

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE  
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY,  
10 MAY 2010 AT 7.30 PM**

**PRESENT**

**Cllr J Couzens in the Chair**

**Cllrs R Bellamy, J Cutting, De Vaux Balbirnie, J Dunnett, Miss L Gray, Mrs T Ismaili, R Smith, Mrs E Ward, P Watson and Mrs A Wood**

**There were 14 residents present.**

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

**It was proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Cutting and agreed that Cllr Couzens be appointed Chairman for the forthcoming year.**

**ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

**Mr Gary Kirkham together with several members of the Royal British Legion attended the meeting and advised us that they had set up a new branch covering Great Clacton and Little Clacton. This was welcomed by the members.**

**A resident posed several questions regarding the set up and running of the Parish Council. The Chairman dealt with the matters as they were raised.**

**APOLOGIES**

**An apology for absence was received from Cllr Dass.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 APRIL 2010**

**There were approved and signed by the Chairman.**

**MATTERS ARISING**

- (a) Thursday Lunch Club – membership growing. Review in June**
- (b) Local Council Insurance – contact has been made with a Suffolk organisation who provide insurance for parish councils on a group policy and claim to achieve considerable savings. An application to compare premiums is under way. The renewal date for our policy is 1 June. Agreed to leave matter to Finance and Business Committee**
- (c) Parking, London Road – information from TDC was passed to the complainant**
- (d) Football on Village Green – Notice NO BALL GAMES has been displayed on both Village and Galloway Greens but the football continues. The PCSO to be asked to keep an eye on the problem**
- (e) Glass on play park – the Village Hall Committee are dealing with the matter**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Vice-Chairman: Cllr Watson proposed by Chairman, seconded by Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie**

**Representatives –**

**TDALC: Cllr Leatherdale proposed by Chairman, seconded by Cllr Cutting**

**Community Care:** Cllr Gray proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Ward  
**Village Hall:** Cllr Dunnett proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Ward  
**Passenger Transport:** Cllr Gray proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Bellamy  
**Parish Fields:** Cllr Bellamy proposed by Chairman, seconded by Cllr Watson  
**Millennium Green:** Cllr Dass proposed by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Wood  
**Trustee – Hubbard and Harveys Charities:** Chairman and Mrs P Keeble

#### **Working Party Membership**

**Maintenance and Services:** Cllrs Watson, Ward and Gray

**Planning and Development:** Cllrs Wood, Cutting, Bellamy, Smith, Ismaili together with Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie representing TDC

**Crime Prevention:** Cllr Wood

**Organisation and Management of Business:** Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Clerk together with Cllrs Bellamy and Dunnett

#### **MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD**

(a) Internet – co-ordinator to deal with village information etc via the clerk.

(b) Highway Matters. – nothing to report

(c) Affordable Housing – sub-committee to be set up with Enabler

(d) Parish Archives – nothing to report

(e) Youth and Community Building Extension – Cllr Watson reported that on breaking through to the old building asbestos sheeting was found between the outer brickwork and the internal wall lining. Luckily, the material was low grade enabling us to continue with the alterations subject to certain working conditions. The walls in the joining section were found to be out of line and the floor was made up of several different levels. This meant constructing studwork and plaster board replacement inner walls and breaking the floor up and re-laying to form a flat floor. We have permission to return to our original surface water drainage plan with the co-operation of the adjoining landowner, who is going to clear the ditch, and TDC Building Control. All the new internal walls are completed and plastered. The door linings are being fitted and the heating is well on the way to completion. The electrician has completed the first fixing and is at the stage of re-routing the existing cabling to the new distribution panel and can now start preparing the ceiling to accept the light fittings. We have scheduled the carpet and floor covering to be completed week commencing 31 May followed by the installation of the kitchen equipment. .

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

Cllr Wood reported on the crime incidents during April which included obstruction in Harwich Road (cars parked on footpath) and Holland Road (lorry with trailer); theft of phone in Harwich Road; meter box damaged at Village Hall; argument between 2 males at Apple Tree and parents and teachers at Engaines School; nuisance youths in Elm Road; theft from motor vehicle in Clapgate Drive; road traffic collision with injury in London Road.

## **WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

### **Maintenance and Services**

**Cllr Watson reported the purchase and use of 40 tonnes of recycled road fill to repair the car park and entrance to the playing field. Later in the year when the surfaces have settled we should purchase another load to back fill where necessary. Recently, we have found that HGVs are using the car park for turning and rest periods which, of course, destroys the car park. We intend to purchase and display a notice at each entrance prohibiting them access.**

**Cllr Watson sought permission to purchase these signs and a sign for the Y & C building ready for the extension completion. He would also like approval to replace the rotted barge board on the south end of the building in uPVC. The total cost of these items will be £360 plus materials. This was agreed.**

**During the annual maintenance programme it was found that the seat on Station Triangle, Harwich Road had been smashed and was unsafe, It has been removed, a new base will be constructed and a replacement seat positioned.**

**Street Lights - no report**

**Footpaths .- no report**

### **Planning and Development**

**Cllr Wood reported on the following applications;**

**10/00427/FUL Change of use application to relocate displaced caravan pitches from Firs Park on adjacent land, together with 45 additional pitches in a low density informal layout including the creation of a lake, landscaping and tree and woodland planting allied to the proposed upgrading and restructuring of the existing park (new informal low density layout and landscaping) at Firs Camp, 29-31 London Road**

**The Parish Council response is attached to these minutes. A copy of the intended response to this application was given to each Councillor to read because of the complexity. The intended response was based on the list of objections previously agreed by the Council when considering two earlier applications for the same location.**

**10/00418/FUL Shires, Thorpe Road – replacement dwelling  
Agreed to write to TDC with no objection.**

**10/00445/FUL Proposed two storey side and first floor rear extension to form additional living space including demolition of existing garage and outbuildings  
Agreed to write to TDC with no objection**

### **Applications determined:**

**09/00829/FUL - 180 Harwich Road – vehicular crossing. Approval - Full**

**10/00251/FUL - Yan Tara, 39 London Road.- new dwelling. Refusal - Full**

**10/00271/FUL - 37 Harwich Road – single storey rear extension. Approval – full**

**TDALC**  
**No report**

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

**Cllr Bellamy reported that after months of preparation the Village Show was held on 8/9 May. Once again the weather was not kind and attendance was disappointing albeit understandable in view of the conditions throughout Saturday and Sunday morning. However, all those taking part felt it was an excellent event for the village and many of the exhibitors expressed an interest in returning in the future. There were many favourable comments regarding the improved appearance of the facilities at Plough Corner. Cllr Bellamy would like to record his thanks and appreciation to all those who put in many hours organising the Show, setting up the site and then dismantling it at the conclusion. Surestart held a successful Family Day, a Classic Car show is being held and another Youth Football tournament at the end of the month. Car Boot Sales resume on 6 June. We look forward to the Youth and Community Hall returning to normal usage on completion of the extension. The Chairman explained that the new parish office needed to be furnished and sought permission from the Council to spend £1400 for this work. This was agreed.**

**VILLAGE HALL**

**Cllr Dunnett reported that the meter box had been smashed and was replaced with a stronger metal box. The Spring Fair will be held on 29 May.**

**MILLENNIUM GREEN - No report**

**TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie said that the inquiry had been held about Meadowview Park and we are awaiting the Inspector's response.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

<b>Essex County Council</b>	<b>Making the Links</b>
<b>Tendring District Council</b>	<b>Forward Plan 103</b> <b>Letter from Chairman TDC thanking us for our hospitality</b> <b>Public Inquiry – Mr L D Collins</b>
<b>Environment Agency</b>	<b>Coastlines</b>
<b>Mrs Wendy Fairs</b>	<b>Car parking at football matches - Cllr Bellamy said that there are no parking restrictions on these roads in the village but the police will issue tickets where necessary.</b>
<b>Mr Frank Belgrove</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Action Panels</b>

## **FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION**

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

<b>£</b>	<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>Cheques issued:</b>
<b>Car Parking</b>	<b>1,100</b>	
<b>Family Support (lunch club donation)</b>		<b>100.00</b>
<b>E.ON Energy</b>		<b>279.11</b>
<b>T R Venn</b>		<b>291.40</b>
<b>EALC (annual subscription)</b>		<b>484.87</b>
<b>CPRE (Annual subscription)</b>		<b>29.00</b>
<b>Signs Made Easy Ltd</b>		<b>81.79</b>
<b>A &amp; S Farm Services Ltd (planings)</b>		<b>220.01</b>
<b>Kendall Contract Services</b>		<b>387.99</b>

### **ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

**The Vice-Chairman reported that the Relay for Life Organisation for Cancer relief was holding a run or walk around the Harold Lilley Playing Field on 17 July. He required eight volunteers to take part. It is to be at night time. Many councillors volunteered.**

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Cllr Watson said that letters of thanks had been written to Mrs Shipley and the person who donated monies for the memorial flowers.**

**The meeting was closed from 9.10 to 9.20 to discuss the destruction of grass verges.**

**The Chairman addressed the meeting before closing saying it was very good to see so many people but said that nothing will be gained by coming with an agenda and putting personal grudges. The councillors spend many hours working for the residents of Little Clacton and constructive criticism is welcomed rather than purely personal destructive comments.**

**There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm**

**The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 7 June 2010**

**Chairman  
7 June 2010**

**PLANNING APPLICATION 10/00427/FUL - FIRS CAMP 29-31 LONDON ROAD, LITTLE CLACTON**

This application is the third attempt by the applicant to place dozens of caravans on 10 acres of agricultural land currently forming part of the green wedge between Little Clacton and Clacton-on-Sea.

The first application (09/00026/FUYL) sought to increase the number of caravans on the extended site to 277 (an increase of 47 pitches) with an oblique reference to outline permission for an extension to the clubhouse. This application was considered by Officers and refused on 21 April 2009.

The second application (09/01170/FUL) sought to increase the number of caravans to 272 (an increase of 45 pitches) but dropped the reference to the clubhouse extension. This application was called to and considered by the Planning Committee (following a site inspection) and refused. The application raised considerable public opposition and its refusal was in relationship to policy EN 2-Green Gaps.

The current application, now under consideration, is for an additional 45 pitches with 127 of the total 272 units being located on the application site,

Little Clacton Parish Council has addressed those policies within the current adopted Local Plan 2007, which it considers relevant to the proposals (and which were included in the Officers' rejection of the first application). These are outlined in addendum 1 attached to this document.

The application appears to be almost identical to the previous ones which have been refused. However, close inspection does show some 'embellishments' to the text of the Design and Access Statement which need to be commented on.

Section 1.01 argues that the site is 'bounded by a hard urban edge and is located within a developed urban location'. As shown by their own submitted illustration (Appendix 6, 7, 8 and 9) the Northern boundary is formed by the ribbon village development of Holland Road and the extensive gardens to these properties for a natural soft lead to the open fields of the development site. The application site is not in a developed urban location but is beyond the development envelope and within open agricultural land.

Sections 1.02, 1.03 seem to imply that the speculative purchase of the application site by the applicant should lead to automatic development consent and reordering of the current site. Little Clacton Parish Council is not opposed to the upgrading of the site within its present boundaries. The Council is not concerned with the aerial view of the site but rather with that at ground level from both the properties in Holland Road and the view from Centenary Way. The aerial view does, however, indicate the impact of this proposal into the open undeveloped land at the east end of the proposed site (see enclosed photograph and 'land locking' between the site and Holland Road). The significance of the photograph of Morrisons supermarket is not understood since its location is within the Clacton development.

Sections 1.04 – 1.21 try to establish the application's position as a leader in upmarket tourism within the district by claiming that the proposal represents 'an attractive low density layout with units in informal clusters'. Little Clacton Parish Council does not consider that 127 units on the new area represents low density or that caravans in rows present an informal cluster. Indeed, East of England Tourism (3.04) states that 'holiday homes are perceived as better quality tourism establishment than static caravans. This proposal is for static caravans.

It must be appreciated that the caravans located at the camp (both new and existing) are owner occupied and that this proposal will not add to rented holiday accommodation within the district.

The applicant claims that the site supports local pubs and the village shop. The benefit to the village economy is questionable if the applicant constructs the new shop, pub restaurant complex referred to in their submission document.

The applicant speculates that existing caravan accommodation in the area will be lost to flooding, we trust the Local Authority is not mindful to give planning consent based on prediction and speculation.

We note that the applicant has rejected three suggested alternative sites due to their separate position from the current camp (obvious) and, presumably the cost of setting up – we do not feel that this is a planning consideration. However, the primary issue is consideration under policy EN2 (the grounds for the second refusal). Policy EN2 seeks to maintain the physical and visual preparation of development and to prevent the coalescence of settlements and protect their rural setting.

Little Clacton Parish Council argues that any invasion into the gap at the North of Centenary Way compromises the setting of Little Clacton village and should the present separation be compromised, further development proposals will follow and Little Clacton will become a suburb of Clacton-on-Sea with the loss of identity experienced by Great Clacton.

The importance of the gaps in the landscape setting are supported by the Tendring Landscape Character Assessment and particular mention is included in the Local Plan (6.11) of the importance of the area between the existing Holland Road settlement. The importance of the gap separation was highlighted within Appeals APP/P1560/A/07/2044531 when mention was made of the contrast between the existing caravan park and adjacent homes and gardens (paragraph 8). The Inspector

also made comment that the development beyond the southern boundaries of the Holland Road housing would reduce the perception of the green gap between Little Clacton and Clacton-on-Sea. The Inspector took the view that rear land development would compromise the existing character and appearance of the land and would seriously conflict with the countryside protection aims of the Local Plan Policies. The Inspector described the present mobile home park as having urban characteristics.

Development within this protected green gap would be a departure from the approved Local Plan and whilst the applicant states the policy EN2 is not a 'national Policy' but it is a local one and remains in force until the new L.D.F is formulated, consulted upon, agreed and ratified.

In discussion with Cllrs Neil Stock and Peter Halliday at a meeting on 8 February 2010, the Chairman of Little Clacton Parish Council was assured that the existing green wedge between Little Clacton and Clacton-on-Sea would be maintained in its present extent both now and in the forthcoming L.D.F review and that its presence was considered vital.

**Little Clacton Parish Council is totally opposed to this application.**

Little Clacton Parish Council considers application 10/00427/FUL to be the same, in all important respects to applications 09/00026/FUL and 09/01170/FUK and since both previous submissions have been rejected expect the Local Authority to display consistency, and maintain their credibility, and reject this application.

Audrey L Owens  
Clerk to the Council