

Minutes of Meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council
held in the Village Hall 18th May 2022.

1. **PRESENT:** Cllrs., Mr. T. Calton, Mr. R Curtis, Mr. M Jackson, Mr. N. McKean, Mrs. J. Parish, Mr.R.Ranns; Mrs. N. Spelling (Chair) Mr. P. Wall; District Cllr. G. Spray, County Cllr. C. Siddall; and D. Hayns (Clerk)
2. **CONFIRMATION OF CLEAR TESTS FOR ATTENDEES:** It was agreed that we can now remove this from the agenda.
3. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr H Street; District Cllr G. Courtauld.
4. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Parish Item 10 (d)
5. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING - PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 20th April 2022:** Minutes approved
6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:** Mr B Lynham (Caretaker) attended. The Millennium Green Trust Team - Margaret Barret; Teresa Evans Mortimer, Karen Abbie, R Van Dulken.
7. **FINANCE:**
 - a) To approve the payment of May invoices - approved
 - b) To acknowledge completion of the bank reconciliation for April 2022.
8. **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:** Report provided, detailing status of previous resolutions.
Clerk provided an update on the following: -
 - New Tai Chi Class to start in June
 - Handover of information on Working Groups under way – shelf in cupboard set up and action spreadsheets taking shape
 - Entered into the auction for Solar Essex – to look at a cheaper cost for panels for store and Village Hall – confirmed due to our size we could not be considered.
 - Health & Safety Document and Handbook prepared signed off and will be circulated to full PC.
 - Tree to the rear of workshop causing issues with safety – landlord has taken ownership and will be rectifying issues.
 - Confirmation that the hourly rate for the caretaking team should be increased. Thanks to Barry and his wife for their work on the hall.
9. To receive any updates from our ECC Councillor.
 - There does seem to be some movement with
 - There is a pilot scheme in Maldon for a Speed Sign that can capture registration numbers and issue tickets. There is a thought that one will be purchased by Essex and could be used by Parishes.
 - There is a scheme from Highways to repair the worst potholes within areas. Parishes will be asked to nominate their worst potholes.

10. To receive any update from our BDC Councillors.

- Cllr. Spray will speak to BDC Planning Team and inspect the area of the Lowefields development and look to take forward the issues on the footpath raised by a resident.
- There is to be a new role with the BDC Planning Team which will oversee developments and make sure that works are carried out to the planning agreements. Cllr. Spray will give contact details when in post.

11. PLANNING:

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

Application No.	Location	Description	BDC Decision Minutes
22/008 14/LBC	13 Burrows Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2RZ	Demolition of rear conservatory and erection of single-storey rear extension.	Application Permitted
22/007 18/PLD	Land Adjacent To 12 Park Lane Close Earls Colne Essex	Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed use - Use of empty plot as community garden.	Application Refu
22/006 63/TP OCON I	1 Tey Road Earls Colne Essex CO6 2LG	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Cedar (T1) - Crown thin by 10%, taking no more than 10% from any branch and remove / stabilise deadwood >25mm. The tree had a large limb fail during the recent adverse weather conditions. Thinning the crown will help prevent any future storm damage and preserve the amenity of the tree.	Application Permitted
22/005 98/TP OCON	42 Park Lane Earls Colne Essex CO6 2RH	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 2x Yew trees along the front; 2 ft below wire and cut back b over road. Trees are growing into the wires and obstructing lorries	Application Permitted
22/005 84/TP OCON	1 Aubrey Close Earls Colne Essex CO6 2FG	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Fell remaining Sycamores along boundary of 1A Aubrey Close	Application permitted

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

Application No.	Location	Description	Parish Council Decision
22/00910/FUL	Land North Of Pudsies Barn, Station Road	Proposed 1 No. 3 bedroom bungalow.	Objection to be made on same basis as 17/3/2022 objection
22/00974/VAR	Meadow Croft , Station Road,	Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of approved application 21/01522/FUL granted 02.09.2021 for Erection of 1 x 3 bedroom two-storey detached dwelling house and detached stable block. Variation would allow for: - Addition of balcony to north east elevation	
21/03731/HH & 21/03732/LBC	13 High Street,	Rebuild rear garden wall and repair to front right chimney stack	No Objection but some comments and observations to be taken into consideration.
22/01087/HH	Mitchells ,	Single-storey rear extension	No Objection

	Coggeshall Road,		
22/01099/HH	4 Tey Road, Earls Colne,	Erection of first floor extension to side elevation, erection of porch on front elevation, part single, part storey extensions to rear elevation.	No Objection
22/01070/FUL	52A High Street,	Retrospective application for change of use of first floor from Class E(a) to residential (Class C3).	No Objection
22/01013/LBC	Colne House , Station Road,	Replacement of entire roof on a like-for-like basis. Colne House , Station Road, Earls Colne	No Objection
22/01248/TPOCON	The Ark , 18 Park Lane,	Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Robinia (T1) - Reduce crown height approximately 3 metres and crown width by 2 metres on south-west side, to compensate for included union at base of tree and natural imbalance of crown. Remove dead trunk (tree is multi-stemmed)	No Objection

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

- Meeting with Curator of the Museum in regard to the historical artifacts that we have.
- Issue with bushes and trees along Halstead Road. Cllr Siddall advised that Essex Highways have confirmed ownership of the area and it is being taken forward. Email to be forwarded.

13. Parish Clerk – Hours/ Pay/ Assistant

- Hours for role have not been reviewed (25 hours at moment)
- Village has grown 3 fold
- Role is too sprawling and smaller jobs could be handed to others
- Comparable Parishes have at least 2-4 posts within the office
- Holiday and sickness cover is non existent.
- It was confirmed that the role could be increased to full time.
- A part timer to cover office opening hours, and leave and sickness to be brought in. Predominantly to help with the Village Hall role.
- Vote taken and agreed unanimously – hours to be increased and additional help to be reviewed.

14. Annual Report and Christmas Celebrations

- Format and style to be agreed.
- Working Groups to start sending on information for the report. This can be used for the website and other presentations going forward.
- Cllr Ranns to contact the team at St Andrews and move forward with Christmas plans . All Councillors to be involved with set up.

15. Platinum Jubilee Update

- Everything in place – awaiting insurance details from Millennium Green Team and confirmation that outstanding issues have been rectified.

- Looking to set up the beacon when confirmed that we can.
- Mail out to go ahead when can.

16. Millennium Green – Moved forward to Public Attendance.

- Attendees confirmed that they had looked over the Green last night and were looking at the issues that had been flagged.
- There has been an issue recruiting volunteers and the team have had no Chairman in place for some while.
- A request was made that dialogue was re-opened as to what was needed from the Community Worker aspect of works so that a schedule could be agreed upon and a price for the works set. (Cllr Ranns and Millennium Green Trust to liaise)

17. Communication and Asset Management Team Update

- Reports shared – no decisions required.

18. Village Environment Update

- Report Shared – No decisions required

19. Village Hall Team Update

- Successful run of the Stane Street Players Caught in the Net.
- Meeting to start the prioritising of the Village Hall actions underway

20. Neighbourhood Plan and Planning Team Update

- Report Shared – No decisions required.

Meeting ended at 9.30pm

Chair

Date