

**LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND**  
**COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 AT 7.30 PM**

**PRESENT**

**Chairperson:** J Cutting

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

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

**Essex County Councillor** Andy Erskine

**Clerk:** Mrs G Loach

**7 residents**

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

A resident asked what motion this parish had made getting together with other parishes to write to the Government regarding trespass, in relation to travellers.

A resident offered to stand as a councillor to replace Councillor Lovell.

**1. APOLOGIES**

No Apologies were received this month.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**3. URGENT MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman reported that a resignation letter had been received from Councillor J Lovell. He publicly thanked her for all the help received with the Millennium Green and Boot Sales during the summer, and said her services were greatly appreciated.

**4. Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported that he, Councillors M Reed and Smith-Daye, and District Councillor Bray had attended the appeal for the Land at The Street. They had put forward a very good case. All points were valid but let down by the lack of Local Plan.

The Chairman emailed MP Douglas Carswell.

Judicial review of Parish Planning issues – not involving Little Clacton Parish in particular.

Copies of the correspondence to D Carswell regarding the 'Keep Left' signs were requested by Essex County Councillor Erskine and District Councillor Bray.

Early in December an Angle grinder was used to grind down the locks on the gates. The CCTV missed it. We need extra CCTV on the gates. BT have been contacted to request access to electricity at their site as they are close to the gates, and the CCTV will be in their interests too. Costs of relevant CCTV systems are being sought.

Later in December a car crashed into the gates and wrote them off completely. The Chairman was hoping to get the gates reinstated as soon as possible.

He proposed that the gates be replaced at the earliest opportunity, the vote was unanimous, all agreed and decision carried.

Last week, there was a planning meeting at Weeley Council chambers where the Chicken Farm site was discussed and despite the highways issues and in our report, it went through despite no drainage answers or highways footpaths decision.

Vehicles are still using Feverills Road as a cut through. Residents have complained.

Councillor Bray said he would look into it. Essex County Councillor Erskine reported that it had been discussed at the last Highways Panel meeting. District Councillor Bray reported that residents had logged registration numbers in the past and complained to the Companies involved, which had helped for a short while but had got worse lately.

**5. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD**

(a) Highways

Councillor R Smith stated that no problems had been reported this month.

**6. POLICE/CRIME REPORT**

Councillor J Rowlands reported that the police report showed that crimes were up in Little Clacton, to 18 which was double the usual amount.

**Speed watch**

Councillor M Reed reported that he had sent emails regarding camera access but not had any replies yet.

**7.WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

**(a)Maintenance and Services**

Councillor S Rowland stated that the black lettering has now been done on the seat. Nearer to Spring he will arrange to do the planters in the village. The Chairman reported that he had heard from Tony Nash, who had again apologised and promised to return the items that he had belonging to the Parish. The Chairman has not yet been able to arrange for the County Court judgement, but will report at the next meeting.

**(l) Street lights**

Councillor M Reed reported that he had heard that ivy was growing up and affecting some lights. He is going to check it out and report at next meeting.

**(ii)Footpaths** - Councillor L Gray reported that tree blocking the footpath next to the Blacksmiths Arms had been cut down by Mr Carter now and the path is clear.

**(b) Planning and Development**

Councillor M Reed reported on the following:

**(i). Applications:**

<b>16/2005/FUL</b>	Lodge Farm Road, CO16 9QD	Demolish existing buildings and replace with crop storage, general storage buildings and silo. <b>ECC SUDS report 'Objects' on insufficient information in relation to surface water drainage. On proposed new site the building can be seen, but not the silos. Further information required before a decision can be made.</b>
<b>16/01987/FUL</b>	Ewden, Holland Road, CO16 9QH	Proposed change of back garden to increase size of business yard. <b>Recommend approval.</b>
<b>16/1947/FUL</b>	Meadow View Park, St Osyth Road.	Increase number of parking spaces from 260 to 291 (additional 31) at request of current residents. Representation made to all residents (216), 67 (31%) objected. Mobile Homes Act states that the majority takes precedence on a decision of this nature. <b>Recommend approval.</b>

**(ii) Determinations**

<b>16/2021/AGRIC</b>	Slaughterhouse Field, Holland Road, CO16 9QE	Erection of lambing shed for the welfare of the sheep. <b>Approved.</b>
<b>16/1741/FUL</b>	29 Hazelwood Crescent, CO16 9PB	Proposed alterations to bungalow. <b>Approved.</b>

<p><b>15/1550/OUT, 16/00045/REFUSE</b></p>	<p>Land, West of The Street, Little Clacton</p>	<p>The Inspectorate commented on the site as a cherished local asset, arable open undeveloped land providing a meaningful separation to the two sections of the village of amenity value from the roads and properties which overlook it. The development results in harm to visual impact and associated loss of views, urbanisation, and extent to build development.</p> <p>However, this opportunistic application – without regard to the effect to the community, feelings of residents and environmental impact was outweighed by the inability of Tendring District Council to provide a Local Plan which would have protected the green gap from urbanisation- <b>was allowed under appeal.</b></p>
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Councillor M Reed read out the determinations made by TD Planning above and all agreed. He said to contact District Councillor N Stock in particular regarding the lack of Local Plan.

**Local Plan** – Councillor M Reed reported that the next meeting was on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 but may change. District Councillor J Bray reported that the Local Plan was expected to be finished by October 2017. The Planning Meeting would be at the Princes Theatre. He said that the numbers in the latest approved planning applications will not be counted in the Little Clacton allocation until the S.106 agreements had been negotiated and agreed.

**iv) Neighbourhood Plan** – The Neighbourhood plan must be agreed by the District Council to be recognised. Until a Local Plan is in place, this cannot be done.

**(c) Business and Organisation Group**

**i) Precept**

Councillor Smith Daye explained that the Business and Organisation Group had agreed that the precept should be increased to cover expected inflation and to increase the capital budget for future projects, to £77,500 from £74,500 which was a 3.4% increase. This would equate to a 14p a week increase for a Band D property. He proposed the Precept was increased to £77,500, Councillor Cutting seconded and all agreed.

**8. INTERNET**

The Chairman stated that we were coping at present, but will be looking for someone to take it on eventually.

**9. TDALC**

Councillor M Reed reported that the meeting was to be held at the end of this month (26<sup>th</sup>) he will be raising the law of trespass and any other business that he is asked to raise, by the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**10. PARISH FIELDS COMPLEX**

The Chairman read out a Parish Fields report saying that activities at Plough Corner have been reduced over the Christmas and New Year seasonal break, but all groups have now restarted their meetings. There is also a now Weight Watchers Group using the Youth and Community Hall on a weekly basis.

### **11. VILLAGE HALL**

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie reported that they had received the £10,000 advance to replace the roof just before Christmas. The Village Hall is moving forward.

### **12. MILLENNIUM GREEN**

Councillor M Balbirnie reported that moles were currently in residence. Wild seed is to be planted to make it pretty in the spring. The residents are now saying favourable comments about the Green.

### **13. ECC**

Essex County Councillor Erskine reported that there had been a Local Highways Panel held on Thursday. He had tidied up some previous requests. He mentioned the Tendring Highways rangers – they have their own budget. We can report any falling through signage etc. to them. Also, to avoid contacting Highways, we could contact Steve Gove at Tendring District Council to replace signage /clean bollards /cut hedges/ lift trees etc. Highways have already committed £553,000 but only have £395,000 budget, which is the same as last year. Speed traps are to be set again, but away from junctions and parked cars, so that the right place should capture the faster speeds.

Footpath problems are County wide. Section 106 money is being used. The Chairman should add the bus shelter that needs doing to the LHP to be considered for next year. S106 money is paid back to the developer if it isn't used within a specific time frame.

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

District Councillor Brown reported that the Chairman of Tendring District Council Neil Stock has received an OBE in the New Year Honours. There is little else going on at the present time.

District Councillor Bray read out his report which is attached at the end of the minutes. They discussed many issues including candidacy for County Elections, recruitment of planning officers and Electoral review.

### **15. CORRESPONDENCE**

EALC	e- bulletins
Ringway Jacobs	Forthcoming Road closures
DCK Beavers	Year End procedure and Booking form
Clacton Police Station	Accident Details
Zurich	Accident Claim Forms
Clr Lovell	Resignation Letter

## 16. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

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

Receipts:	£
Bank loyalty reward	1.78
Cheques issued:	£
EON	440.34
GB Maintenance (NO 2440 & 2441)	150.00
Viking	64.10
Namesco (2yr Domain Name renewal)	47.99
Namesco (2yr Starter Host)	125.17
SLCC (subs)	158.00
ALCC (subs)	10.00
Clacton Business Service (Payroll)	30.00
Tendring Eldercare (Nov & Dec)	200.00
Bank Charges (Dec)	15.10

## 17. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None this month.

## 18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported a planning application opposite the Boot Sale site for 220 houses. District Councillor Bray will call it in, and then the parish will have a couple of weeks to view it. The Chairman urged all Councillors to view it, the Clerk will send a link by email. Please let District Councillor Bray know of any reasons to refuse it, so he may include them in his statement.

The Chairman asked if anyone was interested in the vacant Councillor post, to leave their details at the end of the meeting.

As there was no other business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

**The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**Chairman  
6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

## **Report from Cllr Jeff Bray to Lt Clacton Parish Council 09/01/2017**

Good evening to you all. Firstly I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year celebration.

2016 was an interesting year, providing a number of challenges of varying difficulty. I expect 2017 will be similar in many respects.

The year has had a disappointing start, with the approval by the government inspector of the development of the street site. I have read the full report several times now and am still at a loss as to how, given the evidence, this conclusion was reached. I will not labour the point this evening, as I have made my opinions clear in my recent email to you all. I will however say that I am a gasped mostly by the total disregard for overwhelming local opinion, by a representative of a democratically elected government.

Whatever else is true, no one could have worked harder than the local people and parish councillors of little Clacton. I will forever be proud to have been involved and to have had the opportunity to work with you supporting you all in every way I was able. Losing a fight like this is always sad and demoralising. The result however cannot be allowed to demine the effort and community spirit that went before it. The fat lady has not yet sung, as they say. Options are currently being looked at, by some, with a view to continuing the fight. It would not however be prudent to give any details at this time.

The electoral review working party (of which I am a member) met last week to finalise the proposals for the new district council boundaries. As I reported last month, Little Clacton is likely to become a single councillor ward. I can confirm that this is now the recommendation of the working party, and is highly likely to be supported by the full council this month. It is of course for the Electoral review board (over which we have no control) to make the final decision, but given that the village almost exactly fits the required number of electors for a single seat, it is unlikely that they will change that recommendation. Thus as I stated before, Little Clacton will, almost certainly, after future district elections, have one councillor representing just Little Clacton, rather than the current situation with two councillors representing Little Clacton and Weeley. Weeley will most likely be paired with Tendring Village to produce a ward of its own.

I have broadly supported this proposal, as I believe that it works best for both Little Clacton and Weeley. It will also serve to make future elections fairer for anyone who wishes to stand as an independent candidate.

Despite the Christmas break, I have attended several meetings and briefings over the last few weeks. Among the subjects for discussion, was a proposal to help encourage new planning officers and staff to our district. This has been a problem for some years now and leaves our current staff under a great deal of pressure. The plans will hopefully improve that situation, helping the council provide a better service to those who need it.

On a personal note, last month I reported that I had been asked to put myself forward for the Essex County Council elections in May this year. At that time I was one of a short list of two.

I am now pleased to report, that following a hustings held in mid December, I have been selected as the official UKIP candidate for the Tendring rural east division, which of course includes Little Clacton.

That is all I have for you tonight, Happy 2017.

Have a great evening

Cllr Jeff Bray (UKIP) Little Clacton & Weeley