

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY, 6th JANUARY 2014 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT

Councillor Peter Watson in the Chair

**Councillors M Balbirnie, G Bush, J Cutting, P De Vaux Balbirnie,
J Dunnett, H Smith, R Smith, L Gray, B Ward, E Ward and A Wood.**

There was Essex County Councillor Erskine and 4 residents present.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor R Bellamy sent his apologies.

2. ANY URGENT MATTERS

None

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2nd DECEMBER 2013

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie requested that the correspondence section of the previous month's minutes were changed to include the letter that was sent along with a donation for £50 for the Parish Council. Councillor Wood requested that the planning comment for Clacton Animal Sanctuary be changed to reflect the decision to request that the dog kennels were changed to face east. The Chairman made the changes, Councillor Wood proposed, Councillor Gray seconded and all agreed the previous months minutes which were then approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Firs caravan Park extension

The Chairman reported that an email had been received from Mr Collins as we had not made a comment in response to the application. The Chairman read out his response (to be kept on file with a copy attached to minutes).

Sladbury Solar Panel Farm

The Chairman reported that a new application had been submitted (13/1292/FUL) The Parish has submitted additional objections in support of our original comments made on the previous application (copy attached to minutes)

Disaster Plan

Councillor Cutting reported that the last meeting was on the 27 December 2013 where they had discussed the Little Clacton plan and there were still final changes to be done. The numbers of local emergency groups such as the St John's ambulance were needed, as the larger organisations were already known by the District Council. The Parish still needs to complete the details of the emergency contacts and available resources, ie Village Hall & Parish Fields.

5. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

(a) Highway Matters: Councillor Smith had nothing to report. Councillor Cutting reported pot holes in the pavements along Weeley Road. The Essex County Councillor A. Erskine stated that these should be reported on the Essex County Council Website, just the same way that a road pot hole would be reported.

b) Parish Business:

The Chairman stated that Councillor Bellamy was on compassionate leave, and would be rejoining meetings soon.

b.1) Sale of Land at Galloway Drive

The Chairman left the meeting at this point.

Due to the Vice Chairman being on compassionate leave, the Clerk acted as Chairman and reported:- Following a surveyors site inspection, it was confirmed in writing to the Council, that the parcel of land was valued at £1,000.

During this period Mr Watson had also had the land valued resulting in him making an offer of £1,850 and offering to pay the legal transfer costs. Following further discussion Councillor Wood proposed the Council accept this figure for

the sale of the land, seconded by Councillor Dunnett. It was agreed with 10 in favour, and 1 abstention.

6. POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION

Councillor Cutting read out excerpts from the latest report, covering November, which described various assaults and thefts within the Little Clacton Parish.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS

(a) Maintenance and Services

The Parish has received notification of tree preservation orders on trees growing on the land at the junction of London Road and Centenary Way. It covers 4 trees – 2 Oaks and 2 Lime trees.

Weeley Road Gateway – Although the Parish were given approval to go ahead and re-site the gateway, ECC have come back to say No. The Parish is now waiting for a response to our letters (to be filed with minutes).

(1) Footpath Lights – Councillor Ward reported that two lights had been reported out and these were being dealt with. The Chairman reported that following the footpath lighting survey, it would cost £12,000 to replace the suspect units. All the units needing replacing are in excess of twenty years old.

(2) Footpaths – Councillor Gray reported that the footpaths were still a bit muddy but passable

(b) Planning and Development Councillor Wood reported on the following Applications:

13/01352/FUL	271 Harwich Road, Little Clacton, Clacton On Sea Essex CO16 9PX	Single Storey rear extension to replace existing. No Objections
13/1365/FUL	36 St Osyth Road East Little Clacton	Erection of a new 2 storey and single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing extensions) No objections but note: 2 upstairs windows may cause possible overlooking issues
13/01430/FUL	172-174 The Street, & 4 Amerells Road, Little Clacton	Extensions and alterations to Care home and change of use of No.4 Amerells Road to C2 use Refusal – due to parking issues and overdevelopment. 9 agreed refusal, 1 objected, 1 abstained
13/01367/FUL	The Bungalow Site, Meadow View Park, St Osyth Road, Little Clacton	Siting of a mobile home/office and erection of new store. (following demolition of existing bungalow and store). No objections
13/01428/FUL	27 Elm Road, Little Clacton	Proposed re-construction of roof to form 1 st Floor Bedroom and en-suite. No Objections

(2). Decisions:

13/01212/OUT Refusal - Outline 19.12.2013 Delegated Decision	Land to rear of 2 to 4 St Osyth Road East Little Clacton	Proposed dwelling
13/01243/FUL Application Withdrawn 17.12.2013 Delegated Decision 13/01244/LBC Application Withdrawn 17.12.2013 Delegated Decision	Parkgate Farm Holland Road Little Clacton	Demolition of existing garage and adjoining gym and construction of new double garage with "granny annexe" over with new gym room to rear. All on site of grade 2 listed farmhouse.

(c) Finance and Organisation of Business

1. Precept - The Chairman presented the budget and precept for 2014/15. Up until this morning, no guide lines had been received from either Central or Local Government on permissible increases or if any capping will apply. The Assistant Clerk explained that the LCTSS grant would be set at 85% of last years grant figure, this will be a fixed amount, and not depend on the precept amount set for this year. The Finance and Business group prepared the budget and precept before the meeting, a copy was handed out to each councillor, Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie proposed, Councillor Cutting seconded and all agreed.

8. INTERNET

No report this month.

9. Essex County Councillor

County Councillor Erskine reported various activities from Essex County Council including that the CIF (Community Initiative Fund) is due to finish soon and applications for this round must be in by 31st January.

10. TDALC

Councillor H Smith reported that the next meeting would be on 22nd January 2014.

11. PARISH FIELDS COMPLEX

Councillor Bush reported that football games being played is dependent on the weather. Unfortunately last week, sometime between Thursday afternoon and Friday Morning, a Heavy Goods Vehicle smashed the gate post and broke the inspection cover and several coarse of the chamber brickwork in the car park. Councillor Cutting was asked to contact the police and get a crime reference number and CCTV records are to be scrutinised. The Clerk read out correspondence regarding the Oakwood centre taking and using greenery from Parish Fields trees to make their Christmas Wreaths. The Oakwood centre have apologised and said that this would not happen again.

12. PAVILION EXTENSION The Chairman reported that the detailed specification for the alterations to the existing changing rooms had now been received and the Parish was awaiting consideration of the costs given in the returned tenders. This work to improve the changing rooms will enable the full facilities to be used whilst the main project is under way.

13. VILLAGE HALL

Councillor Dunnett reported that The Village Hall was quiet over the Christmas period and there was no report this month.

14. MILLENNIUM GREEN

Councillor M Balbirnie reported that there was no further news from Mrs Darnell with information regarding the change to the Trust. Mrs Darnell had previously

said that she would advise the Parish as soon as information was received from the Charity Commission.

Unfortunately, with the delay, the Parish will be out of time for getting the bushes and hedges trimmed before the bird nesting period.

A tree planting ceremony arranged by the Trustees of the Hubbard and Harvey Charity took place on a wet day in December and was attended by the Jive Aces, Trustees of the Millennium Green and local residents. After the ceremony, the tree was removed and stored until a later date as the metal guard for the tree needs to be set into concrete foundations, which cannot be done due to winter weather conditions.

Details of the resident who has offered to give a hand with the Millennium Green are to be kept on file until a later date when the Parish Council has taken over as Trustees of the Millennium Green.

The Chairman reported that the Trustees are waiting for guide lines from the Charity commission and English Heritage to arrange the changeover of the Trusteeship to the Parish Council. The Chairman has received a key to the Main Gate. Another letter has been received from Mr Wagstaff. The Trust Chairman has given permission to proceed with grass cutting and reducing face of the hedge roadside. The Parish Chairman has arranged for an initial grass and hedge cut in the next two weeks. The EGM is to be held on 29th January in the Parish Room.

15. TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie gave a written report to members of the activities at TDC during the past month which included progress on the following ongoing projects:

Pride of Tendring Award – Winners announced 1/1/2014

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie put forward Cllr John Dunnett for this award to recognise over 40 years he has given to the Little Clacton community, including work as a Councillor, Village Hall Committee member and businessman. Councillor Dunnett will be receiving his award on 7th February at the Princes Theatre, along with 20 other recipients.

Update on Travellers Site at Weeley; Still awaiting Inspectors decision on both sites.

ECC Proposals for Street lights to be turned off; This has been delayed for further consultation.

Review of the ECC Local Bus Strategy; The consultation on the local Bus Strategy Review has now closed having been open between 16th September and 9th December 2013. Analysis of the responses received is now being undertaken and the next steps are as follows:

- 1) The outcomes from the consultation, together with quantitative information such as passenger numbers and the journeys passengers undertake, will be used to draft a new Passenger Transport Strategy.
- 2) There will be further consultation and opportunities to comment on the draft bus strategy when it is completed.
- 3) Once the new strategy has been finalised there will be a series of area reviews across the country to allow services in each area to be looked at in the light of the new strategy. It will involve working with local representatives in designing a new network to ameliorate the impact of changes. These will rolled out across the county to produce a revised network.

Xmas Tree Recycling Service;TDC officers will be out and about at six different locations on January 11th to accept trees for recycling:

Weeley Crematorium from 10am to 11.30am, The Green at Great Bentley and Frinton's Crescent Gardens from 12noon until 1.30pm, and at Clacton's Martello Car Park and Harwich's Park Pavilion Car park from 2pm to 3.30pm.

Bogus Charity Collectors; Only give to people if they have sealed tins and have a permit available for inspection. There have been cases recently of people collecting in Clacton Town Centre who are not legitimate.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that her computer had been down so there were no emails received and no other correspondence received this month.

17. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

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

Cheques issued:	£
HMRC (PAYE)	169.40
RB Design Solutions	100.00
E.ON	282.71
Family Support (November)	100.00
Family Support (December)	75.00
GB Maintenance (Trees and Shrubs)	110.00
Viking	146.24
Tony Nash (Gateway and bins)	200.00
Clacton Business Services (Payroll)	37.08
SLCC (Annual Subs)	116.00
Village Hall (Grass cutting Grant)	500.00

18. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Hubbards and Harveys Charities

The Chairman of The Trust stated that the charity objectives were to help any one who lives in the Village towards their costs of celebrating the Christmas Festivities. Being elderly is not the criteria, it is meant for those in need of financial help. If you, or you know of anybody who could be helped please forward their name to him for consideration by the Trustees.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm

The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 3rd February 2014.

**Chairman
3rd February 2014**