

**Minutes of a Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council held in the Council Chamber  
on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

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**PRESENT**

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

Mrs. P. Herbert was present in her capacity as Clerk, together with Cllr. C. Siddall (BDC).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Hall, Cllr.G. Spray and Sarah Brady.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Cllr. Siddall reminded members that the Halstead Local Committee would be hosting a Consultation Evening on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

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

The Minutes of meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2009 were approved and signed.

**5. CLERK'S REPORT:**

- a) **Best Kept Village Competition:** Members discussed the marks received by Earls Colne in this competition. The Clerk was asked to find out from the District Council the current situation with regard to refurbishing the public conveniences.
- b) **House in Hillie Bunnies:** The Clerk reported that she had been advised by the District Council's Enforcement Officer that the caravan and other items at the front of this property would be removed, but that he was unable to do anything about the boarded up house at the present time.
- c) **Parking Area – Halstead Road:** It was agreed that the situation with cars for sale in the area should continue to be monitored for the time being.
- d) **E.C. Grammar School:** The Chairman and Mr. Williams volunteered to attend an event organised by the Old Colonians' Association on 10<sup>th</sup> October when a replica crest and plaque would be fitted to the gates of the old Grammar School.
- e) **Greenfields Inspection:** No one was available to attend the inspection which would take place on 26<sup>th</sup> August.
- f) **Priory Bench:** Members noted that representatives would be invited to a site meeting to choose a position for the bench when work to the access to the Priory was completed.

**6. PLANNING:**

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

*08/02130/FUL – Change of use of land for car wash and valeting – 6 Lower Holt Street*

Granted

<i>09/00473/FUL &amp; 09/00474/LBC – Erection of contemporary fencing to the rear of 4 no. properties at Hunts Yard – Hunts Yard, Massingham Drive</i>	Granted
<i>09/00650/FUL – Change of use from A3/A4 to residential (conversion of ground floor bar/restaurant to a three bedroom self-contained flat – The Carved Angel</i>	Withdrawn
<i>09/00651/LBC – Change of use from A3/A4 to residential (conversion of ground floor bar/restaurant to a three bedroom self-contained flat – The Carved Angel</i>	Granted
<i>09/00686/FUL – Change of use of existing single storey office building with internal conversion to provide residential accommodation (2 bed) and two car parking spaces provided – Whitegates, 11 York Road</i>	Granted
<i>09/00772/FUL – Erection of two storey side extension to form 2 no. two bedroom flats – 47 Atlas Road</i>	Granted
<i>09/00826/FUL – Proposed loft conversion – 29 Tey Road</i>	Granted

b) **Current Applications:** Mr. Williams reported on the following planning applications:

*09/01048/FUL – Erection of extensions and new roof to form additional rooms within roof space – 9 Station Road*

Members had no objections to this application.

*09/00882/FUL & 09/00883/LBC – Proposed internal and external alterations to main house, re-opening of old driveway and provision of 10m x 5m outside swimming pool with associated outbuilding for plant and changing facilities and erection of new boundary garden wall to enclose – Nightingale Cottage, Nightingale Hall Road*

Members had no objections to this application.

Mr. Curtis reported on the following tree applications:

*09/00163/TPO- Remove dead wood and reshape 1 oak tree – 23 Monks Road*

Members had no objections to this application.

*09/00178/TPOCON – Cut back 1 pine tree – 10 Park Lane*

Members had no objections to this application.

## 7. MEMBERS` REPORTS:

a) **Halstead Area Crime Prevention Panel :** Mr. Sparks reported on a recent meeting of the Panel.

## 8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

a) **Street Lighting – Pilot Scheme:** Members discussed a pilot scheme which had been taking place in the Maldon and Uttlesford districts for over 18 months whereby some street lights have been turned off at midnight for the remainder of the night. The Safer and Stronger Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee would, at a meeting at 10 a.m. on 18<sup>th</sup> September, be considering the issues arising from the pilot and would put forward suggestions on what might happen in Essex in the future.

Members felt that they would not object to the scheme being introduced in Earls Colne provided that only 50% of lights were switched off and they were not turned off until 2 a.m.

## **9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

- a) **Changes to the Refuse and Recycling Collection Service – Food Waste Collection:** Members noted the proposed changes to this service.
- b) **Parish Cluster Meeting:** Members noted that the next round of Cluster meetings would start in September. The Three Colnes meeting would be hosted by Colne Engaine.
- c) **Community Achievement Awards:** Members did not wish to nominate anyone for these awards.
- d) **Halstead Local Committee – Consultation Evening:** Mr. van Dulken would attend this meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and Mr. Sparks and Mr. William would also attend if possible.

## **10. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:**

- a) **Allotment Working Group:** It was agreed that a meeting of the Working Group would take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.
- b) **Christmas Working Group:** Report noted.

## **11. A120 – REMOVAL OF IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME FROM THE EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONS PROGRAMME**

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Essex County Council, Braintree District Council, Brooks Newmark M.P. and the Highways Agency strongly objecting to the removal of the above scheme from the East of England Region`s programme.

## **12. LOCAL ORGANISATIONS:**

It was agreed that a social event for representatives of local organisation should be held in the Spring to thank them for their contribution to village life.

## **13. EALC**

- a) **Selection process for the Annual Buckingham Palace Garden Party Nominations:** It was agreed not to nominate anyone for the selection procedure for tickets to this event and members felt that the new selection scheme was unnecessary.
- b) **New Statutory Planning Committee:** Members requested more information about the proposed committee which would be considered at the next meeting.
- c) **Training:**

No-one was available to attend the Chairman`s Day 2 Course on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

## **14. LETTER FROM STOP STANSTED EXPANSION RE STANSTED AIRPORT NOISE ACTION PLAN**

Members agreed to take no action with regard to the BAA consultation document and questionnaire.

## **15. VILLAGE HALL:**

- a) **Hallmark Scheme:** Members noted that the current Hallmark Scheme for Village Halls applied only to Halls which had charitable status and were run by management committees. The RCCE had advised that ACRE were currently developing a checklist for other halls, such as those run by PCs, which it was planning to launch later in the summer.

- b) **Chairs:** Members noted that 125 new chairs had been delivered and were in use in the Village Hall. The remaining 25 chairs would be delivered in October.

**16. FINANCE:**

- a) **Internal Audit:** An internal audit of the PCs accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June had been carried out on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and they were found to be satisfactory with no matters requiring further attention.
- b) **Payment of Accounts:** For schedule of payments see Appendix 1.
- c) **Fidelity Guarantee Insurance:** It was agreed that the Council's Fidelity Guarantee Insurance cover should be increased to £100,000 at an additional cost of £88.35.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Date .....

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CHAIRMAN