

**Minutes of a Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council held in the Council Chamber
on Wednesday 20th April 2011**

PRESENT:

Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. J. Bendall (Chairman), Mr. R. Curtis, Mrs. R. Hall, Mrs. D. Howorth, Mr. K. Shipp, Mr. I. Sparks, Mr. R. van Dulken and Mr. F. Williams

Mrs. P. Herbert was present in her capacity as Clerk together with Cllr. C. Siddall and Cllr. G. Spray.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. C. Hazell, Mr. M. Tracey and Mr. P. Darlington.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

Mr. Williams – personal interest in applications for the Centenary Award

Mr. Curtis – personal interest in applications for the Centenary Award

Mr. Bendall – personal interest in applications

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Cllr. Siddall advised that a project by the Greenheart of Essex campaign to tackle litter at Galleys Corner in Braintree had been named overall winner in the national Keep Britain Tidy Network Awards.

4 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

The Minutes of Parish Council Meetings held on the 16th March 2011 and 6th April 2011 were approved and signed.

5. CLERK'S REPORT:

- a) **Parish Council Elections:** The Clerk advised that as there had only been ten nominations for eleven vacancies on the Parish Council, all those nominated had been elected as parish councillors for Earls Colne and there would not be a Poll on the 5th May.
- b) **Allotments:** Members noted that Anglian Water was due to connect the water to the allotments on 4th May.
- c) **Curds Road:** It was noted that Anglian Water had advised that construction to provide a public foul sewer to Curds Road would start during 2011 – 2012. Residents had been contacted and property surveys had commenced.
- d) **Royal Wedding – Street Party:** The Clerk had contacted the District Council as instructed and had been advised that the Council did not wish to stop the Street Party from going ahead but was trying to resolve an issue regarding public safety. The Constitutional Club had agreed with the District Council the length of York Road which would be closed and they were happy that they could work with this.
- e) **Annual Parish Meeting:** Members were reminded that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 27th April in the Small Hall.

6. PLANNING:

a) **Decisions reached:** Members noted the following:

11/00023/TPOCON – Fell 1 Norway Spruce – 9 Hayhouse Road Granted

11/00025/TPOCON – Work to trees – 8 Queens Road Granted

11/00037/TPOCON – Reduce bay tree by 50%, reduce magnolia by 33% - Greenhills Place, Halstead Road Granted

11/00213/FUL – Change of use of existing double garage into residential Accommodation – 40 Halstead Road Granted

b) **Current applications:** Mr. Curtis reported on the following tree applications:

11/00080/TPOCON – Fell 1 holly and 1 sycamore tree – 35-37 Park Lane

Members had no objections to this application.

11/00081/TPOCON – Fell 2 oak trees

Members had no objections to this application.

11/00083/TPO – 40% crown reduction of 1 ash tree – Opp. 2 Monks Road

Members had no objections to this application.

7. MEMBERS` REPORTS:

None received

8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

a) **Big Society Fund 2011-12:** Members considered the criteria for making applications to this fund and would report back on any projects which they thought might be appropriate.

b) **Earls Colne Library:** It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the County Council suggesting that the opening hours/days of the Earls Colne library could be extended with the use of volunteers, but that volunteers should not be used to replace existing staff.

c) **Temporary Road Closure – Parley Beams Road and Nightingale Hall Road:** Members noted that these roads would be closed from 0930 to 1530 from Monday 30th May 2011 to Friday 17th June 2011 for BT pole and cable works.

d) **Essex Youth Bus:** The Clerk advised that the mobile unit would be available during July and August at a cost of £80 for a three hour session (no change in price from last year). It was agreed that six visits of the unit should be booked at a cost of £480.

e) **Parish Paths Partnership:** The Clerk advised that for a number of years the Parish Council had arranged for a contractor to cut the footpaths in the village and had reclaimed the money from Essex County Council through the Parish Paths Partnership. The contractor charged 18p per metre for this work but this year P3 was only prepared to pay 12p per metre. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with the County Council officer to discuss this matter.

- f) **Bus Shelter:** Members noted that the County Council had advised that there was a small possibility that some funding might become available for a new bus shelter. She reminded members that she had contacted one of the bus companies following the last Annual Parish Meeting where a member of the public had requested a shelter in Upper Holt Street or Church Hill and had been advised that very few passengers were picked up at either of those stops and that the most used bus-stop with no shelter was in Halstead Road, opposite Greencourt.

9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Public Car Park and Toilets:** Members noted that a meeting would take place at 11a.m. on Thursday 26th May.
- b) **Heart and Sole Health Walks Scheme:** The Clerk advised that this scheme was being extended to Earls Colne and there would be regular weekly walks on Thursday mornings lasting for approximately 30 – 45 minutes. The first walk would start outside The Co-op at 10 a.m. with coffee being served in The Lion after the walk.
- c) **Street Scene Agreement:** It was agreed that the Street Scene Agreement should be signed for 2011/12. It was noted that there would be no increase to the payment, which remained at £2492.61.
- d) **Parish Summit:** The Chairman reported on this meeting which he had attended on 29th March.

10. THE CAUSEWAY

Members considered an e-mail received from a resident of 3 Church Hill regarding the wooden posts which had been installed in The Causeway to prevent parking on the grass. The resident believed that the installation of the posts had caused hardship for people visiting the New Churchyard. No complaints had been received from people who had experienced difficulties in accessing the New Churchyard and it was agreed that no action should be taken.

11. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CENTENARY OF THE OPENING OF E.C. VILLAGE HALL

It was agreed that this item should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting when a Working Party would be formed to look at ways of celebrating these events.

12. VILLAGE HALL

- a) **Quarterly Village Hall Inspection:** An Inspection had been carried out on 29th March by Cllrs. Hall, Shipp and Williams who had been happy with the standard to which the Hall is being kept.

13. FINANCE

- a) **Payment of Accounts:** For Schedule of Payments see Appendix 1

IN COMMITTEE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Date

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CHAIRMAN