

PRESENT:

Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. J. Bendall (Chairman), Mr. R. Curtis, Mrs. R. Hall, Mr. C. Hazell, 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) and Cllr. G. Spray (BDC).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. D. Howorth.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Bendall and Mr. Hazell declared an interest in the planning application for the Recreation Club as they were Trustees of the Club.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No questions or statements were made during the public session.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th November were approved and signed.

5. CLERK'S REPORT:

- a) **Annual Parish Meeting:** The Clerk advised that the District Council's Electoral Officer had confirmed that there was no reason why the Parish Council could not hold its Annual Parish Meeting on the same day as the General Election if it was held on 6th May. It was also noted that Colne Engaine Parish Council had rescheduled their Annual Parish Council meeting which would not now take place on the same day as the Earls Colne meeting.
- b) **Payphone, Halstead Road:** Members noted that BT had advised that, as the Parish Council had decided not to adopt the kiosk for this payphone, it would remain in service for the time being. However, as it was a little used kiosk the telephone equipment might be subject to a future removal proposal/consultation.
- c) **Essex Rural Strategy `2020 Vision for Rural Essex`:** Members were advised that this document has been developed by the Essex Rural Partnership, which was a non-statutory body that brought together organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors which had a responsibility for the future of the County's rural areas.

6. PLANNING:

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

09/01195/FUL & 09/01207/LBC – Change of use from A3/A4 to residential (Conversion of ground floor bar/restaurant to a three bedroom self contained flat) – Oxford House, Upper Holt Street Granted

09/01325/FUL – Erection of two car lodge – Bramble House, Colne Green Farm Granted

09/01252/LB – Creation of gateway into existing listed wall – 76 High Street Granted

b) **Current applications:**

09/01563/FUL- Erection of single storey extension – Earls Colne Recreation Club, Halstead Rd

Members had no objections to this application.

- c) **Planning Training:** The Chairman and Mr. van Dulken reported on a Planning Training Session which they had attended on 16th November. The training covered Household Permitted Development, Mobile Phone Masts and the Revised Essex Parking Standards.

The Chairman recommended that members visit the Planning Portal website to see further information about Household Permitted Development.

7. MEMBERS` REPORTS:

- a) **Airfield Liaison Committee:** Members received a report of this meeting held on 30th November. There had been a great deal of discussion concerning the composition of the Committee, how many resident representatives should be included, how they should be nominated and whether they were truly representative of the area they were supposed to cover. Cllr. Spray advised that she had received further correspondence from resident representatives since the meeting and a decision on how to proceed had not at that time been made.

8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Essex Local Transport Plan 2011:** Members noted that the County Council had just begun to prepare the new Essex Local Transport Plan which would take effect from 2011 and were asking as many people as possible to complete their questionnaire
- b) **Proposal to ask ECC to rebuild the headwall to the culvert at the bottom of Church Hill (school side):** It was agreed that the County Council should be asked whether any improvements could be made to the current measures in place at this location.

9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Cabinet Meeting – 7/12/09:** The Chairman had attended this meeting and advised that the District Council had decided not to withdraw the Parish Support Grant which would be frozen for three years. He pointed out that this would not address the issue of unparished areas paying less Council Tax than parished areas.

The District Council were looking again at the proposal to remove the Community Warden service with the aim of reducing the number of wardens by half.

Mr. van Dulken expressed the view that it would be a shame to lose all the experience and knowledge gained by the existing wardens.

Mr. Williams felt that the warden who covered the Three Colnes had achieved an excellent rapport with young people in the village and that the lack of problems being experienced was largely due to the respect in which she was held.

- b) **Public Car Park, Queens Road:** The Clerk advised that a letter had been sent to the District Council requesting a meeting to discuss the issues involved in taking over responsibility for the car park. A response to the letter was awaited.
- c) **Parish Cluster Meeting:** Mr. Williams reported on the Parish Cluster meeting which had been held at Colne Engaine on 26th November.
- d) **Social Housing – Workshop & Briefings:** Mr. van Dulken reported on a workshop on choice based lettings which he had attended on 30th November and which covered how

people can register on their own or with help, how homes are allocated and how the system works for rural housing.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Members were pleased to hear that the Council's Planning Application for the creation of an allotment site at Newhouse Road had been approved by the Planning Committee the previous evening, subject to conditions regarding the car park surface and tree and hedge planting.

A meeting of the Allotment Working Group was scheduled to take place on 6th January to take the project forward.

Mr. Curtis thanked Cllr. Spray for her support at the Planning Meeting.

11. CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Members discussed the Village Carol Service which had taken place on the previous evening and it was agreed that a meeting of the Christmas Working Group should be arranged to discuss any improvements which could be made.

12. VILLAGE HALL

- a) **Registration of the Village Hall with the Land Registry:** Mr. Williams and the Clerk had been looking into the possibility of registering the Village Hall as agreed at a previous meeting. It appeared that the likely cost of this procedure would be close to £1000 and it was therefore proposed that, in view of other financial pressures at the current time, the registration of the Village Hall be postponed for the time being.

Some members felt that it was important to proceed with the registration and it was agreed that this should be further discussed at the Budget meeting on 6th January.

- b) **Request from the Primary School to use the Village Hall in the event of an emergency evacuation of the School:** The Chairman reported that the Primary School was preparing an Emergency Evacuation Plan and had identified the Village Hall as the most suitable location for evacuated children in the event of an emergency at the School. It was agreed that the Village Hall should be made available to the Primary School in the event of an emergency and that the School should be provided with a key.

13. FINANCE:

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

IN COMMITTEE

14. VILLAGE HALL LICENSING

It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr. Williams and the Clerk should meet with representatives of one of the licensed premises in the Village to discuss the licensing situation at the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Date:

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CHAIRMAN