

**Minutes of a Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council held in the Council Chamber
on Wednesday 21st October 2009**

PRESENT:

Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. J. Bendall (Chairman), Mr. R. Curtis, Mrs. R. Hall, Mr. C. Hazell, Mr. K. Shipp, Mr. I. Sparks, Mr. R. van Dulken and Mr. F. Williams

Mrs. Herbert was present in her capacity as Clerk together with Cllr. Siddall and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. D. Howorth, Mr. M. Tracey and Cllr. G. Spray (BDC)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs. Hall declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the tree application for 7 Swallow Field as she was the owner of the property. Mrs. Hall left the room whilst this item was discussed.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No-one wished to speak during the Public Participation session.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th September were approved and signed.

5. CLERK'S REPORT:

- a) **Policing:** The Clerk read out an e-mail received from Cllr. Spray advising that the local Police had been involved in a joint exercise with Suffolk police tackling theft of property from farms and outbuildings. Stolen property had been recovered and arrests made.
- b) **Village Christmas Tree:** The Clerk advised that Oliver's Nursery had offered to donate an 18' Christmas Tree to the village. This offer was gratefully accepted by members.
- c) **A120 Braintree to Marks Tey Scheme:** Members noted the response received from Brooks Newmark M.P. to the Parish Council's letter regarding the withdrawal of this scheme.

6. PLANNING:

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

09/0882/FUL & 09/00883/LBC – Proposed internal and external alterations to main house, re-opening of old driveway and provision of 10m x 5m outside swimming pool with associated outbuilding for plant and changing facilities and erection of new boundary garden wall to enclose – Nightingale Cottage, Nightingale Hall Road – Granted

09/00547/FUL – Erection of new aircraft hangars adjacent runway and formation of new car park area and new aircraft hardstanding – Land at Airfield – Granted

09/00548/FUL – Change of use from two existing aircraft hangars to one aircraft hangar and adjoining offices (B1) with designated helipad – Proposed Essex Air Ambulance HQ, The Airfield - Granted

09/01048/FUL – Erection of extensions and new roof to form additional rooms within roof space – 9 Station Road - Granted

09/01114/FUL & 09/01115/lbc – Erection of single storey rear extension and replacement of dilapidated garden wall – The Old Manse, 13 High Street - Granted

09/01131/FUL & 09/01132/LBC – Installation of a high efficiency air source heat pump system to provide heating and hot water, replacement of existing oil tank with outside unit and installation of an indoor heat exchange – Nightingale Cottage, Nightingale Hall Road - Granted

b) **Current applications:** Mr. Bendall reported on the following planning applications:

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

Members had no objections to this application, but requested that there should be a turning area within the site which would be large enough to ensure that vehicles could manoeuvre in order to exit the site in forward gear.

09/01195/FUL & 09/01207/LBC – Change of use from A3/A4 to residential (Conversion of ground floor bar/restaurant to a three bedroom self contained flat) – Oxford House, Upper Holt Street

Members objected to this application on the grounds that a valuable commercial property in the village would be lost, and that the large apartment with which it would be replaced was not the type, nor size, of property for which there was a need in the village.

Members also drew attention to the fact that Footpath 50 runs through the car park of this property and that this was a well used, and the only safe, route for pedestrians walking into the village from Lower Holt Street and the Tey Road area.

09/01252/LBC – Creation of gateway into existing listed wall – 76 High Street

Members had no objections to this application.

09/01325/FUL – Erection of two car lodge – Bramble House, Colne Green Farm, Halstead Road

Members had no objections to this application.

Mr. Curtis reported on the following tree applications:

30% crown reduction to one plane tree – 11 Josselin Close

Members had no objections to this application.

Reduce one ash tree back to old cuts – 7 Swallow Field

Members had no objections to this application.

- c) **To consider a proposal by Cllr. van Dulken:** Members considered the following proposal:

Earls Colne Parish Council should start a petition to amend the rules/laws on planning and make it an offence to knowingly construct something which requires planning permission without the approval of the local Planning Authority.

Members supported the proposal to create a petition on the official website of the Prime Minister's Office, and it was agreed that Brooks Newmark M.P. should be advised, it should be publicised in the Local Council Review and linked to the Parish Council's website.

7. MEMBERS' REPORTS:

- a) **Halstead Area Crime Prevention Panel:** Mr. Sparks reported on a meeting of the Panel which he had attended on 12th October.

8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Children's Centre Focus Group Meeting:** Mr. Bendall reported on this meeting which he had attended on 24th September.
- b) **Youth Provision:** A meeting had been arranged with representatives of the Youth Service and Primary School to discuss youth provision in Earls Colne. Cllrs. Bendall, Hall and Williams and the Clerk would represent the Parish Council.

9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Halstead Local Committee Meeting:** Members received a report from Mr. Sparks on this meeting which he had attended on 23rd September. Mr. Sparks did not feel that the meeting had achieved anything worthwhile and that it would have been preferable to have met with parishes in their clusters.
- b) **Parish Cluster Meeting:** Cllrs. Bendall, Sparks, van Dulken and Williams volunteered to attend the next Cluster meeting which would take place at Colne Engaine on 26th November.
- c) **Public Car Park – Queens Road:** Members were advised that at a meeting on the 12th October the District Council's Cabinet had received a report on car parking charges in the District, which included a proposal to offer Parish Councils the option of taking over ownership of rural car parks or, if they did not wish to take them on, introduce a charging scheme. It had been agreed at the meeting that Parish Councils would be consulted about the options, but members expressed concern about the condition of the car park and in particular the drainage and damage caused by recycling vehicles.
- d) **Parish Support Grant:** The Chairman referred to a letter received from the leader of the District Council, copies of which had been circulated to members. The letter advised that the future of the Parish Support Grant scheme would be considered at a meeting of the Cabinet on 7th December, and that when

considering their own budgets for 2010/11 parish councils should be aware that the scheme may be withdrawn.

Members were concerned to hear of the proposals being considered by the District Council particularly with regard to what was felt to be the unequal treatment of parished and unparished areas of the District. The Chairman advised that he and the Clerk would be meeting with the Chair and Clerk of Sible Hedingham Parish Council the following week to discuss this matter and that the item would be on the agenda for the Parish Cluster Meeting.

Cllr. Siddall advised that the Parish Council should submit their comments to the District Council as soon as possible, and certainly before the date of the Cluster Meeting.

10. MAKING THE LINKS PARTNERSHIP EVENT

Mr. Williams reported on this event which had taken place on 23rd September. One of the speakers at the event had been from the Land Registry and Mr. Williams had taken the opportunity to discuss with him the possible registration of the Council's land. It was agreed that Mr. Williams and the Clerk should pursue the registration of land within the Council's ownership.

11. ALLOTMENTS

Members received an update on the allotment project and a further meeting of the Allotment Group was arranged to take place at 7 p.m. on 28th October.

12. EALC COURSES

No one was available to attend the courses scheduled for November.

13. NOISE NUISANCE – MONKS ROAD

Mr. van Dulken referred to noise from events held recently on land at the end of Monks Road. It was noted that the District Council had advised that problems of this nature should be reported to their out of hours officers at the time they were occurring rather than after the event, and that no premises licence was required for private functions.

14. ADOPTION OF TELEPHONE KIOSK – VILLAGE GREEN

Members considered a letter received from British Telecom asking the Parish Council to consider adopting the listed telephone kiosk on the Village Green for £1. The telephone would be removed and the structure of the kiosk transferred to the Parish Council who could use it in any way which would be of benefit to the local community. British Telecom claimed that the telephone was rarely used (118 calls in 12 months) and there was full mobile network coverage in the area.

Members decided not to proceed with the adoption of the kiosk.

15. VILLAGE HALL:

- a) **Shrub Bed in Village Hall Car Park:** Members considered a suggestion by the Community Worker that the shrub bed in the Village Hall car park should be

largely laid to grass to improve the appearance of the area and to cut down on maintenance.

It was agreed that the area should be not laid to grass and that new bark chippings should be laid.

16. FINANCE:

- a) **Payment of Accounts:** For schedule of payments see Appendix 1

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

Date

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CHAIRMAN