

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 18th JULY 2023 AT 7 P.M.

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry

Present: Mrs. K. Chapman, Mrs. A. L. Gardiner, Mrs. S. Harris, Mrs. L. Lawrence, Mrs. D. Nott, Mr. A. Osmond-Evans, Mr. D. C. Patient Mrs. M. D. Pearce and Mrs. N. Wookey. Mr. P. Schwier (County Councillor)
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Together with 3 (three) members of the public

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. E. Clayton and Mr. C. Cheale raised the issue of the catch pit behind the bus shelter at North End, which was full of mud and silt and requires clearing out so water which drains off the road, through drains can run into the Belchamp Brook. ECC Highways is responsible for drains in and adjoining the highway, which Mr. D. Patient had already raised with them and with Mr. P. Schwier. If ECC Highways do not carry out the work in a reasonable time, Mr. C. Cheale offered to do the work voluntarily, as a backup plan, if a 4 or 5 yard skip can be hired over a weekend. He also offered to cut the hedge and clear the vegetation behind the bus shelter, which was gratefully accepted. Mrs. A. L. Gardiner will ask Mr. I. Yeldham to dig out Belchamp Brook, adjacent to the Village Green. There was no other public comment.

29) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. C. Gray (Family commitments) and Mrs. I. Parker

30) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

31) ELECTION OF LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE

Little Yeldham Recreation Ground Committee was elected as follows:

Mrs. A. Gardiner, Mr. P. Gentry, Mr. D. Patient, Mrs. M. Pearce, Mrs. N. Wookey (councillors), Mrs. B. Gentry & Mrs. B. Roper (members of the public)

32) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2023, having been previously circulated were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a correct record.

33) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) The former telephone kiosk at Tilbury Juxta Clare

The Clerk reported that the re-painting of the former telephone kiosk, arranged by Mr. A. Osmond-Evans, had been completed and the monitoring form will be returned to BDC.

b) Highway issues

Mr. D. Patient confirmed he will report the highway issues raised at the last meeting in connection with Mashey Road and Cut Bush Farm to ECC Highways online.

c) Damaged bollard on Church Green, Little Yeldham

The Chairman reported that the damaged bollard on Church Green, Little Yeldham had been repaired and reinstated by Mr. K. Shears.

d) Amenity Vehicles and skips

The Clerk reported that the skip for Ovington had been booked for 25th to 29th August and three Amenity Vehicles as follows: 5th August – Little Yeldham; 12th August – North End; and 23rd September – Tilbury Juxta Clare all from 8am to 12 noon.

There were no other matters arising.

34) CORRESPONDENCE

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

35) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported a VAT refund of £5919.24 had been received from HMRC for the March quarter 2023 and a further £6155.21 had been claimed for the June quarter 2023. A payment of £50.11 had been received from Easy Fundraising for Little Yeldham Recreation Ground funds. The following accounts were presented for payment:

Mrs. M. D. Pearce – reimbursement of account paid to Digdat for Anglian Water plans in connection with the Recreation Ground - £43.20 and reimbursement of account paid to Prince William Pottery of £325.20 amounting to £368.40

Essex & Suffolk Roofing Limited – roof repairs to Little Yeldham Village Hall - £274.80

The Clerk explained that the net amounts of the last two invoices of £271 and £229 amounted to £500, representing the grant of £500 from the PC to the VH.

Rural Community Council of Essex – Annual subscription £52.80

Judith Fletcher – Saffron Accounting Services – payroll returns £70.00

Braintree Association of Local Councils – Annual subscription £48.00

Tilbury Juxta Clare PCC – Use of Tilbury Church for Parish Meeting on 15th May £25.00

Braintree District Council – grass cutting on Recreation Ground £1176.00

Playdale Playgrounds Limited – payment on account £25957.05

Colne Skips – Skip for Ovington £474.00

The Sign Shed Limited – signs for Recreation Ground £69.32

George Rowe – painting of former telephone kiosk at Tilbury Juxta Clare £100.00

It was proposed by Mr. D. Patient, seconded by Mrs. K. Chapman and carried that the above accounts are paid.

36) TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 28TH JUNE 2023

The minutes of the Little Yeldham Recreation Ground Committee meeting held on 28th June 2023 having been previously circulated were accepted upon the proposal of Mrs. L. Lawrence, seconded by Mrs. A. L. Gardiner and carried. Arising from the minutes, Mrs. N. Wookey enquired about signage and dogs. During a long discussion Mrs. M. Pearce advised that no dogs should be allowed in the children's play area where the play equipment is located and that dogs should be kept under control, namely on a lead, when users of play equipment are present. The issue of enforcement was raised and the Clerk advised that BDC employed a Dog Warden who could be asked to monitor the

Recreation Ground and take appropriate action if any misuse. It was suggested that the Parish Council consider a fence around the play equipment to stop dogs entering the play area. The Clerk agreed to ask the BDC Grounds Maintenance team to exercise caution when cutting the grass around the new equipment and rubber bases.

37) TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR ENTRANCE AND PATHWAYS

Mrs. M. D. Pearce had previously circulated three quotations for improved entrance and a pathway at the Recreation Ground. The Little Yeldham Recreation Ground Committee had recommended acceptance of a quote for £6190.00 from Solum Landscape Contractors Ltd. Councillors were consulted by email and approved the recommendation so that an order could be placed and the work commenced. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mrs. D. Nott and carried that the decision is ratified. Mrs. M. Pearce reported that all the new play equipment had been installed and was being well used. Work by Solum Landscape Contractors Limited had started on the new entrance and pathway. Mr. R. and Mrs. A. Gardiner were thanked for facilitating vehicular access for the contractors to the Recreation Ground. Councillors selected suitable signage for the entrance and agreed to the entrance gate being moved further back for safety purposes. Mrs. Pearce was thanked for her report and for the continuing progress.

38) TO APPROVE GRANT APPLICATION BEING MADE TO ECC CIF

Quotations were circulated for another pathway; notice board including lock; refuse bins; three benches and five trees for shade, including flowering cherry trees in memory of the late Queen and John Gardiner. It will be necessary to raise further funds for these items. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mrs. A. L. Gardiner and unanimously agreed that Mrs. Pearce, on behalf of the PC, apply to the Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund for a grant. Mr. P. Schwier as County Councillor agreed to write a letter of support, upon receipt of an email from Mrs. Pearce. Mrs. A. Gardiner agreed to arrange planting the trees voluntarily.

39) TO APPROVE QUOTE FOR TREATING MILLENNIUM SEAT

The Chairman had obtained a quote for cleaning the Millennium Seat, making good, and applying oak or clear stain. It was agreed to accept the quote of £280.

40) TO CONSIDER PROPOSED SOLAR FARM NEAR OVINGTON

Mrs. D. Nott reported that an application for planning permission (23/01413/FUL) had been made to BDC for the erection of Solar Panels on land north of Cutbush Farm, Bakers Road, Belchamp St. Paul, which was close to the Ovington parish boundary. The proposed access for construction traffic was through Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington to the 52 hectares site. The failure of BDC to consult Little Yeldham, Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington Parish Council or the residents of Ovington in view of the close proximity of the site to the Ovington boundary, was deplored. The proposed route of the construction traffic was from Great Yeldham through Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington. It was estimated that there will be 90 HGV movements a week for six months on completely unsuitable roads. Traffic surveys had not been carried out on relevant roads and proper surveys are required. Mrs. Harris stated that any increase of HGVs through Tilbury Juxta Clare would be a disaster, because it was a dangerous road with no

pavements. Overhanging trees and hedges were also a problem causing vehicles to travel along the centre of roads, which often meet on bad corners and have difficulty passing. It was agreed to report overhanging hedges to ECC Highways Department, to ask landowners to cut hedges and in default they will be cut by the Highways Department who will charge the cost to landowners. It was agreed to support Belchamp St. Paul Parish Council and oppose the Solar Farm. One public meeting had already taken place in Belchamp St. Paul and a second was fixed for 3rd August to formulate objections. Mrs. Nott and Mrs. Harris agreed to attend the meeting and thereafter Mrs. Nott will report back by email and draft representations.

41) TO CONSIDER STORAGE OF SAND BAGS AT NORTH END

The Chairman reported that sand bags for flood prevention were stored in Mrs. Clayton's garage and now requires the space. The Emergency Plan states that sand bags should be available in North End and therefore a new location in North End is needed for storage. It was agreed that Mrs. Clayton, Mr. C & Mrs. K. Chapman will make a list of homes, which could be at risk of flooding and ask the owners if they will store a few sand bags each. Mrs. Gardiner offered to remove any excess sand from old bags.

42) TO CONSIDER LEVELLING UP IN RURAL BRAINTREE

The Clerk had previously circulated details from BDC about Levelling Up in Rural Braintree. The Chairman reported that he had looked into this further and was willing to sit on the Community Reference Group. It was agreed to nominate Mr. Gentry as the PC representative who will attend meetings, assess the position and report back.

43) PROPOSED WEIGHT AND WIDTH RESTRICTION LIMITS

Mr. A. Osmond-Evans expressed concern about the increase of large HGVs using the road between Great Yeldham and Clare, through Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington. The road was completely unsuitable being narrow and winding with no pavements. The Clerk advised that ECC Highways Department had the power to impose a weight and width restriction limit, except for vehicles requiring access to premises along the route. A previous application had been made to ECC and refused. It was agreed to make a new application, which Mr. P. Schwier agreed to submit to ECC Highways Department, but stated that they will probably refer it back to Braintree LHP to ascertain if it is feasible.

44) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. P. Schwier reported that £14.7 million had been allocated towards filling pot holes, which will be ongoing through good weather. The funds had resulted in significant improvements with filling pot holes and resurfacing, particularly at Braintree Corner, Sible Hedingham. Repairs to the bridge at Great Yeldham should be completed this summer. The Ride London through Essex was a great success at the County benefited from it. A Locality Grant is available for use by Parish Councils and other organisations across the Hedingham Division. The current consultation by National Grid will last until 21st August and will be followed by another consultation. More applications for Solar Farms are to be expected.

Mrs. A. Gardiner asked questions regarding the Twinstead Sub Station, which Mr. Schwier advised should be referred to National Grid. Mr. A. Osmond-Evans asked if

cables could be laid underground, but National Grid claim this is too expensive. ECC encourages wind farms and renewable energy

Mr. D. Patient reported giant hogweed along Mashey Road, Little Yeldham, which had been logged onto ECC Highways online. Mr. Schwier advised that this is also an environmental issue which could be raised with BDC.

Mrs. M. Pearce enquired about the availability of grants. BDC has £600,000 in a Rural Prosperity Fund for which details are to follow.

Mrs. L. Lawrence reported upon issues with the Dart Transport scheme and in particular the difficulty getting from Ovington to Sudbury. Mr. Schwier provided further information and when it is fully rolled out to rural areas it should be more successful.

Mr. Schwier was thanked for attending, for his report and answering questions.

45) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

A written report from Mrs. I. Parker was circulated to Councillors and noted.

46) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) G.D.P.R.

Mr. D Patient reported that he had received confirmation from relevant councillors that they had deleted emails up to one year ago.

b) Highway signs and drain cover at North End

Mrs. Chapman reported that NORTH END signs were required at both ends and a damaged drain cover outside The Pines, which Mr. Patient will report to ECC Highways.

c) Bus Shelter at North End

Mrs. Chapman reported woodworm in the bus shelter. It was agreed to ask Mr. Cheale to treat it and reimburse him with the cost.

d) Broadband in North End

Mrs. Chapman enquired about Broadband in North End. The Chairman reported he had heard nothing since April 2022 and will ascertain progress. Mrs. Clayton had granted wayleave consent to County Broadband to use a pole in her garden.

e) Pavement on corner of North End Road

Mrs. Gardiner reported a complaint about the pavement on the corner of North End Road, which Mr. Patient will report to ECC Highways.

f) Proposed dog bins in Tilbury Juxta Clare

Mrs. S. Harris requested that the location of dog bins at Tilbury Juxta Clare is included on the agenda for the next meeting.

g) Possible infill at Tilbury Juxta Clare

Mr. A. Osmond-Evans reported possible infill at Tilbury Juxta Clare and was advised by the Chairman to raise the issue with the Planning Enforcement Officer at BDC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)