) which land owners within the parish may apply for by contacting Clive Dawson TDC Principal Tree and Landscape Officer.

Football Nets – Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie asked if anyone was able to provide football nets for village use at the Harold Lilley Playing Fields.

CORRESPONDENCE

Essex County Council

**Making the Links
Winter Salt Bag Partnership
Statement of Community Involvement**

Tendring District Council

**Forward Plan 131
Tree Planting Grant Programme
Rural Infrastructure Project
Special Expenses**

FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

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

ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Cutting mentioned that there was no sign for Weeley Road, Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie said that he would make some enquiries.

Cllr Bellamy said that in the news was an item stating that Councillors had awarded themselves a 28% salary increase, and for the record it should be noted that Little Clacton Councillors get no allowances or expenses.

There being no further business in the public section, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

PLANNING MEETING

The issues regarding the draft planning document were discussed and it was agreed to write to TDC with our objections.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm

The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 1st October 2012.

Chairman

1 October 2012