

**Minutes of Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council**  
**held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

1. **PRESENT:** Cllrs. Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. J. Bendall (Chair), Mr. T. Calton, Mr. R. Cook, Mr. R. Curtis, Mr. N. McKean, Mrs. J. Parish, Mr. I. Sparks, , Mr. H. Street and Mr. M. Tracey; District Cllr. G. Spray; District Cllr. G. Courtauld and County Cllr. J Beavis; Spike Townsend - Community Special and D. Hayns (Clerk)
2. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**  
Cllr Mrs. N. Spelling
3. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:**

The following residents attended

- V. Franklyn - in regard to item 8b
  - D. Bremner – in regard to item 8b
  - J. Smith – In regard to Footpath 18 temporary closure across Colne Valley Golf Club to enable repairs to the surface and improvement works. Also; to flag the issues with public use of Private Golf Course land and, with a blocked drain in Burrows Road which is causing problems. Cllr J. Beavis confirmed that works to this drain has been escalated, it has been flushed and works scheduled.
  - C. Siddall – general interest
  - C. McKean – to confirm that there have been around 30 people taking up the facebook call for volunteer litter pickers. The Chairman confirmed the Councils gratitude to everybody who gave up their time. The Clerk passed on the comments from Braintree District Council and Community Worker about coordination of collection of bags resulting from litter picks. Clerk and Community Worker to carry on liaising with teams and Braintree Street Scenes to make sure that bags are collected in a reasonable time scale.
5. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING - PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021:** The minutes were approved as a true record, with agreement that the minute book be signed at a later point once the council reconvenes in person.
  6. **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:** Report provided, detailing status of previous resolutions.  
Clerk provided an update on the following: -
    - Village Hall – confirmation that our Caretaker for 8 years is leaving. Clerks proposal that a purchase of a leaving gift can be organised agreed.
    - War Memorial – Poor weather has pushed back the works to March – WI planting is coordinated.

- BALC Membership (Braintree Association of Local Councils) - Cllr. M. Barrett confirmed representation of the Parish.
- Current Development sites – lack of clarity for process on street furniture and final outstanding issues on new development sites within the Village. Cllr Spray to clarify who will be able to help with outstanding issues at Braintree District Council. Cllr Cook to assist Clerk and Community Worker in prioritising and keeping track of issues.
- The Causeway Footpath – Mr Whight has confirmed that contractors will be back on site to finish excavations at the eastern end of the Avenue and then completion of the tarmac and fencing. During this time the ‘north-south’ section of the local footpath (Avenue and across the golf club) will undoubtedly need to be closed for a day or two for safety whilst large excavators are working. The temporary footpath built through the field may also need to be closed during part of the works for safety reasons. This will be reopened as soon as possible if it were to be closed, pending full completion of renewing the Avenue. At that time, the dog bin and waste bin will be reinstated. Clerk to liaise with Mr Whight and Street Scenes at Braintree District Council to organise reinstatement.
- Village Maintenance issues – all items flagged by Councillors have been reported and many actioned within the hour. Could all reports have the closest postal address and if possible pictures please.
- Council Resolutions – feedback requested again.
- Village Hall and Housing Needs Survey – Just to update:- HNS – we have had 15 responses so far via survey monkey and 51 responses as a paper version. VHS we have had about 15 through the door. Very positive feedback from the residents and lots of people knocking as they post through their replies to confirm their positivity.
- Earls Colne Heritage Museum – sharing of the issues that have been outstanding with the museum and confirmation of steps undertaken to move the situation forward from the Clerk. Cllr Curtis and Cllr Cook to join the Committee as representatives.
- Volunteer Litter Pickers – discussed with member of the public above.
- Younger volunteers – there may be a few teenagers who would be interested in undertaking some voluntary roles in the Village around their reduced hours at college. Clerk to carry forward.
- NHS, Social Care and frontline Worker’s Day – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Rather than getting involved with this scheme specifically it is viewed as a good idea for a letter to come from the Parish thanking workers within the Village specifically for all their work during the lockdowns. Clerk to carry forward.
- The Essex County Council (Monks Road, Earls Colne) C20mph Speed Limit) Order – area covered clarified to Cllrs and confirmation that there were no comments.
- Open Spaces Plan – Clerk confirmed that entries had been submitted and accepted.
- Precept 2021 – 2022 – Clerk confirmed that this had been submitted and accepted.
- Bus Shelter Scheme Report – Clerk confirmed that this had been submitted and accepted – awaiting further information.

## **7. TO RECEIVE THE COMMUNITY SPECIALS REPORT:**

## **Community Special Constable Update – Feb 2021 – EC Parish Council**

- Since last meeting – 30 hours patrolling (22hrs EC, 8hrs CE)
- 8 visits to Pump House Vaccination Centre
- High Visibility Patrolling (HVP) Massingham Drive/Nonancourt in response to resident concerns regarding increased traffic at Vac Centre
- 6 visits to EC Primary School
- 3 visits to Essex Air Ambulance base
- HVP in response to drug use concerns in identified areas
- 1 patrol conducted in response to persons causing concern at Private COVID testing centre in High Street
- 1 Intelligence report submitted
- Request made to local policing team regarding speeding into village from Halstead – Will update meeting on legal and safety requirements regarding this.
- Attended in response to missing 11 year child reported missing late Sunday evening 7<sup>th</sup> Feb ( Not placed on duty)
- All areas of village patrolled.
- Concerns of villagers using FB to report incidents instead of contacting Police

### **CSC 80707 Spike Townsend GCGI MSyl**

#### **Community Special Constable**

#### **8. PLANNING:**

a) Decisions reached by Braintree District Council as follows: -

<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>BDC Decision Minutes</b>
20/20011/DAC	Land West Of Station Road Earls Colne	In terms of the agreed kissing gate, we have settled on the attached, which is a step up from what they originally proposed, but not quite as far as the 'K' barrier. Officers believe this will satisfactorily control access into the green from the site as previously discussed. The reason for the delay is because I wanted to have concrete answers to your two questions about maintenance	DAC Permitted By BDC Planning

		of the kissing gate and the path.I can confirm that both the kissing gate and the path will be maintained by the management company and wording for continued maintenance/checking of the kissing gate in particular will be included in the S106 agreement information discharge procedure).	
21/00008/TPOCON	Little Croft 48 Park Lane CO6 2RH	<a href="#">Notice</a> of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area – Reduce Conifer at front of house by 5 meters in height to match where the large stem fell in the winds, last year and Reduce Oak by house to old points to reduce risk of damage to property, Holm Oak, cut back from house wall by 3 meters or old points, reduce crown off tree by 3 meters, reason for work, to stop roots from expanding further causing damage	Application Permitted
0/02035/HH	Spring Cottage, Curds RoadCO6 2JT	Two-storey side extension	Application Permitted
20/01202/HH	The Barn Colne Green Farm CO6 2NG	Replacement off existing windows with Residence 9 type conservation windows with a black finish	Application Permitted
20/014722/HH & 220/01202/HH	124 High Street CO6 2QX	Single Storey rear extension	Application Permitted

b) Current Applications were reviewed by the Parish Council as follows: -

Application No.	Location	Description	Parish Council Decision
21/00262/TPOCON	Colne Priory Upper Holt Street, CO6 2PG	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area – removal of dead sycamore tree on listed boundary Wall of Upper Holt Street.	No Objection
21/00204/TPO	48 Aubrey Close CO6 2FG	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree	No Objection

		Preservation Order 12/12/- Tree marked T3 Trim branches only in accordance with Tre report and as discussed on site between Staurt Bailey off Cala Homes and David Watson at Braintree District Council	
21/00189/TPOCON	20 Upper Holt Street CO6 2PG	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area – Reduce Portugese Laurel by 2.5 meters – too big for garden and there is evidence of rot in the main stem. So it really needs a weight reduction	No Objection
21/00188/TPOCON	47 Foundry Lane CO6 2SB	Notice of intent to trees in a Conservation Area – Reduce Sorbus tree by back of house by 1 meter and remove bow, growing into neighbours tree, unidentified evergreen tree at rear of garden, to be reduced by 2 meters and reduce Bay Tree by 1.5 meters	No Objection
21/00134/DAC	41 Tey Road CO6 2LG	Application for Approval off details as reserved by conditions 3&4 off approved application 20/00928/LBC	No Objection
21/00378/TPOCON	Ashwells Park Lane CO6 2RH	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Cut height of Conifer tree at the front of house down to height of snapped branch from last year, Large bow split off last year and client is worried about the remaining stems splitting and doing the same again, Holm Oak, previous reduction left the tree unbalanced towards the back garden side. This tree needs reducing by 4 to 5 meters to regain balance, and 2.5 to the	No Objection

		remaining crown, Oak by house, reduce to old points	
21/00380/TPO	Earls Colne Recreation Club Halstead Road CO6 2NG	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order - 15/13 - Reduce 3x Silver birch tress by 1.5 meters Reduce Sycamore by 3 meters and Pollard White Poplar to pole at 15 foot Reason for works: Poplar is too close to Sycamore and is growing mishapen towards houses on Atlas road. By pollarding we can stop the Poplar becoming too big and encourage better shape. The Sycamore is blocking light and over growing Atlas Road causing complaints. Birches are over grown	No Objection
21/00209/FUL	Springtrees Tey Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2LG	Erection of 1 x 3 bed and 1 x 4 bed two-storey detached dwellinghouses (2 units), with associated access road and parking.	No Objection
20/02205/REM	Land South Of Halstead Road Earls Colne Essex	Reserved Matters (relating to scale, appearance, layout and landscaping) made pursuant to Outline Planning Permission ref: 15/01580/OUT for 80 dwellings, open space and associated ancillary works	No Objection

#### 9. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS:

- Confirmation has been received that we were unsuccessful in the scheme run by Chargemaster and the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) for free funding of charging points at Queens Road Car Park due to cost.
- Cllr Streets proposal that he approach the other 2 suppliers he is aware of and confirm whether they may be able to overcome these issues was approved a majority.

#### 10. FOOTWAY MAINTENANCE:

- List of Community Workers flagged issues shared by Clerk
- Agreement made that Councillors will walk their appointed areas and feed back issues to Clerk

**11. VILLAGE PLANTING SCHEMES:**

- Presentation received but Cllr Spelling unable to attend – agreed that this would be held for discussion at the next meeting. Clerk to carry forward to March Agenda.

**12. QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE THURSDAY JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> TO SUNDAY JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> 2022 :**

- Cllr I. Sparks provided ideas for joint celebration with other facilities in the Village.
- Suggestion that a monument be set up on the Village Green next to the Baptist Church.
- Cllr Sparks to be joined by Cllr M. Barrett & Cllr N. McKean on Committee to take this forward.

**13. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PUMP HOUSE SURGERY AND VACCINATION PLANS:**

- Cllr. J. Parrish confirmed vaccination scheme still working well.

**14. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CYCLEWAYS:**

- Cllr. J. Parrish gave an update from the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- County Cllr J Beavis confirmed the good works that are coming out of the Cycleway project and how well the scheme is coming together.

**15. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON HALSTEAD EDUCATIONAL TRUST:**

- Cllr. J. Parrish advised that a proposal has been carried by the Trustees that monies, unused on school trips and study due to current lockdowns, has been made available to the Primary Schools in the Earls Colne and Halstead area (shared in line with their per capita allowance) for the provision of laptops or tablets to children who are unable to access their home learning.

**16. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION (CWGC) AGREEMENT:**

- The plaques on the Lych gates have been placed there by the Commission.
- Cllr. I Sparks confirmed that the CWGC have agreed to renew the gravestone of Private Raven in St Andrews Churchyard.

**17. FINANCE:**

- a) To approve the payment of February invoices
  - Members reviewed the list of payments for February 2021 and approved all expenditure.
- b) To acknowledge completion of the bank reconciliation for January 2021
  - Members noted that the Bank Reconciliation had been completed by Cllr. M. Barrett.

Meeting ended 9.40pm.

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Chairman

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Date