

LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Prior to the start of the Council meeting a presentation on the proposed Solar Farm, Sladbury's Farm, Holland Road, Little Clacton was made by representatives from Push Energy to Councillors and 20 attending residents.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 8.20 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 L Gray, Mrs E Ward and Mrs A Wood.

There were 2 residents present and Essex County Councillor Erskine.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Mrs H Smith and Cllr Mr R Smith.

2. VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Clerk announced that Tendring District Council had written to confirm that the parish may co-opt a new Councillor, and are not required to hold an election. The Chairman asked if anyone knew anyone who would be interested, and asked if any interested party would contact the Clerk.

3. ANY URGENT MATTERS

None

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 AUGUST 2013

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

5. MATTERS ARISING

Millennium Green Meadow

As agreed at last month's meeting, following the comments in the email from Natural England in response to Mrs Darnell's enquiry, we have written to them with a resume of the Millennium Green History and outlining our involvement. No response to date. Following a discussion with Cllr M Balbirnie, the Chairman had left a message with

Mrs Darnell, regarding how the bench seat had been moved into the tree area and concerns by a walker of a dog jumping at her from the long grass. No response to date.

Yesterday a letter was received by the Chairman from Mrs Darnell together with copies of the original Trust Deed and Grant letter from the Countryside Agency. Mrs Darnell says that transfer documents are being prepared – we are unclear as to who they referring to, as the Parish Council has not been asked officially by the existing Trust. The Trust do not appear to have arranged an official EGM to record their resignations, a requirement to meet the legal process.

It was agreed to contact Mrs Darnell and explain that the EGM is their first step towards any transfer of responsibility. The Parish Council are fully aware of the excellent facility 'The Millennium Green' provides and with that in mind will seriously consider relieving the Trust of that responsibility. Before the Parish Council agree to accept this responsibility we would involve our solicitors to

ascertain what commitment we would be placing on future Parish Councils and Village residents.

Due to a family bereavement it was suggested that Cllr Watson spoke to Mrs Darnell and confirmed comments later in writing.

Sladbury Solar Panel Farm

The Parish Council response to the above application can be seen on the Tendring District Council Planning website along with over 70 other comments and objections.

Parkgate Farm House 13/00084/LBC

No decision has been published regarding the Parkgate Farm House application.

Apple Tree development 12/00241/FUL

There has been no obvious progress on landscaping at the Apple Tree development.

The Clerk was asked to write for a progress update on Parkgate & The Appletree

6. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

(a) Highway Matters: The Chairman stated that notification had been received regarding a road closure notice for Holland Road/ Railway Bridge. The repairs are to Rayners Bridge, 1300m east of the junction with Thorpe Road, and will last 6 weeks from 9th September 2013.

(b) Parish Matters

The Chairman reported that following a meeting with the Clerk and Assistant to the Clerk, and the Business and Management Committee, their salaries will be increased in line with the National Agreement recommendations and backdated to April 2013. Although Mrs Loach has completed the course part of the training, until she has completed and passed the final appraisal stage, she is not a fully qualified Clerk. During the transition period running up to the present Clerks retirement, additional responsibilities will be passed to Mrs Loach, to gain knowledge and become familiar with the various activities of the Parish Council. From the 1st October, Mrs Loach will deal with planning responses in addition to her current duties. To cater for this and other items in the pipeline Mrs Loach will be employed for an additional two hours per week and Mrs Owens for two hours less. The Chairman proposed that Mrs Loach's position is amended to Assistant Clerk to the Council, Cllr Balbirnie seconded and it was agreed. The Chairman requested that Cllr Bellamy was contacted following the meeting if any further information was required or details regarding these arrangements

7. POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION

Cllr Cutting reported that there was no crime report from PCSO Haycraft for this month.

8. WORKING PARTY REPORTS

(a) Maintenance and Services

Cllr Watson reported that the National Grid still had not contacted the Parish regarding the surface water chamber works. The repairs and replacement bollards have been fitted outside the village shops. An order has been placed to supply and fit new metal seat panels to the bandstand. The Parish were asked to remove the Christmas lights and equipment from the Methodist Church, now an order has been placed to reinstate the installation. The order has been placed to fabricate a replacement Village Gateway.

The Clerk was asked to write to Terry Knight at Essex County Council to obtain

the 'speed control signs' and the 'Little Clacton Village' sign panel as previously fitted to the gateway. Also to write to Mr Barrington-Fuller confirming his agreement for the sign to be positioned on his land. The Clerk is to write to Weeley Parish Council to inform them of our intentions.

The Chairman also stated that an 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.

(1) Street Lights – Cllr Ward stated that she had been through the report and found that many lights need major works and lots are beyond repair. Cllr Ward requested that one price was sought to replace all the lights. The Chairman stated that the Parish could pay to repair the ones that were repairable and would need to leave the replacement of those beyond repair to the next financial year. Cllrs Ward and Watson to collate a list of minor maintenance together with the costs for the next meeting.

(2) Footpaths – Cllr Gray reported that the undergrowth alongside the footpath near the Blacksmiths had grown and it is now back to it's original state.

(b) Planning and Development

Cllr Wood reported on the following applications:

13/00775/FUL Solar Farm, Sladburys Lane

13/00874/FUL Erection of 1 No. Two bedroom dwelling and new access and shared driveway with No 12 Weeley Road (re-submission of approved planning application 12/00818/FUL to alter driveway boundary) 12 Weeley Road.

Decisions:

13/00729/OUT Proposed residential development Homing Road/ Thorrington Road

- Refusal

9. INTERNET

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

10. TDALC

There was nothing to report for this month, there will be a meeting next month.

11. PARISH FIELDS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Bellamy reported that the Car Boot season continues although the Bank Holiday weekend sale had to be cancelled due to heavy overnight and early morning rain.

The football season has started and the next Classic car show on 22nd September is keenly anticipated. The Youth and Community Hall continues to be used on a regular basis by a wide range of groups.

With regret, Cllr Bellamy reported further vandalism with damage to the Office Roof last Saturday night when several tiles were smashed. Repair work has been put in hand and it is hoped that CCTV images will be available to hand over to the Police. It is also suspected that a group have been taking overnight residency on the field and under the covered area by the pavilion door. The Chairman stated that the group need the Police to disperse them.

12 PHASE 2 PAVILION EXTENSION

The Chairman reported that plans were now completed and ready for submission, specifications are ready and tenders should be available in the next couple of

weeks. Cllr Bellamy is looking into grant applications and will tell you more details when available.

13 VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Dunnett reported that the work is continuing on the new extension to the rear of the Village Hall, to construct new toilets, changing room and improvements to the storeroom.

The first phase should be completed this week, and the second phase will continue straight after. Two grants have been received totalling £7,000 which considerably helps towards securing funding for the whole project.

Cllr Bellamy is to meet with Cllr Dunnett to discuss grant applications.

The Village Hall Committee is holding a fund raising Barn Dance in the Village Hall Saturday 21st September 2013. Everyone is welcome.

The annual maintenance and safety inspection on the playground equipment was recently carried out.

Apart from necessary repair work to the rubber surfacing, everything is in good condition. The hedge is due to be cut this month.

14. MILLENNIUM GREEN

Cllr Mavis Balbirnie stated that there was little to report until the Chairman of the Trust, Mrs Darnell has replied to the Parish letter. However, Cllr Balbirnie had spoken with another trust member who confirmed that no one had yet written a resignation letter.

Cllr Balbirnie reported a complaint from a resident regarding the long grass, which made it difficult to clear up after her dog. The Parish Council's Picnic bench has been vandalised and moved into the tree area. The bolts are still in situ. Cllr Balbirnie requested that volunteers were sought to move the bench back to a safe place, Cllr Cutting and Cllr Bush offered to help Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie to move the bench to safety.

15. TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie gave a written report to members of the activities at TDC during the past month which included progress on the following ongoing projects: Travellers Site at Weeley; Meeting with EEC re Weeley and Tye Bridges; Travellers Parking; Parking in Centenary Way on Car Boot Days and On-Street and Seafront Parking.

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie reported that the Clacton Carnival events were well supported and the weather was excellent. The Air show was excellent, also well attended, especially the Friday when the sun came out.

Postal/Proxy voters – Letters are going out from Tendring District Council to more than 1000 voters whose recorded signature will be over 5 years old at the end of January 2014. This is a requirement which must be carried out every 5 years.

Relevant voters should respond as soon as possible if a request is received.

Planning Dept. – In August, changes took place to the Tendring District Council Planning Department. A new planning applications advice service is being offered and a free 30 minute consultation at Weeley Council Offices reception area. More information is also available on the website.

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie mentioned the Crucial Crew older person's event to be held in the Town Hall, Clacton on 1st October 2013 2-4pm. An electrician will be available on the day to do appliance testing for small electrical appliances, if

anyone would like to bring items in for testing.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

Essex County Council	Prohibition of Traffic Order, Holland Road
Tendring District Council	Older Persons Crucial Crew 1 October Princes Theatre Local Community Resilience Workshop
Push Energy	Proposed Solar Farm, Holland Road
EALC	Annual General Meeting 26 September 2013 Making the Links afternoon conference
Oil Club	Little Clacton Heating Oil Club
Essex Air Ambulance	Donation request
Air Volition	Two wind turbines at Park Hall – Feedback
Mr Wagstaff	Millennium Green

17. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION

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

Cheques issued:	£
HMRC (PAYE)	154.20
RB Design Solutions	100.00
E.ON	292.14
Tony Nash (Maint.)	236.30
Family Support – Clacton (Aug)	125.00
Little Clacton Village Hall	6,000.00
St James PCC (grant – burial ground)	500.00
Home View Surveillance (CCTV)	160.92
GB Maintenance (Maint. Contract)	110.00
Tony Nash (Maint. contract)	236.30
Tony Nash (SF136/1)	456.50
Kendall Commercial Services (St James Churchyard)	281.03
Kendall Commercial Services (grounds maint.)	551.33

18. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

None

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie reminded everyone that toxic plants such as hog-weed and ragwort had been found growing alongside the bypass and is now found in Little Clacton. Contact with these plants can cause a particularly nasty blistering rash, and can even cause blindness in infants.

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, 7th October 2013.

Chairman
7th October 2013