

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND
OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY, 12th
JANUARY 2021 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. R. R. Nott and Mrs. M. D. Pearce
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)

14) TO APPROVE THE VICE CHAIRMAN TAKING THE CHAIR

Councillors approved the chair being taken by the Vice Chairman, Mr. P. J. Gentry, although the Chairman, Mr. K. R. Nott, was in attendance throughout the meeting.

15) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Miss. T. Kelson, Mr. A. Osmond-Evans, Mr. P. E. Pawsey and Mrs. I. Parker

16) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs. K. Chapman and Mr. P. Gentry, declared interests in connection with agenda item 7 (minute 21 below), as members of Little Yeldham Village Hall Management Committee. There were no other interests declared.

17) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th November 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a correct record.

18) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

19) CORRESPONDENCE

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

20) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported that he had sent a claim to H. M. Revenue and Customs for refund of VAT paid during the year 2020 amounting to £995.77.

The Clerk also reported that since the last meeting the following account had been paid:

Society of Local Council Clerks – annual subscription £67.00

It was proposed by Mr. K. R. Nott, seconded by Mrs. R. K. Marsh and carried that the payment is approved.

21) TO CONSIDER BUDGET AND SETTLE PRECEPT FOR 2021-2022

The RFO presented the following budget:

Grass and hedge cutting	£2722.00
Administration	£2857.00
Village Halls	£800.00

Air Ambulance donation	£100.00
Tree safety report	£500.00
Allowance for inflation	<u>£221.00</u>
	£7200.00

He explained that this represented savings of £1965 over 2020-2021, (which was £9165), made up as to £965 for maintenance of play equipment, which was a one off payment last year and £1000 for tree surgery leaving £500, which should more than cover the estimate of £350 for an annual tree safety inspection to comply with insurance requirements.

Mr. K. R. Nott reported that both Belchamp St. Paul Community House and Little Yeldham Village Hall had suffered with loss of bookings and income as a result of the Coronavirus. He proposed that both grants are doubled for 2021-2022 only, which would amount to another £800. It was therefore proposed by Mr. K. R. Nott, seconded by Mrs. M. Pearce and carried that the Parish Council precepts for £8000 exactly for 2021-2022. Arrangements were made for the presiding chairman, Mr. P. J. Gentry, to sign the precept form, which will be countersigned by the RFO. It was agreed to notify the Community House and the Village Hall of the increase in grant for one year only and to bring the date of payment forward to May 2021 to help both organisations.

22) UPDATE UPON PLANNING APPLICATION AT 70 LITTLE YELDHAM RD

Mr. P. J. Gentry outlined the recent planning history relating to 70 Little Yeldham Road which had been opposed by the Parish Council and many residents. BDC had failed to follow the correct procedure under its delegation process and had mistakenly granted planning permission. This had been rescinded under Judicial Review and the application will have to be determined by BDC Planning Committee. On two occasions the Parish Council had asked that when the application is returned to BDC, it is re-assessed by different planning officers and by officers who have knowledge of the planning history of the former Land Settlement Estate. BDCs response had been very negative. On 10th November 2020 BDC Planning Committee had considered 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. The officers had recommended refusal and Mrs. I. Parker had put forward a strong case in favour of rejection on the basis that the LSA estate is a special case and she quoted the well-known BDC policy against infill, which the Parish Council helped to formulate. Councillors therefore considered when 70 Little Yeldham Road is determined, the officers should also recommend refusal, the Ward Member should also make a strong case for rejection and BDC should refuse permission for 70 Little Yeldham Road as the two sites are very similar and both on the former LSA estate. When the application for 70 Little Yeldham Road is re-determined by BDC it was agreed to strenuously oppose it.

23) REPORT UPON BDC DELEGATION SCHEME

Mr. P. J. Gentry reported that the representations approved at the last Parish Council meeting had been sent to BDC, which had unfortunately not accepted them. Therefore the scheme of delegation and proposals for member engagement had been approved by BDC as originally drafted. Nevertheless it was hoped that appropriate applications will still be referred to the Planning Committee for determination. If Parish Councils object to an application, even for one house, they have now lost the right to refer the application

to the BDC Planning Committee to consider. Councillors had watched the BDC meeting online and were very concerned that Mrs. I. Parker had supported the planning officers in connection with the revised scheme. Mr. D. Patient was particularly disappointed with the outcome and that protection for rural areas was being eroded. He had carried out research into other LSA estates, particularly that at Abingdon and reported upon his findings. The poor decision made by BDC could result in the former LSA estate being treated like other areas and not as a special case. Mr. Gentry stated that the provisions against infill on the former LSA estate had become part of BDC policy in its Local Plan and it should comply with its own policies. If it deviates from its planning policies it must explain the grounds of non-compliance.

24) REPORT UPON BRAINTREE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Mr. P. J. Gentry reported that a meeting had been arranged for 9th December 2020 by EALC, which desired to re-establish BALC. Mr. K. R. Nott had asked Mr. Gentry to represent the Parish Council, but unfortunately Broadband problems had prevented this. It was hoped that BALC will be re-formed and it was agreed to await developments.

25) UPDATE UPON PROWs IN LITTLE YELDHAM

Mrs. R. K. Marsh reported that ECC had invited PROW representatives to send photos of footpaths, which had been ploughed up by farmers and not reinstated, within the requisite time. A number of photos had been sent, but were mainly of footpaths in Belchamp, but they join the network of footpaths in Little Yeldham.

Mrs. A. L. Gardiner reported that the majority of signs and way-markers had been erected, with only a couple left to do. Thanks were expressed to Mrs. Gardiner for arranging the erection of poles each end of Jays Lane to prevent vehicular access, but allowing horses, pedestrians and cyclist's access.

26) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Trees at North End

Mrs. K. Chapman enquired about ownership of trees at North End and the Clerk confirmed there were no trees on that part of the Village Green, owned by the PC.

b) Blocked drain in Little Yeldham Road

Mr. D. Patient reported a blocked drain in Little Yeldham Road towards the Great Yeldham direction, which he will report to ECC Highways Department online.

c) Litter in Little Yeldham

Councillors expressed concern about the quantity of litter in Little Yeldham. Mr. D. Patient agreed to enquire about the new 'No litter' signs, which had appeared in the area. The Clerk agreed to order some litter pickers and purple sacks specifically for street litter.

There was no other business. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)