

## LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 AT 7.30 PM

#### PRESENT

**Chairperson:** J Cutting

**Councillors:** M Balbirnie, P De Vaux Balbirnie, L Gray, J Lovell, D Reed, M Reed, S Rowland, H Smith, R Smith, J Smith-Daye, B Ward.

**Tendring District Councillor** Mike Brown and Jeff Bray

Essex County Councillor Andy Erskine

**Clerk:** Mrs G Loach

Before the start of the meeting the Chairman said a few words of condolences for Peter Dumsday, the Chairman of Weeley Parish Council who sadly died recently. The funeral will be held at 2pm at the crematorium on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

#### 9 residents

A planning presentation was given to develop the old Ideal Nurseries site and few questions were asked. Possible access to the A133 rather than Little Clacton was mentioned. The Chairman recommended that they arranged a public exhibition when they had a planning proposal ready.

#### **Residents were given time to speak before the meeting began.**

A resident enquired about the Planning appeal hearing for the Land at The Street application. The Chairman stated that it was at the Weeley Chambers at 10am on 7<sup>th</sup> December and members of the public were allowed to attend.

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor J Rowland.

#### **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 meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **3. URGENT MATTERS ARISING**

Nothing this month.

#### **4. Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported that the Memorial clean-up had gone well. He thanked those that helped including Councillors Ward, M Balbirnie, R Smith and M Reed. Thanks also to Amber restaurant who supplied electricity and water. A bouquet was arranged as a thank you. Letters by the Chairman had been sent out by the Clerk to follow up on the planning applications i.e. Crossways on page 45 of the Local Plan. This came under Clacton in the Local Plan, but is in Little Clacton.

There had been activities which involved the Police being called at the Village Hall. Regarding the overgrown hedgerow along The Street, an email had been sent to Mr Barrington Fuller and Councillor Erskine copied in. Mr Carter had already denied renting the land.

Letter had been received from a resident, J Cole, about the Hedge opposite his property in Tan Lane.

A lady emailed about trees being cut down in a protected area. The Chairman phoned to explain that we could do no more but inform Tendring District Council and look at any forthcoming planning applications submitted.

Mr Nash had been contacted to return our items. No reply had been received from him yet. No response from phone calls either. A County Court judgement is to be lodged against him. Xmas Lights – Harrison had been in contact. He needed to do a health and safety check, and the Chairman contacted the agents who gave access and the lights are now working and on. A & J Lighting said that the lights were still live outside the Harwich road stores, and a plastic box has been set up. The Chairman wasn't happy with UMSO. He had phoned about the lights being fixed at Harwich Road and not had much results.

## **5. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD**

### **(a) Highways**

Councillor R Smith reported that the speed signs in Great Holland were bought by the residents who clubbed together. County Councillor Erskine stated that they must have been in agreement with the County Council. He reported that the County had only half the budget next year so speed signs will depend on whether it is possible, then if they have the budget. County Councillor Erskine said that Harwich Road speed strips will be put in again but further up.

## **6. POLICE/CRIME REPORT**

The Chairman read out the crime report from Councillor J Rowlands which showed that there were 10 crimes for August and 12 for September.

He encouraged all to go on the Community Watch Website. Also the public must report crime and get a crime number. That way a true picture of crime in Little Clacton can be shown, maybe Little Clacton isn't such a low crime area as they think.

### **Speed watch**

Councillor M Reed reported that he had problems with emails this week, but a couple of residents are interested in helping. Maintenance of speed gun is the largest outlay. We could look to add the cost into the precept possibly. Councillor M Reed is to follow up his emails now that they are working, and report back.

## **7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

### **(a) Maintenance and Services**

Councillor S Rowland stated that as we were underspent on the maintenance budget, the notice boards should be replaced rather than upgraded and he offered to get prices to compare the costs, if the Parish Council were willing to consider replacing them. Councillor M Reed proposed, Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie seconded and all agreed that the research should be done. The Chairman said he would agree if the costs were reasonable. Councillor S Rowland is to get the contractor to look at the bus shelter in the Village which needs attention, and do the maintenance, and also the planters. The seat also needs replacing at Dead Lane, and a composite one will be looked at. The Chairman reported that the trees in Harwich Road and the Millennium Oak all need their crowns lifted, and the cost of that will require budget too.

### **(l) Street lights**

Councillor M Reed reported that all Little Clacton owned lights were working but there were still some problems with the Essex County Council owned lights. The three lights were out at Harwich Road and one at the Village Hall, the one at the top of Homing Road along from Plough Corner has been out for a year. Residents are complaining. Councillor M Reed asked what the Parish have to do to get action. The Chairman stated that he had also contacted all the channels with negligible results.

Christmas Lights - The Chairman reported that the Agent for Romadorns was contacted, and the electricity supply is now being used. Councillor M Reed asked if the Parish could invest in new lights for next year in the Precept as the current ones are showing signs of wear.

(ii)**Footpaths** - Councillor L Gray reported that there had been fly tipping in some footpaths. As it was a small amount it was easily cleared up. County Councillor Erskine asked if all incidences of fly tipping can be photographed and reported. Councillor M Balbirnie reported that she had spoken to Mr Carter about the fallen tree at the Blacksmiths path, he said he would look into it.

**(b) Planning and Development**

Councillor M Reed reported on the following:

**(i). Applications:**

None this month

**(ii) Determinations**

<b>16/00842/OUT</b>	Land adjacent 2-4 St Osyth Road CO16 9RP. Erect one new dwelling.	Refusal Outline. Flood area Zone 2 – redirect development to area of lower flood risk – outside development area – refers to 2013/2033 Preferred Options Document (contrary to).
<b>16/01606/DISCON</b>	Land adjacent 105 Holland Road CO16 9RU. Change of construction materials, landscaping and future maintenance as agreed when application was approved.	Approved - conditions discharged.
<b>16/01607/DISCON</b>	110 Harwich Road CO16 9NJ. Discharge conditions 7 vehicular turning facility detail, 10 bicycle storage, 11 Construction method statement, 13 Hard and soft landscaping, 15 materials and 16 boundary fences.	Approved.
<b>16/01533/FUL</b>	110 Harwich Road CO16 9NJ. Variation of condition 2 to allow better visibility and less hard surfacing.	Approval Full.
<b>16/01378/LBC</b>	1 Kinfauns Cottages CO16 9LG. Remove shed, sky dish from chimney.	Approved – Listed Building Consent.
<b>16/01001/FUL</b>	Stone Hall 55 London Road CO16 9RB. Erect 10 new dwellings, car ports, visitor parking and new access road.	Approval Full – ECC Highway 14 conditions, ECC SUDS 4 conditions and Planning 23 conditions.
<b>16/01710/TPO</b>	35 Sunnyside Way CO16 9PE. Remove branches and shape Oak tree.	Approval Full.

Councillor M Reed read out the determinations made by TD Planning above and all agreed. The Chairman reported that the Land at The Street appeal is 10am on December 7<sup>th</sup> at Weeley Council Chambers and members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. Determination 16/00842/OUT above, should be noted for the reasons to object to.

**iii) Local Plan** – District Councillor J Bray reported that the next meeting was on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 but may change. He will confirm the date and time at the next meeting.

iv) **Neighbourhood Plan** – No report this month.

**(c) Business and Organisation Group**

**i) Precept**

The Chairman stated that the precept must be agreed at the Parish meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January. He is calling a Business and Organisation Group meeting in a week or two to agree the precept, to bring to the council meeting.

**8. INTERNET**

The Chairman reported Information was up to date, but he was looking to introduce a new site eventually. He asked if anyone else was interested or had suitable technological skills to come forward.

**9. TDALC**

Councillor M Reed read out a report which will be attached at the end of the minutes. Signs were discussed that have been knocked down, so are ineffective. Also, the pre-school in the village had closed. The Clerk was asked to write and find out the facts, in case the Parish Council were able to help in any way.

**10. PARISH FIELDS COMPLEX**

The Chairman read out a Parish Fields report about the Youth and Community building being well used currently. Work on the toilets in the Pavilion is now complete and they are now used. All sorts of Leagues use the changing rooms and Parish fields.

There will be news on the powers costs at a later date.

**11. VILLAGE HALL**

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie reported that the football had ceased now due to the dark evenings. It will recommence in the spring.

There was a 'do' on Saturday which resulted in some damage.

**12. MILLENNIUM GREEN**

Councillor M Balbirnie Reported that the grass cutting has ceased for the winter period. The view is now clear and it is possible to see through the hedges into the Green. The trees are growing well, all the sapling are surviving.

**13. ECC**

Essex County Councillor Erskine gave out leaflets for 'Stay Well this winter'. A scheme being run by Essex County Council, for help during cold snaps. A link will be put on the Councils website so that the numbers can be easily read, as the small print on the leaflet will not stand out on the notice boards. The Chairman reported that there was a stock pile of salt if anyone needed it, but it was for residents not businesses.

**14. TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL**

District Councillor Brown and Bray read out their reports which are attached at the end of the minutes. They discussed many issues including parking permits, speed limits and fly tipping.

Councillor M Balbirnie declared a pecuniary interest prior to Councillor Brown discussing the Brook Park planning development.

**15. CORRESPONDENCE**

Councillor M Balbirnie declared a pecuniary interest in the Brook Farm Development letter.

EALC

e- bulletins

Vicky Ford MEP

Post referendum edition

Oakwood Centre

Christmas Fayre 7<sup>th</sup> December

Countryside Voice

Winter 2016 Edition

## 16. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

The up to date balances of the Councils funds were noted.

Receipts:	£
Bank loyalty reward	2.13
Cheques issued:	£
Mrs G Loach (Reimb. – New computer for Office)	817.70
Kendall Plus (5&6 <sup>th</sup> Oct Grass cut)	607.87
Kendall Plus (Nov Final cut)	820.43
Abacus Build (Refurb. Male toilets in Parish Fields)	16,279.58
Mrs G Loach (Salary)	467.14
HMRC	116.20
Mrs G Loach (Thank you re: Internet maintenance)	100.00
B Ward (Reimb – thank you for Amber, use of water)	15.00
Essex Pension Fund	141.78
Tendring Eldercare	<u>100.00</u>
	19,465.70
	=====
Bank Charges (Nov)	11.85

## 17. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None this month.

## 18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor M Balbirnie passed on thanks from the Royal British Legion to all the Councillors who had helped to tidy the Memorial for the 13<sup>th</sup> November, They remarked how good it looked on the day.

There will be mince pies and carols sung on the Village Green on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, at 7pm.

Councillor Smith-Day reported that if there was an issue to report, residents were better off attending in person at the Police station rather than calling 101.

As there was no other business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm.

**The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Chairman  
9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017**

## Little Clacton December parish meeting, District Cllr report

Residents of Tendring are to benefit by having free parking for another year it had previously been announced a modified scheme was to be implemented depending on finances.

The scheme was originally intended to support business in Tendring .

To avoid a log jam the permits will be available earlier this year.they will be electronic permits .

At the last local plan Kath Bicknall agreed to collate accurate numbers of dwellings that passed planning and any 106 money negotiations. Should it exceed the 550 dwellings per year it could make it easier to refuse some plans outside the local plan development areas.

Briton Construction has had plans approved for 200 dwellings, Lidl food store, hotel, pub and Mac Donald's adjacent to Brook Park, along Pickers Ditch.

In May the district Cllrs are going to be reduced by 12 it would appear at this stage it will be one Cllr per ward one suggestion which I have seen suggests 1 Cllr for Little Clacton and 1 for Weeley splitting the parishes but the same amount of Cllr's .

Back in May at full council I asked Neal Stock what measures have been taken to stop the fatal accidents on the a133 this instigated a enquiry the police report has now been issued blaming bad overtaking.the result looks like a 50 mile an hour speed limit (a reduction of 10'mile a hour)'plus better road markings.

At the last planning meeting I spoke in favour of refusal to 8 houses in Connaught ave unfortunately it was granted I tried to get conditions on the unmade road so we did not

have another mess like Homing road however that failed also.

At the last full council meeting a cross party vote was taken on support for the new garden village on the Colchester fringe it was carried unanimously. Niel stock quoted a £ 350 million infer structure has been allowed for to cope with added need .

, Cllr Mike Brown



## Report from Cllr Jeff Bray to Lt Clacton Parish Council 05/12/2016

Good evening to you all. Firstly an apology, I have to attend a briefing tonight at Weeley chambers starting at 6:00 pm. I am hopeful that this will finish in good time, but I may be a little late arriving tonight. This meeting involves boundary issues and is therefore quite important. I will add any useful information that I gain when giving this report.

As I am sure you are all aware, the appeal hearing for the application at the street Little Clacton will be heard on Wednesday 07/12/2016 at the Weeley chambers. The hearing is due to start at 10:00 am and is expected to last all day, perhaps even into the evening. My understanding is that the public may attend, but not speak. I have put forward a written representation a copy of which I sent to you some time ago. If you do not have a copy and would like one, please let me know. I have been asked by some what I think the outcome of this appeal will be. Sadly, given recent events and past hearings it is almost impossible to say. Some previous outcomes have been entirely predictable, whilst others have been anything but. We have presented a good case and hopefully it will prevail. At this point we are in the lap of the gods, or more accurately, the lap of the inspector.

There have been a couple more incidents of fly tipping in the parish, which have now been dealt with. This continues to be a problem and as yet the small motion detecting cameras have not been effective. I have again sent a press release to the local newspaper explaining that we have and are using the cameras. Hopefully they will print it this time and it might discourage future events. Apart from being an eyesore, there is a significant cost to the council for clearing the mess up. I can think of many better ways to spend your council tax.

At the last meeting I reported that the number of district councillors will almost certainly be reduced from the current 60 to a probable 48. As a result, the boundaries for each ward will need to be reviewed. The current thinking put forward by myself and members of my group, is that single councillor wards would be better where ever that is possible. This idea seems to have the broad support of most members. Lt Clacton is by chance almost exactly the right size by population to become a ward on its own. It is likely (although not yet certain) that from 2019 onward, Little Clacton will no longer be linked to Weeley for the election of its district councillors. If this is the case, you will elect one district councillor, who will then be the sole representative for Little Clacton. Although there are some downsides to this, it is a much fairer system, particularly for non party independent candidates.

The local plan rumbles on. I was over the moon to finally reduce the Weeley number from 1400 new homes to 300. This has been a very long and hard fight and despite some decent from a few residents who want none at all, or are not happy with the current location of the remaining 300, this is an enormous victory. This of course is still not cast in stone, but is a huge step in the right direction. I hope you will join with me in congratulating Weeley and its residents for this fantastic if not complete success.

This month I have attended several briefings on varying subjects including garden communities, new business development plans, social and wellbeing services and transport infrastructure. I have also attended a further meeting of the Colchester local plan committee and Essex county Council.

I have been asked to sit on the human resources committee of TDC in addition to my current committee duties. I have accepted this role and have now taken part in some additional training and meetings as a result.

I have been asked to put myself forward as a candidate for the upcoming County Council elections in May 2017. Having now been formally nominated and given the fabulous support I have received from other party members at all levels, I have agreed. There is now a short list of two and a hustings for all party members will be held on 14/12/16 to select the candidate. If I am lucky enough to win, I will be standing in the Tendring Rural east division, which is of course this division.

Lastly, I was asked by a resident a few days ago, why councillors are shy about the remuneration they receive. Since I am not I explained my allowances in detail and for absolute transparency will do the same now and in writing.

Like all district councillors, I receive an allowance of £5122.00 per year. This is paid in monthly instalments. There are no extra payments for committees etc other than Cabinet members and committee chairs (of which I am NOT one) who receive an additional allowance of between £3000 and £8500 per year, which I believe is also paid monthly.

All district councillors can claim expenses for such things as travel to and from meetings etc, but not all councillors claim this.

Each councillor represents approximately 2100 people (soon to be 2500)

Personally, I do not claim any expenses, thus my total income as a district councillor is £5122.00 per year. (5pence per person per week)

Thank you all and have a good evening

Cllr Jeff Bray

## Report on TDALC Meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016.

It was reported that the Weeley Parish Council Chairman Peter Dumsday had died on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November after a period of illness.

Future speakers - many have been contacted to speak at the TDALC meeting but as yet nothing had been formerly arranged, it was thought that Catherine Bicknell may attend, TDC Planning but when was not confirmed.

Concern was shown over ECC Highways over various issues with many items listed but not being attended to. It was also felt that contacting anyone to discuss the issues was something of mission impossible. This situation shows serious lack of ability to manage the resources and put them to best use, especially within the district of Tendring.

Recycling Centres - Janet to write to the department responsible for the changes at the recycling centres, requesting who made the decision for the changes and what criteria was applied when reaching the final conclusion. The changes have proved to be unpopular to many residents within the district and whether the powers that be should consider the feelings of the electorate before making such changes.

Administration – we were asked on how we report the meetings to the Parish Councils we represent as we do not receive the minutes until two or three days prior to the next meeting. The general method was to write notes during the meeting and use them as a basis for the report.

Crime – there was a meeting in Harwich which was attended by in excess of 200 people all of whom were seriously concerned by the lack of visible Policing within the District. It was also noted that crime was on the increase, speeding and motoring and less serious offences mainly due to no police presence.

Walton and Frinton – employ security which they control, 10 covering the area 24/7 at a cost of 47p per week to each household. They have had no increase in crime during this period and if they have issues within certain areas they direct the officers to that area and it is soon resolved.

Harwich are losing their Maternity Unit and all will now have to go to Colchester to give birth unless they opt for home delivery. Peter Bruff Ward recently relocated to Colchester. (It was later reported that the Walk In centre in Clacton is under threat of relocation putting more pressure on the GP surgeries and Ambulance services. The Early Learning Centre located with Engaines School is also closing down due to lack of space/space needed for the school age pupils due to rising intake numbers)

Dirty road signs/not replaced/repared – again ECC Highways, where are they spending the money - it seems not within Tendring.

Martyn Reed on behalf of Little Clacton Parish Council