

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

PRESENT

Cllr Peter Watson in the Chair

Cllrs R Bellamy, G Bush, J Cutting,

J Dunnett, Miss L Gray(from 8.15pm), M Joyce, Mrs H Smith, R Smith, Mrs E Ward and Mrs A Wood.

There were 4 residents and one Policeman present.

RESIDENTS MATTERS

A Weeley resident thanked the Parish Council for their support over the recent travellers matters. He also said that land at the front of Kempton Park is being considered to be sold by ECC. This had prompted Weeley P.C. to ask for the 'Little Clacton Village' gateway to be moved. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had designed and paid for the sign, but Essex County Council sited it on their land where they considered it was within the correct limits.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Mrs M Balbirnie and P De Vaux Balbirnie

2. ANY URGENT MATTERS

None

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4th FEBRUARY 2013

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman read out a letter, dated 12.02.13, from the Thorpe Road Developers agents who confirmed that their application was being considered and based on the emerging Local Plan as the adopted Local Plan was now out of date.

An inventory of proposed development sites in the Tendring Local Plan showed 300 units were allocated to the proposed East of Thorpe Road Development although it is currently being considered for only up to 250 dwellings. The additional 50 units must include the land to the North of the existing site that falls within our Parish boundary. Whilst the Council do not support this intrusion into our Parish boundary it is the additional 50 dwellings which should be shown in addition to the 60 dwellings already agreed as our quota. The published quota consists of 20 dwellings at Land off Springfield Meadows and 35 dwellings on the two sites about the Montana round-a-bout. The Chairman requested that a letter is sent to Cllr. G Guglielmi, The Planning Portfolio Holder at Tendring District Council to answer the points raised in our accompanying letter to our submission documents, dated 29th December 2012.

The Parish Council have had a reply from the British Legion Head Office explaining that they were unable to contribute towards any work on our Village memorial. It was agreed that the Chairman is to contact the originally agreed contractor to complete the works.

5. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

(a) Highway Matters: Cllr Smith requested a copy of the reply received from Essex County Council regarding Highways new process of dealing with highway matters. No response had been received regarding resurfacing the zebra crossing.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm.

The Chairman reopened the meeting at 8.05pm.

The Chairman reported that an email had been received from ECC Highways to inform the Parish that there was a new procedure in place to report any highway work we consider necessary. It is a long and drawn out process and as this is the first indication we have received we have written and asked the Essex County Councillor to come and explain this new procedure and its advantages to us and put pressure on in getting the crossing resurfaced, which is now very urgent.

(b) Parish Business

None this month

(c) District Local Plan

The Chairman stated that we had been sent a list of proposed sites and was asked to supply a list of 'Community Infrastructure Needs', but not involving transport, health, utilities, emergency services, education, as these are already in hand. They want a list to include community halls, sports equipment, play equipment, youth facilities and allotments etc. As the proposed sites in Little Clacton were only minor developments the request was not being pursued.

6. POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION

PC Dan Heard reported that he had now taken on Little Clacton and Weeley Parishes, to join with the other rural parishes making 12 in total. He is based at Brightlingsea Police Station. The Little Clacton PCSO is still Bradley Haycroft and PCSO Les Barnes is at Thorpe Police Station.

There were 6 recordable crimes this month from 35 calls.

A new Twitter account is being developed to enable the public to keep up with the latest news and PC Heard is to write a regular entry for the Parish Magazine.

PC Heard is to bring out the speed gun to help reduce speeds. He mentioned the Community Speed Watch, which Cllr Cutting recalled as not very successful last time. PC Heard also mentioned that he had available a SID (speed indication device).

Cllr Cutting reported that he had not received a report from PC Bradley Haycraft this month.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS

(a) Maintenance and Services

The Chairman reported that a surveyor visiting the Methodist Chapel suggested that the holly tree that grows alongside the Chapel wall on Galloway Green should be removed due to its proximity as it could damage the building brickwork and cause future problems with the drainage. As the Chapel will be closing in July this year it is felt that the removal of the tree now would be better than waiting for it to be requested in the future by the new owner who could at that time refer to the trees involvement with any problems. The cost to drop the tree and grub out the root is £180.00 – It was agreed to proceed.

i) Street Lights – Cllr Ward reported that there were currently two lights out, but only recently, so she was going to wait to see if any others needed attention to make it worth while to hire the cherry-picker to fix the lights.

The Chairman stated that the average monthly cost of repairs had been £288 per month over the last 18 months.

Two contractors have been asked to tender for the contract to inspect, clean and replace all bulbs. It is hoped that the results will be available for the next meeting.

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

(b) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

i) Cllr Wood reported on the applications received:

13/00145/FUL – Erection of covered play area/canopy – **Engaines CP School, St Osyth Road East - Agreed**

13/00191/LBC – Proposed replacement of existing stable block with B1 business units, including demolition and re-build of part of boundary wall to adj. listed building - **Swains Farm Buildings, The Street. - Agreed**

13/00084/LBC – Insertion and replacement of windows and door openings along with repairs and replacement of elements to existing fabric – **Parkgate Farm, Holland Road** –

This retrospective planning application to a grade listed building raised serious concerns.

To refuse the application is not an option due to the amount of work already undertaken.

The Council has responded by expressing our agreed concerns and question the legality of the work undertaken without approval. Response agreed

ii) Applications determined:

12/00818/FUL – 12 Weeley Road – 2 Bed dwelling Approval – Full

12/01378/FUL – 38 Harwich Road – extensions etc. Approval – Full

12/01410/FUL – 34 Feverills Road – rear extensions Approval – Full

8. INTERNET Cllr Bellamy reported that the site continues to provide news and information for local residents.

Cllr Bellamy stated that it is currently highlighting the need for new members for the Little Clacton Community Care Group which is in danger of closing.

Cllr Bellamy also reported that prior to the next Parish Council meeting on 8th April there will be a presentation by representatives from Essex County Council in respect of the Superfast Essex Broadband Project. There will also be a question and answer session. The presentation will be at 7pm and will be published on the website and notice boards in advance of the meeting.

9. TDALC

Cllr Mrs H Smith reported that the next meeting would be on the 23rd March 2013, and that she had received a copy of the previous minutes now.

10. LITTLE CLACTON PARISH FIELDS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Bellamy stated that following the improvement to the weather, activities on the playing field have resumed with plenty of football action over the past two weekends.

The Field drainage system was discussed at the last Council meeting and reference was made to the outfall drain which discharges into the ditch on private land. This ditch has become blocked. Following a meeting with the BT's site owners we are now advised that the Watercourse Regulation Engineer for Essex County Council has visited the site and informed the owners of properties in Weeley Road and Connaught Road of their responsibilities and asking for any obstructions to the watercourses to be cleared. If this is done, along with the new sump to be installed by the Parish Council on the internal Road, it will improve the drainage of the whole Plough Corner site. Following a Fire Audit visit from Essex Fire and Rescue we are now producing a formal Fire Risk Assessment and Fire Safety Log Book, which is a requirement under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Work will be required to the 'Fire Doors' in the Youth and Community building to meet the legal requirements.

11. VILLAGE HALL

Main Hall: Cllr Dunnett reported a very successful Valentine Social held last month. It was a very pleasant and enjoyable afternoon enjoyed by everyone. A follow-up event is being planned for April.

Cllr Dunnett also reminded everyone that the Village Hall AGM will be held on Wednesday 20th March 2013, 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

12. MILLENNIUM GREEN

Cllr Mrs M Balbirnie left a written report to distribute to all Councillors regarding the Green, which covered **Insurance on the Green**, still no copy received; **Boundary Bushes**, a nearby landowner did the task and made an excellent job; **Pond Fencing**, small saplings have been planted; **Dog Litter Bins**, not replaced yet, but reminder email to be sent; **Sea/Air Cadets**; **Quiz/Fund raising**; **Flora Register**, a suitable cabinet to display details of the flora has been sourced and agreement from other members is sought; **and damage to the fencing on the Millennium Green boundary on London Road**, due to recent high winds.

13. TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie left a written report to distribute to all Councillors regarding the activities at Tendring District Council during the past month which included **Travellers sites**; **Pot Holes**; **and the Ambulance Service**, Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie had left a copy of a letter that he had written to the Ambulance service, which the Chairman read out to all. **Inauguration of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Saints (Tendring Meeting House)**, which Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie will be attending on the 16th March. **Draft Emergency Plan**; **Coast Protection**; **Open Day to promote Sheltered Housing service**, which is to be held on Wednesday the 6th March at Spendells House, Naze Park Road, Walton. **Tendring Older Peoples Forum**, to be held on 22nd March at 10am at the Weeley Council Offices. **Housing Pressure on Tendring District Council** from relocation of residents from London Councils.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

Essex County Council

Highways matters

Traffic Ban Holland Road/ Tan Lane 25 February

Tendring District Council

Public Enquiry, Starena Lodge

Various leaflets

Martin Robeson

Oakwood Park

Royal British Legion

War Memorial

RDFT Television

ITV1's Secret Dealers

RCCE

Best kept village competition

Essex Heritage Trust

Funding and Newsletter

Zurich Mutual

Insurance renewal

Littlethorpe

Bus shelter brochure

15. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

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

16. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Mrs H Smith reported that she had received a complaint from a resident about the state of a property in Holland Road, and Cllr H Smith had reported the complaint on the resident's behalf to Tendring District Council's Environmental Team.

Cllr Cutting distributed a Disaster Plan to all Councillors to be considered for the next meeting.

The Chairman read out the Ambulance Services letter from Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie. He also reminded everyone about the Older Peoples Forum to be held at Weeley Council Offices on 22nd March.

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 7.30pm on Monday, 8th April 2013. A presentation about Superfast broadband will be made at 7pm, prior to the parish meeting.

Chairman
8th April 2013