

## **Tendring District Local History Recorders - 2019 Report**

**Parish: Little Clacton      Recorder: Melanie Carter**

### **January**

The parish council minutes noted flooding outside Kinfauns vets. PC Watson was introduced as the new PC for the village.

### **February**

Peter Bray Builders Shop closed (The Street) at the end of the month.

The parish council minutes noted that residents once again noted speeding along Harwich Road, along with flooding issues.

### **March**

The parish council minutes noted small helium canisters at the bottom of Elm Rd.

### **April**

The parish council AGM chairman's report:

They say what goes around comes around or that things go in full circle. Well that certainly applies to planning in Little Clacton and across Tendring. In Little Clacton at the start of this council's term we were fighting the proposed development of 98 properties in the street amongst others with that 98 being the largest. Thanks to the inability of TDC to have a Local Plan in place left us to open to the much-hated Government Rule in the NPPF that a Presumption in Favour of development would apply. Well here we are some four years on and still no Local Plan in place with the Government moving the goal posts to allow more numbers of houses to be built, leaving our Village amongst others at the mercy of opportunist developers. What a mess! We will keep fighting mass development applications along with those that we feel is not in the best interest for the Village, like the Centenary Way application that went to appeal. That application was refused as a result, in my opinion of the constant objection from this Parish Council from the very start of the application process. So what has this Council achieved in its term of office? We have replaced our entire street lighting to LED. That has led to huge savings on our electric bills and severely reduced very costly expense and maintenance of the old lights. We experienced an invasion of travellers on the Harold Lilly Playing field next to the Village Hall, but due to swift action from the council and members spending an all-night vigil at the gates the travellers moved the very next day. This Council has now placed Height barriers to Millennium Green, Parish Fields with the Village Hall providing barriers at Harold Lilly Playing Fields. We have had constant battles with ECC with regards to pavements, potholes and smashed keep left signs. There is now a glimmer of hope in so far as an initiative from ECC to devolve responsibility to minor repairs to pavements and hedgerows to the Parish should enable us to action the problems quicker. We as a council have installed new notice board in the Village to a more Village friendly colour rather than the old corporate looking grey boards. We have made huge savings on maintenance cost due to our 'when required' policy and not a retainer

payment. We have again made savings on our grass cutting contract by applying a pay when cut policy instead of a monthly payment. We have also completely changed our Christmas Lights to LED which are now environment friendly resulting in lower running cost, a cost that Frinton Bathrooms in the Village have generously paid since taking over the shop. We have renewed all the football goal posts and nets at Parish Fields with s.106 monies. We have completed the final stage of the Pavilion Upgrade at Parish Fields, a project that we inherited from the last Parish Council. We are now engaged in the final stages of on the upgrade and modernisation of the Tennis Courts area of Parish Fields which will have great benefit to the Village and will be looking to start the work in the very near future. So I think that this Council and the residents of Little Clacton should be proud of our achievements over the past four years for I certainly am as your Chairman. As I said at the start what goes around comes around and so with planning we are back where we started four years ago having to fight off opportunist developers coming in with a Presumption in Favour application. If re-elected for another term I will continue to do what I believe is right for the Village of Little Clacton. Before finishing I would like to say a special thanks to resident Dave Birch and his team of speed watch volunteers for giving up their time to try to make Little Clacton a safer place. So now on a finishing note I would like to thank all the support this council have given me. I would like to thank our District Councillors Mike Brown and Jeff Bray, Peter Balbirnie and his team at the Village Hall, Mavis Balbirnie as my deputy and Chair of the Millennium Green, Ray Bellamy for his management of Parish Fields, and the one person we all depend on to help us do our job Ginette our clerk. One final person I would like to thank for putting up with all the phone calls, knocks on the door, meetings in the day and evenings, my wonderful wife Gina. Thank You Councillor J Cutting

## **May**

The National Animal Welfare Trust held a dog show and Clacton Classic Car Club held their Car Show on May 19th, the Car Boot Season started on 26th May.

## **June**

Parking outside Engaines School is an ongoing problem.

## **July**

An application for change of use of the ex 'Brays DIY' store to provide hot take away food was placed.

A tree was planted on the Millennium Green in memory of Harold Wagstaff.

Death of Ailsa Brown, wife of the late Doug Brown, former headmaster of Engaines Primary School and churchwarden. Ailsa was heavily involved in the Little Clacton church functions (ladies group chair organising everything from Burns suppers to strawberry teas, 'pebble in the pool' committee, key holder, in charge of churchyard plan, helped with coffee morning and set up a craft group). Other village life included being a trustee of the Hubbard trust.

Cancer Research Relay for Life event was held on 13/14<sup>th</sup> July.

## **August**

PC Tony Rowntree, the new Special, had “hit the ground running”, and was doing an excellent job. On his first day attending Engaines School he had reason to book a lady for her abusive attitude as she was parked in a restricted area and today, on duty with the community speed watch team, he arrested a person who was on the criminal ‘Wanted List’ in connection with a serious offence and he was transferred to Colchester Police Station.

## **September**

The ‘Friends of St James’ (Reg Charity) held their AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> September. The election of trustees was as follows: Mr Paul Clarke, Chairman. Mr Peter Watson, Secretary. Mr Ray Bellamy, Treasurer. Mrs Avril Black, Membership secretary. Mrs Dorothy King and Mrs Hazel Smith, Trustees. The Bell Tower is requiring some building maintenance.

The entire Village Hall has been upgraded with a 20-year guarantee on the paint finish. They did 5 coats to finish. The last vandalised play equipment has now been mended.

## **October**

There was a new clerk for Little Clacton Parish Council. Mr Dan Land.

## **November**

St James Church hosted a coffee morning on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and a quiz night and cheese and wine on 9<sup>th</sup> November in the Parish room. Remembrance services were held at St James Church on 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30 -11.30 and at the Little Clacton War memorial at 11.50.

## **December**

St James Church hosted a Christmas coffee morning on 7<sup>th</sup> December raising £446.59 for church funds, Carols on the Green on 10<sup>th</sup> December, Christingle service Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, Nine lessons and carols Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

For additional information please consult: <https://littleclacton-pc.org.uk/little-clacton-parish-council/minutes-archive/>