

Minutes of Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council
held in the Village Hall 16th March 2022.

1. **PRESENT:** Cllrs., Mr. J. Bendall (Chair), Mr. T. Calton, Mr R Curtis, Mr. N. McKean, Mrs. J. Parish, , Mrs. N. Spelling, Cllr. H. Street Cllr. P. Wall; District Cllr. G. Courtauld, District Cllr. G. Spray, County Cllr. C. Siddall; and D. Hayns (Clerk)
2. **CONFIRMATION OF CLEAR TESTS FOR ATTENDEES:**
3. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Mr. R Ranns; Spike Townsend - Community Special
4. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr. McKean in item 10(b) 5 Kemsley Road
5. **COUNTY BROADBAND PRESENTATION** – County Broadband had sent on example letters for our agreement in their absence. It was decided that the Parish Council were unhappy to endorse anything like this and would more appreciate a new presentation for the Village by all providers, to clarify the options open to residents.
6. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING - PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 16th February 2022:** Minutes approved
7. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:**
8. **FINANCE:**
 - a) To approve the payment of March invoices -
 - b) To acknowledge completion of the bank reconciliation for February 2022.
9. **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT:** Report provided, detailing status of previous resolutions.
Clerk provided an update on the following: -
 - The Village Green easement mentioned at last meeting has been looked into with our solicitors and we will need to correct the entries at Land Registry before we can take this forward. Cllr Spelling and Clerk to take forward.
 - The recent winds blew the door off of the telephone kiosk on the green and, as it is a listed building, approval has been gained from the Heritage Team at BDC for Tarmec and Croft to carry out the works required. They are happy that all works are needed to make the damage safe.
 - The Museum Team have been engaged to look over some documents found within the Village Hall archive that seem to relate to general village history.
10. **PLANNING:**
 - a) Decisions reached by Braintree District Council as follows: -

None shown on site
 - b) Current Applications were reviewed by the Parish Council as follows: -

Application No.	Location	Description	Parish Council Decision
22/00548/TPOCON	1 Park Lane, Earls Colne	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - T1 - Eucalyptus Tree - 1. Reduce to previous cuts, approx 2 - 3 meters	No Objections
22/00496/HH	5 Kemsley Road Earls Colne	First-floor front extension.	No Objections
22/00446/TPOCON	Ashwells, Park Lane Earls Colne	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Fell Sycamore, its damaging wall which is next to the wall of primary school.	Objection – clarity of application
22/00445/TPOCON	31 Upper Holt Street Earls Colne	Notice of intent to carry out work to tree in a Conservation Area - Re-Pollarding of existing Lime tree at front of property.	Objection – clarity of application
22/00513/AGR	Land adjacent Stonebridge House, Halstead Road	Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - Erection of 2 polytunnels.	No Objections
22/00457/HH	9 Monks Road, Earls Colne	Single-storey rear extension and conversion of part of existing garage for use as utility area	No Objections
22/00418/FUL	Land East of Pudsies Barn, Station Road	Change of use of existing stable building to a 1 x 2 bedroom dwelling	Objection Back Land Development and placing

11. Update and Discussion on Community Workers

- Current update on PPE upgrade shared. Most items have now been sourced and provided to the team.
- Issues with current mower and trailer flagged with insurance renewal shared. Cllr Wall authorised to investigate further and bring a suitable resolution to the PC.
- Cllr Siddall advised that Essex County Council Climate Action Challenge Fund Grant shared may not cover plant and equipment – he will clarify.

12. Update and Discussion on Communications Policy and Website

- Preparation for Communications Strategy Shared with breakdown from Cllr Ranns.
- Request for dates for availability for a workshop on the policy and surveys. (Cllrs to send on to Clerk)

13. Actions taken since the last Parish Meeting that were not on the Agenda

- March Councillors Surgery had no attendees – it was discussed that we need to generate more interest on social media, create an “A” Frame poster or outside the hall and look to engage differently for these meetings.

14. Update on Neighbourhood Plan

- Cllr Calton shared an update document. It was agreed:-
- Neighbourhood Plan to stay at 2033 parameter to align with BDC.
- An annexe will be added to the NP outlining longer term visions such as investigating a Community Led Development and meeting future housing targets beyond 2033.
- These “studies” will be progressed as specific projects in parallel with the NP rather than needing to be a firm commitment within it.

15. Update on Platinum Jubilee Plans

- JL Marketing Services within the Village are kindly helping with the work on posters and social media.
- The walking carnival at the Rec is to be changed to a Village Rounders match – due to the amount of local shows over the weekend it is difficult to bring forward many hirers who would be interested in the day.
- Cllr Spray highlighted the link to the BDC group who are coordinating publicity for all planned festivities and we will look to engage once we have everything pinned down (clerk to action)

16. Update on Village Hall

- Works on Main Hall Floor have now been undertaken. Increased materials cost noted and approved.

17. Update on Section 106 and Open Spaces Plan

- Confirmation that the application from St Andrews can be taken to Neil Jones as the first of the Section 106 applications on the new form.
- Newhouse Allotments has been agreed in principal but we need to get some clarification on the quotes that they have provided (clerk to action)
- Cllr Spray confirmed that the internal review on S.106 will be undertaken in this Civic Year (from April 2022) but they Open Spaces Plan is still not accepting Halls and Public Building works. Cllr McKean highlighted the documentation referring to possible uses for this and Cllr Spray confirmed she will look into this again.
- Meeting with BDC Planning to be arranged (Clerk to Action)

18. Boundary Commission Constituency Review

- Cllr Spray advised of the above review which has not been well publicised. If approved this would change the placing of The Colnes Ward within the Haverhill and Halstead County Constituency, Eastern Region rather than within the Braintree County Constituency , Eastern Region. It has been suggested that this would cause issues with the crossing of county borders; the number of councils in the new constituency; and the provision of health, education, policing and transport access connections across borders on the new constituencies. As well as severing local ties with such a large constituency. Cllr Spray will send on details and this Secondary Consultation runs until the 4th April.

19. Election of Chair Cllr N. Spelling was elected as Chair. Acceptance of Office Completed.

20. Election of Vice Chair Cllr T. Calton was elected as Vice Chair. Acceptance of Office Completed.

Meeting ended at 9.30pm

Chair

Date