

**Minutes of Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council**  
**held in the Village Hall 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs., Mr. J. Bendall (Chair), Mr. T. Calton, Mr R Curtis, Mr. N. McKean, Mrs. J. Parish, Mrs. N. Spelling, Mr. H Street; District Cllr. G. Courtauld; and D. Hayns (Clerk)

**1. CONFIRMATION OF CLEAR TESTS FOR ATTENDEES:**

2. Before the meeting began it was shared by Cllr Bendall that he would be retiring from the Parish Council, his last meeting being the March 2022 meeting. Cllr Curtis advised that he will be retiring after the June 2022 meeting. Cllr Sparks had decided to retire from January 2022.

**3. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Spray, Cllr Siddal and Spike Townsend - Community Special

**4. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

**5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING - PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021:** Minutes approved

**6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:** Mr R Ranns, Mr P Wall Jennifer Smith Colne Valley Golf Club, Malcolm and Ben Hobbs (in regard to item 10) Thanks were given to both attendees for their provision of the Christmas Trees for the Village.

- Jennifer Smith asked to highlight that Colne Valley Golf Club are back in correspondence with Highways in regard to Footpath 18 – unfortunately where the drainage issues at the top of the footpath in Burrows Road have not been permanently fixed they have had the issue with drainage again which has undone all the work over the summer.
- Attention was also drawn to the unfair comments that had been made on the Community Pages and the aggression shown to her and her staff.
- It was agreed that there should be some clarification that the Public Footpaths were for dog use as well as humans and dogs should be kept on leads where they could not be kept to the Public Footpath.

**7. FINANCE:**

a) To approve the payment of January invoices -

b) To acknowledge completion of the bank reconciliation for December 2022

- Members noted that the Bank Reconciliation for December was now being completed on Scribe software

**8. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:** Report provided, detailing status of previous resolutions. Clerk provided an update on the following: -

- The Causeway - Confirmation that the Highways Team had held the correspondence with the Highways and Landowner as the kissing gates have been widened
- Sadness was expressed at the death of the Public Convenience Part Timer, Ray Joslin, and a card was signed by members.
- Section 106 and Open Spaces Plan – it was requested that the first Wednesday of the month planning meeting be used to discuss this due to the change in the s.106 Team.
- Review of the Community Workers Stores - There has been a board of names lost in the First World War to the Odd Fellows Society and the Atlas Lodge which has been in the Community Workers Stores for a while, it is to be brought to the Village Hall and a new home for it clarified. There is a small lawnmower, too small for any use within the village which can be donated/sold on. This could be offered to the Churchyard Team(DH)
- Grit bags had been offered to strategic groups within the Village, this should mean that they can use the grit to start clearing any ice, before the Community Workers can get there, and that the bags are there ready to start the Community Workers off on clearing the ground. Very good response, clerk to review.

#### 9. TO RECEIVE THE COMMUNITY SPECIALS REPORT:

- Unfortunately the Community Special could not attend the meeting.

#### 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
21/03649/HH	100 High Street CO6 2QX	<b>Alterations to fenestration to include replacing window with door to rear elevation, new window to side elevation. Installation of 3 roof lights. Internal alterations to create new bathroom at first floor.</b>	No Objections
22/00004/AGR	Land Adjacent Stonebridge House Halstead Road Earls Colne Essex	Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - Erection of twin-span polytunnel For Information Only	

#### **10. Earls Colne Business Park Re: New Road Naming**

- Presentation from Mr M and Mr B Hobbs, Hobbs Estates Ltd on naming for new Roads on Earls Colne Business Park.
- All councillors agreed with decisions and expressed their thanks for consultation.
- Clerk to confirm with Braintree District Council

#### **11. Kingsley Health Care – deferred to February meeting due to current Covid guidelines**

#### **12. To discuss Applications for Co-option and confirm advertisement for Co-option**

- All applicants were welcomed and confirmation that 2 positions were available to be decided upon today.

#### **13. Update on Website**

- It was confirmed that the PC did not want to lose the current earlscolne.org domain from the website or emails.
- Confirmation by clerk from initial enquiries that current hosting of the new website would have to change for this to be possible.
- Further investigation and focus on what we do need to go forward to be taken forward by the Web Team (Cllr Calton, Cllr Spelling and Clerk)

#### **14. Actions taken since last Parish Council Meeting that were not on the Agenda**

- Clerk requested action on previous requests for assistance from PC, volunteers, process change/automation, extra manpower. Examples of issues that had occurred and taken over allotted time in the past month offered

#### **15. Update from Parish Councillors Surgery 15th January 2022**

- Suggestion that meeting structure and issues could not be captured in minute form.
- All of the issues with Highway repair are already on the Highways Website. Meeting to be arranged with Cllr Siddall to take the list forwards and request information from Highways to enable the concise and accurate sharing of information.

#### **16. Update on Village Hall**

- Quote for damage to Main Hall Floor finally received and looking to action in February.

#### **17. Update on Youth Projects.**

- Cllr McKean shared that there had been a good meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January though due to commitments to other teams there had been a limited number of attendees.

- There is to be a coffee morning at the Village Hall on the 29<sup>th</sup> January and a further meeting at the Baptist Church (date to be arranged) to gain more volunteer interest.

#### **18. Update on Neighbourhood Plan**

- Cllr Calton shared an update document.

#### **19. Update on Museum**

- Clerk confirmed that there had been interest in the Curator post and that this would be taken forward by the Museum Committee.
- Clerk confirmed that a method statement covering the works to the external ladder access had been drafted with the contractors and put to Braintree Listed Buildings.

Meeting ended at 9.35pm

**In Committee** Discussion and vote on applicants for Co-option.

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Chairman

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Date