



WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

White Colne Village Hall, Bures Road, White Colne, CO6 2QA.

BACKGROUND PAPER – 21.01.2025

Please note supporting information regarding the following Agenda items:

6. CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Jane and I met Mr Jason Pryke, the prospective new councillor, on 3rd December in order to get an idea of his interests etc.

He moved into the village in the spring of this year and lives in one of the properties opposite Hill Farm on Bures Road. He previously lived in Colchester and is not really a newcomer to the North Essex area. He is employed at Stanstead airport as a re-fueller and works shifts which would allow him to make the routine two monthly evening meetings.

During our conversation with him it was clear that he was interested in how we operated as a village and was complimentary as to what he saw as village atmosphere i.e. *'how we did things as a community'*. He asked about what training courses were available to new councillors and appeared to be keen on going on some.

Throughout he was enthusiastic and showed what I thought was a genuine desire to become involved.

Both Jane and I fully endorse his request to be co-opted as a councillor.

Cllr John Wilson.

8v. PLANNING: Anglian Water replacement tree

Dear Jim,

Sorry I haven't got back to you before now, and lovely to talk to you just earlier today.

Although we agreed a possible planting location when we meet before Christmas, my preferred site for planting the replacement tree is still within the Conservation Area boundary, and this suggests that the triangle of land which is maintained by the PC is the only viable location available. I'm not sure of the exact reason for not wanting a tree on this green, but I seem to think it was that resident around the green would not want their view spoilt. If this is the only reason, then I will say that the planting site should not be decided on whether it might (in years to come) restrict a view from a property. The idea of a Conservation Area is to maintain and enhance the visual amenity of the area for everybody using the area.

My main reasons and thoughts behind planting on the green are as follows:

- There is plenty of room for a reasonable size tree species (possibly a small-leaved lime or a hornbeam) to be located, without restricting future events or views across the green.
- The trees currently on the green are mostly mature with a limited life expectancy. A young tree in this location will help maintain future tree cover.
- The new tree would be visible to many more people in this location than the other site at the Millenium Meadow site.
- If the tree is re planted outside the Conservation Area, we will probably need to agree the location with Anglian Water who may not agree with the site.
- If the tree is replanted outside the Conservation Area, part of the tree cover from the protected area will still be lost.
- The new tree will not have protection if it is planted outside the Conservation Area.

If there is still a firm 'no' to planting in the Conservation Area, Anglian Water will need to be planted to see if they agree to planting in the other location.

If they agree the location at the Millenium Meadow, I will be looking at serving a TPO on the new tree to help ensure its long term retention.

Could you please take this list of reasons back to your meeting on the 21st and let me know the outcome.

Best wishes,
Alice Martin-Butler BSc Arboriculture
Tree and Landscape Officer
Braintree District Council: Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, CM7 9HB.

10i. LEISURE & FACILITIES: Christmas lights on the Village Green

Several emails were exchanged at the beginning of the new year regarding Christmas lights on the Village Green:

04.01.2025 - As we near Twelfth night can we agree again to take down the Xmas tree but leave the uplighters in position until at least the end of January? We did this last year and we received many compliments from residents as they thought the lit trees brightened up January.

04.01.2025 - It's a shame we can't have them as permanent features as they do look good!

04.01.2025 - I also think given the cost of installing each year it would be cheaper to leave in place/on but would have to bury cables to allow for grass cutting.

04.01.2025 - I suggest we have this as an agenda item on 21st Jan to discuss whether we should pay for cables to be buried and timings on display.

06.01.2025 - Further to our discussion about the lights on the trees on the Green I have been sent this by a concerned resident: *A trained and certified lighting technician will never use staples, they will instead either use tree straps that wrap around the tree and can grow with it, plastic hooks, or stainless steel screws with zip ties, leaving room for the tree to grow.*

Perhaps we can bear that in mind when we discuss at our meeting?

15. [REDACTED]

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