

**Minutes of a Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council held in the Council Chamber
On Wednesday 21st April 2010**

PRESENT:

Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. J. Bendall (Chairman), Mrs. R. Hall, Mr. C. Hazell, 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

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced with regret that since the last meeting two former members of the Parish Council had passed away after long illnesses.

Christopher Holmes had been Clerk for 15 years from 1968 to 1983 and a Parish Councillor from 1983 to 1990, serving as Chairman for 3 years.

Fran Martin had been a Parish Council for 7 years between 1999 and 2008 and had served as Vice-Chairman for 3 years.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. R. Curtis and Mr. M. Tracey (attending BDC Emergency Planning meeting).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Cllrs Siddall and Spray contributed to items as they arose.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING:

The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 17th March 2010, were approved and signed.

5. CLERK'S REPORT:

- a) **Letter from resident:** The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from a resident of The Croft who wanted to let the Parish Council know that the village was looking lovely with all the Spring bulbs which had been planted.
- b) **EALC Training Course:** The Clerk confirmed that a two hour Councillor Training Course has been booked to take place in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 6th October starting at 7 p.m.
- c) **Land at Halstead Road:** Members noted that the Chairman, Clerk and Cllr. Williams had met with the agent for Hunt Properties Ltd. who owned this land, and they had been advised that the landowner intended in the near future to either cultivate the land or to graze livestock on it, and that it was for that reason that the land has been secured.

The nominated representative of the members of the public present at the last meeting had been advised of the above and that the Parish Council would need to see evidence that a route across the land has been used for a period in excess of 20 years before taking any steps to get the path included on the Definitive Map. A meeting has been arranged with BDC's Housing Enabling Officer on 28th April to discuss this land.

6. PLANNING:

a) Decisions reached:

10/00051/FUL – Erection of detached dwelling with single detached garage and access through existing wall – Land adjoining 32 York Road Granted

10/00149/LBC – Erection of B1 business units including access road – Riverside Business Park, Station Road Granted

10/00050/TPOCON – Work to various trees – Colne Priory Granted

b) Current applications: Mr. Sparks reported on the following planning application:

10/00461/FUL – Erection of single storey rear extension – 4 The Castings

Members had no objections to this application.

Members considered a report prepared by Mr. Curtis on the following tree application:

Fell 2 hazel, 1 ash and 1 Portuguese laurel – Chandlers, Upper Holt Street

Members had no objections to the above application, but suggested that a more suitable species than lime be chosen as replacement for the hazel trees as lime trees grow to a great size and may cause difficulties in the future.

c) Consultation on Planning Applications: The Clerk advised that the District Council had responded to her letter concerning the future of paper plans being sent to parish councils, and had advised that the changes were a result of a wholesale shift towards electronic working which was being promoted by both national and local government, a consequence of which is that the District Council did not have the power to insist that applicants submit a paper copy for parish council use.

Members felt that this move was shortsighted and Cllr. Siddall said he would be pursuing this matter.

7. MEMBERS' REPORTS:

a) Parish Paths Partnership – Proposed Changes: The Clerk reported she and Mr. Curtis had met with the Parish Paths officer and that there would be no changes in respect of cutting paths for the current year, as it was felt that the notice given was too short, and the Parish Council could therefore instruct its contractor to cut paths in the village as previously.

For 2011/12 there would be a formal contract to sign and the County Council would be looking at the costs involved in cutting paths to see whether they could do the work cheaper. It had been acknowledged, however, that, where paths needed to be cut with a brushcutter, the cost would be greater.

8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

a) Highways Matters – Disabled Parking Bays – High Street: Members noted that the Parish Council's request that the two bays outside The Drum PH should be removed had been treated as an objection to the Traffic Regulation Order and the Parish Council had been asked if they would reconsider their decision. Members agreed that their objection should be maintained.

b) Cycling Framework Consultation: The contents of this document were noted.

- c) **Atlas Works Estate:** The County Council had advised that the developer had not completed the proposed adoption agreement and it was likely that the roads would be adopted through a process of issuing notices erected on site for one month, at the end of which period the roads would become adopted. Before this process could be instigated the developer would have to make good some remaining defects, including street lighting.
- d) **The Essex School Organisation Plan 2009-2014:** Members noted that this document was available to view on line.

9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Public Car Park and Toilets:** Members noted that the District Council had claimed that they had not received the Clerk`s letter to them dated 26th November 2009 (despite the fact that an acknowledgement of receipt had been received). A further copy of the letter had been sent, but no reply received at that time.

10. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL REPORT

Individual reports for the meeting were received.

Members collected copies of the Annual Report for delivery.

11. ALLOTMENTS

The Chairman reported that the plots had been officially handed over on 17th April and there was a lot of activity and enthusiasm amongst the tenants.

The Chairman and Clerk would be meeting with the landowner and the Chairman of the Allotment Association on site on 28th April to sign off the fencing and discuss water provision.

12. GREENFIELDS COMMUNITY HOUSING

Members noted that Greenfields would be carrying out estate inspections in Earls Colne. The Chairman and Clerk would attend the inspection on 12th May and Cllrs. Howorth and Williams volunteered to attend the inspection on 11th August.

3. PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF HONYWOOD COMMUNITY SCIENCE SCHOOL

Members noted that the Governors of Honywood Community Science School, Notley High School and Tabor Science College were considering changing the status of their schools from a Community School to a Foundation School so that their schools could join an educational trust.

14. BALC MEETING

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman would attend the AGM to be held on 3rd June.

15. REVIEW OF INSURANCE PROVISION AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Clerk was obtaining the costs of insuring the street furniture and play equipment and would report at the next meeting.

Members noted that the following risk assessments had been reviewed:

Financial – noted

Internal Audit – agreed that prior to cheques being signed they should be checked against invoices (Mr. Shipp volunteered to carry out this task before each Parish Council meeting).

Community Worker – noted

Village Hall – the cost of replacing the door to the Council Chamber and the two doors at the bottom of the stairs with doors which would give one hour's fire resistance to be investigated..

16. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT WEST TEY & TEMPLE BORDER

An e-mail had been received from Coggeshall Parish Council suggesting that local parish councils join together in opposing this proposed development.

It was the view of members that they would welcome any improvements to the junction of the A120 and B1024 which might come about as a result of the proposed development, and that so far as Earls Colne was concerned this potential benefit would outweigh the issue of new development in the area concerned. Members also felt that improvements to the road system should be put in place before any new development went ahead.

17. VILLAGE HALL

- a) **Report on external condition of Hall:** Mr. Williams presented a report on the external condition of the Village Hall and it was agreed that quotations for this work should be obtained.

It was also agreed that Mr. Williams and Mrs. Hall should carry out an internal inspection of the Hall.

18. FINANCE:

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

IN COMMITTEE

19. CENTENARY AWARD

Members considered the seven applications received and it was agreed that the following grants should be awarded:

Greencourt Sheltered Housing Scheme	£103 - Second hand organ
Earls Colne Housewives Organisation	£150 - Towards the cost of speakers and demonstrations
Earls Colne Millennium Green Trust	£200 – To provide free donkey rides at the Millennium Green Open Day (in memory of Fran Martin)
Earls Colne Friendship Club	£345 – Trip to Dunwich/Southwold

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Date

.....
CHAIRMAN