

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY, 3rd November 2014 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT

Councillor Peter Watson in the Chair

**Councillors Mrs M Balbirnie, P De Vaux Balbirnie, R Bellamy,
J Dunnett, J Cutting, Miss L Gray, Mrs E Ward and Mrs A Wood.**

There were 5 residents present.

1. APOLOGIES

**Councillors G Bush, Mrs H Smith, R Smith, B Ward, and A Owens (Clerk)
sent their apologies.**

Cllr. Mrs D Skeels did not attend

2. ANY URGENT MATTERS

None

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6th OCTOBER 2014

Councillor E Ward proposed and Councillor Wood seconded and all agreed the previous months minutes which were then approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising this month.

5. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

(a) Highway Matters: Essex County Councillor Erskine reported that he had not heard anything back regarding Holland Road speed restrictions yet.

(b) Parish Matters

There were no Parish matters to report this month.

6. POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION

Councillor Cutting reported that he had received two months reports from PC Haycraft. The first, for the month of August, detailed 10 crimes. The September report detailed 14 crimes for the Little Clacton area. Councillor Cutting explained about Essex Community Messaging system (ECM), more details on our website, and the new 'Street Meet' meetings to be held in the Village Hall on Monday evenings at 7pm. A list of meeting dates will be published on the Notice Board and on our web site.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS

(a) Maintenance and Services

The Chairman reported that the order had been placed and the work started on cutting the hedge along The Street and Swaines Farm boundaries at Millennium Green. He reported how sad it was to see the way the hedge had been left without any attention for so long, with very little growth at the bottom, just thin sticks into the sky. Native hedges normally consist of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple and even Dog Rose with native trees spaced along the hedge to provide interest and additional wildlife habitats. We found the hedges at Millennium Green consists mainly of Oak, Silver Birch and Hazelnut trees with some Blackthorn between them, not what is normally recognised as a country hedge.

All the trees have suckers growing from their base and these will be removed to encourage the trees to grow normally with a single trunk.

When the hedge is finished and the foliage burnt, we will address the copse area. Here again the trees have not been managed resulting in some being suffocated and some have died. These will be removed and crowns of all trees lifted to around 2 metres to allow lower flora to grow and flourish.

The contractors tell me that when cutting the grass there are numerous frogs, insects etc. jumping out of the undergrowth, so there is hope for it all yet. It is hoped to complete the site clearing by the end of the month subject to the weather.

(1) Street Lights – Councillor Watson reported that the order had been placed for the next stage of unit replacements. Councillor Ward reported that Lights in St Osyth Road East should all be replaced November.

(2) Footpaths – Councillor Gray said that there was nothing to report this month.

Councillor M Balbirnie declared a pecuniary Interest for the next item and did not participate in the discussion regarding Oakwood Park development.

The Chairman read out a draft response that he had prepared for TDC Planning Officers and Committee. Councillor Cutting requested that the words “considering Hartley was the preferred option by Planning Officers in 2010” to be added, and the Country Park Status was to be kept, with no building on the Green space, safeguarding it as ring fenced open space. The Chairman agreed to include the changes. Councillor Cutting proposed that the letter was copied to all District Councillors on the Local Plan Committee, Councillor Wood seconded and all agreed.

An amended copy of this letter to TDC Planning Committee is on File.

Prior to the next item, the Chairman declared a pecuniary interest and stepped down. The Vice Chairman assumed responsibility.

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

(1).Applications:

4/01547/FUL	New 3 bedroom detached dwelling.	Land adj. 6 Galloway Drive Little Clacton Clacton On Sea CO16 9LN No Objections
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(2). Decisions:

14/01181/OUT Approval- Outline 08.10.2014 Delegated Decision	One detached dwelling with associated garaging and parking.	155 Harwich Road Little Clacton Essex
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14/01267/FUL Refusal - Full 29.10.2014 Delegated Decision	One bungalow.	Land adjacent to Meadowview Thorrington Road Little Clacton CO16 9ES
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The Chairman resumed responsibility as Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.

Regarding the Tennis Club application - The Clerk was requested to write to the Head of Legal Services at Tendring District Council and seek advice regarding the covenant on the Land.

The question was raised "if granted, would the Planning Approval given by the District Council over ride an covenant", the consensus of opinion considered, no. The meeting was closed at 8:40pm

The meeting was opened at 8:45pm

The Council asked the Chairman to contact Essex County Council Agents, responsible for the sale transaction of the land in question, to establish if a covenant existed and if so obtain a copy of the document.

8. INTERNET

Councillor Bellamy said that there was nothing new to report this month.

9. TDALC

No report this month.

10. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor Erskine reported that they were in the final stages of deciding on the allocation of the CIF (Community Infrastructure Fund) for 2014. The Village Hall are one of the applicants. He had also made enquiries regarding local speeds, flooding issues and Weeley Bridge weight restrictions, but was yet to receive answers.

11. PARISH FIELDS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Bellamy reported that facilities at Plough Corner continue to be used on a regular basis with Sunday football being particularly busy.

We are having some problems with casual football users who play regardless of ground conditions and causing damage in the goalmouth areas. There has also been some vandalism to the goal posts. We are discussing possible solutions with the Groundsman.

We have a final meeting with the Architect and Contractor later this week which should complete Phase 1 of the Pavilion extension. Phase 2 will commence when Grant funding becomes available.

12. VILLAGE HALL

Councillor Dunnnett reported that the committee were waiting with baited breath to hear news regarding funding, so that the improvements to the playground can be carried out. The grant would enable them to purchase and lay a new ground covering material to the play area and it would overcome the mud problem.

Many spring bulbs have been planted around the field edges for next spring.

13. MILLENNIUM GREEN

Councillor M Balbirnie reported that now that the Contract Deed of Appointment had been sorted, it was all systems go. Work has started.

The Chairman reported that he was looking to set up a contract for the main cutting etc. and that the Parish would take up the funding for it. Councillor Cutting proposed and Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie seconded the motion and all agreed. The Chairman said that he hoped that the main work would be done by the end of the month, and that the Contract should start from the New Year.

14. 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:

LDP Committee – As a result of the recent LDP meeting, a number of developments are now being investigated and parishes have been asked to make comments, and it is hoped that the plan will soon be able to go out for public consultation.

Weeley Bridge weight restrictions -

The County Councillor has advised that a public notice has been issued in relation to reducing the speed limit through Weeley, and he anticipates that the the lifting of restrictions on Weeley Bridge should follow.

Act of Remembrance in November -

In addition to our Village Services, residents are invited to join the Royal British Legion in a short Armistice Day service to be held at 10.55am on Tuesday 11th November followed by two minutes silence at 11am, outside the Clacton Town Hall.

Residents to have their say on how TDC should spend their money -

Residents across Tendring have a chance to say how they want their Council to spend their money. The Council has a 'You Choose' feature on its website which makes it easy for people to get involved. All People need to do is click on the 'You Choose' logo on the Councils Website and work through the options. This year the model starts with a £2.1million deficit for 2015/16 – we need to reduce this to zero or have a Council Tax increase of no more than 2% .

Police/Crime Prevention Meetings at Village Hall -

The Police are continuing each Monday to attend the Village Hall at approx. 7pm so that they can answer any questions put to them by the public. The last in a series of meetings that have been held will be on Monday of next week (10th November). These meetings have been worthwhile and productive and it is hoped they will continue in the future.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

Community Voluntary Services Tendring

Posters: Christmas Fair 8th
November at Princes Theatre

Tendring Community Safety Partnership

Posters: Police Commissioner
meeting

Oil Club

Leaflets re: Oil Club

Charity Commission

News email

16. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

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

Cheques issued:	£
HMRC (PAYE)	172.60
E.ON	283.20
RB Design Solutions (Sept)	100.00
A & J Lighting	354.00
GB Maintenance	110.00
Kendall Commercial Services (Sept)	551.33
Kendall Commercial Services (Mill)	193.20
Abacus Build (UK) Ltd - Balance	8,600.00
HomeView Sureveillance (CCTV)	53.94
Kendall Commercial Services (Oct)	551.33
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	11,742.39

17. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that vandals have torn down some of the Christmas lights on the Village Green and smashed them. As the pet shop has closed, we do not have the electricity supply that was available for previous years. The Chairman said it is not just plugging into another nearby power supply as a suitable and safe electrical connection is required as the lights are in a public area.

It was suggested that the solar powered lights on Galloway Green need to be more powerful and brighter, we will seek advice from electrical contractor.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that next months meeting is starting at the earlier time of 7pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.00pm on Monday, 1st December 2014.

**Chairman
1st December 2014**