

**Minutes of a Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council held in the Council Chamber
On Wednesday 18th November 2009**

PRESENT:

Mr. J. Bendall (Chairman), Mr. R. Curtis, Mrs. R. Hall, Mr. C. Hazell, Mrs. D. Howorth, Mr. I. Sparks, Mr. R. van Dulken and Mr. F. Williams

Mrs. P. Herbert was present in her capacity as Clerk together with Cllr. G. Spray (BDC) and two members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. M. Barrett and Mr. M. Tracey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Mr. Reeve and Mr. Joslin both expressed concerns about the District Council's proposal to introduce charges for parking in the public car park in Earls Colne if the Parish Council were not prepared to take over responsibility for this service.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st October 2009 were approved and signed.

5. CLERK'S REPORT:

- a) **Annual Parish Meeting:** The Clerk advised that the Annual Parish Meeting was currently scheduled to take place on Thursday 6th May 2010, which has been flagged up by the District Council as the likely date for the General Election, although it could take place any time before the beginning of June 2010. The Clerk was waiting for confirmation as to whether there was a reason why the General Election and the Annual Parish Meeting would not be permitted to take place in the Village Hall on the same day. She would report back at the next meeting.
- b) **Play Area – Halstead Road:** The Clerk advised that a grant of £8275 had been awarded by Awards For All (The Big Lottery Fund) towards the cost of replacing the swings and safety surfacing. An application for the balance of the funding required had been submitted to the Community Initiatives Fund and the results of this application will be available in February 2010.

6. PLANNING:

- a) **Decisions reached:** Members noted the following:

09/01079/FUL & 09/01072/LBC & 09/01071/ADV – Display of non-illuminated signage and addition of security grille and side panel – East of England Co-op, 31 High Street

Granted

09/01147/FUL – Erection of detached double garage with separate workshop and log store built into rear – Bartholomews Cottage, Coggeshall Road Granted

09/01993/LBC – Proposed replacement of missing and worn terracotta floor tiles in shopfront porch with identical tiles in both size and layout – 74 High Street Granted

09/01144/FUL – Retention of log cabin for the sale of equestrian supplies – Broomfield Nurseries, Coggeshall Road Refused

09/00934/OUT – Erection of B1 Business Units including access Road – Riverside Business Park, Station Road Granted

b) **Current Applications:** Mrs. Howorth reported on the following planning applications:

09/01368/FUL – Erection of single storey rear extension – 47 Burrows Road

Members had no objections to this application.

09/01389/FUL – Erection of new dwelling and renovation of existing garage building – 16 Upper Holt Street

Members had no objections to this application.

09/01413/FUL – Extension of an aircraft hardstanding – Anglian Flight Centre, The Airfield

Members had no objections to this application.

09/01419/FUL – Erection of bedroom extension over existing kitchen extension – 20 Atlas Road

Members had no objections to this application.

09/01453/FUL – Change of use of land for keeping of horses and erection of a new 4 no. stables with pitched roof, with linked yard and manege – The Croft, Coggeshall Road

Members had no objections to this application, provided that there was no floodlighting installed, no commercial use was permitted and vehicles could enter and exit the site in forward gear.

7. MEMBERS' REPORTS:

a) **Airfield Liaison Committee:** Members noted that a meeting of the Airfield Liaison Committee was due to take place on 30th November when the make-up of the membership of the Committee would be discussed to ensure that it was both in accordance with the S106 Agreement and reflective of those persons and organisations that should be represented.

Members felt that the resident representatives should be expected to survey the people in the road which they represented and not just promote their own views or speak for the minority of residents. Members also felt that position of Chair of the meeting should be held by someone impartial.

The Clerk was asked to advise Mr. Tracey, the Council's representative on this Committee, of these views.

- b) **Passenger Transport Representatives Meeting:** Mr. Curtis reported on this meeting which he had attended on 3rd November.
- c) **Tree Warden Meeting:** Mr. Curtis reported on this meeting which he had attended on 10th November.

8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Meeting to discuss Youth Provision in Earls Colne:** Members had received notes of a meeting with the Youth Service, Cllr Pike and the Headteacher of the Primary School which had taken place on 5th November. It was felt that the meeting had been interesting, but not productive. It was noted that Colne Engaine were proposing to start a Youth Club in their village and that a report on the project would be made at the Parish Cluster Meeting on 26th November.
- b) **Street Lighting – Private Finance Initiative:** The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from the County Council advising that they were investigating a Street Lighting – Private Finance Initiative to help improve and maintain their street lighting stock, and had asked if the Parish Council was interested in involving its street lighting stock. The Clerk had expressed an interest on the Council's behalf in order to obtain more information about the scheme.

9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Parish Support Grant:** The Chairman reported on a meeting with the Chair and Clerk of Sible Hedingham PC which he had attended along with the Clerk. All had agreed that the current system of local taxation did not achieve fairness and equality for all residents of Braintree district. The Chairman and Mr. Sparks had also attended the Halstead Local Committee Meeting on 11th November and explained the Parish Council's position to the Committee.
- b) **Public Car Park:** A letter had been received from the District Council asking whether the Parish Council would be prepared to take over the running and maintenance of the public car park in Earls Colne, and advising that, if the Parish Council did not agree to take on this responsibility, parking charges would be introduced.

It was agreed that the proposal to take responsibility for the car park should be investigated and that the Chairman and Cllrs. Hazell, van Dulken and Williams should approve a letter to be sent to the District Council.

- c) **Parish Cluster Meeting:** Members were reminded that the next Cluster meeting would be hosted by Colne Engaine Parish Council and would take place at 8 p.m. on Thursday 26th November at Colne Engaine Village Hall. Cllrs. Bendall, Sparks, van Dulken and Williams volunteered to attend this meeting.
- c) **Social Housing – Workshop & Briefings:** Mr. van Dulken agreed to attend the workshop session to be held on 30th November.
- d) **Street Scene – Litter Strategy:** No comments were made on the Draft Strategy..

10. ALLOTMENTS

Members noted the contents of the notes of the last meeting of the Allotment Working Group, held on 28th October.

The Clerk advised that there had been some objections to the planning application. The consultation period had ended on 6th November and it was not known whether this application would be going to the Planning Committee or whether the decision will be delegated to officers. It was agreed that Cllrs. Curtis and Tracey would attend the planning meeting if necessary.

The Clerk also advised that an application to the Lottery Local Food Grant for funding for the fencing had unfortunately been unsuccessful and that it was proving difficult to find any other source of funding primarily because Allotments were a statutory duty of parish councils.

The Lease for the land at Newhouse Road was signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

11. CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Final arrangements were agreed for the Village Carol Service on 15th December. Cllrs. Howorth and Sparks agreed to judge the Best Decorated Business Premises in the High Street and it was agreed that Mrs. Dennison and Mrs. O`Shea should be asked if they would like to help with the judging.

12. VILLAGE HALL

There was nothing to report on the Village Hall

13. FINANCE:

- a) **Payment of Accounts:** For schedule of payments approved see Appendix 1.
- b) **Internal Audit:** The Clerk reported that an audit of the Council`s accounts for the period 1st July to 30th September 2009 had been carried out on 21st October. The accounts were found to be satisfactory with no matters requiring further attention, other than a typing error on the bank reconciliation.
- c) **Budget Meeting:** It was agreed that the Budget Meeting scheduled to take place on 2nd December should be postponed until the 6th January 2010 when the results of the District Council`s decision on the Parish Support Grant would be known. It was noted that the Clerk had been advised that the Precept Form did not have to be returned to Braintree District Council until 15th January 2010

IN COMMITTEE

14. SALARY REVIEWS

It was agreed that the salaries of all staff should be increased in line with the recommendations of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services with the increases backdated to 1st April 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Date

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CHAIRMAN