

**Minutes of a Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council held in the Council Chamber  
On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

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**PRESENT:**

CLRs: Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. J. Bendall (Chairman), Mr. R. Curtis, Mr. P. Harrington, Mr. C. Hazell, Mrs. D. Howorth, Mr. K. Shipp, Mr. I. Sparks and Mr. F. Williams

Mrs. Herbert was present in here capacity as Clerk together with four members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. C. Siddall and Cllr. G. Spray

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Howorth declared a personal interest in the co-option of new members as she was a close friend of one of the applicants.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Mrs. Coote expressed concern about a planning application for change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden on land near to her property. She had previously used this land for dog walking, but had been advised that there was no public right of way. The Chairman confirmed that there was no public right of way over this land.

Mr. Austing and Mr. Bennett spoke briefly on why they wished to be co-opted to the Parish Council. It was unanimously agreed that both applicants should be co-opted to the Parish Council to fill the two casual vacancies.

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

The Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting, held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2102, were approved and signed.

**5. CLERK'S REPORT:**

- a) **Greenfields:** The Clerk advised that, at a meeting of the Greenfields Board on 26<sup>th</sup> January, it had been agreed that the Harold Sims House, Earls Colne would be remodelled, starting in Autumn 2012. Residents would be moved out to new accommodation and relocated back to the remodelled scheme if that was what they wished to do.
- b) **Application to vary Premises Licence – The Drapers:** The Clerk advised that, following mixed responses from members, the following response had been sent to the District Council:
  - The Drapers is situated within a residential area in close proximity to private residential properties and the car park is completely surrounded by residential housing. My members are therefore concerned about noise emanating from the premises causing a nuisance to local residents late at night.
  - It would be more appropriate for the closing hours for all activities to be restricted to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays, and 11 p.m. on Mondays to Thursdays.
- c) **Anglia in Bloom:** Members noted that the Secretary of Halstead in Bloom, had written to all Parish Councils in the Halstead Area advising that the RHS had made a one-off special offer for 2012 of free entry into the Anglia in Bloom campaign. She was willing to set up a meeting in Halstead within the next few weeks and invite one of the In Bloom judges to come and speak to any groups interested in this offer. Cllr. Curtis agreed to attend if a meeting was arranged.
- d) **Best Kept Village/Village of the Year Competition:** It was agreed that an application should be submitted for the 2012 competition.

## 6. PLANNING

- a) **Decisions reached:** The following decision was noted:

*11/01665/FUL – Installation of 4 no. ventilation louvres to replace glazing in the existing Windows – BT Telephone Exchange, High Street*

Granted

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

*12/00171/FUL – Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden – 21 Tey Road*

Members had no objections to the change of use, but would consider the building of any structure in this area to be unacceptable as it would be beyond the line of existing gardens.

*12/00152/FUL – Alteration to an existing vehicle access to an underground sewage pumping station site – Sewage Station, Coggeshall Road*

Members had no objections to this application.

*11/01446/FUL – Erection of single storey side extension to living room and kitchen – 23 Monks Road*

Members objected to this application on the grounds that the architectural detail was out of keeping with the other houses on the estate, particularly in terms of the proposed flat roof, rendered finish and aluminium windows.

*12/00129/FUL – Demolition of existing garage/workshop and erection of detached two bedroom bungalow and garage – Land adj. Sunnyacre, Temperance Yard, High Street*

Members had no objections to this application.

*12/00200/FUL & 12/00201/LBC – Removal of lean-to at side of building in position of existing external plant, replacement acoustic enclosure, installation of CCTV cameras and an external access ladder – East of England Co-operative Society, 31 High Street*

Members had no objections to this application.

- c) **Planning Training Session at Causeway House 16/2/12:** Seven members would be attending this training session.

## 7. MEMBERS` REPORTS

- a) **Snow clearance:** Cllr. Curtis reported on how the new snow clearing equipment had performed during the recent period of bad weather. It was felt that the equipment had generally worked well but that snow chains should be purchased for the tractor at a cost of £100 plus VAT to improve grip.

It was agreed that in future periods of bad weather councillors who were available would assist the Community Worker with snow clearance in the main areas of the village.

It was noted that the County Council`s snow plough had left large quantities of snow on the cleared footway when it went through the village and it was agreed that a request should be made for this vehicle to travel at a slower speed.

## 8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

There was nothing to report.

## 9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL:

- a) **Public Car Park and Toilets:** There was nothing new to report.

## 10. DIAMOND JUBILEE:

- a) **Proposed Monument:** Cllr. Hazell reported that he had arranged for the footings to be dug and the plinth constructed on a voluntary basis, and the work would commence at the beginning of May. The exact position of the Monument on the Village Green was yet to be agreed, but it had been decided that the plinth would be rectangular and that the fenced area would be square in shape.

It was agreed that the official dedication of the monument would be carried out at 1 p.m. on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012, and that Christopher Holmes` brother, Phillip Holmes, should be invited to attend the ceremony and say a few words.

- b) **Celebrations:** Cllr. Barrett reported on a meeting of the Working Group held on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

## 11. ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr. Howorth reported on progress with the Annual Report. A quotation for printing had been received for £714, which was within the budget of £750. Cllr. Barrett would go back to printer to find out whether the reports could be numbered (to provide tickets for the Diamond Jubilee Fete) and the extra cost this would incur.

## 12. DOG FOULING

Members noted that several complaints had been received recently re dog fouling around the village. Two e-mails/letters had been received from residents of Tey Road/Lowefields requesting a dog bin in that area. It was agreed that a dog bin should be purchased at a cost of £90.74 which would be located in Tey Road, past the housing.

## 13. DOOR SECURITY SYSTEM – COUNCIL OFFICE

The Chairman reported that the door entry system for the Council Office had totally stopped working and the following quotations had been received for installing a new system:

- Supply & fit wireless door phone system without camera facility £545.79
- Supply & fit wired door entry system with all in one handset monitor £624.79
- Supply & fit wireless door phone with separate camera and monitor £895.07

It was agreed that a wired door entry system with all in one handset monitor should be installed at a cost of £624.79.

## 14. TREE SAFETY SURVEY

It was agreed that all the work identified in the survey should be carried out with the exception of the work to a beech hedge, which would be carried out by the Community Worker, and work to a yew tree which had already been resolved. The total cost of the work would be £450.

## 15. VILLAGE HALL

Two quotations to replace the curtains in the Village Hall were considered, one for £4844.72 and one for £5032.00. It was agreed to accept the quotation for £4844.72 and that the work should be put in hand as soon as possible.

## 16. FINANCE:

- a) **Payment of Accounts:** For schedule of payments see Appendix 1
- b) **Internal Audit:** The Internal Auditor had carried out an inspection of the Council`s accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 and had found them to be satisfactory with no matters requiring attention.

**IN COMMITTEE**

**17. RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK**

The Chairman reported that a short list of four candidates has been drawn up and interviews had taken place on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Val Holmes had been appointed as Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer and would commence her employment on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

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

Date .....

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CHAIRMAN