

**Minutes of a Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council held in the Council Chamber
on Wednesday 16th June 2010**

PRESENT:

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

Mrs. P. Herbert was present in her capacity as Clerk together with Cllr. G. Spray, P.C. Andrews and Mr. P. Darlington (Village Agent).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. D. Howorth, Mr. M. Tracey and Cllr. C. Siddall.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded that it was their duty to register any interests required to be registered under paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Code of Conduct, and were asked to review their register of interests.

Cllrs. Hazell, Sparks and Williams declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the planning application for 51 Tey Road and left the room whilst the application was discussed.

Cllrs. Hazell, Sparks and Williams also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the quotation received for work at the Village Hall and took no part in discussion.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

P.C. Andrews advised that he had some names in relation to the damage which had been caused to the safety surfacing in the play area in Nonancourt Way, which he would be following up. Other than this incident crime in the village was very low. He suggested that any non urgent calls for his attention should be made to his mobile phone the number of which was available from the Clerk.

Mr. Darlington introduced himself as the Village Agent now covering Earls Colne. He outlined the service which the Village Agents could provide and explained how they had been able to assist people since the start of the scheme, which was funded until March 2011.

4 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

The Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting, held on 19th May 2010, were approved and signed.

5. CLERK'S REPORT:

- a) **High-Speed Broadband:** The Clerk advised that the Rural Broadband Partnership, in conjunction with Essex County Council and the Essex Association of Local Councils was carrying out a Parish Need Survey. Members felt that the quality of Broadband delivery in the parish was below adequate and the survey form was completed accordingly.
- b) **Centenary Award:** Members noted that a letter of thanks had been received from Earls Colne Friendship Club.

6. PLANNING:

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

10/00461/FUL – Erection of single storey rear extension – 4 The Castings Granted

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

10/00736/FUL & 10/00737/LBC – Erection of single storey extension to side elevation – 11 Burrows Road

Members had no objections to this application.

Mr. Bendall reported on the following planning application:

10/00802/FUL – Erection of single storey rear extension – 51 Tey Road

Members had no objections to this application.

Mr. Curtis reported on the following tree applications:

10/00118/TPOCON – Reduce 3 apple trees and 1 silver birch and fell 1 pine tree – Priory Farmhouse, Halstead Road

Members had no objections to this application.

10/00131/TPO – Reduce branch of 1 oak tree and fell 1 ash tree – 11 Coggeshall Road

Members had no objections to this application.

7. MEMBERS' REPORTS:

- a) **Braintree Association of Local Councils AGM – 3/6/10:** The Chairman and Mr. van Dulken had attended this meeting and members considered notes which had been prepared by Mr. van Dulken. It was noted that the Leader of Braintree District Council had said that as part of the District Council's efforts to reduce expenditure the future of the Parish Support Grant was likely to be reviewed. Members felt strongly that the unfair situation with the unparished areas in the District paying less Council Tax should be addressed and that the removal or reduction of the Parish Support Grant could only make matters worse.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to all parish and town councils in the District urging them to lobby their District Councillors about this matter.

- b) **E.C. Airfield Liaison Group Meeting:** Cllr. Spray reported on this meeting which had taken place on 9th June.
- c) **Review of Responsibilities:** The following individual responsibilities were agreed:

Airfield Liaison Committee	M. Tracey/(I. Sparks)
Allotments	M. Tracey
Annual Report/Newsletter	M. Barrett/D. Howorth
Christmas Carol Service/Trees	F. Williams/R.Hall/R. van Dulken
Community Worker	R. Curtis/ C. Hazell
Earls Colne Recreational Trust	J. Bendall/(C. Hazell)
Earls Colne Twinning Association	R. van Dulken
Earls Colne Society	F. Williams
Earls Colne Web Site	K. Shipp
Emergency Planning	C. Hazell/M. Tracey

Footpath Representative	R. Curtis/M. Barrett/R. van Dulken
Halstead Area Crime Prevention Panel	M. Barrett/I. Sparks
Halstead & Earls Colne Educational Trust	F. Williams
Halstead Traffic Management Liaison Committee	R. Curtis
Highways	I. Sparks/J. Bendall
Millennium Green Trust	M. Tracey
Planning	Rota
Play Area	C. Hazell
Police Liaison	I. Sparks/M. Barrett
Transport	I. Sparks/R. Curtis
Tree Warden	R. Curtis
Village Environment	All Members
Village Hall	R. Hall/F. Williams/K. Shipp
War Memorial	I. Sparks
Youth Club	All Members

- d) **Glider Pilot Regimental Association`s Annual Remembrance Service:** Mr. Curtis reported on this event which had taken place on 24th March. It was agreed that the Parish Council should lay a wreath at the 2011 Service.
- e) **Halstead Traffic Management Liaison Committee Meeting:** Mr. Curtis reported on this meeting which he had attended on 7th June. The next meeting would take place on 11th October and members were asked to let Mr. Curtis know if they had items for the agenda.

8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Essex Youth Bus – Summer Roadshow:** Members noted that the mobile unit had been booked on Wednesday evenings from 21st July to 25th August.
- b) **Highways Community Infrastructure Fund (HCIF):** The Clerk advised that this fund, which provided the Vehicle Activated Display sign by the Church, would cease at the end of the current year. Future requests for highway improvements would have to be made as previously by contacting the Area Highways Manager.
- c) **Mid Essex Area Forum:** Members noted that this meeting would take place at 2 p.m. on Thursday 24th June at Maldon Town Hall.

9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Public Car Park and Toilets:** There was nothing new to report on this item
- b) **Braintree District Council Core Strategy Submission Draft:** No comments were made on this document.
- c) **Empty Homes Draft Strategy:** No comments were made on this document

10. PROPOSED BUS SHELTER

The Clerk reported that Essex County Council had advised that there would not be any grants available for Parish Councils for bus shelters during the current year. However, they had indicated that they may be able to fund a shelter from their budget. The Clerk was awaiting an update and would report at the next meeting

11. ALLOTMENTS

Members noted that a site meeting with Anglian Water had taken place and an estimate had been received for the sum of £837 plus VAT. A meeting was being arranged with the adjacent landowner to discuss the possibility of laying a pipe under his field.

12. GREENFIELDS COMMUNITY HOUSING

The Chairman and Clerk had attended an Estate Inspection on 12th May, which had been informative and interesting. It was agreed that members would attend an inspection on an annual basis.

13. FOOTPATHS

- a) **Colne Valley Golf Course:** A letter had been received from a Chartered Surveyor acting for the Golf Course concerning Footpaths 18 and 19. Members expressed the following views:

Members had no objections to the proposal to divert Footpath 18 to the route actually used by walkers.

The proposed diversion of Footpath 19 would take walkers around the perimeter of the course instead of crossing the fairway and would meet The Causeway further up. The majority of members had no objections to this proposal but some members felt that the existing route was shorter, was well used and should be maintained.

- b) **Tey Road – Track adj. to 77 Tey Road:** Mrs. Barrett reported that access to this track had been blocked. However members confirmed that the track was on private land and was not a designated footpath, so no action could be taken.

14. VILLAGE HALL

- a) **Internal Inspection:** Mr. Williams reported on an internal inspection of the Hall which he had carried out with Mrs. Hall.

- b) **External Decoration:** The Clerk advised that the preferred contractor had agreed to reduce his price to £6500 and the work would be carried out some time between 20th September and 22nd October which would avoid the possibility of scaffolding being up round the Hall whilst weddings or other major functions were being held.

- c) **Quotation for fire door for Council Chamber:** The Clerk advised that she had obtained a quotation to fit a fire door and door furniture to the Council Chamber for the sum of £354 plus VAT. It was agreed to proceed with this work.

15. FINANCE:

- a) **Payment of Accounts:** Cheques were checked against invoices by Mr. Shipp and found to be in order. For details of payments see Appendix 1.

- b) **Internal Audit:** Members noted that the Internal Auditor had carried out an audit of the Council's accounts on 19th May and found them to be satisfactory with no matters requiring further attention.

- c) **Proposal to purchase two new litter bins for the Village Green:** It was unanimously agreed that two new litter bins should be purchased for the Village Green at a cost of £500.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Date

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CHAIRMAN