

PRESENT:

Cllrs: Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. J. Bendall, Mr. R. Curtis, Mr. P. Harrington, Mrs. D. Howorth, Mr. R. van Dulken and Mr. F. Williams

Also present were Cllr. G. Spray, Cllr. C. Siddall (present for part of the meeting) and three members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. C. Hazell, Cllr. K. Shipp, Cllr. I. Sparks, Cllr. J. Pike and Mrs. P. Herbert (Clerk).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. P. Harrington declared a personal interest in the planning application for 33 Halstead Road as he was acquainted with the applicant.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Mr. Hobbs explained to members why a recent planning application for the Business Park at the Airfield had been withdrawn.

Mrs. Goodchild introduced herself as the new Chairman of the Four Colnes Horticultural Society and said that the Society would be interested in sponsoring some of the planting in the village. She was advised that the Parish Council was already considering a proposal from a local company and that the proposal of the Four Colnes Horticultural Society would be considered at the same time.

Reece wished to apologise for his involvement in a recent episode of graffiti in the village.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING

The Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting, held on 16th November 2011, were approved and signed.

5. CLERK'S REPORT:

- a) **Carol Service:** It was agreed that the Village Carol Service which had been held on the previous evening had gone well and that generally people preferred to go inside the Baptist Church rather than sing in the car park.
- b) **The Localism Act:** Members noted the contents of an NALC Policy Briefing which had been sent to members.

6. PLANNING

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

11/01339/FUL – Erection of side extension to existing detached chalet bungalow with single storey pitched roof extension annexed to rear elevation - The Croft, Coggeshall Rd. Granted

11/01312/T56 – Notification of Permitted Development – Erection of 6m telemetry aerial, kiosk and ancillary works – Pumping Station, Curds Road Permission not required

11/01195/FUL – Erection of two single storey office (B1) buildings with associated car Parking and landscaping – Land east of The Paddocks, The Airfield Withdrawn

11/01266/LBC – Repairs to damaged plaster/render and frame of front elevation of dwelling – 2 Lower Holt Street Granted

11/01313/FUL – Change of use from mortgage brokers (A2 use) to tea rooms (A3 use) – 23 High Street Granted

b) **Current applications:** Cllr. Howorth reported on the following planning applications:

11/01561/FUL – Enlargement of existing single storey rear extension and replacement of flat roof – 39 Lowefields

Members had no objections to this application.

11/01508/FUL – Erection of single storey side and rear extension – 33 Halstead Road

Members had no objections to this application.

11/01636/LBC – Minor alterations – East of England Co-op, 31 High Street

Members had no objections to this application.

11/01645/FUL – Erection of side extension – America Farm, America Road

Members had no objections to this application.

Cllr. Curtis reported on the following tree applications:

11/00324/TPOCON – Reduce height of conifer trees/hedge back to previous reduction – 7 Church Hill

Members had no objections to this application.

11/00332/TPOCON – Reduce height, thin and raise crown of one beech tree and thin out one ornamental cherry tree – 21 Queens Road

Members had no objections to this application.

c) **Planning Training for Parish Councils:** Members noted that Braintree District Council was proposing to hold one or two training events to cover proposed reforms to the way in which communities get involved in the planning process and the new draft planning guidance. All councillors indicated that they would like to attend the training.

It was also noted that the Rural Community Council of Essex was also holding a Neighbourhood Planning Training Session at Feering on Saturday 4th February 2012 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee (including lunch) would be £70. It was agreed not to send a representative to this event.

7. MEMBERS` REPORTS:

a) **Report on Passenger Transport Meeting:** Cllr. R. Curtis reported on this meeting which he had attended on 29th November.

b) **Report on meeting re Bus Services 327/329:** Cllr. R. Curtis reported on this meeting which he had attended on 5th December.

8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL:

a) **Massingham Drive:** Members noted that Highways had advised that it would not be possible to install an additional `not suitable for heavy vehicles` sign at the junction of Massingham Drive and the A1124. The resident who had requested a sign had been advised of this decision.

9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL:

- a) **Public Car Park and Toilets:** There was nothing new to report.
- b) **Housing Breakfast Meetings:** Members noted that a series of meetings would be held during 2012 and suggested that this information should be passed onto the Village Agent.

10. DIAMOND JUBILEE:

- a) **Jubilee Oak:** Members noted that Cllr. Chris Siddall had formally planted the Jubilee Oak on Thursday 1st December at the Millennium Green. Cllrs. Bendall and Curtis had attended the event along with the Clerk, the Community Worker and trustees of the Earls Colne Millennium Green Trust.
- b) **Proposed Monument:** Cllr. Barrett gave a brief update.
- c) **Celebrations:** Cllr. Barrett gave a brief update.

11. EARLS COLNE IN BLOOM

- a) **Meeting with Olivers Plants:** It was noted that the Clerk was still waiting to hear from Olivers Plants re a meeting.
- b) **Four Colnes Horticultural Society:** This item had been dealt with during the public session.

12. VILLAGE INSPECTION

Members noted the results of the Village Inspection which had been carried out on 20th November.

13. TREE SAFETY SURVEY

Members considered the report which had been commissioned on the safety of Parish Council owned trees in the village. Cllr. Curtis agreed to liaise with the tree surgeon re work required to be carried out.

14. VILLAGE HALL

There was nothing to report.

15. FINANCE:

- a) **Payment of Accounts:** For schedule of payments see Appendix 1
- b) **Precept 2012/13:** It was agreed that there should be no increase in the amount of the Precept which remain at £54237.

At the end of the meeting Cllr. van Dulken confirmed that he was resigning from the Parish Council as he had moved out of the village. The Chairman advised that the appointment of a new Vice-Chairman and the appointment of a Parish Council trustee for the Millennium Green would be on the agenda for the next meeting and asked members to give this some consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Date

.....
CHAIRMAN