

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July in the Main Hall, Village Hall, York Road, Earls Colne.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs., Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. J. Bendall (Chair), Mr. T. Calton, Mr. R. Cook, Mr. R. Curtis, Mr. N. McKean, Mr. I. Sparks, Mrs. N. Spelling, Mr. H. Street; and District Cllr. G. Spray; County Cllr. C.Siddall; Spike Townsend – Community Special and A. Emerson (Standing in for Clerk)

1. Confirmation of clear tests for attendees - confirmed
2. To receive apologies for absence – Cllr Mick Tracey and District Cllr George Courtauld
3. To receive declarations of interest – None
4. Public Participation Session with Respect to items on the agenda
  - 2 residents in attendance for general interest
5. To approve the minutes of the following meeting: Parish Council Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Minutes to be amended to remove Cllr. Parish as an attendee as she was absent from the meeting. Members confirmed minutes were an accurate record once the above item is actioned.
6. Presentation from Essex Highways regarding Stone Bridge
  - Two engineers attended the meeting, Nagaratnam Pirabagaran and Ian Woodcock to answer any questions the parish council may have in relation to the presentation which had been distributed prior to the meeting.
  - Cllr. Sparks noted that the bridge had been the site of several bad accidents in recent years and asked if thought had been given to extending the 30mph speed limit on both sides of the bridge. Mr Pirabagaran will take this request to his manager for consideration.
  - It was confirmed that work would begin in April for a six-month period and that the new bridge would be built to the latest highway standards and be able to handle 40 tonnes.
  - Cllr. Cook asked if there were plans to link up footpaths. Mr. Pirabagaran confirmed that the footpaths would be connected on the north side and that drawings would be sent for review, once available.
7. To receive Clerk's report

Report from Clerk detailed progress on several matters: -

  - Updates on caretaker and work placement, the De Vere mural, dog waste bins, new classes at the Village Hall, insurance claim for village hall roof, reinstatement of the church clock, getting back into communities events and youth initiatives.
  - Confirmation that there will be no rates on the public toilets at Queens Road following recent Act and that monies already paid will be refunded from April 2020
  - BDC will be replacing the broken bench at Atlas Road
  - Cllr. Street provided an update on EV Charging points. Companies previously approached have confirmed that a charging point in Earls Colne is not viable for them. Further guidance will be sought from BDC Sustainability Manager. Cllr. Street will be investigating viability of suppliers paying the remaining 25% of installation costs if the Parish Council receive 75% government grant.
  - Members approved proposal for Wash and Rogers to be recognised as new street names for future developments. Clerk to liaise with BDC.
  - Members confirmed that they support using the Village Hall for open workshops led by the Community Support Employment Officer.
8. To receive Community Special's report

Verbal report received providing an update on activities in June and July: -

- 6 hours in village at the end of June and 21 hours this month to date
- Areas covered included a visit to Beavers, tots football at ECRC and Chalkney Woods.
- Following report from Clerk, have attended wilderness area at CALA site and added this to regular route.
- Primary Parking Partnership initiative is progressing with enforcement notices being issued in June (4) and plans for a letter to be distributed to all parents in September.
- Plan to attend the ECRC family fun day this Sunday along with other emergency services.

## 9. Planning

### a) To review decisions reached

Application No.	Location	Description	BDC Minutes	Decision
21/01515/TPO	23A Coggeshall Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2JP	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 19/00 - Reduce crown of Oak (T9) tree by 3 meters at rear of property on boundary next to neighbours drive. The customer would like to reduce the canopy to stop the roots getting closer to the building and causing damage, to maximise light into the garden and decrease the risk of branches falling.	Part Granted Part Refused	
21/01502/TPOCON	15 Burrows Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2RZ	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 2 Conifers and 5 Leylandii trees	Application Permitted	
21/01355/TPOCON	The Beeches 2 Ernalds Close Earls Colne Essex CO6 2SF	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce Conifers to height all ready cut by electrical company to make hedge and Fell largest Conifer in group as too close to wire, causing problems	Application Permitted	
21/01357/TPOCON	87 High Street Earls Colne Essex CO6 2QX	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Fell small tree in back garden, new owner wants to plant 3 ornamental birch along the boarder	Application Permitted	
21/01098/HH	6 Holden Way Earls Colne Colchester Essex CO6 2FD	Single-storey rear extension	Application Permitted	
21/00969/FUL	The Bird In Hand Coggeshall Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2JX	Demolition of Public House (Sui Generis Use) and erection of Office Building (Use Class Class E(g)(i)) (743.5 sqm) with associated car parking	Application Refused	
21/00910/HH	Gu Brath Coggeshall Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2JU	Repositioning of existing access to provide safer vehicle movements.	Application Permitted	
21/00715/LBC	Earls Colne Library 38 High Street Earls Colne Essex CO6 2PA	Repairs to windows and doors and installation of secondary glazing.	Application Permitted	
21/00640/HH	4 Tey Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2LG	Erection of first floor extension to side elevation, erection of porch on front elevation, part single, part two-storey extensions to rear elevation	Application Permitted	
20/01664/FUL	Pudsies Paddock Station Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2ER	Demolition of stables and erection of a single-storey 3 bedroomed dwellinghouse together with related works and landscaping.	Application Permitted	
20/01352/LBC 20/01351/HH	Blackberry Barn Burnthouse Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 1AS	Single-storey rear extensions and associated elevational alterations	Application Refused	
20/00003/S106A	Colne Valley Golf Club Station Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2ER	Application made under Section 106a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligations) Regulations 1992 (as amended) - Discharge of Planning Obligation under s106 dated 19.06.2006 to permission 05/01226/FUL granted 19.06.2006 for: Proposed erection of detached dwelling and double garage for club manager. Discharge of obligation would allow: - Removal of limiting	Application Permitted	

		occupancy of Golf Club Managers House, to enable the property to be occupied/sold/leased on the open market independent of the golf club operated at the site.	
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**b) To consider current applications**

Applicatio No.	Location	Description
21/02053/TPOCON	9 Upper Holt Street CO6 2PG	Notice of intent to carry out work to trees in a Conservation Area – Reduce Tulip tree by swimming pool by 2.5 meters all round Reduce Maple to old points, approx. 2.5 meters in rear of property court yard to old points, its too big for where they are
21/01921/TPOCON	2 Tey Road CO6 2LG	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation area – T1 – Spruce Tree – remove to ground level over a 2 year period – T2 – Cluster of x5 Scotch Pine Trees – remove X2 larger Spruce Trees to ground level – remove dead wood and iv from x3 Spruce Trees T3- Lilac Tree – remove to ground level
21/01804/FUL	Colne Valley Golf Club Station Road	Erection of first-floor extension, front porch and adjoining double garage to existing staff accommodation, along with internal Alterations and replacement of existing ground floor windows. Erection of ground-floor terrace to side elevation.
21/02122/TPOCON	4 York Road Earls Colne CO6 2RN	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Regarding very overgrown conifer hedge (Green Leylandii) of around 15ft high and 7 trees. To essentially neaten and tr height to previous cut points. Full details: I have a conifer hedge at the back of my rear garden. I recently was contacted by a managing agent of the properties to the back of my house as have started to overhang the path to their rear gardens, shade their gardens, and damage their fencing. I just need to neaten / cut these back away from the path, as well as cut the top ba the previous cut points (around 2 feet off the top) and overall neaten the sides of the tree. Further given the width of the conifers at the base, and having young kids, to increase garden siz the lower part of the tree to be cut back. Basically showing the trunk of the tree for the first 5ft or so. Hence basically really neatening up the trees that have become very large and causing damage, and some room underneath the trees for kids to play (now they are so much larger). Note the trees act as a screen to both our garden and the neighbours but not visible to pass given private rear gardens.
21/01425/FUL	Earls Colne Recreation Club Halstead Road CO6 2GP	Erection of single-storey rear extension.
21/01832/FUL	Earls Colne Tennis Club Green Farm Meadow Halstead Road Earls Colne Essex	Erection of single-storey extension to existing clubhouse

**10. To receive an update on speeding issues in Village**

Cllr. Sparks provided an update on issues noted via Facebook, relating to speeding on exit of the village towards Halstead. Cllr. Sparks met with manager of Colne Stoves to hear the challenges that they are experiencing and then provided an overview of possible courses of action. This included speed checks and Cllr. Sparks explained the criteria under which these can be conducted. Community Special confirmed that he has requested any speed survey in Earls Colne, be focused on that stretch of road but reminded Members that with 44 parishes, resource issues mean this can not be done straight away.

County Cllr. Siddall, now the Chairman of the Highways Panel, noted that if the village is experiencing issues, they should be added to the list. He expressed his support for extending the speed limit either side of Stone Bridge. More money is needed to get items on the Highways Panel prioritised and County Cllr. Siddall advised that he would be meeting the Cabinet Member for Highways on 17 September to take him along the route of the proposed cycle way between Earls Colne and Coggeshall – Chairman Cllr. Bendall was invited to attend to also meet him. District Cllr. Spray advised that she has given £1,000 of her funds to the cycle way to go towards planning fees.

Cllr. Bendall noted that there are 2 speed surveys for the High Street and Station Road already logged but that consideration may need to be given to add additional ones.

County Cllr. Siddall advised that a discussion was needed between ECC and BDC to ensure verge cutting maintains sight lines appropriately.

**11. To receive an update on BALC meeting**

Cllr. Barrett reported on recent meeting, which was not well attended, with only 20 representatives across Essex. A guest speaker from Highways Liaison Officers Management Team provided an overview of the Highways Panel website, followed by a Q&A session. Budget for 21/22 is 607k with safety issues prioritised. Forms to be submitted by December for review in following March (County Cllr. Siddall noted that forms could be submitted at any time), and requests can be logged with the Highways Rangers at any time. Requests were made for future speakers and Cllr. Barrett suggested Neil Jones to talk about S106.

12. To receive an update on Primary Parking Partnership

Report provided detailing plans to send a letter to all parents at the school to remind them that unacceptable parking and driving will not be tolerated at drop off and pick up times. This will be policed by a camera car and hi viz foot patrols. The letter will identify short term car parking locations suitable for parents to park and walk. It was also noted that a feasibility study was being conducted for a walking route between Morley's Road Estate and the School. Cllr. Sparks asked if this study was being extended to include Bellways/Atlas Estate. Cllr. McKean advised that this was covered by the routes via CALA and the kennels. Cllr. Carlton noted that this work needed to be linked up with the neighbourhood plan and proposed plans for the future.

13. To receive an update on the Braintree Highways Panel

Cllr. Bendall provided a report detailing the recent highways panel. It was noted that the schemes submitted by Jo Beavis for the High Street and Station Road appear to be for speed surveys and that quiet lanes should now progress as public consultations are able to take place. The 20s plenty scheme has been approved for Park Lane.

14. To receive an update on the Village Hall

A list of items for installation or upgrade was circulated, noting that disruption to the hall needed to be minimised whilst works undertaken. The list has been broken down into smaller projects to facilitate funding applications.

15. To receive an update on the Museum Works

External painting is nearing completion. A listed buildings request has been logged to seek permission to remove the old access ladder which is dangerous. Internal work has been completed to tackle the rot and fungus. We are awaiting the report from the BDC museums officer on how to deal with sunlight on exhibits.

16. Feedback from the rededication ceremony

Cllr. Parish provided an update on the recent rededication of the war memorial. The event was well attended with tea and cake provided by the Women's Institute and between 15/20 attendees came back to the hall to view the exhibition after the ceremony.

Cllr. Sparks advised that 2 additional fallen have been identified for WWI and possibly 1 for WWII. He has contacted 2 stonemasons to see if names can be added to the memorial in situ.

17. Request for watering facilities from Incredible Edibles

Incredible Edibles are taking on land adjacent to the wall at the back of the Village Hall and have requested that a water butt be installed to collect water from the village hall roof. Members discussed this request, and it was agreed that further information was required detailing how this would be installed, how excess water would be treated and how the tap would be prevented from being turned open. Members were happy in principle, but these details need to be confirmed first.

18. To receive an update on playgrounds

Cllr. McKean advised that we are still waiting for proposal/costings from Wicksteed. Once received, the three proposals will be presented to the council for consideration. BDC are looking at using some of the Bellway monies for the De Vere playground, but further discussion needed to ensure that sufficient funds are available for the work required at ECRC.

19. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Report distributed to members by Cllr. Calton. An additional item was noted following a meeting with Eastlight. Details were provided on why shared ownership may not be as popular or enticing to new homeowners as it includes the interest on the housing association proportion (currently charged at 2.75% p/a by Eastlight) and makes it more expensive than a mortgage although less deposit required. A new government initiative called First Home would not be eligible for developments in the village which already have outline planning. It was noted that the new Persimmon development will not meet density criteria for Eastlight so they will not be taking these affordable homes on. The neighbourhood plan team will be looking at how to get developers to look at the viability of smaller properties in efforts to provide affordable homes in the village.

20. Finance

a. To approve the payment of July invoices

Invoices have not been reviewed by Cllr. Barrett in advance of the meeting. This detailed review will happen afterwards and prior to payment. Members reviewed and approved list.

b. To acknowledge completion of bank reconciliation for June

The reconciliation will be reviewed after this meeting and carried over to next month's agenda.

Meeting closed 8.40pm