

**Minutes of a Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council held
in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 18th March 2009**

PRESENT:

Mr. R. Curtis, Mrs. R. Hall, Mr. C. Hazell, Mr. K. Shipp, Mr. M. Tracey, Mr. R. van Dulken (in the Chair), and Mr. F. Williams

Mrs. P. Herbert was also present in her capacity as Clerk, together with Cllr. J. Pike (ECC) and 27 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. J. Bendall, Mrs. D. Howarth, Mr. I. Sparks, Cllr. C. Siddall (BDC) and Cllr. G. Spray (BDC).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Curtis declared a personal interest in item 13 – Four Colnes Show as he was the Secretary of the Four Colnes Horticultural Society.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Proposals for Essex Air Ambulance

Members of the public present expressed concerns about the proposal for the relocation of the Essex Air Ambulance to Earls Colne Airfield.

Dr. Gordon was concerned about the detrimental effect on people living nearby and felt that the issue of the Air Ambulance would be used as a `foot in` for other applications.

Mr. Vigouroux-Henday was concerned about the increase in the number of flights annually which would occur if permission were granted and pointed out that there had been an increase in the number of houses in the vicinity of the Airfield since the original permission had been granted.

Mr. Collyer said that an environment impact study had been carried out when the previous application for a helicopter had been submitted and felt that a new study should be carried out

Mr. Brown asked why the Air Ambulance`s lease at Boreham could not be extended.

Mr. Penn had asked Braintree District Council to extend the neighbour notification for the planning application over a wider area. He also said that helicopters would not just affect people living near to the airfield, but would hover all over the village.

Youth Centre

Cllr. Pike advised that he felt badly let down by council officers regarding the Youth Centre. He had been led to believe that the Youth Centre would open once the Children`s Centre was up and running, but the situation now was that, because of the alterations to the building, it would not be possible to have the numbers of young people who were there in the past. Specific courses would be run on Tuesday and Friday evenings, which was contrary to what was originally planned. Cllr. Pike said that he would ensure that a meeting between the youth service and the Parish Council was arranged.

It was unanimously agreed that item 6c) on the agenda should be brought forward.

- 6c) Proposals to move the Essex Air Ambulance Service to Earls Colne Airfield:** Mr. Williams reported on a meeting with representatives of the Essex Air Ambulance which he had attended on 19th February along with Cllrs. Bendall, Sparks and Tracey. It had been an information

evening when the proposals were explained to parish councils, including White Colne and Greenstead Green.

There was no further discussion on the proposal which would be considered when the planning application was received.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February were approved and signed

5. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised that the bus shelter and litter bin at Greencourt, Halstead Road had been completely burned down during the night of 9th/10th March. This had been reported to the Police who were investigating the incident. It was agreed that the Clerk should apply to the County Council for a grant to replace the wooden shelter with a shelter to match the others in the village but with seating rather than a perch seat, and that a new metal litter bin should be purchased.

6. PLANNING:

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

08/02292/FUL – Erection of two storey side extension and front porch and replacement of rear flat roof with a pitched roof – 7 Curds Road Granted

09/00046/FUL & 09/00047/LBC – Changes to south garden including continuation of lean-to covered walkway leading to a carport; construction of brick wall screen and alteration of various flower beds – Colne Priory, Upper Holt Street Granted

09/00021/TPOCON – Reduce and shape 1 hornbeam and slightly reduce 1 pine tree – 31 Willow Tree Way Granted

09/00120/FUL – Erection of detached garage in rear garden – 9 Burrows Road Granted

08/02279/FUL – Erection of extension to garage to provide study – 13 Upper Holt St. Granted

b) **Current applications:** Mr. Shipp reported on the following applications:

09/00233/FUL – Erection of B1 Industrial Unit – Riverside Business Park, Station Road

Members had no objections to this application.

09/00225/FUL – Carry out repairs to existing picket style boundary fence and replace timbers if necessary. Reposition pedestrian gate to a point near to the highway – Priory Cottage, Upper Holt Street

Members had no objections to this application.

Mr. Curtis reported on the following tree application:

09/00046/TPO – Remove branches of one copper beech tree – 30 Josselin Close

Members had no objections to this application.

d) **Local Development Framework Meeting:** Mr. Bendall had attended this meeting on 16th March and had advised that there had been nothing significant to report.

7. MEMBERS REPORTS

- a) **Braintree Association of Local Councils:** Mr. van Dulken reported on a recent meeting of the Association which he had attended.

8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Community Initiatives Fund (Highways):** The Clerk advised that she was still awaiting a response from Highways Department.
- b) **Temporary Road Closures:** Members noted the details of road closures which would be taking place in Tey Road during April.
- c) **No Waiting Proposals – Park Lane/York Road:** Members had no objections to the proposals put forward by the County Council.

9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Public Conveniences:** Members noted that confirmation had been received that the public conveniences would remain open, with further discussion taking place with interested parties on how the service could be delivered at a reduced cost to the taxpayer.
- b) **Parish in Springtime Event:** Members were reminded that this event would take place between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. on 19th March at Causeway House.
- c) **Parish Cluster Meeting:** The Clerk advised that the next Parish Cluster meeting would be hosted by Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council and would take place at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 20th April in their Village Hall. Mr. Tracey agreed to attend the meeting and it was suggested that the proposals for the Essex Air Ambulance and the condition of local roads be included on the agenda.
- d) **Changes to the Refuse and Recycling Collection Service:** Members noted that the District Council would be making changes to this service with effect from 1st October and that the recycling team would be making presentations at the next round of Parish Cluster meetings.

10. TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP A COMPUTER CLUB

Mr. Curtis reported on a visit to Great Barton Computer Club and members agreed to support a proposal to set up a computer club in Earls Colne for those unfamiliar with computers to learn about their use. The use of the Village Hall would be provided free of charge for the initial meeting, details of which will be available on the Parish Council website and on Parish noticeboards.

11. TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF A NEW PHOTOCOPIER

It was agreed that a new photocopier should be leased and the existing machine disposed of.

12. COURSES/CONFERENCE

No-one was available to attend EALC April courses.

13. FOUR COLNES SHOW

It was agreed that the Parish Council should have a stall at the 2009 Show on 15th August.

14. RIVER COLNE COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT

Mr. van Dulken reported on the Annual Meeting of the Project and advised that Colchester Borough Council had withdrawn their funding. Braintree District Council intended to continue funding the Project and was investigating how this could work in the future.

15. ILLUMINATION OF THE PARISH CHURCH

The Clerk had consulted with the Vicar and had received a positive reaction to this proposal. It was therefore agreed that the cost should be investigated. The Clerk advised that the budget for 2009/10 did not include funding for such a project.

16. VILLAGE HALL

- a) **Disabled Toilet:** It was agreed that a disabled toilet and grab rail should be installed at a cost of £558 plus VAT.
- b) **Heating System:** The Clerk advised that work on replacing the boiler would take place on 23rd and 24th April.

17. FINANCE:

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Date

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Chairman