

MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 16th JANUARY 2024 AT 7 P.M.

In the chair: Mr. P. Gentry

Present: Mrs. K. Chapman, Mrs. A. L. Gardiner, Mrs. C. Gray, 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. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mrs. I. Parker (District Councillor)
Together with one member of the public

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

84) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. P. Schwier

85) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

86) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2023, having been previously circulated were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a correct record.

87) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

88) CORRESPONDENCE

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

89) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported receipt of £280.20 + £42.50 = £322.70 in respect of Little Yeldham Recreation Ground. He had made a claim to HMRC for VAT refund of £1,454.34 for the period 1st July to 31st December 2023.

The following account was presented for payment:

Little Yeldham Village Hall – hire of hall for meetings and events in 2023 £222.00

It was proposed by Mr. D. Patient, seconded by Mr. A. Osmond-Evans and carried that the above account is paid.

90) TO CONSIDER QUOTE FOR POSTS ON VILLAGE GREEN, NORTH END

Mrs. K. Chapman reported that she had met the recommended contractor on site, who had advised 13 verge protection marker posts spaced out about 1½ to 2m apart for £689 and 2 posts either side of the bus shelter for £125.36, total £814.36. Mrs. Chapman

explained that the 91mm x 91mm planed wooden posts will be treated, have a galvanized metal rod inserted through them, two reflectors per post with a 25 year guarantee against rot and insect infestation. Councillors agreed that posts are required. The Chairman requested that two more quotes are obtained and Yeldham Fencing and Cavendish Fencing were suggested, which Mrs. Chapman will arrange.

91) TO CONSIDER BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2023-2024

The Clerk reported that following consultation with the Chairman the following budget was recommended:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Grass and hedge cutting & fuel | £3,300 |
| Administration | £3,100 |
| Servicing of defibrillators | £270 |
| Inflation on above @ 4.2% | £280 |
| Air Ambulance | £200 |
| Village Halls 2 @ £500 | £1,000 |
| Posts for Village Green at North End | <u>£825</u> |
| | £8,975 |

The possibility of allowing for dog bins was considered, but it was agreed to wait for BDC's review and if necessary add to the following year's budget and precept.

It was proposed by Mr. D. Patient, seconded by Mrs. C. Gray and carried that the Parish Council accepts the budget and precepts for £8,975 for 2024-2025. The precept form was completed, signed by the Chairman and countersigned by the Clerk.

92) TO CONSIDER NEW GRASS CUTTING CONTRACTOR

It was agreed to seek grass cutting quotations for the Churchyard and Village Greens at North End and Little Yeldham from (i) Solum Landscape Contractors Limited (ii) Mortimer Grounds Maintenance Limited (iii) Kevin Shears and (iv) BDC, with a deadline for the end of February 2024.

93) UPDATE UPON LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND

Mrs. M. D. Pearce reported that phase one of the Recreation Ground refurbishment was complete and well used. Unfortunately three applications for grants for phase two were unsuccessful, but there are sufficient funds to cover the purchase of two memorial trees. An application had been made to BDC Rural Communities Fund for extension to the top path, raised beds and a vegetable planting area for the proposed Village Gardening Club, three benches, two litter bins, a notice board and table tennis table. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Pearce and her team for their hard work with fundraising.

94) TO CONSIDER PURCHASING TWO MEMORIAL TREES

Mrs. Pearce had previously circulated a quote and proposed locations for two memorial trees on Little Yeldham Recreation Ground in memory of Queen Elizabeth II and John Gardiner. The quote for £93.80 including stakes, ties and rabbit guards was approved and the trees will be planted by Robert and Amanda Gardiner in the near future.

95) UP DATE UPON DOG BINS IN TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON

Mrs. S. Harris reported that BDC's review of dog bins was awaited and she will chase the Dog Wardens. It was hoped that two dog bins will still be provided free of charge for both Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington, but any additional bins may have to be purchased.

96) REQUEST FOR FIBRE BROADBAND IN NORTH END

Mrs. K. Chapman reported that County Broadband will not provide Fibre Broadband in North End as it is too expensive and not economic. Enquiries had been made with BT, which quoted £100,000 to connect one property and otherwise they will not provide broadband to this area until 2026. Mrs. Chapman had therefore contacted Mr. P. Schwier who had raised the issue with the ECC cabinet member for infrastructure. This had resulted in more information being requested such as the number of houses and post codes, which will lead to a survey being made for the whole of North End. Mrs. Pearce reported that Hyde Wood Road was in a similar situation to North End and will ask for Hyde Wood Road to be included. Mrs. Chapman was thanked for pursuing broadband.

97) UPDATE UPON PROPOSED WEIGHT AND WIDTH RESTRICTIONS

Mr. D. Patient reported that the proposed weight and width restriction limit on the road between Great Yeldham and Clare through Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington had not appeared on the LHP agenda for 18th January 2024 as expected. He will therefore raise the matter again with Mr. P. Schwier and remind him to ensure that it appears on the next LHP agenda. In the meantime it was agreed to ask ECC Highways to carry out a traffic count on this road, not only of large vehicles for the proposed weight and width restrictions, but also for gritting purposes.

98) HALL GREEN CORNER, LITTLE YELDHAM

Mrs. A. Gardiner reported that large grain lorries were having difficulty negotiating Hall Green Corner, including access to Upper Yeldham Hall Farm and wider passing space is required for vehicles on the road. The corner is too narrow and needs widening before kerbing takes place. An application for kerbing is already pending, which it was suggested is deferred, pending an application for widening being considered prior to the application for kerbing being reinstated. Alternatively if a revised application is desirable for widening, it should be made by the author of the original application for kerbing. Mrs. Gardiner will therefore ask Mrs. I. Parker to revise the application to request widening before kerbing. Mrs. Parker had advised that the revised application will need the approval of Mr. P. Schwier as County Councillor. The Chairman thanked Mr. R. Gardiner for allowing land to be taken for widening the corner.

99) TO REVIEW DRAINAGE BEHIND BUS SHELTER AT NORTH END

Mrs. K. Chapman reported that the catch pit behind the bus shelter at North End had still not been cleared and ECC Highways had declined to clear it although it drains water off the highway. Mrs. Chapman had spoken to a representative of Contract Trenching of Clare who will inspect, survey and advise the following week. It was therefore agreed to defer this item to the next meeting. Mrs. K. Chapman reported that the stream had been cleared out by Mr. I. Yeldham, who had been thanked.

100) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

In the absence of Mr. P. Schwier no report was given, but numerous updates were noted.

101) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Mrs. I. Parker gave a BDC report a copy of which accompanies these minutes and was circulated to Councillors. Arising from the report Mrs. L. Lawrence outlined the difficulties she had experienced with telephoning the representatives of the DaRT3 minibus service who were not always available. The telephone was not always answered and Mrs. Parker will pass this back to the Passenger Transport Section of ECC.

102) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. A. Gardiner reported that all the broken sand bags had been removed from North End, but the good sand bags remained. It was agreed that good sand bags should be left at North End because that is where they are required.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)