

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 18th JANUARY 2022 AT 8 P.M.

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry

Present: Mrs. R. K. Marsh, Mr. K. R. Nott, Mr. A. Osmond-Evans, Mr. D. Patient,
Mr. P. E. Pawsey, Mrs. M. D. Pearce and Mr. J. H. Russell
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mr. P. Schwier (County Councillor)
Mrs. I. Parker (District Councillor)
Together with one member of the public

79) CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked those attending the meeting on a very cold evening.

80) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. K. Chapman (working), Mrs. A. L. Gardiner (working away) and Mrs. C. M. P. Gray (filming work)

81) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

82) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a correct record.

83) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Unwin Close (Sewell's Farm development)

The Clerk reported that BDC, as Street Naming Authority, considered that there were too many nearby dwellings (at least three houses and a bungalow) using the 'Sewell's' name, so that 'Unwin Close' was preferred, which was acceptable to the developer.

There were no other matters arising.

84) CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Clerk had previously circulated an email from BDC regarding a campaign calling for legislation to allow Local Authorities to have the choice to meet remotely. The Parish Council supported the petition and individual councillors will also add their names.

85) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported that he had sent a claim to HMRC for refund of VAT paid during the year 2021 amounting to £1,082.26 for which payment was awaited.

86) TO CONSIDER BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2022-2023

The Clerk presented a proposed budget for 2022-2023 and recommended a decrease of £200 over 2021-2022 to reduce the precept from £8,000 to £7,800 and gave details of proposed adjustments, including increases and deductions. It was agreed to increase the annual grants to Little Yeldham Village Hall and Belchamp Community House from £400 to £500 each per annum. It was proposed by Mr. K. R. Nott, seconded by Mr. P. E. Pawsey and carried that the Parish Council accepts the budget and precepts for £7,800 for 2022-2023 made up as follows:

Grass and hedge cutting and fuel	£2,722
Administration	£3,100
Village Halls	£1,000
Air Ambulance (S137 Donation)	£200
Community Policing	£500
Inflation	<u>£278</u>
	£7,800

The precept form was completed signed by the Chairman and countersigned by the Clerk.

87) UPDATE UPON LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND EQUIPMENT

The Chairman thanked Mrs. M. Pearce for setting up the Little Yeldham Recreation Ground Advisory Group, which had held its first meeting, following which Mrs. Pearce had circulated minutes. The Chairman circulated draft Terms of Reference for the Little Yeldham Recreation Ground Advisory Group, setting out guidelines within which the Group should operate, which was carefully considered. Mr. K. R. Nott asked questions about accounts, which the RFO answered. It was confirmed that all funding will come from grants and fund raising events and not from PC resources or the precept. No orders will be placed until sufficient funding is in place and any surplus will go towards future maintenance costs. Mrs. Pearce reported that the next meeting of the Group will be held on 9th February when Mrs. A. L. Gardiner will be joining. It was proposed by Mr. K. R. Nott, seconded by Mr. A. Osmond-Evans and carried:

- (i) That the Terms of Reference are approved.
- (ii) That the Advisory Group is free to apply to all relevant sources for funding.
- (iii) That the funding resources recommended on the EALC website are explored.
- (iv) That the proposed Spring Fair is approved when the village can be introduced to the scheme.
- (v) That a children's drawing competition is arranged for desired items of play equipment, for which all drawings will be laminated and displayed.
- (vi) That Mrs. K. Chapman will carry out publicity, including social media.
- (vii) That Mr. J. Russell will make a thermometer for fundraising purposes.

The Clerk advised that (iv) is important in connection with grant applications so that judging panels can see that the village is supporting the scheme and also raising funds.

The Terms of Reference accompany these minutes as appendix two.

88) UPDATE UPON CELEBRATIONS FOR QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

It was reported that in Little Yeldham, four volunteers had joined Councillors to help arrange Jubilee events. A meeting will be held at Red House on 4th February to make

arrangements. A representative of Little Yeldham Village Hall Committee had kindly offered to arrange a hog roast, which was gratefully accepted.

Mr. A. Osmond-Evans reported upon his visit to the Half Moon at Belchamp St. Paul and proposed arrangements for an event for Tilbury Juxta Clare.

89) REPORT UPON THE BRAINTREE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Mr. P. J. Gentry reported upon a Zoom meeting of the Executive Committee held on 6th January 2021 and that more PCs in the Braintree District are joining. The proposal by BDC to cease paying a share of the Collection Fund Surplus to Town and Parish Councils had been strenuously opposed by BALC through its Chairman. The next meeting will be held on 27th January 2022 by Zoom.

90) TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY POLICING

Mrs. R. Marsh reported that she will insert an article in the Parish Magazine, with photos and contact details to seek someone to take on the role of Special Constable. She will also ask Mrs. K. Chapman to promote the request on Facebook and Next Door.

91) LITTLE YELDHAM VILLAGE HALL REPORT

The Chairman reported that the AGM had been fixed for 20th May 2022. He had consulted RCCE, which had advised that the Charity Commission considers that a Parish Council becoming a sole trustee of a Village Hall is a last resort. It is not encouraged and the existing trustees should seek to find other trustees from within the parish. There are currently nine trustees, although three have indicated that they will retire at the AGM, leaving six. The trust can continue to operate with a minimum of three, which constitutes a quorum. Guidance notes from the RCCE will be circulated to Councillors and it was agreed to review the position after the AGM in May.

92) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. P. Schwier reported on the following:

- a. Dissemination of regular information, which the Clerk forwards to Councillors.
- b. Various funding sources available from ECC.
- c. PROWs and the partnership with Ramblers, which has reduced issues, saved costs and improved access.
- d. Warm Home grants with £5.2 million available in the next phase.
- e. Solar Panels and renewable energy for homes and small enterprises.
- f. ECC budget, which is proposing a 2% increase in core Council Tax.
- g. ECC responsibility and duty of care for health, social services and other services.

Mrs. R. K. Marsh enquired about the identity of PROWs and Mr. A. Osmond-Evans reported a landowner had erected a fence across what was believed to be a public footpath between Great Yeldham and Tilbury Juxta Clare. Mr. Schwier referred to new maps and information available about PROWs on the ECC website.

Mr. A. Osmond-Evans expressed concern about vehicles speeding through TJC. Mr. Schwier reported upon the new policy regarding VAS signs (both solar and battery). The signs and cost could be shared with other Parish Councils and he agreed to send the Parish Council further details.

Mr. D. Patient reported that diversion signs were often very difficult to follow and asked how this problem could be reported. Mr. Schwier explained the procedure for issuing licenses to contractors and sub-contractors, such as fibre broadband companies and that there should be contact details and a licence number on each sign to facilitate complaints. The Chairman asked if ECC will waive fees for street closures in respect of the Platinum Jubilee, (as with Suffolk CC) and Mr. Schwier agreed to enquire. Mr. Schwier was thanked for attending, for his report and answering questions.

93) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Mrs. I. Parker reported on the following:

- a. Proposed increase in budget of £200,000 to employ more officers for planning enforcement issues.
- b. Councillor Grant Scheme to continue but reduced from £1500 to £1250 per annum. Income lost from Car Parks and Government grants so looking to make savings in other areas.
- c. Proposed increase in Council Tax by 2.68% and increase in staff wages.
- d. The BDC Collection Fund rebate for Parish Councils will be removed to allow a larger sum for planning enforcement and councillor grants.
- e. Transport East –Rural Transport encouraging people not to use cars.
- f. Update upon the planning application relating to 72 Little Yeldham Road.

Mrs. Parker asked if there is anything which BDC can do to help rural parishes, which Councillors will consider.

Mr. A. Osmond-Evans asked about signage along Belchamp Road, TJC and it was confirmed that a request for signage to warn motorists of horse riders was pending.

Mrs. Parker was thanked for attending the meeting and for her report.

94) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Possible diesel spillage on Playing Field

Mr. D. Patient reported on a possible diesel spillage on the Playing Field, near the sewage pipe, which he had investigated with the Chairman. The Clerk had contacted Anglian Water, but the sewage pipe appeared to be in order. However the smell had now disappeared. Mrs. R. Marsh reported water in the vicinity of the Playing Field and Long Meadow, but Mr. Patient suggested that this is reviewed in the summer to see if it improves.

b. Sewage at the Kicking Donkey, Ovington

Mrs. Marsh reported problems with sewage at the Kicking Donkey in Ovington, which the Ovington councillors and the owner were aware of.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)