

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 12th NOVEMBER 2019 AT 8 P.M.

In the chair: Mr. K. R. Nott

Present: Mrs. K. Chapman, Mrs. A. L. Gardiner, Mr. P. Gentry, Mrs. R. K. Marsh,
Mr. D. Patient and Mr. P. E. Pawsey
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mrs. I. Parker (District Councillor)
Together with 2 (two) members of the public

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chairman gave a tribute to the late Mr. Alan Bragg, A.R.I.B.A., who had served on the Parish Council for 34 years, including a few years, as Chairman. The Chairman and Clerk had represented the Parish Council at his funeral. One minute's silence was observed.

59) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. C. Gray (child's illness), Miss. T. Kelson (illness), Mr. A. Osmond-Evans (holiday)

60) REPORT OF CASUAL VACANCY FOR LITTLE YELDHAM

The Clerk reported that consequent upon the resignation of Mr. M. Graham, a casual vacancy existed for Little Yeldham for which notices had been placed on the parish notice boards. Providing no election is requested by the 19th November 2019 the Parish Council can exercise its powers of co-option thereafter.

61) TO CO-OPT NEW COUNCILLOR FOR TILBURY JUXTA CLARE

The Chairman reported that Mrs. Claudia Gray had applied to fill the vacancy for Tilbury Juxta Clare. It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that Mrs. Gray is co-opted to fill the vacancy.

62) DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

As Mrs. Gray was unable to attend the meeting it was agreed to allow her until at or before the next meeting to sign her declaration of acceptance of office.

63) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

64) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th September 2019, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

65) MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

a) Former Land Settlement Association Piggeries

Mr. P. Gentry reported that he had again asked Mr. C. Paggi of BDC for an update, but he had not replied.

b) Little Yeldham Village Hall

Mr. D. Patient enquired about the Village Hall accounts. The Chairman confirmed that the accounts for the last five years had been produced, circulated to councillors and the issue of the accounts was closed. Mr. Patient reported that the chains across the entrance and exit to the Village Hall car park had caused issues in the village, including parking hazards in the vicinity. The attempts by the Village Hall Committee to charge people to park their vehicles in the Village Hall car park, was deplored and the claim that travellers would park their caravans in this comparatively small area was ludicrous. It was understood that no proper vote had been taken by the Village Hall Committee before the chains had appeared. It was reported that other Village Halls allow parking and no other known Village Hall stops parking. It was agreed that parking around the Village Hall is a village amenity, including for church use and should be allowed by the Village Hall Management Committee.

There were no other matters arising.

66) CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received and listed in appendix one was referred to Councillors for information and the contents noted

67) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported that £40.63 had been received from U. K. Power Networks in respect of the annual wayleave payment.

The following accounts were presented for payment:

Mr. John Bright – grass and hedge cutting in Little Yeldham	£289.00
My Garden Arb Business Limited – grass cutting in Little Yeldham	£1170.00
Mr. P. E. Pawsey – grass and hedge cutting in Ovington	£385.35
Mr. Kevin Shears – grass cutting in Tilbury Juxta Clare	£282.00
Joe Berens Tree Care - removal of willow tree at Little Yeldham Playing Field	£720.00
Mr. A. Corder-Birch – Clerk’s half year salary	£447.00
Petty Cash	<u>£100.00</u> £547.00
H. M. Revenue and Customs	£120.00
Essex Pension Fund	£165.84
Essex and Herts Air Ambulance – donation under S137 of LGA 1972	£100.00

It was proposed by Mr. P. Gentry, seconded by Mrs. R. Marsh and carried that the above accounts are paid and that the donation to Essex and Herts Air Ambulance is authorized under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

68) UPDATE UPON ECC LOCAL SERVICE FUND GRANT

The Clerk reported upon the continuing and most unsatisfactory position concerning the ECC Local Service Fund Grant, which is administered by EALC. The second instalment of the grass and hedge cutting grant had still not been paid. The Clerk had continued to pursue Cllr. Finch, ECC and EALC. Apparently ECC had instructed EALC to make payment of £1355 to the Parish Council, but EALC alleged they were not in funds and were waiting for payment from ECC. It was understood that the grant should be paid following a further meeting on 15th November and that it would be the last payment under the Local Services Fund scheme. Although it had been suggested that an

application for further funding is now made to an alternative scheme namely the Community Initiatives Fund it was resolved not to apply.

69) TO ELECT PC REPRESENTATIVE TO VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Consequent upon the resignation of Mr. M. Graham, it was resolved to revoke the relevant parts of minute 8 of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2019 namely the appointment of Mr. Graham as (a) the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee, (b) as councillor responsible for reporting highway defects and (c) his position as a PROW representative. It was resolved not to fill the latter because Mrs. Gardiner and Mrs. Marsh were already representatives. It was proposed by Mr. P. E. Pawsey, seconded by Mr. D. Patient and carried that Mr. P. J. Gentry is elected as the new Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee. The Clerk agreed to notify Little Yeldham Village Hall Management Committee of the new appointment.

70) TO ELECT HIGHWAY DEFECTS REPRESENTATIVE FOR LT. YELDHAM

It was proposed by Mr. P. J. Gentry, seconded by Mr. P. E. Pawsey and carried that Mr. D. Patient is elected as the new highways defects representative for Little Yeldham.

71) TO APPOINT NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBMASTER

It was proposed by Mr. P. E. Pawsey, seconded by Mr. D. Patient and carried that Mr. P. J. Gentry is appointed as the new Parish Council Webmaster. Mr. Gentry was thanked for acting as temporary webmaster during the last few weeks and for bringing the website up to date.

72) TREES ON LITTLE YELDHAM PLAYING FIELD

The chairman reported that Joe Berens Tree Care had removed the willow tree from the corner of the Playing Field near one of the Sewell's Farm barns. The Clerk had communicated with UK Power Networks and requested that they remove branches and foliage away from their power lines on the trees in the Playing Field along School Road. As a result UK Power Networks had claimed that they are only currently undertaking such work where high voltage cables exist, but declined to carry out work along School Road where only low voltage power lines exist. However UK Power Networks had initially offered to turn off the power whilst the PC tree surgeon carries out the work, which was unsatisfactory. They had later stated that their Tree Manager had asked their contractor to quote for the works which was more encouraging. Joe Berens had advised that as the PC had informed UK Power Networks that foliage or limbs were growing into the power lines, that is all which is required by the PC and the work is now the responsibility of UK Power Networks. It was agreed to make further attempts to get UK Power Networks to carry out the work and to emphasize safety and the children's playing field. It was further agreed:

- a. That following completion of works by UK Power Networks, Joe Berens Tree Care is requested to quote for the remaining tree work specified in the report.
- b. That if the quote is over one thousand pounds competitive quotes must be requested from two other contractors on BDC list of approved tree surgeons.

- c. That upon receipt of quotes the RFO is to provide advice upon funding to the PC before any order is placed.
- d. That the successful contractor must seek approval from BDC before carrying out work on any trees, which are subject to TPOs.

Mrs. A. L. Gardiner reported that she is happy to arrange maintenance of the trees after the above work has been completed and was thanked for her offer.

73) PROW'S IN LITTLE YELDHAM AND TILBURY JUXTA CLARE

Mrs. R. Marsh reported that little progress had been made since the last meeting. Maps, measurements and an order for way markers had been sent to the relevant ECC Officer, but no response had been forthcoming despite a reminder. A local farmer could be contracted to cut additional PROWs upon a modest payment by ECC. Jays Lane had been satisfactorily cleared and looks good. As the ECC Officer had not responded to recent communications from Mrs. Marsh, it was agreed that the Clerk should ask Mr. D. Finch to intervene. (Post Meeting note: The Officer responded to Mrs. Marsh the day after the meeting).

74) MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING COURSE

Miss. T. Kelson had sent a written report stating that the course was excellent. Mrs. K. Chapman agreed and added that it had been very relevant and useful. Information packs had been given to those who attended and it had been a good opportunity to talk to like-minded people.

75) TO CONSIDER DEFIBRILLATOR AT TILBURY JUXTA CLARE

Miss. T. Kelson had sent a written report stating that she had obtained a quote and a resident of Tilbury Juxta Clare was helping her with a lottery funding request.

76) TO CONSIDER MAINTENANCE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Mrs. I. Parker reported that no funding was available from any planning permissions in Little Yeldham towards maintenance of public open spaces under S106 Agreements. The Chairman reported that he had inspected the play equipment and although the metalwork is sound, the surface needs attention. With regard to funding Mrs. Parker suggested (a) the BDC Councillor grant for 2020-2021, but only limited funds may be available and (b) Essex Community Foundation. Mrs. Parker will send details of these funds to Mr. Gentry and it was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

77) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Mrs. I. Parker reported on the following:

- a. Local Plans – The proposed Garden Communities consultation will start on 14th January 2020 and will last for three weeks.
- b. Strategic investments – Manor Street development in Braintree and Witham Enterprise Centre.
- c. The Old Hyde planning application at Little Yeldham when an additional condition had been made that the hedge is to be further back than proposed in the interests of visibility and road safety.

Mrs. Parker was thanked for her report.

78) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

In the absence of Mr. D. Finch no report was given.

79) TO FIX DATES FOR PARISH COUNCIL AND PARISH MEETINGS IN 2020

The dates for meetings in 2020 at 8pm at the Village Hall, Little Yeldham, were agreed:

7th January - Parish Council (Post meeting note – date changed to 28th January 2020)

3rd March – Ovington Annual Parish Meeting – Upper Farm, Ovington

10th March – 7.30pm Little Yeldham Annual Parish Meeting & 8pm Parish Council

28th April – Tilbury Juxta Clare Annual Parish Meeting – Tilbury Church

12th May – Annual Parish Council Meeting

21st July – Parish Council

8th September – Parish Council

10th November – Parish Council

80) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Highway signs

Mr. D. Patient reported that his wife had cleared vegetation away from and cleaned all highway signs in Little Yeldham and was thanked by Councillors.

b) Campaign Against Urban Sprawl

Mr. Patient referred to the Campaign Against Urban Sprawl and the three proposed Garden Villages in north Essex. Following email communications Councillors had opposed ‘urban sprawl’ and the proposed Garden Villages. The Clerk confirmed that the campaign had been notified and the name of the Parish Council had been added to the numerous other Parish Councils opposed to such development. Mrs. K. Chapman reported upon the media campaign against development.

c) Road diversions

Mrs. R. Marsh reported that road closures and diversions were not working properly. Mr. D. Patient agreed to raise this with ECC Highways as a highway defect.

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)