

Minutes of Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council
held in the Council Chamber, Village Hall 20th July 2022.

1. **PRESENT:** Cllrs., Mr. T. Calton; Mr. N. McKean; Mrs. J. Parish; Mr. R. Ranns; Mrs. N. Spelling (Chair); Mr. H. Street; Mr. P. Wall; District Cllr. G. Spray and D. Hayns (Clerk)
2. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** 22/01653/PLD Cllr. Street
3. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:.** Cllr. Mr. M. Jackson District Cllr G. Courtauld; County Cllr. C. Siddall Spike Townsend - Community Special
4. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING - PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 15th June 2022:** Approved.
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:** Attendees from Allotments at Queens Road, requested attendance to ask about current question within the COOP. Ms Donna Goodchild; Richard Curtis; Jane Chapman; Shelley Wheeler; Andrew Hask; Leah Jan Brooke.
Current Question
Neighbourhood Plan Team

Car parking in the Centre of the Village

Over the last couple of years we have been developing the Earls Colne Neighbourhood Plan and have discussed a whole range of issues with local residents. One of the issues most often raised by you is the lack of car parking in the village centre. We have been considering many different options but one of the most obvious would be to increase the size of the public car park off Queens Road. We would like to know how you feel about this so please take the time to vote “yes” or “no” to the following question so that we can get some idea of how you feel about this: ***Should we look for an alternative site for the allotments so that we can then make the public car park larger. Good idea or not?***

- It was agreed to hear attendees from the Allotments first.
- Clerk confirmed that the subject had not been placed on this months agenda as the questions within the COOP were to run for 2 weeks before the overall counting of the votes was actioned. There was nothing to discuss for the moment.
- It was confirmed that the scores from the questions were made available on Facebook and within the notice boards and the COOP. They would be going onto the new website.
- Cllr Calton confirmed that this box was being used as a “straw poll” to grasp residents opinions before questions were looked into fully and would not be the sole review of any of the questions.
- The Allotment Team queried why this question had not been made more public to them – it was agreed that a notice board would be a good idea attached to the toilets and stores in the Queens Road Car Park. (Comms)
- The Allotment Team queried why a question like this should be asked in the COOP where people were using their cars to travel in. It was advised that we were looking to

engage as many residents as we could whether using cars or not, and the COOP was an area within the village with a high resident footfall.

6. To receive any update from our BDC Councillors.

- Question from the Public had been passed on, see below:-

Dear Members

The following report, from BDC's latest newsletter, indicates that £4.04 million has become available to build a new Community Centre in Witham.

You will note that the money consists of £2.27 million from BDC (District Council Rate Payers ?) & £1.77 million from developers (Section 106 ?)

If this can be achieved for Witham, then surely £300,000 can be found to improve Earls Colne's Community Centre (Village Hall) from the same resources.

Perhaps our District Councillors can explain.

Kindest Regards

John Bendall

Cllr Spray feedback:-

Braintree District Council are pleased to have been able to confirm the funding recently for the new community centre for Witham. This has been the culmination of many years of engagement with the community in Witham which itself has been based on the provision of significant land and financial resources being provided through several Section 106 development agreements related to the Maltings Lane development in Witham, money and land that was provided by developers to only be used to provide a community centre. From the outset the intention was that a new community building would be provided to serve the 800+ new homes on the Maltings Lane development and residents will have had an expectation of this when they moved to the area. Failure to deliver a community building would have meant a failure to deliver a long anticipated facility and would have meant over £970,000 of S106 money from the Maltings Lane development would need to have been returned to landowners. Failure to deliver the project would also have resulted in S106 contributions secured from other developments in Witham for a new community building in the town being at risk of being returned to developers. To that end the new community centre will be providing a facility that is not currently provided within the locality as a direct mitigation to the considerable development that has progressed at Maltings Lane and other parts of Witham.

Witham as a whole has been subject to a number of significant housing developments. In addition to the 800+ new homes at Maltings Lane, in the last 7 years planning permission has been granted for over 1850 new homes and the Council has previously identified a shortfall in community hall capacity within the town. To that end it is considered that the population size of Witham could justify the provision of 6 buildings, three more than is currently available to that community. Earls Colne, in comparison, has had planning permissions for circa 320 dwellings in that time and with a current population of some 3,841 it is considered that one village hall can satisfy the current community demand.

With respect of the spending of S106 monies in Earls Colne, Braintree District Council has been able to contribute £89,524 of S106 to support the installation of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in

2020 as well as BDC providing contract administration assistance for the project. BDC is currently holding nearly £148,000 of S106 money to spend on projects in Earls Colne, mostly focussed on improving or installing children's play equipment and other sporting equipment and improving other outdoor areas, improvement to allotments and some contribution to future healthcare provision. To that end it is proposed that additional facilities are provided at the MUGA using additional S106 monies held, including the provision of basketball hoops, and discussions will continue with the Parish Council as to how to spend the remaining S106 monies being held by BDC. In addition to this S106 work, BDC has been very pleased to carry out the refurbishment of the De Vere Road play area through funding from BDC's capital programme and intend to also refurbish the Nonacourt Way play area in the next 12 months, again through BDC capital programme.

With respect to the Village Hall in Earls Colne, we can confirm that BDC do not currently hold any S106 funds that could be used to improve the Hall. BDC does not currently have a clear policy basis upon which we could ask developers for such contributions, however once the Section 2 Local Plan has been adopted by the Council (which will hopefully be next week) the BDC will be looking to update its policy on community buildings. The Council has also only tended to be successful in securing funds for community or village halls when they can be linked to significant development and population growth. S106 funding also has to be directly linked to the development it is coming from, which often makes it difficult to associate the improvement of existing halls with S106 funding.

BDC will continue working with the Parish Council to explore how S106 money can be spent in the area and will always be happy to explore alternative funding routes, including the Parish Councils ability to prioritise the setting and spending of its precept.

7. FINANCE:

- a) To approve the payment of July invoices - carried forward
- b) To acknowledge completion of the bank reconciliation for June 2022.

8. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT: Report provided, detailing status of previous resolutions.

Clerk provided an update on the following: -

- Lorraine has started working with us for 12 hours per week. She will be in the office for 9.30 am to 12.30pm to And cover the office while the clerk is away.
- Tree at the back of the CW Workshop – finally the long term issue with this tree looks as if it is moving forward landlord has advised that there will need to be a TPO application but it is still hopeful that this should all be sorted for September works for the wall works.
- We have had confirmation that Colne Valley Philharmonic will be using the Hall next year as a practice venue. Hopefully we may be able to organise some reduced orchestra shows.
- Sadly, Lee our Community Worker is still unwell. Thanks to the volunteers and some of the local businesses who have been helping us through this time.
- Community 360 Bus – only 10 residents attended but good feedback from the Community 360 team and hopeful that they will use us again. Good contacts made with the Levelling Up Team and the possibility of available grants.

Cllr. Spray had kindly attended to brief us but had to leave for a BDC meeting after her report.

9. To receive the Community Special Report:-

- Apologies sent

10. To receive any updates from our ECC Councillor.

- Apologies sent

11. PLANNING:

a) Decisions reached by Braintree District Council as follows: -

| Application No. | Location | Description | BDC Decision Minutes |
|-----------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 22/01788/TEL | Tillwicks Close Earls Colne Essex | Broadband Cabinet Opposite Tillwicks Close Earls Colne Essex | PE Case Closed |
| 22/00718/PLD | 54 Coggeshall Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2JR | Application for approval of details reserved by Condition 6 of approved application 20/01167/FUL | Application Permitted |
| 22/00663/TPOCON | Land Adjacent Stonebridge House Halstead Road Earls Colne Essex | Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - A corrugated steel cylindrical water tank. | Prior Approval Required and Given |
| 22/01330/TPOCON | 4 York Road Earls Colne Essex 2RN | Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Maple tree - Neaten and shape once the power company has reduce the tree from the cables and the Conifer tree is approx 9-10 metres high and would be reduced to 6 metres and rounded then neaten the shape - Large overgrown Conifer planted a few feet from the decorative cast iron Victorian Terrace pole / feature between the semi-detached properties Named "York Villas", built 1983 by Ruben Hunt. The tree has been left uncut for some time and now is too large, roots effecting the property, and blocking light to both downstairs rooms (to both houses) and bedrooms (to both houses). Tree is in the middle of the Villas but applying given looks more on my side and effects both properties. Hence this look to be cut, and shaped, so it is no more than half the window height on the first floor bedroom. Allowing it to remain, keep the decorative look, but keep what can be a fast growing aggressive plant in check with future cuts to keep in height. Given the head of tree will be cut the shape will be rounded at the upper area. Unsure if permission is needed on conifer as more hedging plant but here it is a stand alone tree. Further height will also effect insurance. Note the tree is near electric cables and grows through tele cables. | Application Permitted |
| 22/01266/TPO | Sesame House 21 Coggeshall Earls Colne Essex CO6 2JP | Notice of intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 19/00 - Fell leaning Ash tree number 10 on the T map, it has moved during recent storms and is weighted towards the neighbours garden | Application permitted |
| 22/01277/HH | 66 Coggeshall Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2JR | Front porch | Application permitted |
| 22/01222/FUL | St Andrews Church High Street Earls Colne Essex | Replacement of existing wooden notice board | Application Permitted |
| 22/01210/FUL | Bungalow Colne Valley Golf Club Station Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2ER | Erection of single-storey front/side extension to existing staff accommodation, alterations to fenestration, erection of single-storey detached double garage and boundary wall. | Application Permitted |
| 22/01180/HH | Nightingale Hall Nightingale Hall Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2JL | Installation of 20 ground mounted PV solar panels in linear formation to an area of garden amenity | Application Permitted |
| 22/01181/LBC | Nightingale Hall Nightingale Hall Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2JL | Proposed installation of 20no. ground mounted PV solar panels in linear formation to an area of garden amenity | Application Permitted |
| 22/01154/PLD | 30 Park Lane Earls Colne Essex CO6 2RJ | Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed development - Painting of existing brickwork on all elevations. | Application Permitted |
| 22/01099/HH | 4 Tey Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2LG | Erection of first floor extension to side elevation, erection of porch on front elevation, part single, part two-storey extensions to elevation. | Application Permitted |
| 22/01087/HH | Mitchells Coggeshall Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2JZ | Single-storey rear extension | Application Permitted |

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| 22/00826/FUL | The Cart Lodge Peartree Hall Coggeshall Road Earls Colne E CO6 2JS | Erection of 4-bay timber-framed barn with attached lean-to and adjoining open-fronted mono pitch agricultural building. | Application Permitted |
| 21/03650/LBC | 100 High Street Earls Colne E CO6 2QX | Alterations to fenestration to include replacing window with door to rear elevation and new window to side elevation. Internal alterations to create new bathroom at first floor. | Application Permitted |
| 21/03649/HH | 100 High Street Earls Colne E CO6 2QX | Alterations to fenestration to include replacing window with door to rear elevation and new window to side elevation. Internal alterations to create new bathroom at first floor. | Application Permitted |

b) Current Applications were reviewed by the Parish Council as follows: -

| Application No. | Location | Description | Parish Council Decision |
|------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| 22/01522/HH | Caernarvon House Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne | Part two-storey, part single-storey rear extension, alterations to first floor, and addition of balconies to rear elevation | No Objection |
| 22/01543/HH | 27 Tey Road, Earls Colne Essex | Single-storey rear extension | No Objection |
| 22/01587/TP OCON | Ashwells , Park Lane, Earls Colne | Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Cut boarder hedge along the side of neighbours house by 15 ft Hedge has got out of hand and causing shade and infringing on neighbours house | No Objection |
| 22/01665/TP O | 13 Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne, Essex | Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 19/00 – Reduce Lime on roadside boarder by 3.5 meters, reason being its neighbours fell over in storm without any warning, Spread reduction of large Oak behind wires by approx 3.5 meters, branches are too far over wires and cartlodge and may become dangerous | No Objection |
| 22/01653/PLD | Atlas Court Earls Colne Essex CO6 2LY | Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed development - Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single-storey rear extension | No Objection |
| 22/01661/HH | 36 Josselin Close, Earls Colne, Essex | Single-storey rear extension | No Objection |
| 22/01721/HH | Chestnuts , Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne | Demolition of existing front porch and erection of replacement porch. | No Objection |

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| 22/01686/FUL & 22/01687/LBC | Colne House , Station Road, Earls Colne | Internal and external alterations to Colne House, demolition of existing 5 bedroom annex building, construction of two-story extension with underground link to provide 27 additional specialist care bedrooms with associated car parking, sustainable drainage and hard and soft landscaping enhancements. | No Objections |
| 22/01438/HH | 85A High Street, Earls Colne, Essex | Erection of two storey side extension. Confirmation of meeting on 6 th July 2022. Letter attached – we have had a call from the residents expressing upset at this not being discussed at the full meeting but we advised that this was due to the time constraints of BDC Planning. | No Objections |
| 22/01695/ELD | Willowbrook Stables Station Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2EP | Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use - Use of site as a private residential dwelling. | Objection as previous applications |

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

The Causeway

Cllr Wall kindly met with the Landowner and BDC Street Scenes the morning of the PC meeting

The good news is that we have now got agreement that there will be 2 new larger dog waste bins on metal poles placed along the area by BDC at the bottom away from the bench. The big top gate will always be open The middle gate will be open 8am -8pm and has a metal detector on it (which is not working at the moment but will be checked and rectified) so that if you drive up to it, it will open. The area with the tarmac walkway and the bench and the bin – though there are sheep in there – the gates will be open so that you can enter and leave whenever you want and the bin and the bench will be kept in situ.

1 Queens Cottages.

No public right of way exists, Museum confirms that there has never been a right of way along that path.

Halstead Road Site

- Contractors are now cleaning the road 4 times a day due to complaints about the mud. Has eased the issue – thanks to Cllr Wall and Cllr Jackson for speaking to them again.
- **Bellways** have confirmed that the footpath to the Millennium Green will reopen – probably in October when they have finished the build affecting it.
- The road up at the Rec has been melting with the heat – a new laid stretch - and it has been reported

13. New Website and New Logo

- The new logo was proposed and seconded, and unanimously accepted.
- New Councillor information pages shared and approved.
- It is planned to go live with the new website and email addresses at the beginning of August.

14. S.106 and Grants

- Sports question – Email from Neil Jones forwarded asking approval for payment of some outstanding funds to the Rec. These are funds set aside for sports and we would have to have a spade ready Outdoor Sport scheme ourselves to push this aside – it was proposed we support this application, seconded and passed.
- A meeting with Paul Javin at the Tennis Club a meeting to move this scheme forward (Clerk to contact)
- Agenda for the first of our quarterly S.106 meetings to be drafted.

15. EV Charging Point Update

- It was agreed that the suggestion of speaking to some of the contacts passed on by a procurement manager in Colchester was a good one and they should be given some time to reply.

16. Communication and Asset Management Team Update

- Reports shared – agreement on copyrighting new logo made.

17. Communication Strategy

- It was agreed to take forward the new procedures we had in place and to look to take more forward after this.

18. Annual Report and Village Events

- It was requested again that Annual Report and Village Events be discussed. It was decided that this would be taken forward more next meeting.

19. Clock Room Risk Assessment

- It was decided that all suggested improvements be looked into, costed and prioritised and brought back to PC for approval.

20. Village Environment Update

Highways

- Cala Homes have agreed to remedy the surface issues at the entrance to Aubrey Close. They are awaiting information from BDC Highways before progressing.
- Chris Siddall has initiated a pothole reporting survey, so any in the Parish can be given a What 3 Words location and photo to be forwarded on to Highways.

- It has been also pointed out that throughout the village there are many issues with poorly maintained footpaths. Again location and photos could help in remedying this situation.

Village Environment

- Report shared
- Unsuitable small planting pots that need constant watering in Village areas have been removed now that the electric vehicle is here.
- Unanimous approval of new electric power washer to implement cleaning of bus stops.

- **Village Hall Team Update**

- Grounds tidied by new handyman contact and well received by next months wedding couple.
- Work on itemising and prioritising repairs and maintenance program to be worked on further
- Work on the Village Hall Car Park to be re-quoted. At the moment Community Worker assistance is not available.
- Décor and Artwork to be discussed at next meeting.

21. Neighbourhood Plan and Planning Team Update

- Report Shared
- Funding application for preparation of the Planning Policy Statements approved unanimously.

Meeting ended at 10.15 pm

Chair

Date