

MINUTES OF TILBURY JUXTA CLARE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE CHURCH, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE ON TUES, 26TH APRIL 2022 AT 8 P.M

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry  
Present: Mrs. C. Gray and Mr. A. Osmond-Evans  
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)  
Mrs. I. Parker (District Councillor)  
Mr. P. Schwier (County Councillor)

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. J. Russell

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were read by the Clerk, confirmed and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record. (There were no meetings in 2020 or 2021 because of the pandemic)

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

a) Highway issues

The applications for horse and deer warning signs along Belchamp Road were before the LHP for consideration and to ascertain the extent of highway land for the proposed signs. Numerous pot holes had been reported using ECC Highways online reporting tool.

b) Water flooding road near Brook Farm

Mr. A. Osmond-Evans will report the water leak near Brook Farm to Anglian Water. There were no other matters arising.

4) GREAT YELDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Mrs. I. Parker advised that she is no longer a School Governor because the school is now part of an academy chain so the governance arrangements had changed and there are no longer any MLA Governors. The Clerk had discussed the situation with the Rev. Justin Tomkins who had also ceased to be a Governor and it was understood that the number of Governors had been reduced to three. The Chairman considered that the School should engage with the community and it was agreed to ascertain the identity of the three new Governors and to request a report next year.

5) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

A written report from Mrs. I. Parker was circulated and a copy accompanies these minutes as appendix one. Mrs. Parker added that since writing her report BDC had granted planning permission for a new Medical Centre on the former Rippers site at Sible Hedingham. Mrs. Parker was thanked for her report.

6) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

A written report from Mr. P. Schwier was circulated and a copy accompanies these minutes as appendix two. Mr. Schwier added information about the support being given by ECC for Ukrainians arriving in the UK via the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. The Clerk had circulated the update to all councillors. Mr. Schwier was thanked for his report.

7) PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. P. J. Gentry gave a report covering three years because the pandemic had prevented Annual Parish Meetings in 2020 and 2021. A copy of his written report accompanies these minutes as appendix three. With regard to cutting grass verges, Mrs. Parker reported that there is a proposal to cut verges for another three years, but this had not yet been finalized.

8) PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Mr. A. Osmond-Evans reported that a resident had circulated a brochure in Tilbury Juxta Clare inviting residents to his home and garden on 5<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate the Jubilee. An update will be given at the next PC meeting.

9) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Former telephone kiosk

Mr. A. Osmond-Evans reported that a lady in the village is kindly maintaining the former telephone kiosk and is seeking a replacement book case. It was suggested that shelving is made to measure as at Ovington and funding may be available through the Councillor Grant Scheme.

b) Damage to hedgerows

Mr. A. Osmond-Evans reported upon hedgerows in the area which had been damaged to the detriment of wildlife, which was deplored.

c) Proposed prisons on the former Wethersfield Airfield

Mr. A. Osmond-Evans referred to the proposed building of two prisons at the former Wethersfield Air Base. The Chairman reported that there is an Action Group, which is seeking support to oppose the prisons.

d) Damaged direction signs and finger posts

Mrs. C. Gray reported that a number of direction signs and finger posts in the area were damaged or completely broken. Mr. P. Schwier advised reporting each of them using the ECC Highways online reporting tool and attaching photographs.

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

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(Date)

.....  
(Chairman)

## APPENDIX 1 - BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Report from Cllr Iona Parker for Parish Councils – March 2022

- BDC approved its **Budget** for 2022/23 at its Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February. Highlights of relevance to parish councils in my ward are:
  - The budget gap over the medium (4 year) term is £1.2m, an improvement from the financial position identified last year of £1.6m. This reduction has been achieved through additional savings and opportunities for increased income. BDC is continuing to look at opportunities to close this gap.
  - The budget provided for a substantial increase in funding for planning enforcement in order to provide the service that BDC and residents expect.
  - Resources have been allocated to advance the Council's climate and cycling strategies.
  - The Councillor Community Grants Scheme will continue with each councillor allocated £1250 to award to community projects. In future, funding for this scheme will come from the extra Council Tax that is collected as a result of higher than assumed increases in property numbers. In the case of villages in my ward, the amount of Council Tax that has been refunded to parish councils under this system has been very small and I am pleased the Council has decided to keep the CCG scheme.
  - The Budget provided funding to ensure that the Council's IT systems are secure and protected and new capital funding for critical IT infrastructure.
  - Given the budget gap, the Council has agreed to increase the BDC element of Council Tax by 2.68%, which represents an increase of less than 10p a week for a band D property. It is also significantly below the rate of inflation.
- Essex County Council has set out its own plan for **levelling up**. It has identified 5 locations for focus. One of these is rural Braintree. Whilst income levels may not suggest the area is deprived, there are certainly lack of opportunities in terms of e.g. transport, distance to major centres and educational opportunities and also increased cost of living. If you would like to give me examples of the ways in which residents living in this area are disadvantaged, please let me know.
- We are awaiting the inspectors final comments on Section 2 of the Local Plan but hope the **Local Plan** will be adopted at the Council meeting in May, or even possibly March. This will put BDC in a stronger position as regards speculative housing applications but we will also need to have a 5 year supply of deliverable housing sites (i.e. that we can prove will be built within 5 years). At the moment our supply is 5.1 years but is constantly being challenged by developers at planning appeals. So the situation remains tenuous.
- The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is conducting a review of parliamentary constituency boundaries. Major changes are proposed for the Braintree constituency with my ward falling into a new Haverhill and Halstead constituency. The Conservative Party has opposed the changes and

have put forward a counter proposal which would see the constituency remain largely as it is. The other parties support the BCE's proposals. The secondary consultation on the proposals and counter proposals has now opened and closes on 4<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like to comment, you can do so at <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>

## APPENDIX 2 - ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

### Essex County Council - Heddingham Division

#### Cllr Peter Schwier – 2021/22 Annual Report

The last 12 months have been exceptionally busy and demanding. They have also been productive, and the new administration at Essex County Council has lost no time in setting out its clear aims and priorities for the four-year term.

While too many to list in full, below is a small sample of the landmarks and achievements of the last 12 months at the county council.

- **Launch of Everyone's Essex Strategy** – the council's ambitious plan for the four years ahead. It set out our levelling up plan for the county, and 20 commitments under the key areas of "economy", "environment", "health" and "family". The strategy set out how renewal, equality and ambition run through everything we do. Crucially, from my perspective, it established our aim to reach net-zero in Essex.
- **A budget for Essex** - In February this year, the council set its budget for the 2022/23 financial year. To help achieve ECC's vision of a county where everyone can thrive, it was announced that several areas would receive significant additional investment, including:
  - a £1.3 billion capital programme across the next four years
  - £200million over the next four years to support our climate action and net zero ambitions
  - an additional £10million in skills and economic growth
  - a further £2million for infrastructure and a new pothole fund
  - a £1.5million fund for the heritage and culture sector
  - an additional £1million for Levelling Up across Essex
  - continuation of the £750,000 localities fund to support district-based Levelling Up priorities
  - a continuation of the £500,000 investment in the work being done to protect Essex children from being targeted by gangs

A £20million investment has already been made available to help families. This includes directly supporting financial wellbeing and helping them with summer childcare. ECC will also commit an extra £700,000 to the Essential Living Fund to help families and individuals with food, fuel, clothing and furniture bills.

- **Council Tax** – At the same meeting, ECC took the difficult decision to increase its share of council tax by 4.49%.

As an administration, we are very clear that the only money the council has to spend is the money of our residents. It is therefore right that we raise taxes reluctantly and only once every alternative has been explored. In this instance, the main part of the increase was a 2.5% increase in the social care precept – money that goes towards supporting vulnerable residents, including frail, elderly, adults with disabilities, and vulnerable children in need. While we always seek to avoid council tax increases, the pressures on the social care market are such that an increase this year was deemed the only way to stave off serious problems in provision of social care, with providers struggling to stay in business.

- **Highways** - The council will be spending £135m on highways maintenance over the coming year and, as ever, will prioritise the areas by severity of need.

In the Braintree district council area, over the last six months, this spending has led to repairs to 184 county-grade roads, 160 local roads, 187 pavements, 3,711 drains cleared and 2,240 street lights fixed.

- **Climate Action** - In November, ECC's cabinet approved a Climate Action Plan which agreed a £200m commitment to help address all areas of climate-related activity in Essex. The county council's ambition is to ensure we are building a coalition of support across the county for the move to net-zero carbon emissions in our county by 2050. Detailing how we will implement the recommendations of the Essex Climate Action Commission's report *Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral*, it included plans across areas such as housing, infrastructure, transport, waste and the natural environment.
- **Within the first 100 days** - the following was achieved
  - repairing over one million square metres of roads and 40,000 square metres of footpaths and cycleways
  - creating over 600 new roles for unemployed young people aged 18-24 as part of the Government's Kickstart scheme
  - delivering four BT broadband contracts under Superfast Essex programme for a further 12,000 premises
  - starting construction of the West Mersea temporary defence barrier scheme
  - launching a new £500,000 fund to support community action on climate change
  - working with the Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC) to develop and publish the 'Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral' report

- launching the Active Essex 'Find your Active' campaign, supported by a £1.25 million fund
- launching Essex Pedal Power, a £2.7million community-based project being piloted in Clacton and Jaywick Sands
- launching the new Essex Care Technology Service to support people with care needs access and use the latest technology to help them to live as independently as possible
- announcing the Essex Education Task Force which will invest £1million in reading over the next 18 months, to support children and young people affected by the loss of learning during the Covid-19 pandemic
- piloting construction methods designed to deliver net-zero, future proof, inclusive school buildings

It has been a pleasure to assist the following communities with My Locality Fund - Sturmer, Ashen, Pebmarsh, CastleHedingham, Lt Maplestead, Gestingtorpe and Belchamp St Paul.

I hope the above gives you an idea of the work that has gone in over the last year to develop our plans and deliver on them for the people of Essex.

For my part, my appointment as Climate Czar was a great privilege. It is a role that speaks volumes for our commitment in this space, but the work has only just started and there is much still to do.

Most of all, it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve the residents of all the villages, both large and small, within the Hedingham division. I look forward to continuing to do so in the next year and beyond.

Best wishes,



Peter Schwan



## APPENDIX 3 - PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

### **Tilbury Juxta Clare Annual Parish Meeting – Parish Council Report**

1. Due to Covid preventing the 2020 and 2021 annual meetings from taking place, this report covers 3 years – 2019, 2020 and 2021. Parish Council meetings continued during this period and were held via Zoom.
2. Regrettably I first have to report the sad death of Peter Clayton in February 2021. Peter was a former Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council and will be remembered for his untiring work in the community. The Parish Council have placed a bench in the grounds of St John the Baptist Church in his memory and a dedication service was held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March and was well attended by Councillors and residents.
3. Ms Tina Kelson, Mr Anthony Osmond-Evans and Mrs Claudia Gray became TJC Councillors in 2019 following resignations from Mr R. Bryant, Mr R. Brookes and Mr G. Thomas.
4. A salt/grit bin was purchased and installed for Clare Road in 2019.
5. The budget and precept for 2020-2021 was agreed at £9,165. This was an increase on the previous year's precept due to one off costs being included - £1,500 for tree surgery and £965 for maintenance of the playing field play equipment, both required for reasons of health and safety.
6. Ms Tina Kelson resigned in May 2021 and Mr John Russell filled the vacancy in September 2021.
7. In May 2021 the Chairman and Vice Chairman interchanged. A special thank you to Robert Nott for his service as Chairman and now Vice Chairman and for the continued support he gives me.
8. The budget and precept for 2021-2022 was agreed at £8,000. Due to Belchamp St. Paul Community House and Little Yeldham Village Hall suffering loss of bookings and income because of Covid, the Parish Council doubled their grants from £400 to £800 for this budget and precept period only.
9. The budget and precept for 2022-2023 is agreed at £7,800 which is £200 less than 2021-2022 but includes a £100 increase on the normal £400 contribution for Belchamp St. Paul Community House and Little Yeldham Village Hall.



10. The BDC Local Plan for 2013-2033 is nearing completion. Section 1 (strategic plan for North Essex) was adopted in February 2021 and Section 2 (policies and sites for development) is planned for adoption in the next month or so. Both sections have been subject to public consultation and intense Planning Inspectorate review and comment since its submission to them in 2017.
11. The Parish Council wrote a letter of objection to BDC at the first mention of the proposed construction of a solar farm and battery storage facility on the former Ridgewell Airfield and will continue to strenuously object at every stage, should the proposal progress any further.
12. The skips in each year have been well used and no issues reported.
13. The Parish Council is now fully GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) compliant and our Data Controller is Daren Patient.
14. BDC's trial of cutting verges only once a year was completed and feedback requested. The Parish Council responded requesting that verges should be cut fully twice a year in May and September.
15. Braintree Association of Local Councils (BALC) has been resurrected and the Parish Council has formerly joined. I have been voted onto the Executive Committee (9 councils) which affords me a voice at the top table and there are currently 34 of 52 councils who have joined.
16. A community policing initiative, which could provide a trained individual with the same powers as a policeman to be on call for at least 16 hours a month, has been supported by the Parish Council and the position is being advertised in the 4VM and on social media.
17. Thank you to the TJC Parish Councillors and Adrian Corder-Birch for all their work for Tilbury Juxta Clare and thank you also to Iona Parker and Peter Schwier for their support and work for Tilbury Juxta Clare.