

# **LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE  
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY,  
7 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 7.00 PM**

## **PRESENT**

**Cllr J Couzens in the Chair**

**Cllrs R Bellamy, J Cutting, Mrs S Dass, De Vaux Balbirnie, J Dunnett, Miss L Gray, B Leatherdale, Mrs E Ward, P Watson and Mrs A Wood**

**There were three residents present. Also in attendance for the first part of the meeting were four housing association representatives and Mrs Moira Groborz, the Rural Housing Officer**

## **ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

**A resident complained about a large fire on a vacant plot in Thorrington Road which is used by a builder to store materials. The Enforcement Officer has said there is a use of site for storage. Agreed to write to Enforcement Officer seeking clarification as we do not know of any permission granted for the use of this land.**

## **HOUSING ASSOCIATION PRESENTATIONS**

**Colne Housing and Icen Homes made a presentation of their ideas for affordable housing in Little Clacton. Examples of their work were handed to all members present. This was followed by a question and answer session.**

**Hastoe Housing then made its presentation and answered questions.**

**Mrs Groborz agreed to supply some further information arising from the questions asked.**

**The Chairman thanked the various association for attending.**

**The Council meeting commenced at 8.45 pm**

## **APOLOGIES**

**Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Skeels. Cllr Carter was absent**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2009**

**These were signed by the Chairman**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2009**

**There were approved and signed by the Chairman after the following amendments were made:**

**Under Residents – Holland Road was substituted by Harwich Road.**

**Under Street Lighting – charges on invoices were being pursued by Cllr Ward**

## **MATTERS ARISING**

**The hedge at Plough Corner has been dealt with.**

**It was agreed to write to Cllr Skeels regarding the site of Hopedale, 27 Weeley Road**

**It was understood that the man sent to deal with the pampas grass on the Millennium Field was refused permission to deal with the matter.**

## **MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD**

**(a) Internet – nothing to report**

**(b) Highway Matters – Cllr Watson reported on the various matters outstanding. The replacement speed sign for Holland Road gateway has been fitted. Accident in Elm Road – a statement compiled by our insurers regarding the alleged accident has been signed and returned together with copies of documents appertaining to the reported incident which included relevant PC Minutes, instructions, correspondence and invoice with our lighting contractors, copy of correspondence from ECC**

to residents advising them of the schedule of works to be carried out. No further response has been received. Village Gateway, Weeley Road: a nearby resident reported they had seen the village sign hit by the farmer's equipment as he ploughed the adjoining field. They reported this as it was the second time the sign had been hit and it was badly leaning over and appeared unstable and if it fell it could result in somebody being injured. It was agreed to advise the Local Authority about this as it was on their land and also to advise Mr Carter that the damage was witnessed and he could be charged for the repair work. There was an accident when a motor cyclist hit a car at the junction of Holland Road/Thorpe Road. County Highways advised that private consultants are looking into speed limits throughout the county. Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie said that the footpath between Pig Street and the station at Thorpe was still causing hazards for pedestrians. It was agreed to write again seeking better cutting back.

(c) Affordable Housing – It was proposed by Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie, seconded by Cllr Ward and agreed that this matter be discussed at the October meeting.

(d) Parish Archives – on hold until building work has been completed

(e) Youth and Community Building Extension – tenders have been sent out for return at the end of September and various meetings have been held with the Architects and others

(f) Parish Plan – in circulation

#### **POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION**

Cllr Wood reported that there had been three occurrences of suspicious circumstances at Meadowview Park, Feverills Road and St Osyth Road East; disturbances in Feverills Road and The Street; assault in Barrington Close, sexual offence in The Street; noise nuisance at Springfield Meadows; burglary in St Osyth Road East; obstruction in London Road (2) and Holland Road; theft of a cycle in the Street; fire arms at Grove Farm; nuisance vehicle in London Road and nuisance at Meadowview Park and Clapgate Drive.

#### **WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

##### **Maintenance and Services**

Cllr Watson reported an order had been placed to cover the cost of replacing the damaged disabled toilet door in the pavilion. An order has also been placed to raise the trees throughout the village to give 2m clearance. The pruning will be done as we approach Autumn.

Cllr Watson has prepared a second stage landscaping programme for the area around the 'bandstand' in line with the previous completed scheme alongside the ATC fence. He has a quotation to clear an area of weeds and rubbish approximately 1 metre wide for the length of the two fence runs, rotovate and prepare soil for planting, and supply and plant a range of shrubs similar to those planted in phase 1 landscaping for the sum of £223.00. He would like to incorporate five decorative trees in the planting schedule and their cost would be approximately £150. Part of this cost for the trees will, hopefully, be recovered from the TDC tree planting scheme grant. It was proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie and agreed to spend up to £370.00 for this work.

Cllr Watson reported on the leaks and damp areas to the Youth and Community Building in several locations. Suspect guttering has been replaced and repairs

made to previously damaged areas of the roof. The roof is covered in corrugated asbestos, which even without any damage, and due solely to its age has become porous. We are now entering the Autumn and Winter period and must expect more rain and, therefore, we should take some action before the problem becomes more serious and more costly. To consider replacement of the roof at this time is out of the question due to the disposal costs of the asbestos.

We could leave the asbestos sheeting and roof over with a light gauge profile sheeting which could be quite expensive or as an interim remedy, apply a coat of bitumastic paint. The cost of this would be (a) using specialist weather shield bitumastic paint - £760.00 or (b) £590.00 using NCB bitumastic paint. It was proposed by Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie, seconded by Cllr Watson and agreed that the roof be coated with Specialist Weather Shield bitumastic paint at a cost of £760.00

The order has been placed to clear the pallasade fencing and posts together with the rusty chain link fencing from around the compound at the rear of the pavilion. Fencing and posts are to be stored for future use. A temporary closure will be erected to the hard standing area until design and costs are available for approval for the replacement gates.

A request has been made for a litter bin to be placed by the seat at the junction of St Osyth Road East and London Road. This was agreed.

Street Lights – Cllr Ward reported that following numerous phone calls and emails, Cartledge have now credited us with £395.62 for the various invoices re street lighting and our final invoice is £276.97. The original invoices totalled £672.59

Footpaths – nothing to report

Planning and Development

Cllr Wood reported on the following application –

09/00772/FUL Replacement dwelling, The Orchard, Grove Road.

It was agreed to write to TDC objecting as the whole site is outside the development envelope, resulting a replacement development in the countryside. The proposed demolition seriously compromises adjoining neighbour and would result in party wall boundary astride mixed ownership and is contrary to policies QL9 Design quality (contrary to surrounding street scheme) and HG12 Scale - proportion to original dwelling, visually intrusive in the open countryside.

Applications determined:

09/00709/FUL – proposed additional roof at 153 The Street – Approval

09/00710/FUL – detached replacement dwelling at 27 Weeley Road - Approval  
TDALC

Cllr Leatherdale reported on the Tendring Way developments. Intend will project manage the second stage linking it with government and local strategy; TDC will fund the website for design etc. Lottery funding is available for various aspects. A volunteer walker has been appointed as has an historian. Currently the project starts at Frinton Golf Course to Holland Haven (Pickers Ditch) and negotiations have started with land owners. Tendring has approximately 17 miles of bridleway across the district and aims to establish approximately 100 miles.

**LITTLE CLACTON PARISH FIELDS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Cllr Bellamy reported good Car Boot returns during August. The new football season is under way.**

**Youth and Community Hall is being used by two Art Groups, several bands for practice and local photographer for photo shoots. Colbaynes School (new Clacton Coastal Academy) will resume daytime use this week.**

**The provisional date for next year's Garden Show has been set for 8/9 May 2010.**

#### **VILLAGE HALL**

**Cllr Dunnett reported that bookings are good for the Autumn season.**

#### **MILLENNIUM GREEN**

**Cllr Dass r eported on the Annual General Meeting The Committee gave a vote of thanks to the Parish Council for funding the grass cutting. The barn owls did not use the nesting box this year as it had been continuously inhabited by other birds. A working party will prune the trees in the autumn following advice by a tree surgeon. The bulrushes are proving extremely difficult to remove – this work will have be carried out by an expert. A picnic bench has been vandalised and is beyond repair. The Committee wonder if it would be possible for the Parish Council to pay for a replacement at a cost of £150.00. This was agreed following a proposal by Cllr Cutting, seconded by Cllr Watson. The Committee expressed its thanks for the grass cutting work carried out by Chris Oldfield but asked if he could remove the cut grass from the long cut areas as wild flowers fare better in a harsh environment and not one where extra nutrients are present. Cllr Watson will look into this matter. Re hedge cutting "Secure by Design" the Committee will take this under consideration.**

#### **TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie reported that he had attended the Guides Day in Little Clacton.**

#### **ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

**No report**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Essex County Council**

**Making the Links**

**Tendring District Council**

**Forward Plan 95  
Special Expenses 2010/11  
Enforcement Appeal – Mr L D Collins,  
Meadowview Park  
Chairman to draft response**

**EALC**

**Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers**

**Clacton Business Services**

**Internal Audit report**

**Audit Commission**

**Seeking further details**

**Steve Shaw**

**More Powers for Parish Councils**

**St James PCC**

**Application for Grant for Burial Ground**

**It was proposed by Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie, seconded by Cllr Cutting and agreed that a grant of £2,500 be made.**

#### **FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION**

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

<b>Cheques issued:</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>E.ON Energy</b>	<b>273.17</b>
<b>Local Landscapes</b>	<b>256.25</b>
<b>Ashby Metalworks</b>	<b>144.90</b>
<b>Kendall Contract Services (grounds)</b>	<b>361.68</b>
<b>J P E Humphreys (website)</b>	<b>109.00</b>
<b>Clacton Business Services (Audit)</b>	<b>212.75</b>
<b>P A Bray Ltd</b>	<b>100.80</b>
<b>J Humphreys (website)</b>	<b>44.00</b>
<b>Mr L Lane (WP91, 92, 93)</b>	<b>392.00</b>
<b>May Gurney Ltd</b>	<b>276.97</b>

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**ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman raised the matter of the absences by Cllr Mrs Carter, who has not attended for the past four meetings. He felt we should write to ask her why she does not attend or apologise for her absence as he felt that if you do not attend meetings you should consider resigning as you do nothing for the village. It was proposed by Cllr Cutting, seconded by Cllr Gray and agreed with the wholehearted approval of the Parish Council that such a letter should be sent to Cllr Mrs Carter.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm**

**The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30 pm on Monday, 5 October 2009**

**Chairman  
5 October 2009**