

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY
CENTRE ON MONDAY, 5th JANUARY 2009 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT

Cllr J Couzens in the Chair
Cllrs J Cutting, De Vaux Balbirnie, Mrs S Dass, J Dunnett, Miss L Gray,
B Leatherdale, M Skeels, Mrs E Ward and P Watson
There were five residents present

Chairman opened the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year

ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

None

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Carter and Wood.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2008

These were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

1. Parish Shield

It was proposed by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Skeels and agreed that the Parish Shield be awarded to Mr Foreman of St Osyth Road West for his voluntary work in keeping the environment clean and tidy in the St Osyth Road area.

2. Freedom of Information Publication Act

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie and agreed that Little Clacton Parish Council adopt the model act submitted by ICO.

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

1. Internet – nothing to report.

2. Highway Matters

Cllr Watson reported there was no further information on the VAS sign

Village Gateway – Holland Road

On 10 December Cllr Watson looked at the possible damage to a resident's garden wall alongside our gateway panel which had been knocked down. He found broken car bits all around and our sign flat on the ground with support legs bend back to around 40 degrees. There was a red car with a badly damaged front standing the road some ten yards away. He phoned the police with the registration number to obtain the driver and insurance details and then made a statement to the police. He was informed later that the driver denied damaging the sign and the police advised taking photographs. Whilst doing this he discovered a car number plate under the debris – a different number – so back to the police who confirmed the colour but a different make, but were unable to give us any details then as there was insufficient information available but will advise us in due course. The cost of providing replacement materials, repair, galvanise, paint and re-erect will be £543.99 plus VAT.

Members asked if there could be a 50mph limit on the present unrestricted roads around the village.

3. Affordable Housing

The Chairman said that the RCC had sent a report which he wished to be circulated to all members for their comments before further discussion.

4. Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

Cllrs De Vaux Balbirnie and Skeels declared a personal interest.

The matter is in abeyance at the present time but there are problems which may occur in the future if someone comes along with a proposal for setting up a site. An Inspector is to look into the site proposed at Weeley.

5. Parish Archives

The matter is ongoing

6. Lorries, Feverills Road

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie said the residents should do some checks on the vans coming down the road

7. Lorries – 160 Harwich Road

A very comprehensive report has been received from the police regarding the parking of the lorry and it would appear that only one resident complained but the owner has a smaller vehicle now .

Clerk to write to thank the police for their actions.

POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION

The Clerk read a report from the police showing theft from a motor vehicle in Holland Road; a car being driven at youngsters after a party in the Village Hall; road traffic collisions in Holland Road, Harwich Road and Tan Lane; and

nuisance vehicle in Elm Road.

WORKING PARTY REPORTS

Maintenance and Services

Cllr Watson reported that regarding Parish Fields road entrance gates, he has been given a sample of the lock that will be supplied by BT to be fitted to the entrance gates, which will allow us to prepare the lock box ready for fitting the proper lock when delivered.

We are still waiting for delivery of the 3 No. name boards 'Plough Corner' for fitting to the flower tub on the corner of The Street.

Work to the memorial area has started – the hedge has been cut, dumped rubble removed and the area sprayed with weed killer. He has been offered daffodils to plant there and in the village.

Yet another bollard has been destroyed at the entrance to the back road near the Post Office. Cllr Watson is awaiting the price for 3 No. Guardsman bollards plus installation He felt sure that we will not have to replace them again.

It was proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie and agreed that the Parish Council purchase and install the Guardsman bollards

Lighting Columns – entrance road at Plough Corner

Cllr Watson has confirmed the agreed details with ECC regarding us taking our the street lighting columns along the roadway but is waiting for confirmation that the power supply has been disconnected.

A tower unit is required to remove the columns, the cost together with disposal of materials and making good the area is £454.00. **It was proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Skeels and agreed that we proceed with this work.**

Notice Board, St Osyth Road –opposite Meadowview Park

A strip of tarmac has been laid by an unknown contractor along the front of the notice board near to the bus shelter. Unfortunately, it appears that during this work, a support leg on the notice board has been broken. Under a Working Party order, Cllr Watson will get it repaired or replaced.

Street Lighting

Cllr Ward reported repairs to the lights in Elm Road have now been completed. The lamp standard at the junction of Harwich Road and The Street has been replaced and is in working order. The damaged lamp post in the Street opposite the Chinese Takeaway has yet to be mended. ECC promised to look at the lamp post but we have heard nothing. Several lights are reported as not working in Holland Road, also one in Tan Lane. Lights are out on the roundabout by Cherry Tree garage and these will be reported to ECC

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie has received a letter and photographs of an injury to a resident in Elm Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the resident seeking a formal claim which can then be passed to our insurers for action as necessary.

Footpaths

The definitive map modification to Footpath 8 has been received from the Planning Inspectorate.

Planning and Development

Cllr Cutting reported on the following planning applications:

08/01613/FUL Continued use of land for stationing of storage containers, Colvills Yard, Holland Road

It was agreed to write to TDC with no objection

08/01623/FUL Change of use of redundant agricultural barn to light industrial, Swallow Farm, Holland Road

It was agreed to write to TDC with no objection but would ask that the access be looked at, also feel that the building is substandard for light industrial use and would seek restricted hours of use.

08/01678/TPO 1 No. Oak – remove 1 lower branch. 1 No. Oak – 3 lower branches reduce by 3 metres, Hawthorns, Homing Road

It was agreed to write to TDC with no objection

08/01673/FUL) Rebuild of existing outbuilding as part of business unit development

08/01674/LBC) approved under 02/01138/FUL.Swains Farm, 89 The Street

It was agreed to write to TDC with no objection

Applications Determined:

08/01505/FUL – Car port at Blairmont Cottage, Harwich Road – APPROVED

TDALC

Cllr Leatherdale reported on discussions about parish plans and village design statements.

Mr Goodier is to arrange a special open meeting at TDC on electronic planning system.

Life expectancy was discussed within the Tendring district showing a high mortality rate in Jaywick and Pier Wards.

Community speed watch guns were discussed and comments from the towns and parishes regarding 20mph speed limit near schools was mentioned. Freedom of Information Act is to be discussed.

Cockaynes Wood Trust, Alresford is to be an improvement area for wild life, etc. There is to be a meeting on Saturday

31 January at 8pm at the village hall with a talk, exhibition etc. Agreed to email with our support.

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH FIELDS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Cutting reported that they were successful in the application for grant aid to the Essex Community Foundation Grassroots Fund to assist with upgrading the facilities and equipment for the Youth and Community Centre and the first batch of new tables has been ordered.

The Youth Bus has attended again and they hope to make visits every three weeks during the coming year. Football pitch bookings were down in December due to adverse weather conditions and the Christmas/New Year break.

Cllr Watson said that the dividing fence between the all weather playing courts has been erected and the lights repaired

and it certainly improves the facility.

VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Dunnnett said that the village hall committee has decided to have a bottle bank.

MILLENNIUM GREEN

Nothing to report

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Skeels reported that £30,000 has been received from ECC for 250,000 trees.

Brook Park is now being taken over by TDC

CORRESPONDENCE

Essex County Council	Making the Links Street lighting, Elm Road
Tendring District Council	Forward Plan 87 Consultation on TDC budget etc – 21 January Council Tax base 2009/10
Planning Inspectorate	Definitive Map Modification Footpath 8
First Bus	Bus stop in The Street
Frinton Town Council	Bus Escorts
NHS	Healthy Voice
Environment Agency	Coastlines
John Fryer Tree Specialist	– passed to Cllr Watson
Communities & Local Govt. Consultation paper - circulated.	

FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

The up-to-date balance of the Council's funds were noted.

	£	Receipts:	Cheques issued
Business Premium Acct		1300.00	
Tracker Account Interest		227.51	
ECC grass cutting		1415.88	
ECC car parking		249.99	
Direct debits to British Telecom		127.50	
E.ON Energy			272.77
May Gurney Ltd (lighting repairs)			328.57
Ellisons (legal advice)			352.50
Kendall Contract Services			361.68
Ashby Metalworks (WP80)			5414.20
Bendale Web Design (website)			44.00
M L Lane (PCM 83)			250.00
Mr L Lane (PCM 84)			70.00
Ashby Metalworks (changing rooms)			283.83
Lt Clacton Village Hall (grant HLPF)			500.00
Namesco Ltd (website)			45.99

ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Dunnnett - Is there a statutory requirement for Parish Council to provide allotments.

Clerk to find out the legal position.

Cllr Watson - Mrs Genery, who lives in Elm Road, is 100 years old on 24 January.

Parish Council agreed to send flowers and a card.

She is having a celebration in the Methodist Church on Sunday 25 January between 11am and 1pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 2nd February 2009 at 7.30 pm at the Youth and Community Centre.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.