

WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Items Discussed and Agreed by Email

28th July 2020

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS ON ITEMS SHOWN ON AGENDA

Cllr Siggers declared an interest in minute 4(a) for the planning application for Colneford House as he is the applicant. He will not comment on the application.

3. MEETINGS

Cllr Taylor proposed that a virtual meeting is arranged through Zoom for the September meeting. There is a small cost for an extended meeting, Members agreed.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Applications Received

20/00201/TPOCON – Colneford House, 40 Colneford Hill – tree works – no objections subject to neighbours' views.

20/00682/HH – 89 Colchester Road – two storey side extension – no objections subject to neighbours' views.

(b) Applications approved by Braintree District Council - None

5. TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND CONSIDER FURTHER ACTION REGARDING THE HEADS OF AGREEMENT FOR THE TRANSFER OF WCPC LAND TO ECC IN RETURN FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE VILLAGE HALL LAND TO THE WCPC

Cllr Taylor reported that a remote meeting with ourselves, Jo Beavis, our agent and the ECC cabinet member and officers has been agreed. The date will be sometime in August and we are awaiting information.. Our agent is unhappy with a remote meeting and considers that we should insist that we meet in the hall car park if not in the hall. Cllr Taylor said that she considered that it was inappropriate at this time to meet face to face and a remote meeting will make no difference to the outcome. Members agreed.

6. COMMUNITY LIAISON

Cllr Bond said that the memorial bench has been delivered and is awaiting the base. He believes we have two quotes. Cllr Paxton said that the location was agreed but who is arranging the concrete base.

Cllr Bond said that perhaps we should agree a Christmas tree to plant outside the village hall and proposed the cost of a tree 2 metres high at £150.

7. WHITE COLNE MEADOWS

Cllr Taylor said that we have agreed that the pavilion should be painted and repaired by the handyman and I see we have a bill for the paint. Cllr Bond said that the pavilion has had one coat and the second is on the way. The decking and the handrail are being replaced as they are unsafe.

Cllr Taylor said that we have agreed to ask the contractors to cut an extra path to the gateway in the top right hand corner of the upper field. Cllr Bond said that we need another cut of the wild area and cutting to the trees and hedge. There is evidence of wild flowers beginning to get a stronger hold.

Cllr Bond said that the Meadows benches are erected but are missing bolts. We are awaiting these and the they will be moved to the Meadows.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk reported that since the last report , the following payments had been or are to be made:-

From Nat West account:-

<u>Cheque</u>	<u>Payee Details</u>	<u>Amount £</u>	<u>VAT inc</u>
D/D	GoCardless Ltd – County Broadband WiFi at hall monthly charge 2x£29	£ 58.00	
D/D	Scottish Power – village hall electricity 2x£20	£ 40.00	
D/D	Scottish Power – village hall gas 2x £78.00	£ 156.00	
D/D	Anglian Water – village hall water	£ 26.68	
D/D	Colne & Stour Association – subscription	£ 5.00	
	TOTAL NAT WEST PAYMENTS	£ 285.68	

(b). By electronic payments from Unity Bank account:-

Unity Bank charges PAID	£ 18.00	
Rural Community Council of Essex – annual subscription PAID	£ 52.80	£ 8.80
G Allen – hall window cleaning 22.06 PAID	£ 14.00	
Apogee Print – parking sign village hall PAID	£ 18.00	£ 3.00
The Sign Shed – No parking & uneven surface sign hall drive PAID	£ 59.88	£ 9.98
J Bond – reimbursement fence pins for hall fence PAID	£ 20.98	£ 3.50
Playsafety Ltd – ROSPA annual reports for play areas PAID	£ 164.40	£27.40
Window Film Centre Ltd – solar film for defib box PAID	£ 230.40	£38.40
D Williams – reimbursement for web site domain renewal PAID	£ 14.39	£ 2.40
No Butts Bin Company Ltd - 3 picnic tables Meadows PAID		
FROM VILLAGE PROJECTS	£1,176.00	£196.00
Apogee Print – signs for playground	£ 25.20	£ 4.20
Mortimer Contracts-grasscuts-Meadows£130Green £132, &Hall £72	£ 400.80	£ 66.80
H M Revenue & Customs – PAYE for clerk salary July	£ 194.40	
D Williams-clerk sal June/July £972.66 less PAYE £ 388.80	£ 583.86	
J Bond -barrier tape for village hall drive	£ 9.99	
J Bond – paint for Meadows pavilion	£ 36.00	£ 6.00
David Ogilvie Engineering Ltd – memorial bench-BDC GRANT OF £580		
TO BE APPLIED FOR	£1,212.60	£202.10
H M Revenue & Customs – PAYE for clerk salary August	£ 194.40	
TOTAL UNITY BANK PAYMENTS	£4,426.10	

2. Funds Received Since the last report, the following funds have been received into Nat West :-

Braintree District Council – Street scene grant	£ 967.54
TOTAL NAT WEST RECEIPTS	£ 967.54

Into Unity Bank

Village hall regular hire fees	£ 250.50
TOTAL UNITY BANK RECEIPTS	£ 250.50

3. Financial statement & Bank Reconciliation

Following the above transactions- There is a credit balance on Nat West account	£ 6,317.37
There is a credit balance on Unity Bank account	£25,939.62
TOTAL BANK BALANCES	£33,256.99

Balance held in reserve – Village projects from White Colne 50 Club £ 2,185.73

Balance held in reserve - Village Hall Roofing Fund is £9,000.00

Balance held in reserve – allotments £ 32.00

Total of allocated funds is £11,217.73

Thus the balance of unallocated funds is £22,039.26

NAT WEST BANK		UNITY BANK	
Bank Balance 22.05.20	£ 5,635.51	Bank Balances 22.05.20	£ 30,115.22
Add Receipts	£ 967.54	Add Receipts	£ 250.50
Sub Total	£ 6,603.05	Sub Total	£ 30,365.72
Less Total Payments	£ 285.68	Less Total Payments	£ 4,426.10
BALANCE 28.07.20	£ 6,317.37	BALANCE 28.07.20	£ 25,939.62

Cllr Saggars suggested that in the near future we should review the financial situation against budget and reassure ourselves that we are taking any necessary measures. Cllr Taylor said that this is done after six months and asked the clerk to compare actual against budgeted expenditure at the September meeting.

9. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Bond sad that whatever happens at the next meeting with Essex County Council we have agreed that the light should be replaced and we need to get on with it. John Watt has helped remove the old lamp and we will need to hire a cherry picker if we are to install our own one. A free source has already been unsuccessfully explored. Cllr Paxton said that if a solution to the Development really is in sight, he believes that we should not spend on a new light, as we have rubbed along for many years without one. But against the possibility of no resolution for some years (again) he is pursuing what else the Chinese company could offer.

Cllr Taylor said that Sam has undertaken the task of getting the hall Covid secure. She has supplied us with completed paperwork and risk assessment and this has now been circulated. A set of her questions have been answered and circulated by Jim and we have agreed.

We have also agreed to delay increasing hall hire fees for at least 3 months although our costs will increase as a deep clean will need to be undertaken after each hiring plus hand sanitizer etc. Bill has suggested we need to replace the upholstered chairs with those more easily cleaned. This has to be carefully considered as the shape of the present chairs has always been a problem . Due to social distancing how many chairs can we use at one time in the hall anyway ? Do we already have enough plastic chairs? Cllr Paxton said that Sam worked out that a maximum of 12 Pilates could be in the Hall plus leader providing she stays by the bar counter, so about 12 chairs could be sufficient.

Cllr Paxton said that there has been some problem with the key safe which Mike King resolved.

10. ROSPA REPORTS ON THE PLAY AREAS

Cllr Bond said that he had done a spreadsheet of the work to be done and the handyman is working through it.

11. WHITE COLNE VILLAGE GREEN

Cllr Bond said that if we can afford them, then fresh daffodil bulbs would be welcomed.

12. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Bond said that the SID continues to show significant increased speeds but he cannot download the statistics at present. It will move to Colchester Road next week. The handrail on the permissive path on old railway line is still not repaired.

13. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Taylor said that the fence is becoming more of a problem. Cllr Bond said that he has one fencing quote for the allotments and the front of hall and another imminent. He will update.

14. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Cllr Taylor said that following complaints of noise received from neighbours of the Children's Home at 41 Colchester Road, members agreed that the parish council should write to the Children's Home. We wrote advising that we have been made aware of concerns and complaints from nearby residents of significant disturbance from residents at the home. Examples of the complaints were given. We also advised that there has been some research undertaken of police crime statistics by a neighbour (published on nextdoor.co.uk) which are being used to imply the sudden rise in recorded crimes may be linked to your premises.

We then said that this is not an issue that the Parish Council has any power to deal with and those who have complained have been advised to either take the issue up with yourselves or to contact environmental health services at Braintree District Council. We concluded by saying that as a council we welcome everyone to our village and do not wish to discriminate in any way but hope that a way forward can be achieved where everyone can enjoy living happily as neighbours.

The clerk advised that no reply has been received.

Cllr Bond said that he understood that the home offered to meet a complainant who declined.

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