

# WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at White Colne Village Hall  
on Tuesday 16 November 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Bond, Cllr Taylor (Chairman), Cllr Wada, Cllr Watt.  
Also present: Clerk P Palfreyman, Braintree District Council (BDC), Cllr  
Spray and 4 members of the public

**347. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Cllr Batchford, Cllr Saggars,  
BDC Cllr Courtauld

**348. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS ON ITEMS SHOWN ON THIS  
AGENDA.**

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in planning application 21/02421 as the property is near her private address. Cllr Watt declared an interest in 21/02967/TPOCON as the sewer works are near her private address. Cllr Wada declared an interest in items 16 & 17, as she is an allotment holder.

**349. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last parish council meeting on 21 September 2021 which had previously been circulated, were agreed as a true record.

**350. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE**

There were no matters arising from the minutes

**351. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

**Cllr Spray**

Section Two of the draft local plan is heading towards approval. The Inspectors have not asked for any major modifications. There is a meeting next week and after that a six-week mandatory consultation. Once the consultation is completed the Plan will go to full council for approval and should be completed in the New Year.

An appeal for 53 houses in Station Road, Earls Colne has been refused on the grounds it would adversely affect the landscape and close the land gap between Earls Colne and Colne Engaine. The Inspector felt that the land supply was only 4.7 to 4.9 years, which is not good news.

The review of the enforcement team is complete and the report which will be published shortly, will reveal they are under resourced.

At the traveller's site, the High Court judge declared the works unlawful and have given them until February 2022 to make good.

The BDC budget usually goes before the Cabinet in December but they will not know until December how much ECC/BDC are getting, so the budget will be in early January 2022, with some difficult decisions to cover the shortfall.

### **352. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**

#### **The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements**

The Council were asked if there was a waiting list for allotments and why non residents are being asked to give up a plot. It was stated that the Allotments Act does not allow for discrimination against non-residents. Cllr Taylor advised that the allotments are now in high demand and non-residents who have more than one plot are being asked to give one, up so that residents can also benefit from using them.

The Council were asked what progress had been made with the Awards for All grant for the play area and advised this would be covered in a report under item 356 (b).

#### **The meeting was resumed**

### **353. PLANNING MATTERS**

(a) Applications:

21/02421/FUL OS 7271 Land South West Of Fox And Pheasant Farm Colchester Road White Colne Essex CO6 2PS Proposed Change of use of land for the creation of 4 no. Gypsy/Traveller Pitches, comprising the siting of 1 mobile home, 1 touring caravan, and the erection of a utility building, per pitch, alongside the erection of a stables building comprising 2no. stable boxes, feed store and tack room (Part retrospective). See minutes for Sept 2021.

21/02955/HH Four Ways Bures Road White Colne Essex CO6 2QE Erection of single-storey detached garage. No comment

21/02967/TPOCON Sewage Works Colneford Hill White Colne Essex Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - 1no Sycamore tree to fell to 50mm from ground level that is severely overhanging property. No comment

21/02974/FUL Brambles Farm Brambles Lane White Colne Essex CO6 2QG  
Conversion of agricultural buildings to 3 x 2 bedroom and 2 x 5 bedroom  
dwellings (5 Units) to include associated demolition.

The Council object to this development as it would be intrusive in the open countryside. Our policy, supported by our Village Design Statement, is to resist all such development outside the village envelope. This development is not sustainable – there is no bus service footpath or street lighting. The development would increase the use of private vehicles down a quiet single track country lane. The farm is already supplied with a domestic dwelling and no evidence is provided to support another dwelling on site. Noise and light pollution will be increased.

21/03035/TPOCON 9 Colchester Road White Colne Essex CO6 2PW Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area Reduce Eucalyptus by 50%, partial pollard to maintain trunk, reduce remaining canopy below using appropriate growth points to create shape, it has 2 large bows growing towards the house, much thicker than the fine bows that also needs removing. The tree has grown too big for the garden and too close to the house. No comment

21/03157/FUL 47 Colchester Road White Colne Essex CO6 2PW Change of use of office accommodation used in conjunction with Care Home (Class B1(a)) to 1No. independent 3 bed dwelling with new access (Class C3). White Colne Parish Council have no objection to the change of use but do object to the installation of a new access road which will substantially interfere with the mature trees, particularly any trees with TPO's, which should remain untouched. We are also concerned about disturbance to bats and owls and stress the importance of this green wedge to the street scene. There is a need for a biodiversity report.

21/03233/FUL Little Catleys Farm Catley Road White Colne Essex CO6 2QQ  
Erection of single storey detached garage, ancillary to dwelling approved under application 20/01880/FUL. No comment

(b) Applications approved by Braintree District Council – none

(c) To note the appeal for 20/02104/FUL The Meadows, Colne Park Road, White Colne, Colchester, Essex CO6 2PL

**354. 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 WCPC.**

There is no further information to report. Cllr Taylor agreed to contact the solicitors to see if they have had any contact from ECC. The Council are considering EV charging points at the Village Hall but are unable to proceed

with this if they Council do not own the land. Cllr Siddall previously agreed to get a report about the transfer of asset.

### **355. COMMUNITY LIASON**

(a) To discuss plans for the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022  
Cllr Taylor advised that currently there are no grants available for the Jubilee. So far, the Council have agreed to light the beacon on The Meadows and there are 14 volunteers ready to help organise an event.

(b) To discuss Community policing and decide the next steps

The community leaflet published in October asked for views about the Council funding a Community Special Constable, but no responses were received. The clerk will contact Colne Engaine and Earls Colne who fund a CSC between them, to find out their experiences.

### **356. WHITE COLNE MEADOWS**

(a) To receive an update and approve expenditure of £295 + VAT for works to the Heritage Orchard

This expense had already been agreed verbally and by email. The work has already been carried out and all 12 apple trees are visible, and it is now easier to see what other work needs to be arranged.

(b) Any other matters raised by members.

Cllr Taylor made the proposals listed below for the Enover Grant which must be submitted by 10 December 2021. Following discussion, the Council agreed the application should be made as per the list.

Continued next page

<b>Enovert landfill environmental grant. Proposed costs .</b>									
<b>Original proposal £18,000 grant with £2,000 contribution from PC</b>									
Blossom avenue		£4,200						19 trees 14cm girth 4 metres high	
Bench within avenue		£820						High quality curved bench	
Orchard		£1,750						To include new trees and benches	
Interpretation boards		£3,700							
Ecology and management plan		£3,000						From EECOS. ( branch of EWT)	
Gates for allotments		£330							
Posts for turning area		£650						To include removable posts .	
Installation of gates and posts		£500							
Electric battery tools		£750							
Training courses		£500							
Storage shed incl base		£1,500							
Installation of shed		£350							
Wash basin and plumbing		£400							
Expenses for events		£750					3 x £250		
Crockery & cutlery		£150							
Tables and chairs		£650							
<b>Total costs,</b>		<b>£20,000</b>							
<b>PC contribution</b>		<b>£2,000</b>							
<b>Request for grant</b>		<b>£18,000</b>							
<b>In kind matched funding:</b>									
300 free hedging plants from TCV		£300							
50 free hedging plants from BDC		£50							
350 free tree guards		£120							
Working party volunteer hours		£1,500					150 hours @£10		
<b>Total of in kind funding</b>		<b>£1,970</b>							

The Awards for All has a 12-week turnaround and is not time sensitive. Cllr Taylor has obtained two quotes and is awaiting another two for comparison.

### 357. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Payment of accounts since the last meeting

# WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## FINANCIAL MATTERS 14TH NOVEMBER 2021

### 1. PAYMENTS

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

<b>UNITY TRUST ACCOUNT</b>		<b>£</b>
<b>METHOD</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall electricity 28 Sept	20.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall gas 28 Sept	50.30
DD	GoCardless - County Broadband WiFi at hall 12 Oct	29.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall electricity 28 Oct	20.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall gas 28 Oct	50.30
DD	Go Cardless - County Broadband 11 Nov	29.00
<b>TOTAL UNITY TRUST DIRECT DEBITS</b>		<b>198.60</b>
<b>UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT (ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS)</b>		
	Unity Trust Bank Service Charge (PAID)	18.00
	J Taylor - printing village leaflets (PAID)	19.00
	Mortimer Contracts - quarterly play equipment inspections (PAID)	48.00
	J Heathcote - September village hall bookings and cleaning (PAID)	430.37
	Gary Allen - village hall window cleaning (PAID)	14.00
	K Bell - village hall hire deposit refund (PAID)	50.00
	Sheds Warehouse - shed at village hall (PAID)	1558.38
	Buzz Supplies - dishwasher at village hall (PAID)	1149.70
	Gopak - outdoor furniture at village hall (PAID)	4570.04
	NBB Outdoors - canopy at village hall 50% deposit (PAID)	5323.16
	Air Care Solutions - village hall air purification system (PAID)	834.00
	Apogee Print - sign for basket ball post rear of village hall (PAID)	19.20
	Mortimer Contracts - grounds maintenance (PAID)	408.00
	J Heathcote - October village hall bookings and cleaning (PAID)	489.14
	P Palfreyman - clerks salary October (PAID)	499.83
	Mariana Hinojos - village hall hire deposit refund (PAID)	50.00
	PPLPRS - Village Hall music licence (PAID)	66.00
	J Bond - new shed frame and concrete for base (PAID)	302.26
	P Palfreyman - clerks salary November	499.83
<b>TOTAL UNITY TRUST ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS</b>		<b>16348.91</b>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT DEBITS AND PAYMENTS FROM UNITY TRUST</b>		<b>16547.51</b>
<b>NAT WEST ACCOUNT</b>		<b>£</b>
	Account closed 4 August 2021 and balance transferred to Unity Trust Bank	0.00



(b) Financial statement

The clerk advised the report has been previously circulated and there were no questions.

(c) To discuss the first draft of the budget for 2022/23

The clerk had previously circulated the draft budget for 2022/23 and no adjustments were proposed at this stage. The document is work in progress and can be amended before and at the January 2022 meeting, as further information and costs become available

(d) To consider payment to the clerk for additional hours worked

The clerk advised that due to the extra work with the village hall hires, Sum Up, allotments and grants, 17 hours overtime have been accrued. Following discussion, the Council agreed to pay the overtime in the November salary, which will come out of the grants budget.

### **358. VILLAGE HALL**

(a) To receive an update on the grants from the RCCE, Enovert, Awards for All and ECC Climate Change

Cllr Taylor advised that the RCCE grant for making the Village Hall Covid safe has been granted. This will pay for a new commercial dishwasher, a pure air filter, an outdoor shelter with tables, chairs, and trolleys to move them and a storage shed. Two more quotes are awaited for EV charging points for the Village Hall. The roof will be repaired in 2 weeks' time.

(b) To receive an update about the current hirings for the hall

One regular hirer has left but it is likely those gaps will be quickly filled. In the New Year the Council will consider increasing the hire rates and review the agreement which allows hirers to cancel and get 100% booking security deposit returned. The clerk pointed out that accepting deposits via Sum Up incurs a cost to the Council as Sum Up charges a fee for processing the payments but the hirer still get the full payment back. The Council will consider a booking fee in future.

(c) To receive an update about storage for the historical papers at the hall

Due to the regular hirer leaving, a cupboard is freed up in the hall which can be used to store the historical papers.

(d) The coffee mornings have been quite successful and have taken over £300.

The Council supported the start-up costs of £200. £275 has been received from the sale of redundant events good which were stored in the village hall.



It was agreed that this sum could be used to help finance future events.

### **359. WHITE COLNE VILLAGE GREEN**

(a) To receive an update about the plans for Christmas lighting up ceremony on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021

The lights will be installed next week. The event will start at 6pm and will include entertainment and mobile catering.

(b) To receive an update about plans for the carols on the Village Green on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021

The event will start at 6.30pm. Cllr Watt has arranged for 9 people to play musical instruments and a representative from the church and some members of the choir will be present. There will be mulled wine, mince pies and Father Christmas will be attending.

### **360. HIGHWAYS**

(a) To receive an update on issues

Cllr Bond attended the Bus Improvement Plan meeting today. This plan is looking to make the bus service better by consulting with users.

(b) Any other matters raised by member

The SID is getting 14000-16000 hits with some speeds up to 80mph. Another volunteer is needed to help move it about the village and set it up.

The Quiet Lane scheme for Boley Road is now red on the LHP list. The clerk will ask Cllr Siddall to investigate this.

### **361. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – none**

### **362. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RECEIVED SINCE THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

Cllr Taylor advised that Cllr Paxton has resigned for the Council. The clerk advised that his name would be removed from the bank account and one or two more signatories would be needed. Cllrs Wada & Watt volunteered to become signatories. The Council expressed their thanks to Mr Paxton for his many years of service to the Council and community.

### **363. ALLOTMENTS**

(a) To receive an update about the latest allotment agreements and rents

The clerk advised that only two tenants have not paid. Some tenants have not returned their signed agreement and the clerk will review this.

(b) Any other matters raised by members.

The Council recognise that it is difficult to ask allotment holders to give up their plots after they have put many years and a lot of effort into them. It is only non-residents who hold more than one plot that are being asked to do this, with 12 months' notice, so that more residents of White Colne can benefit from their use. The policy from now on it that only White Colne residents can take on any new plots that become available. This is in line with the surrounding villages. Cllr Taylor will review the Allotments Act to confirm the Council are acting lawfully.

**364. Chairman to MOVE that the press and public be excluded during the transaction of the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted**

**365. ALLOTMENTS**

(a) To discuss if any allotments are rented for commercial use and agree the next actions

Following discussion, the Council agreed they were satisfied the allotments would only be used for personal use in the future.

There being no further business the parish council meeting closed at 21.30pm