

**PRESENT:**

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

Mrs. P. Herbert was present in her capacity as Clerk, together with Cllr C. Siddall and  
Cllr. G. Spray. PC Andrews and a Police colleague were present for part of the meeting.

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Mr. van Dulken called for nominations for the position of Chairman. Mr. Bendall was proposed by  
Mr. Curtis, seconded by Mr. Hazell, and this was carried unanimously.

**2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Mr. van Dulken called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Mr. van Dulken was  
proposed by Mr. Curtis, seconded by Mr. Hazell, and this was carried unanimously.

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. J. Bendall, Mrs. D. Howorth and Mr. K. Shipp.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr. Curtis declared an interest in the tree application for 6 Halstead Road as the applicant was his next  
door neighbour.

Mr. Sparks declared an interest in the item relating to redecoration of the Village Hall as he was related  
to one of the contractors who had submitted an application.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

PC Andrews advised that crime in the village was very low. He would contact the new Allotment  
Association to discuss crime prevention.

**6 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**

The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010, were approved and signed.

**7. CLERK'S REPORT:**

- a) **Four Colnes Horticultural Show:** Members confirmed that the Parish Council would take a  
stall at the Four Colnes Show on 14<sup>th</sup> August. It was suggested that the Museum, Speedwatch,  
Neighbourhood Watch and the Allotment Association could be included.
- b) **Play Area – Halstead Road:** The Clerk advised that work at the play area has been completed.  
New swings with safety surfacing had been installed and new safety surfacing had been laid around  
the Tom Thumb Unit, which had also had a part replaced to bring it in line with current regulations.

**8. PLANNING:**

- a) **Decisions reached:** None received.
- b) **Current applications:** Mr. van Dulken reported on the following applications:

***10/00498/FUL – Erection of first floor extension over existing ground floor extension – Bramble House, Halstead Road***

Members had no objections to this application.

***10/00587/FUL – Retention of retail unit for the sale of equestrian supplies – Broomfield Farm Nurseries, Coggeshall Road***

Members objected to this application on the grounds that it was a retrospective application which, if granted, would set a precedent for other development in the area.

Mr. Curtis reported on the following tree applications:

***10/00099/TPOCON – Reduce one conifer by 50% - 6 Halstead Road***

Members had no objections to this application.

***10/00107/TPOCON – Fell one pine tree – 30 Upper Holt Street***

Members had no objections to this application.

**9. MEMBERS` REPORTS:**

- a) **Parish Transport Representatives` Meeting:** Mr. Curtis reported on a meeting which he had attended on 11<sup>th</sup> May.
- b) **Parish Emergency Plans and Community Risk Register Event:** Mr. Tracey reported on a meeting which he had attended on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Mr. Tracey advised that he was compiling a draft Emergency Plan for Earls Colne which he would present to the Council at a future Parish Council meeting.
- c) **Halstead Crime Prevention Panel Meeting:** Mr. Sparks reported on a recent meeting of this panel.
- d) **Review of Responsibilities:** Deferred until the next meeting.

**10. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

- a) **Essex Youth Bus – Summer Roadshow:** It was agreed that the Parish Council would fund six visits of the Youth Bus during the summer holidays at a total cost of £480.

**11. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

- a) **Public Car Park and Toilets:** A meeting with the District Council`s Head of Operations for Environmental Health on 14<sup>th</sup> May had been attended by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk, and notes had been circulated to members. The District Council, would be drawing up a proposal and would come back to the Parish Council to discuss the matter further.
- b) **Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership Annual Assembly 2010:** Mr. Williams agreed to attend this meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**12. REVIEW OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

A resident`s request for a bus shelter in Church Hill or Upper Holt Street was discussed and the Clerk advised that she had contacted Hedingham Omnibuses who had advised that very few people used the bus stop at Church Hill although the one at Upper Holt Street was more popular. They had also advised that most used stop without a bus shelter was opposite Greencourt in Halstead Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should find out whether grants for bus shelters were

available for the current year and if so to contact Highways to check whether it was feasible to locate a bus shelter at either Upper Holt Street or Halstead Road.

### **13. ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk reported that the deer and rabbit proof fencing had all been erected and the tenants had taken over their plots and were enthusiastically working on them. Contact had been made with Anglian Water to ascertain the cost of providing water to the site.

### **14. REVIEW OF INSURANCE**

Members considered the current levels of insurance cover and noted that the cost of insuring play equipment and street furniture would increase the premium by £670.47 per annum.

The Clerk advised that, although some of these items had been subject to vandalism over the past few years, the costs involved in repair/replacement had not been great and members therefore decided that payment of the additional premium would not be cost effective and that the risk involved in not insuring these items was acceptable.

### **15. APPLICATION BY PUMP HOUSE MEDICAL LTD. FOR PRELIMINARY CONSENT FOR INCLUSION IN THE MID-ESSEX PHARMACEUTICAL LIST**

Members did not feel that Earls Colne could support two pharmacies and were concerned that the granting of this application would threaten the future of an established shop in the village. The Clerk was instructed to respond accordingly to the NHS Family Health Services.

### **16. VILLAGE HALL**

- a) **External Decoration:** Members considered two quotations received for this work for the amounts of £6790 and £6500. The preferred quotation was for the higher amount and the Clerk was instructed to ask the contractor if he would be able to reduce the amount of the quote. If this was acceptable then the Clerk was authorised to accept the quotation and put the work in hand.

### **17. FINANCE:**

- a) **Payment of Accounts:** For schedule of payments see Appendix 1.
- b) **To Approve the Accounts for 2009/10** - The Annual Return was approved and signed by the Chair of the Meeting and the Clerk.

### **IN COMMITTEE**

18. **Report on Meeting with BDC Housing Enabling Officer** – Notes of the meeting had been circulated to members.