

## LITTLE CLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 AT 7.30 PM

#### PRESENT

**Chairperson:** J Cutting

**Councillors:** M Balbirnie, P De Vaux Balbirnie, L Gray, D Reed, M Reed, J Rowland, S Rowland, H Smith, R Smith, J Smith-Daye, B Ward.

**Tendring District Councillor** Jeff Bray

**Essex County Councillor** Andy Erskine

**Clerk:** Mrs G Loach

#### 10 residents

**Residents were given time to speak before the meeting began.**

A resident enquired about the planning development at Betts Green Road, and stated that there was no mention of water sewage or drainage concerns. He asked if this should have been on the plans or if it would be added later. He also asked about protections for a large hedge within the development. The Chairman answered the questions along with District Councillor Bray and advised residents who opposed the development to write to the Planning department at Tendring District Council.

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received this month from District Councillor Mike Brown.

#### 2. CIRCULATION AND CONTENTS OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The minutes were agreed by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> January.

#### 3. URGENT MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman reported that he had been enquiring about the process to make trespass by travellers a criminal charge, this was in response to a resident enquiry last month.

#### 4. CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman reported that he had discussed the keep left signs that need repair, and the broken pavements, and been told that Highways were not able to replace new for old, they can only take on completely new ones. He suggested we write regarding health and safety issues. Some signs are held up with tape alone, and there are some signs which cannot be seen from the road.

The Chairman attended a Planning meeting at the Town Hall with 4 others on behalf of little Clacton. Nothing can be protected until the Local Plan is ready in September 2018. District Councillor Bray said that The Local Plan is now a legal issue. Councillor Smith-Daye reported that we should demonstrate a 5-year supply is available. District Councillor Bray said that they were working on this 5-year supply clause. The Chairman suggested taking it to TDALC to get other Parishes to sign up. District Councillor Bray said that Tendring District Council were being cautious.

The Chairman reported on the repair to the main gate. He said the Insurance had been contacted and were happy with us preceding.

The Chairman reported that Mr Tony Nash had now finally returned all our items outstanding. Including a sign that we didn't know about. All charges have been dropped.

The crowns of the trees along Harwich Road have now all been lifted.

The Chairman attended the TDALC meeting this month.

He confirmed that Tendring District Council had not received any calls for an election, so the parish council vacancy will be filled by co-option. A decision will be taken at the next meeting.

## 5. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD

### (a) Highways

Councillor R Smith stated that he was concerned about the number of large lorries and trucks coming along Holland Road. The Chairman mentioned that some of the increase was due to roadworks along Kirby Road.

## 6. POLICE/CRIME REPORT

Councillor J Rowlands reported that there were no figures available to show this month. There had been an attempted robbery at Tesco Stores on Brook Park, and witnesses were being sought presently by the Police. Councillor J Rowlands recommended the Essex Community messaging services, a service which if you join, emails you if there are any incidents in your area and is free. There is a link on our website for anyone who is interested.

### Speed watch

Councillor M Reed reported that prices and costs were being sought for the equipment and will be reported on at the next meeting.

## 7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS

### (a) Maintenance and Services

Councillor S Rowland stated that the painter had asked for a contact number, and he asked if he could give the Chairman's number as he works at weekends. The Chairman agreed. Councillor S Rowland is waiting for a quote for painting the planters and fixing the perspex in some shelters.

### (i) Street lights

Councillor M Reed reported that there was one light out. The Essex County owned lights had improved lately. The Harwich Road lights were still to be fixed. An inspector did come and inspect but no report has been received yet.

(ii) **Footpaths** - Councillor Gray reported that there was no news currently.

### (b) Planning and Development

Councillor M Reed reported on the following:

#### (i). Applications:

|                 |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 16/02108/OUT –  | Holly Lodge (rear of) Betts Green Road CO16 9NH. | Development of eight bungalows.<br><br><b>Recommended refusal – Cramped, out of character and drainage issues.</b> |
| 16/02088/DETAIL | Plots 1+2 Betts Green Road CO16 9NH.             | 2 dwellings associated garaging and parking. Associated with application.<br><b>Recommend Refusal</b>              |
| 16/02085/DETAIL | Plots 3+4 Betts Green Road CO16 9NH.             | Proposed erection of 2 dwellings and associated works.<br><b>Recommend Refusal</b>                                 |
| 17/00042/FUL    | Plot 5 Betts Green Road CO16 9NH.                | New detached dwelling and garden room.   |
| 17/00032/DISCON | Land North East of Betts Green Road CO16 9NH.    | Discharge of Planning Condition 9 + 12 Planning Application 14/01668/OUT.  |

|                 |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 16/02075/DETAIL | Land South of 54 Holland Road CO16 9RS.  | Construction of one bungalow and garage. Associated with application 15/00988/OUT<br><b>Recommend Refusal</b>                      |
| 16/02076/DETAIL | Little Clacton Tennis Club CO16 9RS.     | Construction of 6 bungalows. Associated with application 15/00961/OUT<br><b>Recommended refusal – same reasons as before.</b>      |
| 16/02077/DETAIL | Land North of 54 Holland Road CO16 9RS.  | Construction of one bungalow and garage. Associated with application 15/00986/OUT  |
| 16/02059/FUL    | Belacamanda 174 The Street CO16 9LX.     | Renewal of application 13/01430/FUL. Change of use no4 Amerells Road to C2 use to existing Care Home.<br><b>Recommend Approval</b> |
| 17/00026/FUL    | 10 St Osyth Road CO16 9PH.               | Proposed loft conversion with 3 front facing pitched dormer windows.<br><b>Recommend Approval</b>                                  |
| 16/02071/FUL    | Telstar Nurseries Holland Road CO16 9QG. | Proposed erection of building to house new biomass boiler. <b>Recommend Approval – also additional signage to site</b>             |

#### **(ii) Determinations**

|              |  |   |
|--------------|--|---|
| 17/00005/OHL | Land at and adjacent Little Clacton Tennis Club CO16 9RS | Proposal to divert 11,000 volt overhead network underground. Decided (to be determined by another authority). |
| 16/01236/FUL | 6 St Osyth Road East CO16 9PH.                           | Proposed first floor extension. Approved full.  |
| 16/00427/OUT | 24 The Street CO16 9LD.                                  | Application for 10 dwellings and alteration to access. Approval Outline.                                      |

Councillor M Reed read out the determinations made by the Planning Group above and all agreed.

The Chairman reported that the '220' development proposed for London Road, had been called in and there are two possible dates: it could be 28<sup>th</sup> February or 29<sup>th</sup> March. Any views should be forwarded to the Chairman to be read at the next meeting.

The Chairman reported that the '175' development, proposed for the Car Boot Site will be going to appeal. We have the same reasons as before for refusal. Representations must be received by 24<sup>th</sup> March. This is part of the green gap.

**lii) Local Plan** – Councillor M Reed reported that the local plan had already been discussed and there was nothing further to report.

**Iv) Neighbourhood Plan** – The Neighbourhood plan must be agreed by the District Council to be recognised. Until a Local Plan is in place, this cannot be done.

#### **(c) Business and Organisation Group**

##### **i) Change of Date for June 2017**

The Chairman proposed that the June meeting date is changed to the 12<sup>th</sup>, as the Clerk is unavailable on the original date of the 5<sup>th</sup> June. All agreed and therefore the date of the June meeting will be the 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **8. INTERNET**

The Chairman stated that we were coping presently, but will be looking to update the website eventually.

Councillor J Rowlands reported that she would research websites for the Parish.

## **9. TDALC**

Councillor M Reed reported that **S106 Monies** will be replaced by the CIL (Community infrastructure Levy) when a Local Plan is finally in place.

These monies will not be affected by the located area from which they were 'earnt' but to anywhere in TDC or possibly ECC.

**Planning** was debated extensively with more Parish and Town Councils being affected by the bombardment of the developers due to no Local Plan. There are inconsistencies within the planning on decisions made with chalk and cheese outcomes on similar projects. Whilst Weeley were delighted with the 1,100 project on hold there are proposals for 304, 380 and 285, 3 substantial developments (969) not far off the 1,100 that were recently reported as no longer to happen, with Weeley being designated a Rural Services Centre. Tending are in the top percentile of Appeals allowed by the Inspector within the UK. It was also said that TDC had sent its 'land approved for housing' to the Local Government Department and if approved it would strengthen the Councils stance in Appeals - but I have no proof that this is the case, to my belief they have not agreed, TDC, that they have a five-year supply although this is heavily debated. It did note that the infrastructure was not to the standard for this mass of housing proposals.

**Health**, in particular the closure of Maternity Units and Walk in Centres was discussed urging all to comment on these closures if you felt it was unfair and detrimental to the District.

**Highways and street lighting** were discussed with Harwich Town Council spending some £8m with a saving of £600,000 in year 1 on new LED street lights, this was thought to be a waste of money and the lights were more directional and dazzle you if you look directly into them? (*Little Clacton have lowered their carbon footprint with the new LED street lights and the initial cost will be recouped within a few years due to lower electricity usage*).

**Travellers** were discussed and it was raised, by Little Clacton, that we should consider that Trespass should become a Criminal Offence thereby making it possible for the Police to move them on should they encamp in a situation whereas Trespass was undertaken. It was mentioned that Travellers chose to mainly encamp on Council owned land as they were obliged to follow legal procedures. Stories were told of farmers using muck slurry spreading tactics adjacent to illegally parked Travellers to move them on. The Speaker for the next meeting, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, were to be Roger Hirst and Jane Gardner, Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy PCC, if anyone has any questions that they would like to be raised please let me know and I will ask them on the night.

## **10. PARISH FIELDS COMPLEX**

The Chairman read out a Parish Fields report saying that the Youth and Community Hall were being well used presently. The booking Secretary is looking to move on, and a replacement will be needed soon.

## **11. VILLAGE HALL**

Councillor De Vaux Balbirnie reported that they had engaged a tree surgeon to look at the trees on the green and dead wood falling. Football leagues for ages 4 1/2 to 12 years are starting. A representative from the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) had visited

Little Clacton Village Hall and Harold Lilley Playing Field as she would be writing a feature in the next magazine showing the work that had been achieved with Grants.

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at the Little Clacton Village Hall.

#### **12. MILLENNIUM GREEN**

Councillor M Balbirnie reported that the AGM is to be held on Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Parish Fields meeting room, Plough Corner. Regarding the Green, a Heron has been frequenting the pond lately.

#### **13. ECC**

Essex County Councillor Erskine reported a lack of funds for signage information. Signage requests will be done, but remind them in March for April budget.

#### **14. TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL**

District Councillor Bray read out his report which is attached at the end of the minutes. He reminded everyone that the full Council meeting was tomorrow (7<sup>th</sup> February).

#### **15. CORRESPONDENCE**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| EALC              | e- bulletins and training schedule                        |
| TDC               | Planning Training invite 7 <sup>th</sup> April (by email) |
| UK Power Networks | Contact us leaflet  |
| Ghost Finders     | Advert for Village hall event                             |

#### **16. FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUTHORISATION**

The up to date balances of the Councils funds were noted.

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Receipts:           | £    |
| Bank loyalty reward | 2.27 |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Cheques issued:                                   | £      |
| EON (Jan)   | 455.02 |
| GR Harrison (Car Pk Flood Lights)                 | 395.00 |
| GR Harrison (Electrical testing)                  | 360.00 |
| Weeley & Little Clacton Branch RBL (Poppy wreath) | 18.50  |
| Mrs G Loach (Reimbursement for Computer software) | 113.76 |
| Bank Charges (Jan)                                | 12.85  |
|   |        |

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

The Chairman reported that we were still waiting for the plan of the car park, which has been paid for but not yet delivered.

He asked the Clerk contact the company to check progress.

#### **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor R Smith said that he would hold a traffic watch along Holland Road.

As there was no other business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

**The next meeting will be held at the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Chairman  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

## Report from Cllr Jeff Bray to Lt Clacton Parish Council 06/02/2017

Good evening to you all.

A short report this time, as the month has been relatively quiet.

Firstly I have been in contact with our rangers regarding the issues on Harwich road footpath, and the keep left signs in the village. I will forward the email thread to give you better idea of what communications have taken place.

Regarding the footpaths on Harwich road, a site meeting is being arranged with our rangers and Essex county highways, to establish the best way to resolve the problems. Both my-self and Cllr Mike Brown have been invited. I have asked if a member of the parish council also be allowed to attend, as I think input from your council would be beneficial.

Regarding the keep left signs, I have been told that ECC have issued an "all Stop" order to the rangers for the remainder of this financial year. Thus these will not be done prior to April. I have asked Steve Gove (rangers) to put in a new request for these as soon as the new financial year starts, which he will do.

Having communicated with Steve, I have learned that the Rangers are not the answer to all of our problems. They receive an annual budget from Essex highways of £80,000. This pays for the two rangers, (Steve and one other) a van, and some power tools, plus maintenance etc. Clearly with such a tiny budget and workforce, there is only a limited amount that they can do. Particularly as our district contains 60 wards. Whilst they can and do undertake small jobs all over the district, they are not able to undertake larger or more expensive tasks without the express permission of Essex county highways.

### Local Plan

At the recent local plan meeting, my group tabled an amendment that would have allowed the council to declare a five year housing supply. Despite our argument being supported by a high court judgement (case law) our amendment was defeated. We will continue to vigorously pursue this issue for the reasons below.

- 1) Our local plan policy cannot come into full force prior to 2018 because of the various legally required steps that have to be adhered to. This schedule has not changed by a single day since my election in May 2015.
- 2) A council that has a defensible Five year housing supply, is in a substantially better position to defend itself against speculative and unwanted applications, both at committee, and on appeal.
- 3) The high court judgement make it clear that "some development" from the emerging local plan, can be used in the assessment of the five year housing supply, but due to our lost amendment, we do not take this into account at this time.

There seems to be a slowly growing understanding among some, that an adopted Local plan policy without a five year housing supply is incredibly weak. Moreover a Five year housing supply, even without an adopted Local plan policy, carries a good deal of weight as it demonstrates that the council will be fulfilling its statutory duties for at least the next five years.

No doubt the argument will rumble on for a while, but I take the view that anything that helps us fight undesired speculative development must be pursued.

It should also be understood however, that even once a local plan policy is adopted for our district and even if it includes a fully demonstrable five year housing supply, there is no absolute guarantee that a speculative development outside of the local plan boundary's can always be successfully opposed.

I hope the above all makes sense.

Warm regards and best wishes

Cllr Jeff Bray (ukip) Little Clacton & Weeley