

## LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2015 AT 7.30 PM

#### PRESENT

Councillor Peter Watson in the Chair

Councillors M Balbirnie, R Bellamy, J Cutting, P De Vaux Balbirnie,  
J Dunnett, H Smith, R Smith, L Gray, B Ward, E Ward and A Wood.

Essex County Councillor Erskine and in excess of 80 members of the public present.

Prior to the Meeting, audience members expressed their comments and concerns about a new proposal for development within the Parish.

#### 1. APOLOGIES

The Clerk, Audrey Owens sent her apologies.

Councillor G Bush has handed in his resignation. The Chairman said that he thought that he spoke for the whole Council in wishing him the best for the future and thanking him for his many years of Service.

District Councillor D Skeels did not attend

#### 2. ANY URGENT MATTERS

None

#### 3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2nd February 2015

Councillor Ward proposed, Councillor Gray seconded and all agreed the previous month's minutes which were then approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

We have now paid the invoice for the electricity used on the Christmas lights on the Village Green.

#### 5. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

**(a) Highway Matters:** The Chairman reported that there had been no response to our letters regarding removal of weight restriction on Weeley railway bridge, or 'night street lighting' or the flooding in Harwich Road.

Councillor Smith reported that there were cracks in the Holland Road bridge at Cooks Green. A letter should be sent to Railtrack regarding the crossing, and to Health and Safety and to Highways regarding the road surface. A copy to go to Essex County Councillor Erskine. Essex County Councillor Erskine confirmed he had asked for 30mph repeater signs to be erected along the road from Weeley through to Little Clacton now the speed limit has been reduced. He also reported that he was on the Local Highways Panel, who will be meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm at the Weeley Council Offices. The public are entitled to attend. Councillor Cutting asked about the work due on Tan Lane and the Essex County Councillor is to chase up the query.

#### **b) Parish Business**

The Chairman reported that unfortunately Audrey Owens, the Clerk was taken into hospital last week with a serious chest infection. He is pleased to say that Mrs Owens is now back home and feeling a lot better.

## **6. POLICE/CRIME PREVENTION**

Councillor Cutting stated that he had not received a report this month, however, there is the Police website where anyone can put in their post code and email, and they will be sent information back if there is anything in their area. Councillor Cutting reported that there had been 90 calls to the Police from the area which covers Thorpe le Soken, Weeley and Little Clacton.

8.52 pm The Chairman closed the meeting.

## **8.55 pm The Chairman re-opened the meeting**

### **7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

#### **(a) Maintenance and Services:**

The Chairman reported that that Contractors who were interested in carrying out our Village maintenance for the next three year period, have returned their tender documents. From the responses we have received I recommend that the various tenders are accepted and the contractors advised. In the circumstances where the prices tendered are similar, I recommend we use the contractor we have had experience with in the past and I am pleased to report that the preferred contractors costs all fall within the amounts set aside in our 2015/16 budget. The Chairman proposed that we place the contracts with the selected contractors. Both successful and unsuccessful contractors will be contacted. Councillor Balbirnie seconded and all agreed.

l) Anybody who uses the car park here at Parish Fields will notice the poor condition of the parking area and numerous serious pot holes that have resulted from the poor weather conditions we have had since last summer. Following a site inspection it was decided to undertake this work immediately before any claims were made of damage caused to car park users vehicles.

The internal playing field road, especially at the east end, is also in very bad condition and has become water logged. This will entail excavating a trench from the fence boundary to the end of the ditch, lay land drains, back fill with shingle and hardcore to consolidate surface.

Excavate a silt collection sump where the ditch runs into the underground drain to stop the underground drain becoming clogged and re-align the sides of the ditch alongside the internal roadway.

It is estimated to complete this work will require 40T road plainings; 20T No.1 hardcore, shingle, land drainage pipe, cement; hire of 3T digger; dumper & vibrator roller. Plant operatives for an estimated 4 days. Budget cost £2,837.00. We receive £1,000 per year from Essex County Council for use of car park. I recommend that this repair work is undertaken now before the car boot sale season starts.

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie offered to try and obtain the materials to repair the car park surface and would confirm the following day. (*Subsequently the material was delivered and we only incurred the cost of transport.*) Councillor Cutting proposed the repairs went ahead, Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie seconded and all agreed.

(1) **Footpath Lights** – The Chairman reported that the third phase of light replacements covering broken, non repairable and obsolete units has been completed within this years budget. It only leaves the disconnection and removal of the six concrete lighting columns located in the grass area in Harwich Road. These units are non-repairable, one

has the concrete column broken and out of the remaining five units only two are serviceable. The disconnection of the electricity to these units can only be carried out by the energy suppliers contractor and will have to be arranged for the next financial year. Councillor Ward said that there had been no unserviceable lights reported this month.

**(2) Footpaths** – Councillor Gray reported that she had had a reply to her letter to the footpath officer regarding Harwich Road footpath. They were all up to date now. The whole path may be completely re-done in the future.

**(b) Planning and Development** Councillor Wood reported on the following

**(1) Applications:**

15/00134/FUL Mr Kevin Wilson	Proposed dwelling (change in materials of dwelling approved under 11/00648/FUL.	Bramley Cottage Betts Green Road Little Clacton
15/00131/OUT N & J Barrington Fuller & A & D Fuller	To develop the land with up to 165 housing units including houses of various sizes, flats and almshouses together with a medical facility.	Land at The Street Little Clacton
15/00202/FUL Mr D Birch	Proposed detached garage	84 Harwich Road, Little Clacton

**(2) Decisions:**

<i>14/01858/OUT Refusal - Outline 06.02.2015 Delegated Decision</i>	<i>Two detached dwellings with associated garaging and parking.</i>	<i>Land at Baytree Stables Harwich Road Little Clacton Clacton On Sea</i>
<i>14/01883/OUT Refusal - Outline 11.02.2015 Delegated Decision</i>	<i>For the residential development of 0.14 ha of land to create two detached dwellings with associated garaging and parking.</i>	<i>Land to The rear of 155 Harwich Road Little Clacton</i>
<i>14/01932/FUL Approval - Full 18.02.2015 Delegated Decision</i>	<i>Substitution of dwelling types on plots 10, 11, 12 &amp; 13 of scheme approved under reference 14/00159/FUL for the provision of four x 2 bed bungalows in lieu of two x 3 bed and two 4 x bed houses.</i>	<i>Land Comprising Greengates Residential Park and adjacent 28 Weeley Road Little Clacton Clacton On Sea Essex CO16 9EN</i>

**8. INTERNET**

Councillor Bellamy said that there was nothing to report this month.

### **9. Essex County Councillor**

County Councillor Erskine reported that he was still waiting for Councillor Bass to agree the removal of bridge restrictions at the Weeley crossing. He also reported that the Highways panel would be coming up as well as new funding information and the Youth Strategy.

### **10. TDALC**

Councillor H Smith reported that the next meeting was in the third week in March, when she would not be able to attend. Councillor Cutting offered to attend in her place for this month, and he will report back next meeting.

**11. PARISH FIELDS COMPLEX** Councillor Bellamy reported that weather conditions have, again, had an adverse effect regarding football on the playing fields. Use of the Youth and Community building continues at a good level. It is hoped to carry out further work to the drainage ditch, car park surface and access road during the month ahead which should improve conditions for the Car show and Car Boot sales.

**12. PAVILION EXTENSION** The Chairman stated that there was nothing new to report pending commencement of the next stage of the project.

### **13. VILLAGE HALL**

Councillor Dunnett reported that the Village Hall AGM will be held on Wednesday evening 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.30pm. It is an open meeting and everyone is welcome. Work on the surface area of the Playground is expected to begin very shortly. The tree planting was very successfully carried out Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015. We are very grateful to all the volunteers who helped with the work.

### **14. MILLENNIUM GREEN**

Councillor M Balbirnie reported that a meeting was to be held on the Millennium Green on Wednesday afternoon 4<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm.

Councillor M Balbirnie and Councillor B Ward are to attend from the Parish Council with five residents, together with Carla Davis the Essex Practical Project Officer from the Community Voluntary Service, who recently provided the whips and volunteers in the Big Tree Plant at the Harold Lilley Playing Field, and she will be advising on the way forward with the Pond area.

Following the visit to the Green, we will be holding our first meeting on a date which is convenient to all those attending on Wednesday, where we can elect a committee and get the necessary paperwork signed, and hopefully we will then move forward with the work that needs to be done and get grants and fund raising organised. Councillor Balbirnie stated that they were looking into having the chairs set up soon and Mr Wilkins is to organise an owl box, and it is hoped that there will be an opportunity for Villagers to sponsor a bird box.

### **15. TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Councillor 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:

### **LDP Committee**

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie attended a meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February and was advised that talks have been held with Colchester Borough Council with regard to the possibility of 6000 houses from our allocation being added to the Colchester fringe which would help with the TDC allocation. This allocation is over the next 15 years, and will only be built where there is a market to sell them.

### **40mph Speed Limit over Weeley Bridge**

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie is still fighting for the 20mph limit around schools and is proposing to campaign for a pelican crossing in the Weeley School area.

### **Issues raised by Little Clacton Residents**

A number of issues including planning issues, flooding and highways have been successfully dealt with this month.

### **Part night Street Lighting**

At the recent full Council Meeting the budget was agreed with £160,000 to be put in for the street lights to go back on following public consultation. The possibility is being further considered in the light of the information which our and other villages have supplied.

### **Big Tree Plant**

Carla and volunteers from the Community Volunteer Services, together with our own volunteers, including preschool children and their parents, planted 150 whips including trees and bushes on the Harold Lilley Playing Field. Tesco, Brook Park had provided a voucher to purchase refreshments and nibbles for those attending. The event was a great success and the children especially thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

### **Engaines Chess Tournament Winners**

The local school clinched success in a chess tournament organised for local primary schools. Their 'A' team won and their 'B' Team took second place at the bi-annual competition held this time at Whitton Community Primary School in Ipswich.

### **Warning – Pharmacy 2U**

This company is asking residents to sign up for home prescription deliveries and many residents are responding to letters that they have received. However, this company has no connection with any local pharmacy and no affiliation with the Great Bentley surgery. This national company is not endorsed by Great Bentley Surgery, despite having the surgery name on the letters for, as pointed out by the Practice Manager, due to medication types this is totally inappropriate. Please warn local residents, friends and families about this letter being circulated.

## **16. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported on the following correspondence received this month:

EALC	By Email –Bulletin for 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>rd</sup> February
ECC	By email – Superfast Broadband Programme update
Mr Miller MD	By Email – FOI re: Weeley and Little Clacton from the 1950's.
LCPAS	By Email – Forthcoming Clerks Finance Course

## **17. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION**

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

Receipts

ATC Rent	£600.00
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Cheques issued:

£

HMRC (PAYE)	172.80
E.ON	292.64
RB Design Solutions	200.00
Mrs Murphy (Xmas lights)	109.95
Mr G R Harrison (service fire alarms etc)	443.00
Tony Nash (PC Maint)	878.00
Village Hall (grass & CCTV grant)	1200.00
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## **18. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The chairman stated that the next meeting is the Annual meeting and requested that all councillors bring a written report. The start time will also be earlier at 7pm.

## **19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman asked the Assistant Clerk to make enquiries regarding when the lease on the National Grid gas pressure reduction station at Parish Fields was due to be renegotiated.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm**

**The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.00pm on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015.**

**Chairman  
13th April 2015**