

## LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Prior to the start of the Council meeting a presentation on the Essex Super fast Rural Broadband Project was made by representatives from Essex County Council & Tendring District Council to Councillors and attending residents..

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY, 5 AUGUST 2013 AT 8.00 PM

### PRESENT

Councillor Peter Watson in the Chair

Councillors Mrs M Balbirnie, R Bellamy, G Bush, J Cutting, P De Vaux Balbirnie, J Dunnett, Mrs H Smith, R Smith, and Mrs E Ward.

There was 1 resident present.

### 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Miss L Gray and Cllr Mrs A Wood

### 2.VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Chairman announced that Cllr Joyce has resigned from the Parish Council due to outside commitments. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman thanked him for his contribution and knowledge on Planning subjects, and asked the Clerk to write and thank him for his involvement with the Council.

### 3.ANY ARISING URGENT MATTERS

None

### 4.MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2013

The Chairman proposed and Cllr Cutting seconded and all agreed the previous months minutes which were then approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### 5. MATTERS ARISING

#### **Village Gateway**

The chairman received a letter which must be considered a final report regarding the theft of the village gateway from the police. The letter will be placed on file.

#### **Millennium Green Meadow**

Numerous items of correspondence between Mavis, our Millennium Green representative and the Chair for the MG Trust were presented to the council members. When the text of this correspondence had been reported and in view of the unwarranted and unfounded comments expressed by the Trust in the Parish News regarding the Parish Council together with the negative response to their appeal for new members, council members were unclear as to the direction and intentions of the Trust. The Trust have been in contact with Natural England for advice and the Council have concerns with some of the responses from Natural England in reply to items raised to them by the Trust. It was agreed that The Clerk to the Council would be the contact point for all future correspondence appertaining to the Meadow Millennium Green Trust.

It was agreed that we also write to Natural England to explain our position and set out a schedule of events since the initial setting up of the 'Green'. A copy of this schedule will be given to the Trust. The Clerk was asked to write to the Trust

for copies, as it appears to involve the Parish Council, of their initial enquiry and their responses to the Natural England questions asked in their email dated 16.08.13 David Solly.

### **Solar Farm**

Cllr Smith described the meeting that he and Cllr H Smith attended in Holland on Sea last autumn, and the contact is Mr Forrest, for the Solar Farm which includes 48,000 solar panels and frames, sub Station, transformers and several other substructures. The main blot on the landscape will be the metal fence surrounding the whole installation. The Parish considered the access most unsuitable considering the numerous concerns we have raised over the last two years regarding the speed, condition and safety aspects of Raynes Farm bridge. Site access is at an acute angle to the highway, adjacent to a blind bend whilst negotiating a steep and bumpy rail bridge. The proposed development is within the Parish Boundary but as we have not been notified of the proposal we ask the Clerk to chase up the application and apply for an extension so that we can comment.

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie and Cllr Mrs M Balbirnie declared a personal interest.

### **Parkgate Farm House 13/00084/LBC**

The Planning Officer – Enforcement - has replied to the Parish stating that it is still under consideration and should be determined in the next few weeks.

### **Apple Tree development 12/00241/FUL**

The enforcement Officer is to investigate whether the hard/soft landscaping has been put in.

## **6.MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD**

(a) Highway Matters: Cllr Smith reported that he had received an enquiry number but no actual reply regarding the Crossing.

(b) Parish Matters

The Chairman reported that new clerk salary scales had now been agreed by NALC and the Chairman of the Management Committee will calculate how this affects our administration staff. Following discussion and agreement by the business group the proposals will be submitted to Council for approval. Any increases due will be back dated to April 2013.

## **7.POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION**

Cllr Cutting read out a crime report from PCSO Haycraft detailing 8 reported crimes during June, including burglary and thefts in the area.

## **8.WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

(a) Maintenance and Services

Cllr Watson reported that the order had been placed for the alterations to the hard standing in front of the village War Memorial and will be completed in time for the Remembrance Sunday Service. Cllr Watson also said that we were waiting for approval from the National Grid to start work on constructing the surface water chamber. As reported at the last meeting, the repaired seat on the bandstand had been broken again. The remaining timber slats were removed leaving nothing to sit on for the last six weeks. The Parish Council is intending to replace them with metal plates, welded to metal brackets attached to the main frame. The cost of removal and supply and to fix the new seats is £236.30. It was

agreed to proceed.

The Chairman suggested that we reinstate the village gateway at a cost of £936. Cllr Bellamy proposed the reinstatement and Cllr Cutting seconded and it was agreed.

Cllr Cutting requested that we inform Weeley Parish Council of our intentions.

(1) Street Lights – Cllr Ward reported that A J Lights have been paid £3247 inclusive. VAT for the maintenance, cleaning and bulb replacement to all the 104 owned Parish street lights. They have compiled a report which shows that many lights need major works and some are beyond repair. The Chairman and Cllr Ward are to review the list and report back.

(2) Footpaths – No report this month.

(b) Planning and Development

Cllr Bellamy reported on the following applications:

13/00729/OUT Proposed residential development, land west of junction Homing Road/Thorrington Road

It was agreed to write to TDC with no objection.

13/00780/FUL Proposed reconstruction of roof to form first floor bedroom and en-suite, 27 Elm Road.

It was agreed to write to TDC with no objection.

Decisions:

None

## 9. INTERNET

Cllr Bellamy said that there was nothing new to report this month.

## 10. TDALC

Cllr Mrs H Smith reported that Bentley in Bloom was congratulated and the remainder of the meeting was taken up by the EALC promoting Quality Council status, and its benefits.

## 11. LITTLE CLACTON PARISH FIELDS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Bellamy reported a mixture of good and bad news this month.

Over recent years the Parish Council and Parish Fields Committee have spent a considerable amount of time effort and money to upgrade and develop the Plough Corner Complex for the benefit of the community. Regrettably, over the last few weeks, we have seen a very marked increase in vandalism and anti social behaviour.

The bandstand seating has been removed and will be replaced, in due course with metal sheets. The lock to the tennis court from the field side has been vandalised. This was re-secured with a chain but within days the chain had been cut and the gate removed from its hinges. The gate has now been replaced and the hinges strengthened. Many of the chain link panels have been damaged and we are now getting prices to replace these panels with something more substantial.

Some of the goal posts and stanchions have also been damaged. The car park surface has suffered further damage. The car boot sale and other signs have been removed from the verge and deposited in bushes nearby. These have also now been replaced. To date our CCTV has not been able to provide evidence and we are meeting the CCTV providers this week to discuss improvements and re-alignments of the cameras. We are now working to provide car registration

numbers and other information to pass on to the Police who have been advised of these problems.

On a brighter side, a further meeting to finalise the layout for the pavilion extension has been held with the architects, who will now move the project on to the next stage.

## 12.VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Dunnett reported that the work had started on the first phase of the new extension to the rear of the hall; to construct new toilets, changing room and improvements to the storeroom.

Following a complaint received via the Parish Council office, repairs to the playground equipment will be carried out this week.

The village hall committee are holding a fund raising Barn Dance in the village hall Saturday 21st September. Everyone is welcome.

## 13.MILLENNIUM GREEN

Cllr Mavis Balbirnie reported on various matters:

Highway Rangers; The Elm Road parking is now complete.

Public Meeting; Cllr M Balbirnie is still waiting to hear from The Chairman of the Trust. Pond Fence/Area; burned grass and low water levels, but no major concerns.

Picnic Table; All bolts have been removed leaving a slab; suggestions were made about replacing it.

Insurance; remains in situ but no additional insurance covering trustees can be bought until the new committee member names have been determined.

Grass cutting; continues to be done around pathways, in other areas the grass is very high.

## 14.TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie gave a written report to members of the activities at TDC during the past month which included

Bypass Maintenance – toxic plants such as hog-weed and ragwort had been found growing alongside the bypass and in Little Clacton;

Parking in Centenary Way – TDC and ECC are going to advertise this as a clearway due to the hazardous parking by some people on car boot days.

Wind Turbines – Noise complaint and a new planning application at Park Farm;

Scam Alert - targeting elderly people – a person calls claiming that they are from the bank asking for bank details and pin numbers;

Clacton Carnival week 10th-16th August;

Clacton Air Show 22nd and 23rd August.

## 15. CORRESPONDENCE

Essex County Council	Making the Links Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way Local Community Resilience Workshop
Tendring District Council	Application 13/00084/LBC – Parkgate Farmhouse
CPRE	Breach of Planning Control - Appletree Countryside Voice

## 16. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

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

Cheques issued:	£
HM Revenue and Customs (PAYE)	154.00
RB Design Solutions	100.00
E.ON	282.71
Clacton Business Services (internal audit)	37.08
Tony Nash (maint. & SF132)	412.44
Family Support – Clacton (June)	100.00
PJB Architectural Design	720.00
EPFA (annual subs)	25.00
EALC (book)	66.00
SLCC (Clerks manual)	50.00
Family Support – Clacton (July)	100.00
A & J Lighting Solutions	3647.70
Kendall Commercial Services (MC4, SF131, Maint)	1300.36
Kendall Commercial Services (St James Churchyard)	905.03
Kendall Commercial Services (grounds maint)	551.33

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The Chairman proposed that part of the underspend from the work on St James Churchyard was donated to the Church towards ongoing maintenance of the Churchyard. He proposed an amount of £500, this was seconded by Cllr Bellamy and agreed.

## 17. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

## 18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm

The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 2 September 2013.

Chairman  
2 September 2013