

**Minutes of a Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council held in the Council Chamber
On Wednesday 21st September 2011**

PRESENT:

Councillors: 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. P. Herbert was present in her capacity as Clerk, together with Cllr. G. Spray and five members of the public. Cllr. J. Beavis was present for part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Mrs. D. Howorth, Cllr. P. Harrington and Cllr. C. Siddall.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Mr. Austing spoke on behalf of all the members of the public present expressing their concerns regarding a planning application submitted by Anglian Water for a proposed pumping station and mast in Coggeshall Road. Mr. Austing advised that the proposed location of the pumping station was only 15m from his property and that the proposed mast would be an eyesore for which he understood an underground BT line would be a suitable alternative.

Cllr. Spray responded that she had discussed the residents` concerns with the Planning Officer and understood that Anglian Water would prefer to have a mast as they would have control over it, although they were investigating whether an underground line could be used. It was difficult to defend refusal for the mast because there were already a number of telegraph poles and electricity lines in the area. Applications from utility companies have tight deadlines and if a decision is not given with the correct timetable then the company can proceed without permission. The application would not go to committee and a decision would be taken by officers.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting, held on the 17th August 2011 were approved and signed.

5. CLERK`S REPORT

- a) **Reminder:** Councillors were reminded that a Parish Council Training Session would take place at in the Council Chamber at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 5th October.

6. PLANNING

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

<i>11/00158/TPOCON – Fell one conifer, remove deadwood and broken limbs, reduce over-extended branches of one cedar – 42 Park Lane</i>	Granted
<i>11/00157TPOCON – Pollard to 3m two holm oaks, fell one beech tree – 46 Park Lane</i>	Granted
<i>11/00802/FUL – Erection of new outbuilding to house boiler – 1 Thatched Cottages</i>	Granted
<i>11/00958/FUL – Erection of single storey side extension for porch – Shepherd and Holly House, Newhouse Road</i>	Granted

11/00407/FUL – Erection of conservatory/atrium dining area over existing terrace at side of restaurant – 44 Lower Holt Street

Refused

b) **Current applications:** Cllr. van Dulken reported on the following planning applications:

11/00908/FUL & 11/090/LBC – Installation of an additional window to the first floor of the northern elevation – Chapel Cottage, Upper Holt Street (additional information)

Members had no objections to this application.

11/01141/FUL & 11/01136/LBC – Removal of existing 20th Century windows, replace with sliding sash to match main dwelling, removal of internal ceiling linings to bathroom and bedroom and insulate ceilings and re-line – Chandlers, 28 Upper Holt Street

Members had no objections to this application.

11/01189/T56 – Proposed mast and pumping station and mast – Coggeshall Road

Members understood that an alternative location for the pumping station had originally been proposed, which was more acceptable to local residents, and members suggested that this location should be reconsidered. If the location could not be changed then hedging should be planted around the structure to make it less obtrusive.

An underground communication cable should be considered rather than a mast which would provide additional clutter in the area.

11/01195/FUL – Erection of two single storey office (B1) buildings with associated car parking and landscaping – Land east of The Paddocks, The Airfield

Members had no objections to this application, and felt that extending the permitted industrial development area to allow the construction of these units would be beneficial to the village in terms of the employment opportunities which would be created.

11/01257/LED – Application for an Existing Lawful Development Certificate – Agricultural Occupancy Condition relating to approved application HALR/216/70 – Nightingale Hall Farm, Nightingale Hall Road

Members had no objections to this application.

11/01138/FUL – Replacement of double garage with a new oak-framed open fronted double garage – 48 High Street

Members had no objections to this application.

The meeting was closed at this point to allow Cllr. Jo Beavis to talk about her role as the District Council's Cabinet Member for Communities. Following her talk, the Chairman thanked Cllr. Beavis for addressing the meeting and re-opened the meeting.

c) **Site Allocations Development Document:** The Clerk advised that the meeting to discuss this document with the District Council had been confirmed for 1830 on Monday 10th October.

7. MEMBERS' REPORTS:

a) **War Memorial update-** Cllr. Sparks reported that a working party had met on 21st August to clean up the War Memorial garden. He advised that a stonemason would be inspecting the memorial in the following few weeks to advise on the repair of the base.

Cllr. Sparks reminded members that Remembrance Day would fall on 11/11/2011 and said that he hoped that there would be good attendance at the Remembrance Day Service.

8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL:

- a) **Winter Salt Bag Scheme:** The Clerk advised that Essex County Council were inviting town and parish councils to participate in their 2011/12 winter salt bag scheme. One tonne of rock salt would be delivered in 20K sealed bags for use by the community on the Highway. This material would be suitable for use in the Council's spreader. It was agreed that the Parish Council should take part in this scheme.

Existing salt bins would also be restocked in preparation for the start of the winter season, but the County Council could not confirm how often they would be able to refill the bins over the winter.

9. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL:

- a) **Public Car Park and Toilets:** The Clerk reported that trees around the perimeter of the car park had been cut back following a request from a resident of Queens Road. The Queens Road resident also brought to the Clerk's attention that there was a gap of approximately 3ft between the boundaries of the Queens Road properties and the car park fence. This had been brought to the attention of the District Council as the question of ownership would need to be resolved before any takeover.

10. DIAMOND JUBILEE/VILLAGE HALL CENTENARY

Cllr. Mrs. Barrett showed members drawings of a proposed monument to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee which it was suggested should be erected on the Village Green. After some discussion it was agreed that a scale model of the proposal should be obtained together with a sample of the material proposed. The Clerk would check whether planning permission would be required and whether approval of the wording on the monument was required.

Members noted that the Working Group were proposing that a village fete be held on 2nd June to celebrate the Jubilee and that local groups, organisations and businesses had been invited to attend a meeting in the Village Hall on 12th October.

11. PROPOSED RIVER COLNE COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

Cllr. van Dulken reported on a meeting which he had attended on Tuesday 20th September. It was agreed that a form approving of the establishment of the Trust should be completed on behalf of the Parish Council and returned to the organisers.

12. PROPOSED SURVEY OF PARISH COUNCIL TREES

It was agreed that a safety survey of all trees on Parish Council owned land should be commissioned. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr. Curtis to organise this.

13. GREENFIELDS:

- a) **Estate Visit:** Cllr. Mrs. Hall reported on an estate visit which she had attended on 16th August.

14. EARLS COLNE IN BLOOM

Cllr. Mrs. Barrett suggested that an Earls Colne in Bloom group should be created similar to the group in Halstead. The Clerk was asked to contact the Halstead Group to see if one of the organisers would be prepared to come along to a meeting to explain how the group was started.

15. VILLAGE HALL

- a) **Village Halls & Community Buildings Conference 2011:** No-one was available to attend this Conference on 22nd October.

16. FINANCE:

- a) **Payment of Accounts:** For Schedule of Payments see Appendix 1.
- b) **Budgets 2012/13:** The Clerk reminded members that it would soon be time to start drawing up budgets for 2012/13. Members were asked to let the Clerk know as soon as possible if they had any ideas or projects to put forward for consideration at the Budget Meeting on 7th December.

IN COMMITTEE

17. AMENITY LAND

Members noted the contents of a report of a meeting held on 6th September.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Date

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CHAIRMAN