

**Minutes of a Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council held in the Council Chamber  
on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

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**PRESENT:**

Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. J. Bendall (Chairman), Mr. R. Curtis, Mrs. R. Hall, Mr. C. Hazell, Mrs. D. Howorth, Mr. M. Tracey, 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 three members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. K. Shipp.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr. Sparks declared a personal interest in the tree application for 20 Morleys Road as he was acquainted with the applicant.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Mr. Bennett of Halstead Road, Earls Colne expressed his support for the proposal to relocate the Air Ambulance to Earls Colne Airfield and asked the Parish Council to support the planning application when submitted.

Mr. Malcolm Hobbs explained the details of a planning application submitted by E. Hobbs (Farms) Ltd. which members would be considering during the meeting.

**4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were approved and signed.

**5. CLERK'S REPORT**

- a) **Former Alldays Store:** The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from the East of England Co-operative Society advising that terms had now been agreed for this shop to be sub let and that the legal formalities were close to being completed. The new tenant would be trading as a hardware shop.
- b) **Street Lights – Atlas Road and Dudley Road:** Members were advised that on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March the Clerk had been informed that all of the parish lights in Atlas Road and Dudley Road had been out since the previous weekend, and it was initially thought that there must a problem with the power supply. However, it subsequently became apparent that all of the lights had been shot at with an air rifle. This was reported to the Police who have since carried out substantial investigations. The lights had been repaired at a cost of £562.
- c) **Annual Parish Meeting:** Members were reminded that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place at 7.30 p.m. n Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Cllrs. Barrett, Hall and Howorth volunteered to assist with the refreshments.



## 7. MEMBERS' REPORTS

- a) **Emergency Planning:** Cllrs. Hazell and Tracey advised that they were arranging to meet with the District Council's Emergency Planning Officer to discuss what would be required for an Emergency Plan for Earls Colne, and they would report back to the Parish Council following this meeting.

## 8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Community Initiatives Fund (Highways):** The Clerk advised that a response had been received from the Highways Department advising that the location of the Vehicle Activated Sign by the war memorial has been assessed as the most suitable location where it would reinforce the existing warning sign, which they would not recommend removing. They advised that the alternative would be for the Parish Council to withdraw from having the VAS installed. It was agreed to go ahead with the installation of the sign in the recommended location.
- b) **Parking Standards, Design and Good Practice – Consultation Document:** Members considered a response to this consultation document prepared by the Chairman, and it was unanimously agreed that this should be forwarded to the County Council.

## 9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Street Scene Partnership 2009-2010:** It was agreed that the street cleaning agreement with Braintree District Council should be renewed for the year 2009/10 for a payment of £2431.85, which due to the economic climate remained the same as last year.
- b) **Parish Cluster Meeting:** Members were reminded that this meeting would take place at Greenstead Green Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Cllrs. Bendall, Curtis, Sparks and Tracey indicated that they would attend.

## 10. EARLS COLNE PRIMARY SCHOOL – VACANCY FOR SCHOOL GOVERNOR

No-one wished to put themselves forward for this vacancy.

## 11. EALC/BALC:

- a) **Courses:** Mrs. Howorth wished to attend Councillor Training Day 1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.
- b) **BALC AGM:** Mr. Williams agreed to attend this meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

## 12. VILLAGE HALL

- a) **Heating System:** The Clerk confirmed that the new boiler was due to be fitted on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April.

## 13. FINANCE:

- a) **Payment of Accounts:** For schedule of payments see Appendix 1

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