

Minutes of the meeting of Earls Colne Parish Council

May 17th 7pm Council Chamber, Earls Colne Village Hall

Present: Cllr N Spelling (Chair), Cllr Tony Calton (Vice Chair), Cllr Ray Ranns, Cllr Jackie Parish, Cllr Nik McKean, Cllr Paul Kerslake, Cllr Katy Kerslake, CCllr Chris Siddall, DCllr Gabrielle Spray.

Members of public Mrs Cherry McKean and Mrs Jill Bruce

1 Apologies - Apologies were accepted for Cllr Hugh Street and District Councillor George Courtauld. Cllr Spray indicated that she would have to leave early.

2 Declarations of Interest - None put forward.

3 Public Participation - Mrs McKean and Mrs Bruce outline the potential Community Energy project to get subsidised solar panels fitted to willing and suitable properties in the Colnes and Great Tey areas and alerted the meeting to a Public Meeting regarding the project on **26th June 2023, 7:30pm**. The Council agreed unanimously to support the initiative and endorse the letter going out to all households.

4 Minutes of the last Meeting - were approved unanimously as a correct record.

5 Election of Chair and Vice Chair – Nikki Spelling was re-elected as Chair, proposed by Tony Calton, seconded by Ray Ranns. Tony Calton was re-elected as Vice Chair, proposed by Nikki Spelling, seconded by Ray Ranns, approved unanimously. All councillors except Hugh Street completed and returned acceptance of offer letters, register of interest forms and campaign costs forms. Cllr Street to do at earliest opportunity.

6 To discuss Actions to be taken over Casual Vacancies - Cllr Jackie Parish was unanimously co-opted as a Parish Councillor. Cllr K Kerslake to rerun notices regarding remaining vacancies.

7 Finance- In view of Cllr Sprays need to depart early, it was agreed to discuss item 7 'in committee' at the end of the meeting

8 To approve Standing Orders and Financial Regulations 23/24– These were approved unanimously as circulated.

9 To Review delegation arrangements to committees etc – We do not delegate responsibilities to Committees.

10 Review of ToR for Personnel and Neighbourhood Plan Cttee. – Cllrs Tony Calton, Nikki Spelling and Katy Kerslake were unanimously approved as the Personnel Cttee, Terms of Reference to be decided. The Neighbourhood Plan Cttee to stay as it was as so close to completion. Terms of reference to remain as they have been throughout.

11 Committees – “Working Groups” to remain as they are, TC and NS to cover Village Environment until we have new councillors

12 To agree dates for Ordinary Meetings for 23/24 – Agreed to continue with third Wednesday of the month for ordinary meetings, with first Wednesday kept free for occasional extra meetings if required. Annual Meeting set for Saturday 14th October, to follow similar format to 22/23 meeting.

13 Update from ECC Councillor Siddall - Cllr Siddall advised us that £17.5m in additional money had been allocated to Highways Repairs.

14 Updates from BDC Councillors – Cllr Spray had little to report as the election had meant the Council were still sorting Cabinet Roles etc

15 Planning – It was unanimously agreed that the council had no objections to any of the submitted plans this month

Councillors Siddal and Spray left at this point.

In Committee

7 Finance

- a) The invoices for April and May were approved
- b) Bank reconciliation for April approved
- c) Direct Debit schedule for 23/24 approve
- d) Outstanding Financial issues to continue to be resolved and reported on at next meeting. It was noted that significant progress was being made.
- e) Cllr Ray Ranns was to meet with Auditor M Letch on 19th May to progress the AGAR's for 21/22 and 22/23.
- f) Cllr R Ranns and Cllr P Kerslake to be Finance Committee. Responsibilities to be worked out as things become clearer.
- g) Agreed to defer using Scribe until both missing years signed off.

Meeting Ended.