

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND  
COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 7th JULY 2014 AT 7.30PM.

**PRESENT**

**Councillor P Watson (chairman)**

**Councillors R Bellamy, J Cutting, P De-Vaux Balbirnie, Mrs M Balbirnie, J Dunnett, Miss L Gray, Mrs H Smith, R Smith, B Ward, Mrs E Ward, Mrs A Wood**

There were 2 residents present.

**ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

**1. APOLOGIES: Councillor G Bush, County Councillor Erskine, Audrey Owens.**

**2. URGENT MATTERS : None**

**3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 2nd June 2014**

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie stated that the mention of 'Clear Route' in the minutes should be corrected to read 'Clear Way'. The Chairman made the alteration. The minutes were then agreed by all, and the Chairman signed them as a true record. The minutes from the meeting held in-Camera on 2<sup>nd</sup> June were agreed by all and signed as a true record by Councillor Bellamy as he had chaired that meeting.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman declared an interest in the next item and the Vice Chairman took over the meeting.

Councillor Bellamy reported that a further response was sent out following the In-Camera meeting, and all councillors had received a copy. As yet, no further enquiries had been made regarding the Freedom of Information request. He stated that if anything further was received, he would want a written statement from members of the Council, detailing the content of any discussion they have had with Ms Woodward.

The Chairman reported that at the last meeting, both councillors and residents expressed their serious concerns over the approval given to the application for 6 dwellings at no.36 Holland Road. Such was the concern that letters have gone to the Secretary of State – Eric Pickles, the Chief Executive of Tendring District Council and the Planning portfolio holder at Tendring District Council requesting a review of the way the application had been addressed by Officers and members of the Planning Committee. No response has yet been received.

**5. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD:**

**(a) Highway Matters**

Councillor Smith reported that ECC Highways had been surface dressing roads around Little

Clacton. Councillor Bellamy reported that a part of the road had been resurfaced along Harwich Road and Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie reported that at the other end of Harwich Road needed to be repaired now, as rain water is being channelled into a residents drive. County Councillor Erskine has agreed to look into the problem.

## **b) Parish Business**

The Chairman reported that we had received a letter from parents of children attending the Village school expressing concerns over the parking of vehicles, caravans and other items around the junction of the The Street/ and St. Osyth Road East. The Parish wrote to the owner of the property involved and he agreed to move the vehicles.

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

Councillor Cutting read a report for May, which listed 9 reported crimes.

## **7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

### **(a) Maintenance and services**

Councillor Watson reported that the surface water drain that runs across the site has been pressure washed as it had become partially blocked with silt. An order has been received from ECC Highways to maintain the verges around the Parish and with this in mind, the contracts have been renewed with our contractors, who do an excellent job throughout the year. Notification has been received of some additional TPO's; One for an additional Oak Tree on the 'Old Motel Site' and the other for an Oak Tree at the rear of 82 St Osyth Road East (Land next to by-pass, being sold by ECC).

### **(a1) Street lights**

Councillor Ward reported that the cost to remove the existing bracket and lantern from the pole, supply and fit a complete replacement light is around £300. To disconnect the electrical supply and re-connect the new unit is £50. 3 lights in Holland Road and 5 lights in Elm Road need to be done.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council should allow for £20 on each replacement in the event that the terminal connection block is broken or does not meet current electrical standards. He proposed that we spend the £2,500 to get all 8 lights repaired and working. Councillor Balbirnie seconded and all agreed in favour. The replacement units are more efficient and create less light pollution than existing type.

### **(a2) Footpaths**

The Chairman stated that a resident has reported that there has been a 're-alignment' of the footpath alongside 163 Harwich Road. Councillor Gray is going to make enquiries to the ECC footpath Officer to establish if there has been any infringements to the approved footpath alignment.

Councillor Gray reported that the footpath alongside Blacksmiths is to get a gate, due to the number of bikes that go down the footpath at night and bother the horses that are kept there. Councillor Gray is to speak to the Blacksmiths owners regarding this.

## (b1) Planning and Development

Applications to date

Councillor Mrs A Wood reported the following planning applications:

14/00747/FUL Mr Steven Bates	Formation of means of access.	41/43 Holland Road Little Clacton <b>No Objections</b>
14/00823/DETAIL Mersea Homes	Erection of 8 no dwellings with associated garage/outbuilding and associated works.	Land to West of Junction of Homing Road and Thorrington Road, Little Clacton <b>No Objections</b>
14/00777/FUL Wickland (Holdings) Ltd	Demolition of existing store and replace with new brick built secure store.	Maintenance Store Meadow View Park St Osyth Road Little Clacton <b>No Objections</b>
14/00785/FUL	Demolition of existing garage workshop and erection of 6 new dwellings	Land adj. St Olaves Grove Road, Little Clacton <b>Refusal - Backland, cul de sac, no turning area, no footpath.</b>
14/00902/FUL	Alteration to part shop front, replacing wooden door and windows with aluminium	54 The Street, Little Clacton <b>No Objections.</b>

## (b2) Determinations:

14/00159/FUL Approval - Full 06.06.2014	Development of 25 dwellings.	Land Comprising Greengates Residential Park and adjacent 28 Weeley Road Little Clacton
14/00503/FUL Approval - Full 09.06.2014	Construction of a single storey rear extension and insertion of new window in gable for new living area in loft space.	19 Barrington Close Little Clacton
14/00538/OUT Refusal - Outline 19.06.2014	Proposed residential development.	Land to South West Junction of Homing Road & Talbot Road Little Clacton
14/00637/FUL Approval - Full 25.06.2014	Disabled ramp.	3 Grove Road Little Clacton
14/00565/FUL Approval - Full 02.07.2014	Variation of conditions 2 and 5 of planning permission 11/00866/FUL. To substitute approved drawings with drawings incorporating alterations to layout and driveway/access arrangements.	Land Between 9 and 15 Holland Road Little Clacton
14/00567/FUL Refusal - Full 04.07.2014	Completion of an outbuilding pursuant to planning permission 06/01957/FUL and use as a dwelling	110 St Osyth Road West Little Clacton Clacton On Sea

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie reported that many large trees and bushes had been cut down to make a clearing in Batemans Road.

The Chairman reported that a new publication called 'The Tendring District Local Plan – Statement of Community Involvement' had been received. The idea of the 29 page document is that Tendring District Council should engage with residents in preparing the Local Plan and in determination of

planning applications and identify the Councils vision for community involvement.

#### **(c1) Annual Accounts**

The accounts were distributed to all councillors, who were asked to review and submit questions.

Councillor Bellamy answered the questions from the full set of accounts that were in his possession. Councillor Wood proposed that they were accepted, Councillor Ward seconded and all agreed. The Chairman signed them as a true representation of The Parish Finances.

#### **(c2) Annual Governance Statement**

The Chairman presented the Annual Governance Statement to the meeting and signed them quoting item reference 7(c) .

#### **8. INTERNET**

Councillor Bellamy stated that there was nothing new to report.

#### **9. TDALC**

Councillor Mrs H Smith reported that there hasn't been a meeting since the last parish meeting, so there was no report.

#### **10. PARISH FIELDS COMPLEX**

Councillor Bellamy reported that the Car Boot season is still very slow possibly due to the weather but also the increased competition locally. As yet we have not seen the benefits of increased expenditure on advertising and publicity. With better weather and the start of summer tourism trade it is to be hoped matters will improve.

If returns do not improve the Parish Fields Management Committee will have to discuss future options regarding Car Boot Sales or possible alternative uses of the playing fields during the Summer season. We will keep the Parish Council informed in this connection.

On a brighter note indications are that we will have a very busy Football season during 2014/15.

The Youth and Community Hall continues to be in regular use.

The Chairman reported that contractors have started and stripped out the old shower/changing rooms and have started to construct the ladies, youth and officials changing rooms, this phase of the work will be completed by the end of the month. These works are covered by a part of the Capital Project fund monies that we have set aside over the last three years in our budget.

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

Cllr Dunnett reported that the committee are holding an open day at the Hall on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at which the official opening of the new extension will take place. Everyone is invited. Refreshments will be provided.

The Village Hall committee have written to the Parish Council requesting funding assistance to help with the installation of a new CCTV security camera system covering the Hall, Car park and Play ground. The total cost of the work is £2,354.40 including VAT.

The Chairman said that the Finance and Business committee would meet and see how much they would be able to contribute. He stated that the Parish Council would definitely put some money towards the cost, but he could not say how much until after the meeting. Councillor Bellamy was sure that the Parish Council would not be able to afford to pay the whole amount due to the commitments already made for this year.

**12. MILLENNIUM GREEN** Councillor M Balbirnie said it had been reported that a tent had been erected in the tree area and one of the seats had been damaged. On inspection, there was no tent, but there was damage to the seat and lots of rubbish.

As the trusteeship had not yet been passed to Little Clacton Parish Council by Natural England, the Council are unable to do any remedial work. Councillor B Ward reported that he feared, due to the delay, the cost to the Parish Council to reclaim the site continually rises because to the amount of work that is needed as it has been unattended for so long.

The Chairman confirmed he has previously contacted both Natural England and their solicitors requesting an update on the transfer of ownership. It was explained that the original transfer documents signed back in November 2013 were incorrect & inaccurate and replacement documents had been sent to original Trustees for completion. These had not been returned at that time.

The Chairman suggested that as there appears no forward movement on the transfer. We should send a letter went to Natural England's Solicitors to let them know of the deteriorating situation of the 'Green' and the Councils concerns over safety aspects resulting from the lack of maintenance and damage being caused by vandalism. This was agreed and we should include a copy to D Solly – Natural England.

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

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie passed a written report out to all officers. The report was about the LDP committee, Clacton Gateway Site, Thorpe Road Site, Weeley Bridge, Armed Forces Ceremony, Pot holes and road repairs, the Apple Tree Site, Little Clacton Disaster Plan, Changing facilities for the Disabled on Clacton and Walton seafront and Intelligence gathering about visitor numbers to Clacton Seafront.

### **14. CORRESPONDENCE**

Royal British Legion green in	Request to hold recruitment drive and promotional sales on Little Clacton for a few days in August.
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Councillor Ward proposed that we allow them to do this, seconded by Councillor Wood and all agreed.

It was also suggested that we should advise them there would be greater opportunities to meet the public if they held their promotional event at Clacton Shopping Village.

## 15. FINANCE AND CHEQUE AUTHORISATION

The up to date balance of the Councils accounts were agreed and noted.

Cheques issued :	£
<b>HMRC (PAYE)</b>	<b>172.60</b>
<b>RB Design Solutions</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Kendall Commercial Services</b>	<b>551.33</b>
<b>PJB Architectural Design</b>	<b>507.00</b>
<b>E ON</b>	<b>292.64</b>
<b>Tendring Eldercare</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Mr R Digby (Drain Clearance)</b>	<b>270.00</b>
<b>TDC (Building Regs)</b>	<b>460.01</b>
<b>Clacton Business Services Ltd (PAYE)</b>	<b>37.08</b>
<b>St James PCC (Grant Burial Ground)</b>	<b>1800.00</b>
<b>DCK Beavers Ltd ~(annual accounts</b>	<b>552.00</b>
<b>Mr G Harrison</b>	<b>189.00</b>
<b>RCCE (annual Sub.)</b>	<b><u>66.00</u></b>

## 16. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None

## 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Smith reported that the fields along Sladburys Lane, previously included in the proposed Solar Farm development, had, as they had for many previous years been looking green and healthy were recently sprayed with something and have now turned brown and very dead looking.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15pm.

The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

**Chairman**

**4<sup>th</sup> August 2014**