

**Minutes of a Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council held in the Council Chamber
On Wednesday 15th July 2009**

PRESENT:

Mr. J. Bendall (Chairman), Mr. R. Curtis, Mrs. R. Hall, 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 P.C. Andrews and PCSO Thorne.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. C. Hazell and Cllr. J. Pike

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Tracey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the planning application for his property at Robins, Hayhouse Road, and left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

Mrs. Howorth declared a personal interest in the planning application for Suite B at Earls Colne Industrial Park as her husband used the therapy centre which was to be located there.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

P.C. Andrews asked members whether there were any matters they wished to draw to his attention and Mrs. Howorth referred to smokers standing outside the The Drum P.H. who spilled onto the parking area. P.C. Andrews said that he would have a word with the landlady.

The Chairman referred to a mobile home parked on the footway in Lower Holt Street and P.C. Andrews said that he would investigate.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 17th June 2009, were approved and signed subject to the date of the Halstead Traffic Liaison Meeting (item 7b) being changed to 8th June 2009.

5. CLERK'S REPORT:

- a) **Four Colnes Show:** Final arrangements were made for the Parish Council stall.
- b) **Co-op Supermarket:** Members noted that there was an on-going investigation into the security grilles recently installed by the Co-op and for which they should have obtained planning permission. The Co-op was currently looking at alternative measures with the Historic Buildings Adviser and this was being done as part of a general refurbishment which would include a new internal layout, decorating, painting the exterior and repairing windows.
- c) **The Churchyard:** A copy of an article from the July edition of the Parish Magazine which explained the wildlife project being undertaken in the Churchyard had been circulated to members.
- d) **Bus Shelter:** The Clerk advised that an order had been placed for the new bus shelter at Greencourt, Halstead Road which was scheduled to be installed mid to late August.
- e) **Honywood School – Help in the Community Day:** The Clerk advised that Honoywood School was organising this special day on 15th September and was looking for tasks which their pupils could carry out under the supervision of teachers. Members were asked to pass any ideas onto the Clerk.

6. PLANNING:

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

09/00475/FUL – Erection of summer house at rear of property – 47 Foundry Lane Granted

09/00503/FUL – Erection of conservatory – 7 Upper Holt Street Granted

09/00502/FUL – Amendment to industrial unit approved under 04/00594/FUL – Change curved roof to pitched roof and reposition staff toilets from external toilet to inside industrial unit – 1 Colne House Farm, Station Road Granted

09/00510/FUL – Erection of two storey front/side extension for new bedroom and au pair living accommodation – Rosedene, Coggeshall Road Granted

09/00535/FUL – Erection of side extension – Greenbanks, Tey Road Granted

09/00501/FUL – Retention of log cabin – Broomfield Farm Nurseries, Coggeshall Rd. Refused

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

09/00874/FUL - Erection of single storey side extension – Robins, Hayhouse Road

Members had no objections to this application.

09/00826/FUL -Proposed loft conversion – 29 Tey Road

Members had no objections to this application.

09/00772/FUL – Erection of two storey side extension to form 2 no. two bedroom flats – 47 Atlas Rd.

Members objected to this application on the grounds that the previous application granted for this site included one double and one single bedroom in each flat. The increase to two double bedrooms for each flat could therefore potentially generate more vehicles which would aggravate the already difficult parking situation in Atlas Road.

It was also suggested that officers should view the site in the evening, rather than during the daytime, when the parking problems would be evident.

09/00784/FUL – Change of use from B1 to Therapy Centre (Use D1) – Suite B, Earls Colne Business Centre, The Airfield

Members had no objections to this application.

09/00796/FUL & 09/00797/LBC – Erection of 900 mm fence around patio area and new paving to match existing within the fence line – Colne House, Station Road

Members had no objections to this application.

c) **Draft Supplementary Planning Document – External Artificial Lighting:** Members commented that this document was not user friendly and that a summary would have been helpful. The only comment they wished to make was concerning external floodlights on residential properties where unnecessary light spillage caused light pollution.

7. MEMBERS' REPORTS:

a) **Play Area, Halstead Road – ROSPA Annual Safety Report:** In Mr. Hazell's absence the Clerk reported on the recently received report. It was agreed that, in view of the comment in the report regarding the structural integrity of the swings, consideration

should be given to replacing this item and at the same time installing wetpour safety surfacing for any replacement swings and for the toddler unit. The Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of installing swings and safety surfacing and the possibility of obtaining grants for this work.

- b) **Earls Colne Heritage Museum:** Mr. Williams reported on a meeting of the Management Group held on 10th June. Members discussed whether a special event should be held to thank all those running organisations in the village and it was agreed that a list of such organisations should be drawn up and the matter discussed at the next meeting.
- c) **Rural Community Council of Essex AGM:** Mr. van Dulken reported on this meeting which he had attended on 9th July. It was agreed that more members should have input into the entry for the Best Kept Village and Village of the Year Competitions in 2010. The Clerk was asked to take another look at the application form for the Hallmark scheme for Village Halls.

8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Community Initiatives Fund:** Members noted that the next round of the CIF had been launched on 6th July and, the criteria for applications.
- b) **Proposed Parking Restrictions – Park Lane/York Road:** The Chairman reported on a site meeting he had attended with representatives of Essex County Council. It had been agreed that the double yellow lines would be installed as proposed with a slight reduction in Park Lane.

9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL

There was nothing to report.

10. EALC COURSE

No-one was available to attend the Chairman`s Course on 9th September.

11. VILLAGE HALL

- a) **To consider a proposal to purchase new chairs for the Main Hall:** Members considered a proposal to replace the chairs in the Main Hall and after testing sample chairs it was agreed that 150 Blue XL chairs should be purchased at a cost of £21.45 per chair with the cost being met from the Village Hall Repairs and Renewals Fund.

16. FINANCE:

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

IN COMMITTEE

17. AMENITY LAND:

- a) **Allotments:** It was agreed that a meeting of the Allotment Working Group would take place at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 22nd July.

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

Date

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CHAIRMAN