

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY, 3rd October 2016 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT

Chairperson: M Balbirnie

Councillors L Gray, D Reed, M Reed, J Rowland, S Rowland, H Smith, R Smith, J Smith-Daye, B Ward.

Tendring District Councillors Bray and Brown

Essex County Councillor Erskine

Clerk: Mrs G Loach

6 residents

Residents were allowed to speak before the meeting began.

A resident reported that he had received a letter from the secretary of State regarding the planning application appeal for the Land at the Street.

He asked if the Parish could tell the public when the Appeal date was published. The Chairperson agreed to arrange to put the meeting details on the website and on our boards.

A resident complained that there had been a spate of burglaries from cars and houses around the Elm Road area. Councillor J Rowlands recommended that any crime was reported to the Police via the 'Do it online' website.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors P De Vaux Balbirnie, J Cutting, and J Lovell.

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

The minutes were agreed by all and signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the meeting on the 5th September.

3. Chairman's report

Councillor M Balbirnie, Acting as Chairperson, read out a report by Councillor Cutting.

1. Councillor Cutting's report stated 'on recommendation from the EALC in the form of a directive to all Parish Councils the practice of opening and closing meetings for members of the public to speak is regarded as bad practice and should therefore stop. Members of the public can raise a question during the meeting that will be minuted, but at the Chairs discretion, does not need to be answered.'

2. There was a case of fly tipping reported in Harwich Road, the response from the District Council was swift but we need to be aware of fly tipping being on the increase.

3. Local Plan meeting was held on the 27/09/16. Chairman attended along with John Smith Day who gave a presentation as a resident. Next Local plan meeting is scheduled for Nov 3rd this being a very important meeting with regards to that Local Plan.

4. Received letters back from MP and Dept Transport regarding our contact with them regarding the state of our infer structure. (letters may be read out)

5. peeding update from the Police regarding statistic of our roads Jacky Rowlands has report.

6. I will be calling a business group meeting before the next PC meeting to do the groundwork for the Precept.

7. Appeal has been lodged by Mr. Barrington Fuller re the Street Application. I will also be holding a Planning group meeting before the next PC meeting for our councils response and Martyn Reed will explain in more detail in his planning presentation.

8. Need to organise a Memorial Clean up towards the end of the month for Remembrance Day.

9. Have to say how refreshing to see the street furniture looking very nice in its new coats of paint. Steve will give a report but I have to say well done.

10. Enjoy the evening and I will be around in a couple of days.

The Chairperson asked if any progress had happened on the sink hole which had appeared in Elm Road. A resident informed the Parish Council that Spray paint has appeared around it, but no further works. The Chairperson asked about the Police Commissioner visit, the Clerk reported that they had contacted the Parish Office for future dates and details by phone, but had not formally replied. The Chairperson reported that the distance between lamp posts had not been completed yet, but hopefully would be done next month.

4. URGENT MATTERS ARISING

Nothing this month.

5. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

(a) Highways

Councillor R Smith reported that he hadn't received any calls about any problems. Essex County Councillor Erskine reported that speed surveys were being carried out by the Police around the village including Plough Corner. The Harwich Rd survey showed an average speed of 29.6 mph, Weeley Heath side of Plough Corner showed an average of 36.6 mph, and the Little Clacton Side of Plough Corner showed an average of 33.3 mph.

Only the Weeley Heath side of Plough Corner meets the criteria for intervention, at 36.6mph.

Councillor R Smith reported that Holland Road also has speeders. ECC Councillor Erskine mentioned that a roundabout may be the solution, to improve the flow of traffic. He said results from the next survey will be in next month.

6. POLICE/CRIME REPORT

Councillor J Rowlands read out the Police figures for July, and although no official figures are ready for August, there was a spate of crime during that time. With many unlocked doors and windows due to the hot weather attracting opportunist burglaries, and car break-ins.

As always, stay vigilant and report any crime on the Police website: 'Do -it- online'.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS

(a) Maintenance and Services

Councillor S Rowland reported that the black lettering had been authorised to be done on the sign and the bench around the oak tree, weather permitting. The Crown of the Oak tree has not yet been lifted. A price is to be sought re: planters and maintenance of the benches once they have been painted.

Letters should be written to sponsors of the original planters, to see if they wish to continue with the sponsorship.

The bench and plaques are still missing. A bill should be sent to the previous maintenance contractor, who is still in possession.

Prices are now in for the notice boards. The Dead lane bench needs to be removed.

The Community Service workforce were recommended by Ray Bellamy, for bigger works that needed doing.

A price is to be found for the maintenance of the bus shelters

(i) Remembrance service - the official date is 13/11/2016 and volunteers were sought to help clean the memorial before the day. Councillor M Reed, R Smith and J and S Rowlands all offered their help.

(i) Street lights

Councillor M Reed reported that there was a light out at Galloway Drive. Four lights have been modified and look good. There are 4 or 5 lights out which are Essex County council lights, in addition to the keep left sign and knocked over lamp column. ECC Councillor Erskine asked Councillor Reed to email the details so he could intervene.

Christmas Lights - Councillor M Reed said that we need to find the owner of the shop or else get solar lights, which are better than they were, now. Both options should be looked into.

(ii) Footpaths - Councillor L Gray reported that the fallen tree at the Blacksmiths path was solid, and not likely to budge easily. People can walk under it, but it looks worrying. The landowner should be

contacted to fix it. All other paths were in good order. Reports that St Osyth Road to Dead lane being impassable are to be looked into by Councillor Grey.

(b) Planning and Development

Councillor M Reed reported on the following:

(i). Applications:

16/01434/TELLIC	<i>Opp. Meadowview Car park CO16 9NY, installation of high speed broadband cabinet</i>	No Objection.
16/01434/TELLIC	Holland Road, CO16 9QG. Refurbish and update sub station	Deemed consent.
16/01366/TPO	Removal of Horse Chestnut, reduction by 50% horse chestnut and replant Mountain Ash on land North of Betts Green Road	Full approval

(ii) Determinations

16/00960/FUL	78 St Osyth Road, extension and alteration CO16 9NU.	Approved Full.
16/00843/DETAIL	Land adj. To 2-4 St Osyth Road , Little Clacton 9NH, Erection of 2 dwellings	Approved Full.
16/01195/OUT	Land adj. Little Oaks, Betts Green Road, CO16 9NH erection of single dwelling	Approved Outline.
16/01132/FUL	Land Adj. 105 Holland Road CO16 9RJ, erection of 4 detached dwellings	Approved Full.
16/00746/FUL	Land to rear of 155 Harwich Road CO16 9NL, erection of 2 dwellings.	Approved Full.
16/01222/FUL	32 Hazelwood Crescent CO16 9PB, ramped access and widening of current hard standing	Approved Full.

Councillor M Reed proposed the comments made by the Planning Group above and all agreed. He also reported that an appeal had been lodged in respect of the application for Land West of the Street in Little Clacton. He stated that as the appeal meeting would be before our next Parish Meeting, the Planning group would get together to coordinate a response, and all Councillors will be made fully aware of any items discussed at the meeting prior to presentation at the appeal hearing.

The Chairperson asked the Councillors if they were all in agreement to the Planning group holding a meeting to coordinate a response before being presented to the Parish Councillors for approval prior to its presentation to the Appeal hearing. All councillors said they were in agreement to this.

iii) Local Plan –Councillor J Smith -Daye reported that there were three main topics:

They were still not agreed on numbers , the market areas Chelmsford, Colchester and Tendring are now in contact, Traffic monitoring was discussed.

iv) Neighbourhood Plan – Nothing to report this month.

8. INTERNET

The Website is currently up to date. No further update regarding the new website.

9. TDALC

Councillor M Reed read out his TDALC Report which was held on 21st September at Beaumont Village Hall.

The report included information about other speakers including the Police Commissioner who will be attending the next meeting, and the new recycling centre restrictions. A heated discussion by Little Clacton Parish Councillors and Essex County Councillor Erskine then followed, in respect of garden waste with differing views put forward.

The full report is attached at the end of the minutes.

10. PARISH FIELDS COMPLEX

Our Car Boot season finished on 18th September. Much better results than recent years and we would like to record our appreciation of all the help given by Parish Councillors with pitch fee collections. Also to the Relay for Life committee and relay team members for collecting parking fees and organising the parking on the field.

The football season is now under way with teams playing on Saturdays and Sundays. Members of the Saturday league and Essex F.A. have visited and confirmed that the new pavilion meets all their requirements and this should result in increased bookings in the future. The final work on the new showers is under way and should be completed over the next couple of weeks.

The Youth and Community hall is in full and regular use with several clubs returning after their Summer breaks.

New lights have been installed giving improved illumination of the car park areas for evening users of the Hall.

11. VILLAGE HALL

Councillor M Balbirnie reported that unfortunately there had been evidence found of drug dealing outside the Village Hall. A report has been given to the Police. The Parish was asked to write in support. Cigarettes had been used to try to light the artificial grass and cycles have been spun around on the play area. Vandals have completely ruined some of the play equipment, which will now need to be replaced. Councillor D Reed asked if the CCTV was able to capture any useful footage.

Councillor M Balbirnie said that the CCTV was great for daytime, but not so clear in the nighttime.

The Caretaker is making enquires to get possible names.

12. MILLENNIUM GREEN

Councillor M Balbirnie gave thanks to Councillor M Reed for removing the branches that had been cut at the Millennium Green.

13. ECC

Essex County Councillor Erskine reported that St Osyth Road West is to be microsurfaced this Friday. The A133 slip road should be re-opened tomorrow (4th October).

He reiterated that Councillors need to copy him into emails, if they want him to chase up work, so that he knows what has been going on. He said he will do his best to get the outstanding work completed.

14. TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

District Councillor Bray read out his report which discussed planning appeals, village envelope and the reduction of District Councillors, flytipping, ECC recycling centres and travellers.

The full report is attached as an appendix at the end of the minutes.

District Councillor Brown reported on the number of councillors for Tendring District Council, Beach patrols, planning and traveller issues.

His full report is also attached as an appendix at the end of the minutes.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

EALC	e- bulletins
Royal British Legion	AGM advert
D Carswell MP	Reply to ECC repairs letter
Department of Transport	Reply to ECC repairs letter
Tendring Eldercare	AGM invite
HAGs play equipment	Brochure
Fenland Leisure Products	Brochure

16. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

Receipts: £

Cheques issued:	£
P H Schooling (Bench Maintenance etc)	730.00
PKF LittleJohn LLP (External Audit)	360.00
A&J Lighting	604.80
Viking	22.27
Viking	41.33
Kendall Plus (Sep)	212.56
Tendring Eldercare	100.00
Bank Charges (Aug)	12.85

17. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None this month.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor J Smith-Daye reported that the roadside vegetation was so overgrown that it was impassable, along side the Land at The Street, where there is currently a planning application on appeal.
Councillor Ward reported that the site by the Hayes Garage was very overgrown also.

As there was no other business to discuss, the Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.35 pm.

The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 7th November 2016

**Chairman
7th NOVEMBER 2016**

Appendix 1 – Report from J Bray

Report for Little Clacton Parish Council for 03/10/2016

Good evening to you all.

As most of you will be aware, the application ten/16/01550/out has been sent to appeal by the applicant. Whilst the council believes that the reasons for its refusal are robust, I strongly urge anyone who wishes to make a representation to the appeal inspector, to please do so a.s.a.p. I have the details of how to do this if anyone needs them.

In response to a request from local residents, I have asked the planning department to look again at the village envelope, with particular reference to the area at the top of Harwich road. This part of the village had been inexplicably removed from the envelope in the local plan consultation document. I have been assured that this will be looked at again. I will follow this up and report any progress.

At the recent full council meeting, the council voted to put forward a preferred option of 48 councillors for our district as a total. This represents a reduction of 20%. Whilst on the face of it this may be seen as a money saving exercise, in reality, the increase in other costs are likely to outweigh any savings made. This would also mean each councillor will have a much larger area and population to represent. My main concern is that younger members of our district will be discouraged from entering the world of local politics, as the time commitment for a councillor is now thought to be between 25 and 30 hours per week. This would be very difficult for those with full time jobs and a young family. The final number will be decided by the boundary commission in due course.

We have again suffered a bout of fly tipping both in our ward, and across the district. I have reported those incidents that I have seen, or been told of. Sadly the small cameras have not been effective as yet. There does seem to be a marked increase lately, which may be as a result of my next item

Essex county council have made some changes to their waste policy. This means that all "sign written...works vehicles" will be charged at the local tip, even if they are disposing of their own personal waste. It may explain the problem above. Many self employed people, with only one vehicle, feel they are being discriminated against. Add this to street lights that are off at night, pot holes in our roads, an ever reducing fire service, and often oversubscribed schools and we start to wonder if the only thing ECC are capable of, is taking our council tax. Along with other members of my group, I am taking up these issues in an attempt to get ECC to do the things we pay them for. Essex county councillors have their election in may 2017. So now is a good time to hold them to account

I attended a meeting with ECC highways officers a couple of weeks ago. Although long and often heated, I think we finally made them understand how a recommendation from them in relation to a planning application, is seen as conclusive rather than consultative by inspectors. Promises were made in relation to future road improvements, and I believe they now have a better understanding of our local needs. At least, as a result of this meeting, they have agreed to maintain better contact with us. This will include sending one of their officers to visit Tendring regularly. I remain entirely sceptical about the substance of their statements but will keep on banging the drum.

I have received and followed up some comments from residents regarding parking near schools in our area. This has been an ongoing problem since the invention of the car. Again along with other members of my group, we are looking at ways of making the situation safer. The use of a camera car to deter inconsiderate and dangerous parking is one of several options we are looking at. I will report any progress in future reports.

The Local plan rumbles on. It now seems that government changes will mean that the figures will need to be looked at yet again...I despair at this government sometimes. Again I will keep you apprised of developments.

Finally, just for information I have had several reports of travellers back in our area. Apparently they were last heard of parked near Brook farm. I believe we are safe, but forewarned is forearmed as they say.

I hope you have a great evening

Cllr Jeff Bray (ukip) Little Clacton & Weeley ward

Appendix 2 – Mike Brown Report

Again we have problems with travellers breaking into private land and setting up camp until they are legally moved on causing costs to the council and ultimately the local council tax payer. On this occasion they removed a concrete bollard with a digger they apparently had with them and cut a security lock at Brook Park. There are between ten and twelve vans plus a selection of vehicles.

Tendring DC have issued praise and a vote of thanks to the Tendring Rangers who patrol the seafronts from April till October. Dressed in their smart blue uniforms they dealt with over 1500 incidents and launched the rescue boats or jet skis 79 times.

T.D.C have purchased a reconditioned beach cleaning vehicle apparently it rakes the beach while picking up 90 % of rubbish. The reason behind this current decision is the extra beach area since the coastal defence project

The September meeting of the local plan held at Weeley council offices did not raise much new information. Several local speakers repeated facts and figures but it seems not to influence proceedings. Results from the Weeley road traffic survey are completed and will be published shortly.

Little Clacton and Weeley Cllr's have received a glossary for yet another large proposed development. This new proposal involves the Weeley car boot site. The proposal is for up to 380 new homes and employment land the approximate area of 2.9 hectares. In total there will be 7.4 hectares of allocated to commercial use. The proposal is for mixed housing with around 30% affordable.

Mike Brown

Appendix 3 – TDALC Report

Held on 21st September at Beaumont Village Hall.

The March meeting will see the Police Commissioner in attendance to both talk to us and for us to relay our concerns, all welcome!

We were asked if we still wanted other speakers and the general consensus was the more we could reach out to so we could express the feelings of our residents as democracy allows would be appropriate.

Linda Belgrove had recently attended an EALC meeting where Tendring District was commended for its lively debate when Joy Darby and Councillor John Gili-Ross (Chairman) attended as speakers at the July meeting. The room suddenly woke up as the commendation was announced so I hope the positive progress can continue in a forward manner.

The new restrictions to the Recycling centres was also discussed which all felt would have serious repercussions in relation to fly tipping, more later as it has been added to the Agenda. It is considered that currently 30% of waste is trade and the restrictions are being put in place to deter it. I thought that maybe the sign writing on the side of the van was a clue along with you don't empty a van full of assorted house clearance rubbish every day?

Councillor Belgrove also suggested that we completed two questionnaires that she would send on via Janet Russell, these were forwarded the same evening and I forwarded to LCPC2 so as all Little Clacton Parish Councillors would have the opportunity to make their feelings known.

This was one of the most positive meetings I have attended in respect of the TDALC and will continue to push forward the feelings of the residents of Little Clacton and the Tendring District so more accurate assessments can be made by the District Councillors. when spending hours debating important issues, which directly affect the residents which THEY also represent, to reach a more satisfactory conclusion.

A link was also sent to enable us to quickly report unauthorised Travellers sites, although they are now returning to their houses we will no doubt have the same issues next year.

Martyn Reed – Little Clacton Parish Council. – 2nd October 2016.