

Minutes of Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council
held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 18th November 2020

PRESENT: Cllrs. Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. J. Bendall (Chair), Mr. T. Calton, Mr. R. Curtis, Mr. N. McKean, Mrs. J. Parish, Mr. I. Sparks, Mrs. N. Spelling, Mr. H. Street and Mr. M. Tracey; County Cllr. J. Beavis; and A. Emerson (Clerk)

1. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** District Cllrs. G. Courtauld and G. Spray
2. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:**
 - One member of public present to observe meeting
 - One member of public present re agenda item 7B 20/01664/FUL
4. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING - PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 21st OCTOBER 2020:** 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.
5. **TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR THE CASUAL VACANCY:** Members reviewed two applications for the vacancy. Cllrs J. Bendall, I. Sparks and M. Barrett abstained from the vote. Remaining Members were unanimous in the co-option of Robert Cook to the role of Councillor.
6. **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:** Report provided, detailing status of previous resolutions. Clerk provided an update on the following: -
 - Church Clock – Grant of £1,500 awarded by Essex Heritage Trust towards the cost of the clock face restoration.
 - Village Hall Roof – Lead has been stripped from the foyer roof again. Insurance claim underway. Roof to be replaced by felt.
 - Amenity Vehicle – vehicle is cancelled for 28th November due to lockdown. Members agreed that no further dates were to be added to the diary this financial year due to the fact that the need for two vehicles on previous dates has used up the budget.
 - Village Hall Closure – The hall is closed during lockdown.
 - Clerks start date – Debbie will start on 1st December.
 - Community Special – attestation will be on 23rd November and Community Special will commence the role before Christmas.
 - Swallow Fields NEPP Scheme – NEPP have requested that evidence is provided for local resident support for proposed scheme to install yellow lines at the junction of Swallow Fields and York Road. Clerk to write to residents.
 - Development at Rear of Tey Road – Work has now started on site with site preparation and ground clearance underway by the contractor. Cllr. Barrett noted that there have been complaints from local residents on Lowefields re noise as vans wait for the site to open in the morning. Clerk to contact site manager.
 - Consultations on Climate Change, High Standards of Conduct & Flood Survey – Councillors noted that consultations are ongoing in these areas and to let the Clerk know if they wish to provide feedback.
 - Highways Issues relating to Station Road – Cllr. Beavis has requested feedback from the council on the recent road closure at Station Road. Members noted the following:-

- Need for better co-ordination across planned closures as there was considerable confusion with multiple diversions in place at the same time
- Consideration needs to be given to other factors when approving permits such as the ongoing works on two developments on Station Road and the need for large vehicles to have continued access – these were directed along narrow rural lanes which was inappropriate
- Diversion signs need to be removed on a timely basis and clearer details of the alternate routes need to be posted. Conflicting guidance on routes was displayed due to multiple closures.

7. PLANNING:

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

Application No.	Location	Description	BDC Decision Minutes
19/01808/DAC	Land Monks Road	Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 5, 24 and 35 of approved application 16/01475/FUL	Application Permitted
20/01082/DAC	Land Rear Of Tey Road	Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 6, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of approved application 18/00214/OUT	Application Permitted
20/01128/PLD	2 Burrows Road	Proposed loft conversion and internal alterations to form an additional bedroom and bathroom.	Application Permitted
20/01293/FUL	Springtrees Tey Road	Demolition of existing storage buildings and the erection of 1 x 3 bed and 2 x 4 bed two-storey detached dwelling houses (3 units), with turning and parking onto private driveway.	Application Withdrawn
20/01345/HH	7 Morleys Road	Proposed front porch and replacement of single storey store/carport and rear conservatory.	Application Permitted
20/01400/DAC	Land Rear Of Tey Road	Application for the approval of details reserved by conditions 3, 4, 8 & 19(a) of approved application 18/00214/OUT	Application Permitted
20/00317/TPOCON	29 Burrows Road	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell Ivy covered stump, reduce ornamental Cherry and thin	Application Permitted

Application No.	Location	Description	BDC Decision Minutes
20/00352/REM	Land Rear Of Tey Road	Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 18/00214/OUT granted 20.05.2019 - Approval of Reserved Matters (Access,	Application Permitted with S106

		appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for the erection of 23No. detached and semi-detached 1, 2, 3 and 5 bedroom dwellings with associated garages, parking, amenity areas, public open space, estate roads, private drive, drainage infrastructure and landscaping.	
20/00806/DAC	Land Rear Of Tey Road	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 19 (b) of approved application 18/00214/OUT	Application Permitted
20/00440/VAR	Land Rear Of Tey Road	Variation of Condition 7 'Hours of Site Operation' of permission 18/00214/OUT granted 20/05/2019 for: Erect 23 No. Detached and Semi-Detached, 1,2,3,4 and 5 Bedroom Dwellings and Associated Garages, Lay Out Parking, Amenity Areas, Public Open Space, Estate Roads, Private Drives, Drainage Infrastructure and Landscaping. Variation would allow: - Site operation to commence at 0800 Monday to Friday as oppose to 0900 Monday to Friday.	Application Permitted with S106

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

Application No.	Location	Description	Application No.
20/00386/TPOCON	Land Near 9 Park Lane Close	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell to ground level 1 Horse Chestnut and Reduce and reshape a Horse Chestnut by up to 3 metres	No objections raised
20/01799/DAC	5 The Kennels	Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 & 4 of approved application 20/00550/HH	No objections raised
20/00376/TPOCON	Colne Priory Upper Holt Street	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - T1 Sycamore: Crown reduction of misshapen sycamore by no more than 6 metres overhanging listed wall and A1124 on road bend. On-going maintenance work.	No objections raised
20/00364/TPOCON	Colne Priory Upper Holt Street	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - FELL & REMOVE Horse Chestnut (T1) badly infected with bleeding canker. Tree dying & dropping branches. Application is to fell this tree and replace with Tilia cordata Avenue of 15 trees	No objections raised
20/01664/FUL	Pudsies Paddock Station Road	Demolition of stables and erection of a single-storey 3 bedroomed dwelling house together with related works and landscaping.	Objection – see below for basis

20/01664/FUL

- Members reviewed the representations put forward by the applicant. The applicant advised that:-
 - The dwelling would not be visible from the surrounding areas

- The view from the footpath running along the Bourne Brook would be screened by a hedgerow
- Applicant wished to be on site with their horses as they were concerned about the homes being built on the Bellway site
- Their plans would not impact local wildlife

After consideration, members voted to object on the following basis:-

- The site is outside the current village envelope and outside the perceived village envelope as defined within the Draft Local Plan
- The proposed development of one single dwelling will provide no advantage to the District Council's desire to meet the Government's housing target
- Most importantly, if allowed, this proposal could set a precedent for the development of the whole area of land between the existing tree belt, the Bourne Brook and the Millennium Green
- Residential development beyond the tree belt will be detrimental to protecting the character of the Bourne Brook/ Colne Valley and the surrounding countryside. This tree belt forms an essential visual barrier shielding current development from the valley floor.
- This is an important wildlife corridor, identified as a Dark Valley, the status of which would be compromised by the proposed development
- This site is not well placed for walking to the existing amenities of the village of Earls Colne
- The land is currently used as paddocks and the Parish Council do not support the proposed change of use.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PLANS TO REFURBISH THE VILLAGE HALL:

- Members noted details of a meeting held on 9th November to discuss the next steps for the Village Hall Project. Cllr. M. Tracey will circulate a flyer which will go out to all residents asking for their views on what we need to do to the hall.

9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CYCLEWAYS:

- Cllr. J. Parish gave an update on recent developments relating to a proposal to create a cycleway to Halstead along the old train track. Discussions are at a very early stage.
- Maps will be provided at the next Parish Council Meeting so that members can review how the village and surrounding areas could be linked via cycle ways. Clerk to add to next month's agenda.
- Cllr. N. Spelling agreed to assist Cllr. Parish on the cycle way committee.

10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES IN THE VILLAGE:

- Members noted that due to the current Covid situation, the Carol Service and High Street events will not go ahead as usual.
- Members agreed that a tree and additional battery operated lights be purchased for outside the Co-op.

11. TO REVIEW RESIDENT PROPOSAL TO UTILISE THE TELEPHONE BOX FOR A FREE BOOK EXCHANGE:

- Members reviewed proposal submitted by Mr. Brown to utilise the Village Green telephone box as a Book Swap. Mr. Brown has volunteered to manage the project on an ongoing basis and had requested that the Parish Council fund the installation of shelving for the project. Members approved the proposal and agreed to fund the shelving. Clerk to send photo of book swap in another village so councillors can see what it might look like.

12. TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON VERGE CUTTING TRIAL CARRIED OUT THIS YEAR BY BDC:

- Members provided feedback on the recent verge cutting trial in the area and noted that they were happy for the trial to continue on the basis that sight lines built into Highways continued to be maintained.

13. FINANCE:

a) To approve the payment of November invoices

- Members reviewed the list of payments for November 2020 and approved all expenditure.

b) To acknowledge completion of the bank reconciliation for October 2020

- Members noted that the Bank Reconciliation had been completed by Cllr. M. Barrett.

c) To review ACTUALS/FORECAST v BUDGET report for year to date

- Members reviewed the report noting areas where expenditure and income were not in line with budget

d) To determine whether Centenary Award applications will be considered for the current financial year

- Members agreed that Centenary Awards would not be granted this year due to the impact of Covid on our financials.

e) To review the timeline for the budget process 2021/22

- The Clerk noted the budget requests received to date and reminded members to submit additional items for consideration by Friday 20th November
- Members agreed that we would support a Weekend Community Worker role but that the Assistant Community Worker role would not be funded going forward.
- Members noted the date/time of the budget meeting – Wednesday 7th December at 7pm

Chairman

Date