

**Minutes of Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council**  
**held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

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

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** none
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllrs. J. Meleschko and N. Spelling expressed an interest in agenda item 9
3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:**
  - Mr Townsend addressed the council re agenda item 7, providing background on the scheme and how it could operate
4. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 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. **CLERK'S REPORT:** Report provided, detailing status of previous resolutions.  
 Clerk provided an update on the following:-
  - Footpath 16 and the work underway to repair the boardwalk
  - A request by a resident from Coggeshall to litter pick the Earls Colne section of the B1024. Members agreed that no action would be taken for Health & Safety reasons
  - Playground inspections for equipment at the Rec Club and Millennium Green. Areas noted in the reports will be actioned in the next few weeks
  - Energy Efficiency Report on the Village Hall which RCCE have now compiled – this should be with us in the next two weeks
  - A request by a resident re the drain at the bottom of Station Road which is leaking raw sewerage into the river. Clerk to follow up with Rivers Authority.
  - BDC plans for spring rural verge cutting this Spring
6. **PLANNING:**
  - a) Decisions reached by Braintree District Council as follows: -

Application No.	Location	Description	BDC Decision Minutes
20/00025/TPO	Willow Tree Way	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 17/90, 35/00 -1 - All trees next to buildings and over pavements need lifting by 3 metres and cutting back from buildings by approx 1 metres, 2 - Reduce large Sycamore to old points, approx 3 metres, has large stem weighted towards carpark that needs removing and 3 - Reduce 4 Hornbeams by 1.5 metres	Part Granted, part refused
20/00122/DAC	Land Rear Of Tey Road	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 15 & 16 of approval 18/00214/OUT	Application Permitted
20/00040/FUL	Colne Priory Upper Holt Street	Extension to historic driveway and associated relocation of manege.	Application Permitted

Application No.	Location	Description	BDC Decision Minutes
20/00192/HH & 20/00193/LBC	41 Tey Road	Demolition and removal of existing modern single-storey additions, and detached garage; and the erection of part single-storey, part two-storey rear extensions, and the erection of a replacement detached single-storey garage; together with internal and external works.	Application Withdrawn
20/00356/OUT	Land South Of Tey Road	Outline Planning Permission for the construction of 9 No. dwelling houses with all matters reserved apart from access.	Application Refused
20/00246/DAC	River House Lower Holt Street	Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 4 & 5 of approved application 19/01723/HH.	Application Permitted
20/00189/HH	51 Tey Road	Proposed front entrance porch.	Application Permitted
20/00025/TPO	Willow Tree Way	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 17/90, 35/00 -1 - All trees next to buildings and over pavements need lifting by 3 metres and cutting back from buildings by approx 1 metres, 2 - Reduce large Sycamore to old points, approx 3 metres, has large stem weighted towards carpark that needs removing and 3 - Reduce 4 Hornbeams by 1.5 metres	Part Granted, part refused

It was noted that BDC have granted permission to remove a birch tree which was subject to a TPO as it had died (Greenhills Place, Halstead Road)

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

Application No.	Location	Description	Application No.
20/00674/DAC	Hydewell, Halstead Road	Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3, 5, 7 and 8 of approved application 19/02217/FUL	No objections raised
20/00648/LBC	East Of England Cooperative Society Ltd, 31 High Street	Internal refit of the supermarket together with associated internal and external refurbishment works to include modification to shopfront fascia and repainting.	No objections raised
20/00615/HH	Bramble House Halstead Road	Erection of a single-storey garage and storage outbuilding to be attached to existing cartlodge	Objections raised

Members objected to 20/00615/HH based on overdevelopment and no access to the garage via driveway off A1124. Should the application be granted, Members requested that BDC consider that this should be strictly conditional on the building only be used for storage purposes and not for habitable accommodation.

#### 7. **COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHEME**

Members agreed to support Mr Townsend's application to join the Community Specials Scheme. This would be a voluntary role with full policing powers, split across Colne Engaine and Earls Colne, providing a minimum of 16 hours local policing per month. The cost of the scheme to the parishes is approx. £1,000 in total. At this stage, the role is not confirmed as the scheme is on hold however it is hoped that with a candidate and support from councils, Essex Police would

consider approving the request. Members approved a budget of £500 to be funded from General Reserves.

**8. UPDATE ON COVID19:**

- a) Members received an update on the volunteer scheme running in the village
- b) Members noted the decisions made by the Parish Council since the last meeting in March
  - Cllrs. I Sparks and J. Bendall agreed to continue the Highways Devolution Scheme which had been offered by ECC again for this financial year
  - Planning decisions made by full council remotely:

Application No.	Location	Description	BDC Decision Minutes
20/00550/HH	5 The Kennels	Two-storey side and rear extension	No objections
20/00071/TPOCON	15 High Street	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Remove Sycamore	No objections
20/00468/NMA	Land Rear Of Tey Road	Non-Material Amendment to 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. Amendment would allow: - the relocation of garages relating to dwellings 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 12, 15 and 22; - removal of garage to dwelling 11; and - additional garage to dwelling 23.	Information Only
20/00470/DAC	Land West Of Station Road	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 6 Part D of approved application 18/00121/OUT	Information Only
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, 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.	Objection on basis of:- a)The height of the proposed buildings when compared to existing bungalows in Lowefields b)The close proximity of homes to existing properties in Tey Road c)General overcrowding of development d)Plans for the area designated as community land

- c) Members reviewed the impact on Parish Council and its staff: no elections or Annual Parish Meeting would be held until May 2021; potential impact on Village Hall revenues of £2k per month; additional expenditure as a direct result of covid19; reduced working patterns for most staff and the need to hold meetings remotely.

**9. CENTENARY AWARD:** Members agreed to defer the decision on the Centenary Award for 6 months when it should be reviewed based upon our financial position. Clerk to add to agenda in November.

**10. CLIMATE CHANGE:** Members received a report from Cllr. J. Meleschko on a recent meeting of the Climate Action Group and agreed to declare a Climate Emergency. Clerk to publicise the activities already underway by the Council in support of climate.

**11. HIGHWAY MATTERS:**

- a) Devolution Scheme - The Council have agreed to continue with the Devolution Scheme for a further year.
- b) Cycle Route from Village to Airfield – Members agreed to submit a scheme to the District Highways Panel for a reduction in speed limit to 20mph for Newhouse and Hayhouse Roads. In addition, it was agreed that an amendment be submitted to a previous scheme request for Quiet Lanes stating that Newhouse Road would form part of the cycleway.

**12. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:** Cllr. T. Calton provided an update on the Car Park survey which had been conducted in March and showed that the car park was close to capacity at peak times. Suggestions were made in the report on how this might be managed to free up capacity and consideration may need to be given to creating new off street parking spaces in the future. BDC provided feedback on the Housing Needs Assessment produced by AECOM which had suggested that the proportion of rental versus shared ownership affordable homes required in the village (5%/95%) was misaligned to BDC policy (70%/30%). Cllr G. Spray advised that the provision of affordable housing was the right allocation for the District and alternatives were unlikely to be accepted at this time. BDC had noted that shared ownership units on the Monks Road scheme had been slow to attract interest. Members were reminded, following the Inspector’s ruling on the Garden Communities, that it was important our Neighbourhood Plan project continues to move forward.

**13. FINANCE:**

- a) Payment of Invoices – Members reviewed the list of payments for May 2020 and approved all expenditure. Members noted that the Bank Reconciliation for April had been completed by Cllr. M. Barrett.
- b) AGAR for FY 2019/20 and Internal Audit – this item was deferred to the June meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.34 pm

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Chairman

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Date