

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 9th MARCH 2021 AT 8 P.M BY ZOOM TELECONFERENCING SERVICE DUE TO THE PANDEMIC.

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry

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

27) TO APPROVE THE VICE CHAIRMAN TAKING THE CHAIR

Councillors approved the chair being taken by the Vice Chairman, Mr. P. J. Gentry.

28) TRIBUTE TO MR. PETER CLAYTON

Mr. P. J. Gentry gave the following tribute to Mr. Peter Clayton who died on 14th February 2021. William Peter Clayton, who preferred to be known as Peter, was first elected to Little Yeldham, Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington Parish Council in 1996 and was re-elected at every subsequent election until the last election in 2019 when he decided not to seek re-election, purely on the grounds of age, because he enjoyed the work enormously. He had served as both Vice Chairman and as Chairman of the Parish Council. He was previously Clerk of Chilton Parish Council so had a good knowledge of Parish Councils and Local Government generally. For many years up to 2020 he was Internal Auditor for Belchamp St. Paul and Belchamp Otten Parish Council, in which position he was most careful and meticulous, earning enormous respect and gratitude from that Council. He carried out much voluntary work in Little Yeldham and North End from regularly picking up litter to repairing and treating the bus shelters with wood preservative. He was very much 'hands on' and could be seen clearing blocked drains in North End, supplying salt during icy weather and 'policing' the annual skip; at North End. He was very conscientious and put in many hours work as a councillor and had coordinated representations to BDC upon planning applications in Little Yeldham. Quite apart from the Parish Council he was also the hardworking and dedicated treasurer for the Friends of St. John the Baptist Church at Little Yeldham, to preserve the fabric of the ancient building, which is part of our heritage and he will be greatly missed.

Other councillors desired to be associated with this tribute. Mr. P. E. Pawsey stated that Peter Clayton had been a real asset to the Parish Council spoke common sense and was very sound. Mr. D. Patient mentioned his welcome and help to new Councillors. He had been a mentor to many and was a very kind and thoughtful man. Mrs. R. Marsh enquired if there was a charity, which could benefit from donations in his memory and the Friends of St. John the Baptist Church, was suggested.

29) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. K. Chapman (another commitment), Mrs. C. M. P. Gray (delayed appointment), Mr. K. R. Nott (illness), Mr. A. Osmond-Evans (illness) and Mrs. I. Parker

It was noted that Miss. T. Kelson had been absent from recent meetings and the Clerk was asked to make enquiries.

30) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

31) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th January 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, were confirmed and will be signed by the vice chairman as a correct record, when it is safe to do so.

32) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

33) CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) The invitation from BDC to renew the Grounds Maintenance SLA for grass cutting on Little Yeldham Playing Field for 2021. BDC desired to add 3.61% for inflation and deduct 5% discount for not operating a full service the previous year owing to Covid. This equates to £821.96, which is a saving of £8.04 over last year. It was resolved to accept these figures and renew the SLA.
- b) It was also agreed to renew the Street Cleansing Agreement with BDC for another year. Arising from this the Clerk was authorized to order the usual four skips for August Bank Holiday weekend and details of the gully sweeps will be advertised. Arrangements had been made for litter pickers, sacks, hi viz jackets, etc., to be delivered by BDC to Mrs. R. Marsh for collection by volunteers.
- c) Mrs. I. Parker had requested support for three highway matters as follows:
 - (i) Deer warning signs along Belchamp Road near Mashey Wood.
 - (ii) Horse rider signs between Mashey Road and Jays Lane
 - (iii) Install kerb stones on bend opposite the drive to Upper Yeldham Hall.

It was agreed to support all three requests.

34) ACCOUNTS

There were no accounts for payment.

35) TO CONSIDER SOMETHING TO REMEMBER MR. PETER CLAYTON

This agenda item was requested by Mrs. K. Chapman, who was unable to attend the meeting, so it was deferred until the next meeting.

36) TO CONSIDER BUS SHELTER AT CHURCH GREEN, LITTLE YELDHAM

A letter from Lambert Smith Hampton, acting for ECC, which is seeking ownership of the bus shelter at Church Green, Little Yeldham was circulated and considered. The Clerk advised that the freehold is owned by the Parish Council and included in the same Land Registry title as the Playing Field. The desire by ECC to acquire the freehold interest of the bus shelter was puzzling and there was no guarantee that it would be maintained in the future. In the circumstances, it was resolved to decline the request by ECC. Mr. Gentry kindly offered to treat the bus shelter with wood preservative when necessary in the future, which was gratefully accepted.

37) REPORT UPON THE BRAINTREE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Mr. P. J. Gentry reported upon a Zoom meeting, in which he had participated on 25th February on behalf of the Chairman. 27 Parish Councils in the Braintree District had been represented. The Working Party had reported back and the proposal to reform the BALC had been widely supported. A small affiliation fee will be payable by member Councils and the next meeting will take place in April.

38) TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL PLAY EQUIPMENT ON PLAYING FIELD

A request from Jay Stevens, a resident of Little Yeldham, for additional play equipment on Little Yeldham Playing Field was considered. It was understood that she had previously been in contact with Cllr. K. Chapman and Cllr. I. Parker who may make funds available from the BDC Councillor Grant Scheme.

Mrs. M. Pearce fully supported this initiative and had enquired into the current position. It seemed that there were 30 to 40 children living in or connected to the village who use the playing field, but some also use Ridgewell and Ashen Playing Fields, which have recently been refurbished. Information was given concerning fund raising and the provision of equipment at Ridgewell. It was recommended that a similar project for Little Yeldham may be more successful if funding is secured for all age groups to include an area for sitting and a scented garden. There could be an opportunity to install memorial benches (perhaps one for Peter Clayton). Mrs. Pearce offered to canvas the village, with help from Mrs. Chapman to seek volunteers, perhaps for a committee and support generally.

Mrs. A. L. Gardiner offered her support.

Mr. D. Patient raised concern about how much the playing field is used and the lack of parking for residents who lived beyond Church Green and School Road.

Mrs. R. Marsh shared Mr. Patient's concerns, but agreed that the playing field needs some improvements.

Mrs. A. L. Gardiner reported that her husband was willing to erect a gate and help establish a parking area on the playing field.

Mr. P. J. Gentry stated that one of his missions was to get the chains removed from the Village Hall Car Park to allow parking in the village, which will facilitate the use of the playing field and Church. Councillors fully supported the removal of the chains.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the playing field is owned by the Parish Council, which must make all decisions. It was not clear if the playing field at Ridgewell was Parish Council owned, or not, because according to Ridgewell's Parish Plan the project for new playground equipment was not led by their Parish Council, but by a Playground Improvement Project (PIP) supported by their Village Hall Committee and residents. In Little Yeldham a Parish Council Playing Field Sub-Committee may be appointed, but at least two thirds must be members of the Parish Council.

It was agreed to take the following steps at no cost to the Parish Council:

- a. That Mrs. Pearce participates in the free online course for grant funding.
- b. That with help from Mrs. Chapman, the village is canvassed to ascertain support.
- c. Three suppliers are asked to draw up initial plans free of charge.

39) UPDATE UPON PROWs IN LITTLE YELDHAM

Mrs. A. L. Gardiner reported that a milk float had been driven along Byway 17 and got stuck, causing damage. Previous damage by another vehicle had been reported to ECC Highways, which had declined to take any action as it was regarded as 'non important'. All signs and way-markers had been erected, with a few left in stock for future use.

Mrs. R. K. Marsh reported upon a forthcoming training course for first aid for PROW representatives.

Mr. D. Patient reported that some members of the public were not using the correct route of the footpath off Little Yeldham Road and Mrs. Gardiner will arrange for direction posts to be erected in the correct position.

40) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Blocked drains in the highways at Ovington

Mr. P. E. Pawsey reported upon a problem with a blocked drain in the highway at Silver End, Ovington and thanked the Clerk for pursuing the issue with ECC Highways. As a result the road will be closed from 15th March for a few days for investigation and repair. Mr. Pawsey reported that there were two more blocked drains in highways at Ovington, namely near the sewage plant in Ashen Road and near the pond at Upper Farm, which the Clerk agreed to report to ECC Highways online.

b) Blocked drain in Little Yeldham Road

Mrs. A. L. Gardiner asked Mr. D. Patient to report two blocked drains in Little Yeldham Road to ECC Highways Department online. Mr. Patient reported that one of them had previously been reported and that the road from Great Yeldham, through Little Yeldham and North End will soon be closed for resurfacing.

c) Overhanging hedge in Little Yeldham Road

An overhanging hedge near 72 Little Yeldham Road was reported. The Clerk advised that hedges were the landowner's responsibility. Mr. R. and Mrs. A. L. Gardiner will ask the owner to cut the hedge.

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)