

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY, 10th NOVEMBER 2020 AT 8 P.M.

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry

Present: Mrs. K. Chapman, Mrs. A. L. Gardiner, Mrs. C. M. P. Gray, Mrs. R. K. Marsh, Mr. D. Patient, Mr. P. E. Pawsey and Mrs. M. D. Pearce
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)

1) TO APPROVE MEETING TAKING PLACE BY ZOOM

In view of Government Regulations arising from Coronavirus, it was agreed this meeting takes place by Zoom. The chair was taken by the Vice Chairman, Mr. P. J. Gentry, because the Chairman, Mr. K. R. Nott, was experiencing a poor broadband connection.

2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. K. R. Nott (poor broadband connection), Mr. A. Osmond-Evans (recovering from an operation) and Miss. T. Kelson

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

4) TO APPROVE DECISIONS TAKEN BY EMAIL SINCE MARCH 2020

Consequent upon the lockdowns, shielding, self-isolation and difficulties caused by the Coronavirus regulations a number of decisions had been taken by email since March 2020. It was unanimously agreed that those decisions are ratified as follows:

- a) Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 10th March 2020 confirmed.
- b) Accounts for year 2019-2020 approved.
- c) Accounting statements on annual return for 2019-2020 approved.
- d) Annual Governance statement for 2019-2020 approved.
- e) Exemption from limited assurance review of accounts for 2019-2020 certified.
- f) Election of all positions confirmed until May 2021.

The Clerk confirmed that the internal audit of the accounts had been completed by Mr. A.J. Money and relevant documentation added to the PC website.

5) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 10TH MARCH 2020

There were no matters arising.

6) CORRESPONDENCE

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

7) ACCOUNTS

Appendix two containing receipts, accounts paid since April 2020 and accounts to approve for payment was circulated to councillors. It was proposed by Mrs. R. Marsh, seconded by Mrs. K. Chapman and carried that the accounts for payment are approved.

8) UPDATE UPON PLANNING APPLICATION AT 70 LITTLE YELDHAM RD

Mr. P. J. Gentry briefly updated councillors upon the recent planning history relating to 70 Little Yeldham Road (Appln. No. 20/01142/FUL) which had been opposed by the Parish Council and many residents, upon inter alia, the grounds of non-compliance with BDCs planning policies. BDC had failed to follow the correct procedure under its delegation process and had mistakenly granted planning permission for which it had apologised. A neighbour had instructed solicitors who had commenced steps towards a Judicial Review, by serving a Pre-Action Protocol letter upon BDC seeking a remedy. BDC had admitted its mistake, apologised and consented to the permission being quashed. A sealed Court order quashing the decision was awaited and thereafter the application will have to be determined by the BDC Planning Committee. On two occasions the Parish Council had asked that when the application is returned to BDC that it is re-assessed by different planning officers and by officers who have knowledge of the planning history of the former Land Settlement Estate. BDC had failed to reply.

Mrs. M. Pearce expressed concern about the comments of Mr. C. Paggi, the Planning Development Manager, prior to the Judicial Review process, when he had stated in his letter of 9th October 2020 that his *'preliminary view is that there are no sound planning grounds for refusing permission (and) the report which would have been presented to the Planning Committee would have been the same as the Delegated Report that the decision was based upon'*. Councillors agreed with Mrs. Pearce, that the comments from Mr. Paggi reinforced the request that the application be re-assessed by different officers in the future.

Mrs. Pearce reported that a BDC Planning Committee meeting was taking place simultaneously with the PC Zoom meeting, when BDC were considering a very similar planning application for a dwelling in the garden of 20 Ridgewell Road, Great Yeldham, which was also on part of the former LSA estate. Whilst the PC meeting was in progress, news was received that BDC had refused planning permission for 20 Ridgewell Road and it was therefore considered that they should also refuse permission for 70 Little Yeldham Road. The two sites were compared and as 20 Ridgewell Road was on a main road it was more likely to have been granted permission than 70 Little Yeldham Road on a minor country lane. When the application for 70 Little Yeldham Road is returned to BDC it was agreed to continue to strenuously oppose it.

9) TO CONSIDER BDC DELEGATION SCHEME

Mr. P. J. Gentry reported that the Parish Council had been consulted by BDC upon its review of its scheme of delegation and proposals for member engagement. In consultation with Little Yeldham Planning Advisory Group he had drafted a response, which was circulated to councillors for consideration.

Mr. P. E. Pawsey observed that BDC wants Parish Councils to be more relevant, but the proposed revisions take this away from Parish Councils. If Parish Councils object to an application they need to retain rights to refer the application to the BDC Planning Committee to consider and there needs to be scrutiny by the Planning Committee.

Mr. D. Patient queried the definition of 'Countryside' in this context, which was clarified. Following some discussion, it was proposed, seconded and carried that the draft is approved and is sent to BDC by its 13th November 2020 deadline.

10) TO CONSIDER A WELCOME PACK FOR NEW RESIDENTS

Mr. P. J. Gentry reported that Mrs. E. Clayton had asked Mr. K. R. Nott if the Parish Council could prepare ‘Welcome Packs’ for new residents. She had offered to work with and help a councillor to prepare packs. Mrs. K. Chapman reported that Mrs. Clayton had also contacted her about packs and they had considered packs from other villages, some of which were quite extensive and even in ring binders. Following some discussion it was resolved that in view of the IT now available, that it is more appropriate to include this information on the PC Website, on Facebook and in the Four Villages Magazine.

11) UPDATE UPON PROW_s IN LITTLE YELDHAM

Mrs. A. L. Gardiner reported that CCTV signs had been erected at Jays Lane following rubbish being dumped. Mrs. K. Chapman reported that another vehicle had slipped off Byway 17 and into the brook, necessitating reinstatement of the bank. Mrs. Chapman kindly agreed to take photos to enable Mrs. Gardiner to report it to ECC Highways Department. Mrs. Gardiner had reported previous problems, but ECC had attended at the wrong location. Mrs. R. K. Marsh reported that a fallen tree had recently been removed from Marshy Lane, but the second lockdown had necessitated work being stopped again.

12) TO CONSIDER DATES FOR MEETINGS IN 2021

The Clerk had previously circulated a list of proposed dates in Schedule three attached. The dates, times and locations were approved and where necessary it was agreed that meetings should continue to be held by Zoom. Nearer the time it was agreed to review the possibility of the three Annual Parish Meetings being pushed back to late May, if it would result in face to face meetings rather than Zoom.

13) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Litter on the former Ridgewell Airfield

A resident had informed Mr. Nott that Mr. & Mrs. P. Last of Tilbury Juxta Clare had voluntarily picked up large quantities of litter on the former airfield following an illegal rave attended by a reputed one thousand ravers. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks.

b) Mashey Road

Mr. Patient reported that Mashey Road was in a bad state with mud and water on the road and was concerned about water freezing in icy weather, causing a hazard. Mrs. Marsh reported that farmers usually put up signs stating ‘Caution–Mud on Road’ and Mrs. C. Gray reported that this autumn had been the wettest on record and therefore drilling had taken longer than usual. Upon completion mud should be washed off the road.

c) Blocked drain in Little Yeldham Road

Mrs. A. L. Gardiner reported a blocked drain along Little Yeldham Road, which Mr. D. Patient agreed to report online to ECC Highways Department.

There was no other business. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)