

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE  
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY,  
4th FEBRUARY 2013 AT 7.30 PM**

**PRESENT**

**Cllr Peter Watson in the Chair**

**Cllrs Mrs M Balbirnie, R Bellamy, G Bush, J Cutting, P De Vaux Balbirnie,  
J Dunnett, Miss L Gray, and Mrs A Wood.**

There were 3 residents present.

**RESIDENTS MATTERS**

None

**1. APOLOGIES**

**Cllrs Mrs H Smith, R Smith and Mrs E Ward**

**2. ANY URGENT MATTERS**

None

**3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012**

The minutes from the last meeting were amended in accordance with Cllr M Balbirnie, who pointed out that within the paragraph relating to the Millennium Green, the meeting date should have been 15<sup>th</sup> December and not January, and the last sentence should have questioned who was moving the bin and not emptying it. The minutes were then agreed and duly signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman asked the Clerk if any response had been received from the Thorpe Road developer, the owners of 32 The Street or the British Legion re the memorial extension, but the clerk had not yet received anything. The Chairman described a proposal from the local British Legion Local Chairman to extend the hard standing for the full width of the Village Green and extend it forward to the bench seat. The British Legion Officer also thought that B&Q would be able to donate the materials but this has not been confirmed. The Chairman expressed that he did not agree with extending the area that would take up almost 25% of the Village Green. The Chairman would support a small path alongside the memorial from the road outside the Chinese takeaway, for wheelchairs, and provide a hard standing for the flag party and officials. The extension should not be constructed in some textured concrete slabs but in similar materials to the original paving.

The Clerk read out a letter that had been received from Tendring District Council regarding the removal of a damaged dog waste bin at the corner of The Street and Elm Road. Cllr M Balbirnie who had been in contact with Tendring District Council would make enquiries about reinstating a new bin.

Cllr Bellamy reported that the Fire Safety Inspection at Parish Fields was mandatory, and he had rearranged it for the 7<sup>th</sup> February.

**5. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD**

**(a) Highway Matters:** Cllr Smith had left a report which the Clerk read out. The report told of lack of correspondence from ECC Highways, pot holes in the area, a broken telegraph pole at Holland Road/Tan Lane junction, and an increase in traffic in Holland Road. He suggested a traffic watch to assess the situation. The Chairman asked the Clerk to tell Cllr Smith to act on the report and set up the road monitoring, but using the official route rather than self monitoring. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write again to the head of Highways, and include all our outstanding issues such as Cooks Green, resurfacing of The Street and zebra crossing and suggest traffic monitoring in Holland Road .

**(b) Parish Business**

The Chairman stated that the old office photocopier had broken down and the cost of call out and repairs would have been more expensive than a new machine. Therefore, as funds were available from the equipment replacement budget a new printer/copier has been purchased as it was more economical than repairing the old one.

**(c) District Local Plan**

The Chairman stated that still nothing had been heard from Tendring District Council regarding the emerging Local Development Plan. Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie reported that a Full Council meeting will be held at Tendring District Council in a couple of weeks and that everyone may be waiting for the outcome of that.

## **6. POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION**

Cllr Cutting reported that he had not received a report this month, but restructuring meant that Little Clacton Parish were now classed in the rural area and supervised by Inspector Willis who is based at Harwich. The Clacton area under the control of Inspector Stratford has been reduced from 6 to 3 officers. The Clerk is to write to Inspector Willis, stating that this Parish is not happy with the responsibility area changes and the possible extended response times. Also express that a monthly report, for the Parish Council meeting, on incidents affecting our village are essential.

## **7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

### **(a) Maintenance and Services**

The Chairman reported that the outside light on the Youth and Community Building has now been installed and he hoped that some benefit would be gained from it when we leave the meeting tonight. The internal road alongside the playing area has had the pot holes filled in.

The Parish Council has been awarded a Tree planting grant by Tendring District Council. The Parish Council is waiting for the contractors to install bollards outside the shops. The Jubilee Oak bench seat has been cleaned. The Chairman discussed the playing field drainage system at Plough Corner where the outfall drain crosses the BT site, discharging into the ditch at the rear of the property. Unfortunately the ditch, on private land is blocked with rubbish. It is suggested that a sump was installed and our ditch pipe connected to the existing drain running along the side of the internal roadway. A heavy duty cover and frame would be fitted flush with the road surface and all unwanted spoil removed from site. Cllr Watson proposed that the work went ahead and Cllr Cutting seconded to accept the quotation for £2480. This was approved unanimously and Cllr Bellamy stated that this would definitely be worth going ahead and help improve the field.

**i) Street Lights** – Cllr Ward had not left a written report but Cllr Wood reported a light out in Harwich Road. The Chairman stated that he had discussed a maintenance contract for the lights with Cllr Ward and that they had agreed to invite tenders from street lighting contractors to consider a new maintenance contract. The current arrangement is proving very expensive with almost £900 spent in the last two months not including the cost of electricity.

**ii) Footpaths** – Cllr Gray stated that there was no report this month.

### **(b) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**i)** Cllr Wood reported on the applications received:

**13/00042/LBC** – Replacement Windows to front and north elevation at 30 The Street

**13/00043/FUL** – Proposed replacement of existing stable block with B1 business units at Swains Farm Buildings, The Street.

### **ii) Applications determined:**

12/01281/FUL – Additional parking at Hayes Garage

Approval – Full

12/01291/FUL – Belamacanda – extensions etc.

Refusal - Full

**8. INTERNET** Cllr Bellamy stated that gritting timetables had been set as a scrolling headline across the Little Clacton Parish internet page for information. Cllr Bellamy also reported that he had been approached regarding a superfast broadband project and he asked the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements. The website continues to operate smoothly.

## **9. TDALC**

The Clerk read out a report from Cllr Mrs H Smith, which explained that the last meeting was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 at Beaumont Hall. Disclosure of Interests were mentioned as well as the public voice at Parish meetings. It was suggested that the public were offered a leaving point at a meeting, rather than need to stay to the end. ECC Highways were discussed and all Parishes had found it difficult to gain a response from them. Twitter was discussed as a way to contact them. Salt dispersal was discussed and the lack of volunteers coming forward to help distribute it. The Chairman pointed out that Little Clacton Parish had done well for volunteers and most of our salt stocks has been distributed as required. The report also told of the possibility of footpaths crossing railway lines being closed rather than supervised from a safety point of view.

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

Cllr Bellamy stated that football activity had been restricted at Plough Corner due to the icy weather, but hall bookings are still being taken and it was business as usual.

#### **11. VILLAGE HALL**

**Main Hall:** Cllr Dunnett reminded everyone of the Valentine Social event on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2013 from 2.00pm to 4.30 pm. Tony Fyles (singer) has been booked to provide entertainment and there will be light refreshments. The tickets are £5 each from Ann Cooledge tel.860680.

Improvements to the storage area are being considered. It is hoped to carry out the work later in the year. The Village Hall AGM will be held Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

#### **12. MILLENNIUM GREEN**

Cllr Mrs M Balbirnie read out her report on the Green. The benches have been removed for refurbishment, ready for the spring. Cllr M Balbirnie enquired whether the Parish Council owned any of the benches, and the Chairman confirmed that the heavier of the two had been donated by the Parish Council in the past. Cllr Mrs M Balbirnie explained that she was still waiting for a copy of the insurance and quiz/ fundraising details from Mrs Darnell, and requires a contact name for the cadets in order to ask for help on the Green. The list of wild flowers and trees has now been completed and a cabinet to house the list is to be suggested to the trustees. A copy of the full list has been sent to Cllr Bellamy to be placed on the web site. Cllr M Balbirnie asked if the Parish Council held a spare set of keys to the disabled gate, the Chairman and Clerk both denied ever having a set.

#### **13. TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie read out a written report regarding the activities at Tendring District Council during the past month which included **LDP; Travellers sites; Pot Holes; and the Ambulance Service**, who are increasing working hours in our district, but also looking to close ambulance stations. Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie urged councillors to write to the authorities to reconsider the closures. **Relay for Life 2013**, Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie reported open days held at Tesco and Firs, and also mentioned the temporary closure of the **Recycling Centre** at Rush Green; resurfacing of the **Multi storey car park at Clacton** and the **draft Emergency Plan. Coast Protection** from Clacton Pier to Holland Haven for the next 100 years is currently being exhibited at Holland Public Hall, until the end of the week.

#### **14. CORRESPONDENCE**

**Essex County Council**

**Replacement Minerals Local Plan**

**Making the Links**

**Press Release – Clacton Recycling Centre**

**Request for invoice for car parking, Plough Corner**

**Tendring District Council**

**Tidy Tendring Campaign**

**Parish Precept**

**Anglian Water**

**Have your say on the future of water**

**Adam Matthew**

**Copyright Permission – Parish Council minutes**

**RCCE**

**Edible Essex**

**Lambert Smith Hampton**

**ECC Auction Disposals**

**Essex Police**

**Unauthorised Encampment**

**Alresford Parish Council**

**Civic Service – February 11.00 am**

**Diane Stedman Consultancy**

**Disability rights**

**Glasdon UK LTD**

**Brochures**

**Sent in January:**

**Martin Robson Planning Practice - Thorpe Road**

**Mr & Mrs Hearn – RE: 32 The Street**

**ECC Highways – zebra crossing etc**

**Royal British Legion – War Memorial**

**Tendring District Council – tree planting grant applications**

#### **15. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION**

Cllr Bellamy reported that confirmation had been received that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme grant will be paid by Tendring District Council at the beginning of April and October together with the precept.

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

<b>Cheques issued:</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Lt Clacton Village Hall (grant)</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>Viking (Stationery)</b>	<b>135.14</b>
<b>G B Maintenance (SF 130)</b>	<b>120.00</b>
<b>L B Maintenance (SF 129)</b>	<b>160.00</b>
<b>E.ON</b>	<b>291.68</b>
<b>HMRC (PAYE)</b>	<b>181.20</b>
<b>Ashtead Plant Hire (SF127)</b>	<b>446.88</b>
<b>RB Design Solutions</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Original Landscape Design (SF125)</b>	<b>507.89</b>
<b>Glasdon UK Ltd (SF128)</b>	<b>128.40</b>
<b>Namesco Ltd (Starter Host Renewal)</b>	<b>107.99</b>
<b>Viking (Photocopier &amp; ink)</b>	<b>331.84</b>
<b>May Gurney Ltd</b>	<b>367.94</b>

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

The Chairman reported that he had received information regarding the solar farm at Holland, and it was available for anyone to view.

#### **17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was reported that Mrs Genery, who had been the oldest village resident and had lived in the Village for most of her life, had sadly died. Her funeral will be held on Friday 8th February at the Little Clacton Methodist Chapel.

There being no further business, The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

**Chairman**  
**4<sup>th</sup> March 2013**