

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY, 5th September 2016 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor J Cutting

Councillors M Balbirnie, P De Vaux Balbirnie, L Gray, J Lovell, D Reed, M Reed, H Smith, R Smith, J Smith-Daye.

Tendring District Councillor Brown

Essex County Councillor Erskine

Clerk: Mrs G Loach

6 residents

Residents were allowed to speak before the meeting began.

A resident reported that the sink hole was still a problem in Elm Road.

Essex County Council and the water board are aware of it, but are establishing responsibility. He requested that the Parish write and complain.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors J Rowland, S Rowland , B Ward and District Councillor Bray.

2. CIRCULATION AND CONTENTS OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The minutes were agreed by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meetings on the 1st August 2016, and the extraordinary meeting on 22nd August 2016.

3. Chairman's report

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie reported that he was unable to measure the distance between lamp posts as reported last month, but he hoped to do it this month.

The Chairman read out a reply that he had received from Essex County Council in response to a complaint which was sent to three different government departments, Douglas Carswell MP, the Head of Essex County Council along with our District Councillors and Essex County Councillor Erskine. The Essex County one was the only response. In the reply, it was stated that the works in question were not bad enough to be a priority. The Chairman is to take photos to send to Douglas Carswell MP, as he cannot believe that they are not bad enough to repair. Councillor M Reed asked if photos could also be sent of the footpath to Thorpe. Last month the Clerk had also sent out a letter inviting the new Crime Commissioner to attend one of our meetings. We have not had a reply yet.

4. URGENT MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman reported that he had had 6 charges to answer with the Monitoring Officer at Tendring District Council. They found that there was no case to answer, and no further action required.

The Chairman read out correspondence with Mr Matthew Utting regarding an upcoming planning application. Mr Utting had requested that the Parish meet to discuss the application. The Chairman recommended that he organised a public meeting so that the residents could also see what was being proposed for reasons of transparency.

The Chairman read out correspondence he had with the police regarding speeding in Little Clacton. He has requested evidence based proof.

5. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

(a) Highways

Councillor R Smith reported that Holland Road could do with speed strips as traffic still flies along. Essex County Councillor Erskine is to look into it.

6. POLICE/CRIME REPORT

Councillor J Rowlands left a report that the Police figures for June were as follows:

6 in total including criminal damage, vehicle crime, ASB, violence x2 and burglary.

It is reassuring to see the figures returning to our 'normal' level – although no one wants to see any crime.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS

(a) Maintenance and Services

Councillor S Rowland left a report of the bus shelter costs as follows:

£20 per shelter to thoroughly clean and pressure wash the floors, take away all the rubbish in and around the shelter. As we have seven, that will be a total of £140.

The Chairman is to check timings. Councillor J Smith-Daye proposed that the motion was carried, Councillor M Reed seconded and all agree.

No reponse regarding the price for benches. However, after contacting a different contractor who was recommended to us, he has replied. He has inspected all the benches and band stand. He found only the Ley's drive one needs repair, the others merely maintained. Using the specification in the contracts folder, he has said he will repair and maintain the bench at the same price as the other ones, namely £50 per bench including materials. The band stand he estimates at £230 to rub down, prime and paint. This works out at £400 for the benches, and £230 for the bandstand, making a cost of £630 to bring all our benches and bandstand up to scratch. Councillor S Rowland recommends on behalf of the Maintenance Committee that the Parish Council accept these quotes and arrange to get the work started. Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie proposed that the work went ahead, Councillor M Reed seconded and all agreed.

(l) Street lights

Councillor M Reed reported that light guards had been fitted where requested and a light had been repaired at Elm Road. Numerous lights, not ours, but Essex County Council owned, had not been repaired for ages. We can no longer report them, as we have reached the maximum. The street lights that are Parish owned are in good order and working well. The light at Harwich Road - at resident request – had been left until a guard can be fitted. Christmas Lights - Councillor M Reed is to look into supply, either at a shop or other.

(ii) **Footpaths** - Councillor L Gray reported that the Blacksmiths path is still ongoing – where a big tree had fallen. All other paths were in good order. The ownership of the land needs to be checked, to see if the tree can be removed.

(b) Planning and Development

Councillor M Reed reported on the following:

(i). Applications:

16/00960/FUL	78 St Osyth Road East CO16 9NU, proposed extension and alterations.	No Objection.
16/01266/FUL	29 Hazelwood Crescent CO16 9PB. Extension to rear of dwelling.	No Objection

16/01222/ FUL	32 Hazelwood Crescent CO16 9PB. Ramped access and widening of existing hard standing..	No Objection.
16/01132/ FUL	Adjacent 105 Holland Road CO16 9RU. 4 x 3 bedroom bungalows.	We strongly object and recommend refusal .No footpath or streetlights outside the proposed site. The land being proposed is of good quality arable land which has been farmed producing high quality crops for many years, the development is cramped and the area is prone to flooding. We as a Parish have serious concerns as to the suitability of the aged sewer system to be able to cope with the additional capacity being put onto it.
16/01195/ OUT	Land adjacent Little Oaks, Betts Green Road CO16 9NH. Single storey dwelling.	We strongly object and recommend refusal on the following grounds. The land is Green Gap Amenity land. The poor access road to the site would have to be substantially improved. There is no footpath and no streetlights making security and accessibility very restricted. The plot size is cramped in relation to the majority of dwellings within the road and access to the main road is also restricted with wider splays required to improve vision into Harwich Road.

(ii) Determinations

16/00869/FUL	66 Holland Road, 2 storey rear extension CO16 9RS.	Approved Full.
16/00914/OUT	Amida Betts Green Road CO16 9NH, 3 bed bungalow.	Approved Full.
16/00381/FUL	74 The Street, CO16 9LG, 3 bedroom single storey dwelling in place of current carport and garage.	Approved Full.
16/00962/FUL	St Olaves Grove Road CO16 9NG, single storey extension, amendments to garage and change of material.	Approved Full.
16/00824/FUL	110 Harwich Road CO16 9NJ, 2 dwellings on land adjacent to 110 Harwich Road.	Approved Full.
16/00911/FUL	32 London Road CO16 9RN, single storey rear extension.	Approved Full.

- iii) Local Plan** – The Chairman reported that the document has been sent to Planning. He read it out for the public to hear. It will be added to the website. Essex County Councillor Erskine requested a copy. The District Councillors have already received the document.
- iv) Neighbourhood Plan** – Nothing to report this month.

(c) Business and Finance

(I) The Chairman reported that the survey of the car park and pipework survey would be approximately £5,000. Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie proposed that the parish accept this work so that we have the car park fully surveyed for any future work, Councillor M Reed seconded, all agreed.

8. INTERNET

The Chairman said Gary Rowe had been given the disc of the website, but was currently on honeymoon and progress on the website is on hold until his return. The Website is currently being updated as and when needed.

9. TDALC

Councillor M Reed reported that there was not a meeting this month, and he would report the next one.

10. PARISH FIELDS COMPLEX

Councillor Cutting reported that the car park at Parish Fields had been locked to deter travellers, but will open again after the holidays. A fence has been built to deter parking on the green opposite the car park. The Classic car show held recently was very successful. Parish fields has a fully booked hall. The car boot finishes on the 18th September. Football starts this Saturday. The Relay for Life have been told about the loud music, and they have taken our advice on board. Maybe next time they will use a choir to sing the runners round, or classical music instead of heavy rock late in the evening. Gary Harrison is to provide costings for lighting in the car park.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting at 8.40pm.

11. VILLAGE HALL

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie reported that the grant had been received for new windows re: graffiti on the windows. An upgrade of the CCTV system is necessary to get night vision to deter any drug dealers. The Harold Lilley playing field is well used and the football teams are doing well.

12. MILLENNIUM GREEN

Councillor M Balbirnie gave many thanks to those who kindly helped at the Millennium Green over the last month with weeding around the whips and in the pond area.

It is certainly looking much better and, as a result of a prolonged period of dry weather, to our advantage there has been a slowing up of the growing of the weeds and grass.

The Highway rangers have apologised for not laying the chippings along the Elm Road area but their services being required at events throughout the district, including the Air Show, they have not been able to fit us in but hope that they will get around to the Millennium Green shortly. As they will not be charging us to carry out the work, we have to be patient but we are chasing them weekly.

On looking round the hedge line fronting The Street, we had lost sight of the notice board and thought at first that it had been removed. However, on closer inspection it was covered in overgrowth and Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie has been working on the area, using hedge trimmers, and has removed much of the overgrowth so that the notice board and Millennium Green is now visible from the road and should therefore deter vandalism.

There is no news yet on the grant for the purchase of the picnic tables and seats but as soon as there is any news it will be reported.

Although I will not be arranging another working day this meeting, I would ask the committee if they visit the Millennium Green to check round and pick up any rubbish or twigs from the grass area and the spinney so that it does not become a major task. Thank you once again for your help.

Councillor M Reed offered to removed the cuttings from the Green.

13. ECC

Essex County Councillor Erskine reported that he had been chasing up speeding complaints. He thought August had been a quiet month.

14. TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

District Councillor Brown reported that the number of councillors for Tendring District Council is likely to drop from 60 to 48, this is to be discussed at the next Council meeting.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

EALC	e- bulletins
Essex County Council	Roadworks in St Osyth Road West
Essex Police	Active Citizens recruitment
National Animal Welfare Trust	Fete and Fun Dog show (21Aug)
CPRE	Countryside Voice newsletter
Marie Curie/ Essex Fundraising Office	Donation request
Little Clacton Village Hall	Autumn festival Events evening

16. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

Receipts:

HMRC VAT reclaim	£ 8,767.98
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Cheques issued:

GB Maintenance	110.00
PJB Architectual Design	429.00
Viking	110.26
EON (Aug)	394.19
Kendall Plus (Aug)	607.87
Kendall Plus (Aug)	212.56
Tendring Eldercare	100.00
Gary Reeve (appreciation)	100.00
Bank Charges (Aug)	13.80

17. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reiterated the mandate that decisions can be made by the Chairman, following consultation with a working group in-between meetings.

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie proposed, Councillor M Reed and all agreed.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As there was no other business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 3rd October 2016

Chairman
3rd OCTOBER 2016