

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 14th MARCH 2023 AT 8 P.M.

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry

Present: Mrs. A. L. Gardiner, Mr. D. Patient and Mrs. M. D. Pearce
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Together with 2 (two) members of the public

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

94) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. K. Chapman (Maternity Leave), Mrs. C. Gray (Away Filming), Mrs. R. K. Marsh (Moved Away), Mr. K. R. Nott (Long Covid), Mr. A. Osmond-Evans (Covid), Mr. P. E. Pawsey (Medical Treatment), Mrs. I. Parker and Mr. P. Schwier

95) ABSENT

Mr. J. H. Russell

96) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

97) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2023, having been previously circulated; were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a correct record.

98) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) The former telephone kiosk at Tilbury Juxta Clare

The Clerk reported that he had consulted BDC, which had approved the surplus of £50 being allocated towards re-painting the former telephone kiosk. Mr. A. Osmond-Evans had been informed and will arrange the painting.

There were no other matters arising.

99) CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received was referred to Councillors for information and the contents noted.

100) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported a VAT refund of £819.36 had been claimed from HMRC for 2022 and paid. Since the last meeting a payment of £574.99 gross (£479.126 net) had been made to the British Heart Foundation, for a heated cabinet for the Ovington defibrillator (being a S137 payment), which was approved. A balance in hand of £220.84 will be carried forward.

101) TO CONSIDER RENEWAL OF STREET SCENE PARTNERSHIP

The Clerk reported that BDC had invited the Parish Council to renew the Street Scene Partnership Agreement for 2023-24. BDC had decided not to implement the proposed 33% reduction and to maintain the same level of contribution as in 2022-23 namely £1314.04. It was therefore proposed by Mrs. A. Gardiner, seconded by Mr. D. Patient and carried that the agreement is renewed for another year and the Clerk will invoice BDC accordingly. It was agreed to ascertain the availability of an Amenity Vehicle and Driver for Little Yeldham and North End and to enquire at the Annual Parish Meetings for Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington their preference for Skips or an Amenity Vehicle.

102) TO CONSIDER RENEWAL OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SLA 2023-24

The Clerk reported that BDC had invited the PC to renew its grounds maintenance SLA with BDC for cutting the grass on Little Yeldham Recreation Ground for 2023-24. BDC proposed an increase of £90 from £890 to £980 for the year, which was in line with inflation and had been included in the PC budget. It was proposed by Mrs. A. Gardiner, seconded by Mr. D. Patient and carried that the PC renew the agreement for £980.

103) LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND REPORT

Mrs. M. Pearce reported upon the following progress since the January meeting:

- a. The offer of funding from the National Lottery of £58,000. The Recreation Ground Committee had met on 16th February 2023, had unanimously decided to accept it and the Clerk had sent the acceptance form to the National Lottery.
- b. Mrs. Pearce had a meeting with Jaymie Tapsell, the National Lottery Funding Manager and agreed a start date of 10th April. The first payment of 95% will be made around 19th April followed by 5% upon completion.
- c. The routes of all services across the Recreation Ground were being checked and information is awaited from BT/Openreach and Anglian Water.
- d. A revised quote of £57,714.10 had been received from Playdale, which requires an order by 31st March and a deposit of 50%, but these terms are open to negotiation. The Committee recommended acceptance of the revised quote, which includes a five year maintenance contract fixed at £260 per annum to include the existing equipment.
- e. The planning position is being checked by Mrs. Parker with the LPA, although all indications were that no permission is required, because of an established use and the PC is merely replacing equipment.
- f. When an order is placed the insurance position will be checked.
- g. Vehicular access for the contractors, will be checked with Mr. Ladkin, otherwise Mrs. A. Gardiner had given permission for access across the adjacent field.
- h. Fund raising events continue with arrangements for Spring Fayre on 25th March 2023 to fund a notice board, bench, pathways and future maintenance.

Mrs. Pearce was thanked for her report and for the continuing progress.

104) TO CONSIDER DEFERRING PATHWAYS, ENTRANCE & SEATS

It was agreed to defer work on the pathways, entrance and seats until after the equipment is installed and to ask Playdale to quote for the pathways, new entrance and seats, which will provide the three quotes necessary to comply with financial regulations.

105) TO CONSIDER REVISED QUOTE FROM PLAYDALE

Following careful consideration it was agreed to accept the revised quote of £57,714.10 net and to ask Playdale if they will accept a 10% deposit before the end of March 2023 followed by the remaining 40% when in funds from the National Lottery during April.

106) UPDATE UPON DEFIBRILLATOR FOR OVINGTON

The Clerk reported that out of £1,300, which had been raised for a defibrillator and heated cabinet for Ovington, payments of £600 and £574.99 had been made to the British Heart Foundation, for the defibrillator and heated cabinet respectively, leaving a balance of £125.01 to carry forward. Mr. James and Mrs. Debbie Nott had generously covered the cost of installation and electrical connection. Mrs. Nott was thanked for her hard work in connection with the defibrillator.

107) CELEBRATIONS FOR CORONATION OF H.M KING CHARLES III

The Chairman reported that Little Yeldham Village Hall Committee had arranged a Coronation Party on 8th May to celebrate the Coronation of H. M. King Charles III.

108) HIGHWAY ISSUES

The Chairman reported that ECC is no longer funding Highway Rangers so some of the work previously carried out by them will not be done. Concern was expressed about the misleading ‘Road Closed’ and ‘Diversion’ signs at Great Yeldham Village Green, when it transpired that the road was not closed and the signs should have been removed. The serious flooding along the Little Yeldham Road between Hyde Farm and Great Yeldham on 10th March 2023 was exacerbated by residents filling in ditches adjacent to the highway with no drainage pipes or inadequate size drainage pipes. The recent results of the speed survey through Little Yeldham were considered.

109) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Memorial Tree for her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Mrs. M. Pearce reported that the cost of a Memorial Tree to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II could be met from LYRG funds. A quote of £582 from a Landscape Contractor for a 2.25m Prunus Kanzan (Ornamental/Flowering Cherry) had been obtained, which Councillors considered was excessive. In the circumstances Mrs. A. Gardiner offered to obtain an alternative quote for the same variety and size tree, which Mr. R. & Mrs. A. Gardiner can plant, with a stake in the autumn, providing someone living nearby waters it regularly. It was considered that the proposed tree will look good and integrate well with the work to be carried out on the Recreation Ground.

b) Landowners hedge cutting responsibilities

Following the recent circular about landowner’s responsibilities for hedge cutting Mr. D. Patient agreed to draft an article, which the Chairman will arrange to include in the Parish Magazine and forward to Mrs. K. Chapman for Social Media.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)