

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY, 9th April 2018 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Chairperson: J Cutting

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

Tending District Councillors Mike Brown and Jeff Bray

Clerk: Mrs G Loach

3 residents

Residents were given time to speak before the meeting began.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received this month from **Essex County Councillor** Andy Erskine

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 5th March.

3. URGENT MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. CHAIRMANS REPORT

It has been a quiet month, with not much going on. New boards were fitted in Tan Lane and at Meadowview.

The Engaines School issue has now reached the newspapers. 'Don't park on the greensward' signs have been put up near the Village Hall. Later in the year, we will look at the signage again. The meeting with the Head Teacher has not been set up yet.

5. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

(a) Highways

Councillor R Smith did not have anything to report. Councillor Smith Daye reported that the flooding was back in The Street. Drivers are going on the wrong side of the road to avoid the flood and it is only a matter of time before a collision occurs. The Chairman said he would speak to Essex County Councillor Erskine again, and write a letter. All agreed.

6. POLICE/CRIME REPORT

For February 6 crimes were reported. 5 violence and 1 car crime. The Chairman reported that he had been told of a theft from a shed but didn't think it had made the statistics. Councillor Botterell said that the Community Messaging service was sporadic. Councillor J Rowland said that the Community Messaging platform would be good if it was used to inform us when there had been burglaries in the area etc.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS

(a) Maintenance and Services

Councillor S Rowland reported that they were waiting for winter to finish to move on with the maintenance tasks. New Boards and CCTV cameras has now been installed.

(b) Street lights

Councillor M Reed reported that all lights that were parish owned had now been repaired and were all working. The ECC owned lights were still outstanding, and no indication of when they would be done. The Chairman completed a survey for Highways, but he wasn't happy with the forms. There was no option to improve things.

(c) Footpaths

There was no report but Councillor Gray said all the footpaths were ‘horrible’ at present, with all the rain lately.

(d) Planning and Development

Councillor M Reed reported on the following:

(i). Applications:

18/00330/FUL	Land adjacent 3 Edward Close CO16 9PR.	Three new build 3 bed detached bungalows. Plot had previously approved 1x Bungalow and 2x semidetached houses. There would be limited outdoor space, the new builds being shoe-horned onto a relatively small plot. All comments to previous application 17/01436/FUL made by Little Clacton Parish Council still stand, the five year supply is now confirmed. The garages must remain as garages and not be converted into an interior/living space, to maintain the two parking spaces. Recommend Refusal.
18/00401/FUL	Land adjacent 113 Holland Road CO16 9RU	Erection of new self-build plus garage, variation of approved 17/01868/FUL. The garage is now detached and the attached garage as approved is now part of the dwelling. The proposal makes the property substantially bigger than those new builds directly adjacent and would not be in keeping with the current street view. Our Previous comments re 17/01868/FUL remain unchanged. Recommend Refusal.
18/00364/OUT	St Chads Nurseries Harwich Road CO16 9QA	2 new dwelling houses all matters reserved apart from access. We now have a confirmed and robust five year supply, the dwellings are outside the settlement area and are not sustainable. The access is and always will be an issue and should be considered in conjunction with the decision on the merit of the application. An application has previously been refused and to quote from the TDC Planning Officer: <i>‘The Council’s pre-application response dated 4th May 2016 sets out that officers concluded that on balance, the development is not considered to be located in a sustainable location as the primary amenities were approximately 1.7 miles away from Little Clacton and 1.3 miles away from the amenities of Thorpe-le-Soken and thereby there would be a heavy reliance on a private motor vehicle.’</i> Strongly Recommend Refusal

(ii) Determinations

18/00105/FUL	1 Bovis Hall Cottages CO16 9DJ.	Proposed single storey rear extension with roof lantern and chimney breast. Approved full.
18/00079/FUL	66 Harwich Road CO16 9NE.	Single storey rear extension. Approval Full.

Councillor M Reed read out the determinations made by the Planning Group above and all agreed.

iii) Local Plan – Councillor M Reed had nothing to report.

iv) Neighbourhood Plan – Nothing to report, until Local Plan done.

8. INTERNET

Internet all up and running as usual this month, no problems reported.

9. TDALC

Linda Belgrove of Alresford Parish Council, and member of the EALC, stated that EALC have questioned Essex Highways about matters mentioned in the last TDALC meeting with the terminology change to 'severe impact' in relation to planning applications coming before them. The EALC have sought to seek the answer to what qualifies as a severe impact for highways to recommend refusal for a planning application.

St Osyth parish council are considering taking TDC planning department and ECC planning to the ombudsman as there was an application to move a bus stop in the village. This application was approved without consulting SPC at all. Tendring fast tracked approved the application. The new location of the bus stop is considered to be in an extremely dangerous position for pedestrians, with little pavement and no chance of a future bus shelter (old position had shelter). The application seems to have been looked at on paper and maybe with google maps, but never the less, there was no consultation with the parish and nobody attending the site to assess the proposals impact and dangers.

There has recently been a government planning inspector out to Lawford to review an appeal for a planning application for a number of dwellings that TDC had previously refused.

The Planning inspector quoted the old housing supply figures of 5.1. He also remarked that that figure was debatable and close to the mark and granted an application based on this old figure. The latest published figure in the emerging local supply is 6.2 years supply.

The general consensus from all local parish and town councils at the meeting was that they were all concerned about the recent decisions, performance and conduct of TDCs planning department. It was suggested that maybe the ombudsman could get involved in a general complaint about the department as a whole to investigate the procedures within the department.

This leads on quite nicely to the next section of this report....

At the next TDALC meeting, TDCs head of planning will be in attendance to answer any questions

or concerns the parishes may have.

Janet of TDALC has asked parishes to think of questions to ask Cath Bicknell at the next meeting. Janet has requested that the questions be emailed to her ahead of the meeting so that they can be added to the agenda.

Data protection

The NALC are saying that the clerk or any other member of the council cannot be the appointed DPO (Data Protection Officer). This is due to conflict of interest, as they are the users of said data.

The NALC are looking at having a central body to provide the DPO as a service to Parish Councils. All Parish Councils must have a comprehensive and robust data protection policy in place ready for the new GDPR rules coming into play on 25th May 2018.

The NALC also suggests that serious consideration should be given to registering all parish councillors with the ICO. All councillors have some sort of data held (email etc). It's suggested that individual councillors should register at www.ICO.org.uk and pay the £35 fee personally but it would be acceptable for the Parish Council to reimburse the monies to the individual councillor. It should also be noted that the registration fee to register with the ICO is set to increase as of the 1st of May.

There are still lots of arguments surrounding the need for individuals to register at parish council level but Councillor Belgrove said that the recommendation has come from the NALC so should be taken as the thing to do to ensure future support from the NALC should a data protection issue arise in the future.

Councillor Michael Talbot from St Osyth PC showed us an interesting TDC document. The document was 'The Charter for District Councils' or 'The Charter for Local Councils' (apologies, I can't remember the exact title).

This document sets out what parish councils can do and what powers they have with TDC and more importantly how to channel these powers to get things done.

Councillor Talbot said he would forward a link to the document to Janet of the TDALC and in turn she would send it out to all Parish's..... we are still waiting for this link to arrive.

It's a 20-30 page document I believe and could be worth a read.

10. PARISH FIELDS COMPLEX

The Chairman reported that the weather had been so bad during last month, there was no activity on the fields. The Hall is continuing to be hired out regularly. Mr Bellamy is recovering well from his knee operation.

11. VILLAGE HALL

Nothing to report this month.

12. MILLENNIUM GREEN

Nothing to report this month.

13. ECC

No Report this month.

14. TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

District Councillor Brown reported that there were planning issues. He had a meeting with the Head of Planning Services regarding the boundaries and an issue in Betts Green Road – the road collapsed. When Built the drainage issues were not dealt with -the builders may not have met the conditions set for them. There are cadets about with speed guns.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

EALC	e- bulletins
Wicksteed	Match Funding
Elancity	Speed signs
ECC	Changes to Mobile Library services
RCCE	Essex Village of the Year 2018

The Clerk is to check for Library stops in Little Clacton.

16. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

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

Receipts:	£
Bank Loyalty	2.77
Cheques issued:	£
Mrs G Cutting (Village Flower displays)	25.00
Eon (Mar)	114.69
GR Harrison	872.00
A & J Lighting	212.28
GB Maintenance	80.00
A Harmon	362.00
Bank Charges (Mar)	13.85

G R Harrisons bill was queried. The Chairman is to look into it by August, to be ready for the Christmas lights. Councillors J and S Rowland are to make enquiries about options for replacement Christmas lights. Councillor Botterell proposed the lights were updated, Councillor Ward seconded and all agreed.

17. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Botterell for becoming a councillor for Weeley Parish Council too. The Chairman is to call a meeting for the Business and Organisation Group, an email will be sent soon with details for next month's meeting.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Botterell enquired about progress with the VAS signs. Councillor J Rowland said that lots of research had been done. There was a fatality at Weeley Bridge, and that may have forced Highways to add a VAS sign there. Councillor Botterell confirmed that they had VAS signs at Weeley.

Councillor R Smith reiterated that the flooding at The Street was really bad again. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

The next parish meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 14th May 2018

**Chairman
14th May 2018**