

## LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON  
MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr J Cutting (chairman)

Cllrs Mrs M Balbirnie, P De-Vaux Balbirnie, Miss L Gray, Mrs J Lovell, M Reed, Mrs D Reed, Mrs H Smith, J Smith-Daye and B Ward.

District Councillors M Brown and J Bray

Essex County Councillor Erskine.

10 Residents

The Residents were given time to talk before the meeting began.

### **1. Residents Issues**

The Chairman reported that there would be an opportunity for the residents to add their views on the Local Plan at the appropriate section of the meeting. They will only have three minutes each.

Residents mentioned the travellers at Highfields holiday park. The Essex County Councillor stated that there was a minimum 2 days to serve a notice and they then have 8 days to move. Nothing else could be done before the minimum times were up.

Another resident reported Feverills and Amerills Road and that the road way was terrible now. It was requested that the parish writes to the Care home about this.

**2. APOLOGIES:** Councillors Mrs J Rowland, S Rowland and R Smith.

### **3. ANY URGENT MATTERS**

The Chairman read out a letter received from the Planning Department at Tendring District Council in reply to our previous complaint. The letter was an apology in regard to our comment on the planning application on Crackstakes Farm being unable to be lodged. The Chairman accepted the apology and requested that the Clerk reply to close the matter.

### **4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015**

The Chairman made two small amendments as requested, he then proposed the updated minutes from last month and they were agreed by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### **5. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **(a) Highway Matters**

Councillor M Reed brought up flooding along the Street and near to Kinfauns Veterinary Practise. He stated that the gulper comes along and sucks out the muck, but leaves tree roots and other things and said that we need a proper survey with cameras to look at the blocked drains. Essex County Councillor Erskine asked Councillor M Reed to log this complaint on Essex County Website to get a case number, which he would then be able to push forward. Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie reported that he had spoken to the District and County Councillors regarding Harwich Road near the station at Thorpe, under the Rice Bridge in the very overgrown section. Councillor M Reed spoke about pot holes in footpaths and the bad condition in general. Essex County Councillor Erskine told him to complain to Essex County Council and include evidence such as pictures with any correspondence.

#### **6. Police/Crime Prevention**

Councillor J Rowland left a report which was read out by the Chairman. For July there were 15 crimes in total for Little Clacton, 2 for Violence, 3 for Vehicle crime, 3 for Burglary, 1 bicycle theft, 2 were for antisocial behaviour, 1 Public Order offence, 2 criminal damage and 1 other theft.

She warned that travellers had moved back into the verges near Tesco and Morrisons, and everyone should be vigilant and lock away as much as possible. Any incidents call 101 or for emergency 999.

### **7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

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

The Chairman reported that Councillor S Rowland had asked why the carnival posters regarding road

closures were still about, and he asked who was responsible for removing them. A few Councillors said that they had already removed any that they saw. The District Councillors are to find out.

The Chairman closed the meeting 8.05pm

The Chairman re- opened the meeting 8.06pm.

**(i) Street lights**

Councillor M Reed reported that there were two or three lights within the parish which need repair. He is to make enquiries about LED lights and possibly joining with other parishes to save money, at the next TDALC meeting. The chairman stated that 6 lights in Harwich Road still needed commissioning – It is more economic to have them all done together, as well as connecting up the light outside the shop. Councillor M Reed asked about risk assessment .

**(ii) Footpaths**

Councillor Gray reported that the path at Harwich Road had been finished and was very wide now.

**(b) Planning and Development**

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie declared a personal interest in the application for Batemans Lane.

The Chairman read out the following applications and determinations:

**(i). Applications**

15/01137/FUL Mr R Cooledge	Construction of 5 detached houses following demolition of existing glasshouses.	Land adj. West View, Batemans Lane, Little Clacton <b>Recommend – Refusal</b> <b>Properties not in keeping with surrounding area, cramped site, traffic access to dangerous part of main road.</b>
15/01128/FUL Mr Alastair Kiddie	Extension to existing vehicular access.	47 Holland Road Little Clacton <b>No Objections</b>
15/01149/OUT Mr R Hayes	Outline application for up to 21 dwellings.	24 The Street Little Clacton <b>Recommend Refusal</b> <b>Outside development boundary, over development, dangerous access to main road, near zebra crossing, public house and garage.</b>
15/01318/TPO Ms L Reffell	G9 - 4 No.. Oak, 1 No. Sycamore - sever ivy, crown lift overhanging branches	National Animal Trust The Street Little Clacton <b>No Objections</b>

ii) Determinations :

15/00651/FUL Refusal - Full 03.08.2015 Delegated Decision	Variation of condition 03 of Planning Permission 11/00535/FUL (Allowed under appeal APP/P1560/A/11/2159056/NWF) retention of existing dwelling.	The Orchard Grove Road Little Clacton
15/00849/LUPROP Lawful Use Certificate Granted 03.08.2015 Delegated Decision	Demolition of garage and erection of new garage.	Homing Lodge Homing Road Little Clacton
15/00898/FUL Approval - Full 07.08.2015 Delegated Decision	Proposed porch extension to front entrance.	6 London Road Little Clacton

All Councillors agreed with the recommendations made by the Planning Working Party.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm for the Public to offer their views on the Local Plan.**

Views were as follows:

The revised village settlement boundaries for Little Clacton do not take into account the major transport hub at Thorpe le Soken Station which provides fast trains to Wivenhoe Colchester Witham Chelmsford Shenfield Stratford and London Liverpool Street. When the new Local Plan is approved, Crossrail will be operating providing a through rail service to West London and Heathrow. Therefore the village envelope of Little Clacton should be extended to Thorpe Station and include Tan Lane to Crackstakes Farm, so residents can walk to the train to get to work/school and shops. Fast trains do not stop at Weeley.

Keep the village as a village, so no development on Centenary Way.

The Village infill looking for Option 4, use the A133.

Any development needs to be outside the village as there are no jobs within.

Thorpe should be considered - the Crossrail will be a bonus.

Why hasn't anyone thought of starting a new town or village.

10,000 homes looks like the right number, a new town has been discussed but is not an option.

The District Council is not supporting development anywhere around Little Clacton, including Centenary Way. Nothing is favoured, all up for grabs.

Why not a large development along the A120 corridor.

The District Council is not favouring large developments as there are too many land owners, infrastructure problems and services to arrange in the time frame.

**The Chairman reopened the meeting at 8.37pm.**

### **6b (iii) Local Plan**

The Chairman read out a draft statement which he had prepared for the meeting. He encouraged the other councillors to put forward their own views for him to amend his document if necessary. He will be presenting this at the Planning Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

Councillor M Balbirnie declared a prejudicial Interest and left the room in regard to the Hartley and Oakwood developments.

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie declared a personal interest.

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie stated that there should be a 5<sup>th</sup> option, and all the planning should not be in one place but scattered around the whole district.

Councillor M Reed said that we should have one large development outside of the village – A120 corridor preferred.

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie reported that we had already had our quota.

The Chairman closed the meeting 9.00pm

The Chairman reopened the meeting 9.01pm

To summarise the Chairman read out that he would put Tendring Central as our first and main option ,and Hartley Gardens as a possible site for development. There are already 250 homes going at the back of Stephenson Road.

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie stated that Hartley Gardens would be good as they had a school to feed into already with Clacton Coastal Academy, although he stated that the Clacton Coastal Academy was in special measures and was still struggling to attract pupils.

Councillor D Reed reported that the Clacton Coastal Academy was improving and not in special measures.

Councillor M Reed stated that the report had recommended putting houses near the infrastructure.

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie said to move the school out of the main site of 250 houses as it will be a building site for a long time and also much more traffic.

Councillor Smith Daye said that we should rank the 4 options in order and then add any extra options at the end.

Councillor M Reed stated that the 5<sup>th</sup> option should be the North and West borders along the Stour; Manningtree and Horsley Cross, and no further development. He also said that the school should be on the Foots farm site.

The Chairman said that he would summarise all the points made and email another draft out to all councillors for comments.

## **6b (iv) Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor M Reed reported that he cannot move forward with a Neighbourhood Plan without a Local Plan. It was decided that we leave the Neighbourhood Plan on the agenda.

## **(c) Finance and Organisation of Business**

The Chairman reported that the meeting of the business and finance group had to be rescheduled due to sickness, but will be held in the next couple of weeks.

## **8. INTERNET**

The Chairman reported that further updates had been made and the website is now fully up to date with known information. To maintain this position it is important that groups and organisations keep the Clerk informed of any changes to details and personnel. Two new pages have been added to the site mainly to reflect the ongoing position relating to planning, but also other appropriate matters:

- 1 - Important Local Issues
- 2 - Parish Correspondence

## **9.TDALC**

Councillor M Reed reported that there was a meeting coming up this month, which he will attend and put forward our views.

## **10.LITTLE CLACTON PARISH FIELDS**

The Chairman reported that the car boot season has enjoyed much better weather during August with a higher level of both buyers and sellers. The final sale of the season is due to take place on 13<sup>th</sup> September. The Classic Car show was held on 30<sup>th</sup> August and continues to be well supported.

The football season is now under way. The vandalised goal posts have now been repaired and the field will be vertidraind later this month to minimise the loss of use due to adverse weather through the winter. The Youth and Community Hall continues to be in regular use with clubs returning after their summer breaks.

## **11.VILLAGE HALL**

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie reported that the Village Hall was doing well on bookings. Teams were sought from teens to senior citizens. The Website currently needs to be updated.

## **12.MILLENNIUM GREEN**

Councillor M Balbirnie reported that they had continued with the boot sales through August and have managed to collect approximately £325 with another week still to go. It has not been easy but at least it has brought in funds which we would otherwise not have had.

Nothing has yet been heard from the Carnival Committee and our contact has not been available to consider the request for a donation to the Millennium Green for the help given on Carnival Day.

A further six nest boxes were obtained and have now been put up in the spinney and we have now covered all the trees that the Little Clacton Pre-School Children had us mark.

Unfortunately, the bank has still not been able to find the bank mandate forms which had been returned with identification forms at the end of March. Councillor M Balbirnie has raised an official complaint and hopes to hear from them soon.

Work has started on clearing around the pond and thanks go to our Chairman and Members of the Committee as well as Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie for help with this. Another day is being arranged when we can borrow heavy duty equipment to do the work.

As per the grass cutters contract, since the wild flowers have now finished blooming, meadowland grass cutting has been arranged to start on the 14<sup>th</sup> September and again volunteers will be required to rake the grass up and put it into bags to be removed to the tip.

The grant for the fencing is already in situ but because of the bank situation this is being held up.

The Environmental Department of Essex University is not able to help with the voluntary work on the pond but they have given me a contact at the Essex Wildlife Trust and hopefully this will be successful.

### **13. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

Essex County Councillor Erskine reported that apart from Feverills Road, he has been in touch with Highways regarding cutting back of footpaths. Essex County Council are starting a new scheme whereby local people are given the chance to have training and be supplied with the equipment necessary to maintain the paths as they require attention, rather than wait for the next Council cut. Budget cuts now mean that Essex County Council may only be able to do one cut a year.

### **14.TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL**

District Councillor Brown read out his report which included mention of the Local Plan exhibition, the Street lights discussion, and the Air Show success.

He also mentioned that the Government will be closing many court rooms including Colchester, this means in the future any cases may need to be heard at Chelmsford. He warned that speed guns will be around the area following complaints from residents about speeding.

Trading Standards at Tendring District Council are very busy due to the Tendring District being a hot spot of scams on older and vulnerable people, such as home repairs, car repairs and computer repairs. He warned people not to be ripped off.

### **15.CORRESPONDENCE**

Treasurer, Harold Lilley Playing Fields	Grant request
Tendring District Council	Part night Street Lighting within Tendring
Oil Club	Oil Club Leaflets
Tendring District Council, Planning Dept. For Communities and Local Govt. Local Govt. Ombudsman	RE: Crackstakes Farm Response re: Crackstakes Farm Response re: Crackstakes Farm
Tendring District Council, Planning	Response re: Batemans Lane
Essex Air Ambulance	Grant request
Tendring District Council , Licensing Dept.	Gambling Act
Tendring District Council, Finance	Special Expenses
EALC	AGM & Finance Report

## **16.FINANCE AND CHEQUE AUTHORISATION**

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

EON (Jun, Jul, Aug)	1,169.38
Kendall Commercial Ltd (Jun& Jul)	1,444.26
R Bellamy (Website Jun & Jul)	200.00
Tony Nash ( Bollard repair)	309.90
M Carter ( Historical Record Group)	50.00
Little Clacton PCC (Burial Ground)	1,800.00
HMRC	73.00
GB Maintenance	110.00
Tendring Eldercare (Jul)	125.00
Business Services at CAS Ltd (Zurich)	465.83
Insurance (Sport Pavillion)	1,039.42

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

The Chairman praised the Jive Aces at the Village Hall and reported that £500 had been raised and received by Peter Watson for the Hubbard's and Harvey's Charities in Little Clacton.

He stated that Lisa Hastings, Legal Services Manager from Tendring Council would be attending our next meeting which will start at the earlier time of 7:00pm. This is to discuss the Code of Conduct.

## **18.ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor H Smith passed on a complaint about the caravan breakers along Harwich Road about which she has now registered a report with Environmental Services.

Councillor M Balbirnie enquired about repeater signs in the area. District Councillor Brown had not heard anything yet. Essex County Councillor Erskine stated that a whole year must pass before the speed reduction goes in.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the earlier time of 7.00pm at the Youth and Community Building, Parish Fields, Plough Corner.

**Chairman**  
**5<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

## Statement

It was brought to the attention of the Clerk after the meeting, that a Little Clacton Parish Councillor realised that through his place of work, he had a remote connection with one client that had an interest in an area of land that was being discussed in our planning section, relating to the development of the Local Plan for Tendring.

Following advice from the Legal Department at Tendring District Council The Clerk has written this statement to bring the declaration to the attention to the Council.

The Parish Chairman has confirmed that the recent discussion about the development of the land in question did not alter the long agreed stance on the development of that land from the previous administration.

In the quest for Parish affairs to be open and transparent we would note that Councillor John Smith-Daye declares an interest regarding discussions about the potential Hartley Gardens development.

No further sanctions will be taken as the Councillor in question did not know at the time and ultimately did not influence any decisions taken.