

WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at White Colne Village Hall
on Tuesday 26 JULY 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Batchford, Cllr Bond, Cllr Taylor (Chairman), Cllr Wada, Cllr Watt. Also present: Clerk P Palfreyman, Council, Cllr Spray (BDC) and 1 members of the public

440. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Courtauld

441. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS ON ITEMS SHOWN ON THIS AGENDA - none

442. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last parish council meetings on 17 May 2022 and 30 June 2022, which had previously been circulated, were agreed as a true record.

443. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE - none

444. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Spray At the recent council meeting, the Local Plan was approved by a unanimous vote. This will provide protection from speculative and unsustainable planning applications and ensure that developments take place where we would like them to be. The new Members Forum was also discussed at the Council meeting. This is a new forum for applications of large developments (10+ or less if significant to the area) to bring early development proposals to members of the Planning Committee, to obtain feedback on the proposal. This is not a decision-making forum as the Planning Committee must keep an open mind. Ward councillors and up to 2 members of the relevant Parish/Town Council will be invited. Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan has been signed off – the 6th in the district with another 5 or 6 underway. The East Anglia Green, Nation Grid Proposal is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and is proposed by National Grid to increase the energy supplied to London. They have proposed to do this by installing 180km of pylons from

Norwich to Tilbury. All MP's voted unanimously against this due to the impact on the countryside and landscape and have advised National Grid to consider other routes, such as under the sea. The traveller's site is under appeal and BDC are putting evidence together but there is not a date set yet.

445.PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

A member of the public commented that it was good news to get the grant for the new play equipment and asked when it will be installed. Cllr Taylor hopes it will be completed by 4 September in time for the Vintage Afternoon Tea on The Meadows.

As the Council are no longer supporting the development behind the village hall, could the basketball pitch surface be improved. Cars have been parked on it, even when in use. Cllr Taylor reported that the old rotten posts were removed to allow for extra parking for the jubilee event and will be replaced. Meanwhile, hirers will be reminded not to park on the pitch.

446.PLANNING MATTERS

(a)Applications:

22/01663/TPOCON 11 Colneford Hill White Colne Essex CO6 2PJ Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce Yew by 2 meters, Reduce 2 x Sycamores and 1 Leylandii to 2 ft below phone wire – no comments

(b) To receive an update about the tree works at Brook House – the application is showing as still live on the BDC website, but the applicant told councillors it had been withdrawn. Cllr Spray will speak to officers to confirm the status.

(c)Any other planning matters raised by Members.

22/01824/TPO and 22/01933/TPO 2 Colchester Rd. These applications for tree works were received after the agenda was published. After consideration, the Council advised they will not comment on the applications. The applications will be listed on the next agenda to confirm the actions.

447.COMMUNITY LIASON

(a)To receive a report on the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations and future events – the jubilee events were very well supported by the village and visitors and included live music and dancing (on new demountable dance floor), a licensed bar, two catering trucks, fun dog show, children's craft corner and the beacon lighting and 9.45pm.

After income and expenditure, the cost to the Council was only £360. There is a full calendar of 19 events between August and Christmas. The Stations Masters Community Café is closed for August and reopens on 9th September. Although this is a not-for-profit activity, the cafes have raised £500 so far which has more than refunded the start-up costs. There will be a village market on the Village Green in August and September. On Valentines weekend in February 2023, Shakespeare in a Suitcase will be performing versions of Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet. There will be catering and a licenced bar. The initial cost to the Council is £500 and the plan is to sell 50 tickets at £10 per head. A vote of thanks was proposed from the Parish Council to all the volunteers that have helped with events over the last 12 months

(b) To discuss the presentation about the Energy and Low Carbon project and agree a way forward – following on from the presentation at the previous Council meeting, Cllr Taylor confirmed that there would not be any cost or obligation to the Council to have a geospatial feasibility study and roadshows, completely managed by ECC/SENE and available to all the Parish. The only cost would be to set up a community interest company, costing less than £50, for administration purposes. Following discussions between the councillors in which some felt the presentation was unconvincing and there was not enough information and evidence about funding and returns, the Council voted not to pursue this project, at this time.

(c) Any other matters raised by members – none

448. WHITE COLNE MEADOWS

(a) To receive an update on the new play equipment and Co-op grant – the new spider climber is on order and the contractor hopes to fit it by 4 September. A further grant of £3700 has been applied for from the Co-op which will be used for tables, chairs, and a gazebo to use at The Meadows, if successful.

(b) To discuss the ROSPA report and recommendations and agree any actions - the clerk listed the recommendations in the ROSPA report and will ask the contractor for a quote for repairs and report to the Council.

(c) To review the quotes for a tree survey – following discussion the Council reviewed the quotes received and agreed to engage S D Arboriculture at a cost of £350 to carry out the tree survey

(d) Any other matters raised by members – the cherry trees in the blossom avenue are being watered but some of the new hedge has died due to the extreme heat.

449.FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a)To approve payment of accounts since the last meeting

WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL MATTERS 26th JULY 2022

1. PAYMENTS

The Clerk advised that since the last report, the following payments have been made:

UNITY TRUST ACCOUNT		£
METHOD	PAYEE	
DD	Everflow water - 16.05.22	30.68
DD	Go Cardless - County Broadband - 25.05.22	29.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall electricity 30.05.22	1.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall gas - 30.05.22	50.30
DD	Go Cardless - County Broadband - 10.06.22	29.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall electricity -28.06.22	1.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall gas - 28.06.22	50.30
DD	Go Cardless - County Broadband - 12.07.22	29.00
DD	Everflow water - 15.07.22	51.02
TOTAL UNITY TRUST DIRECT DEBITS		271.30

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT (ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS MADE)			VAT
19.05.22	Sarah Louise - Jubilee music	360.00	
19.05.22	K Nolan - jubilee dance floor costs	25.88	4.31
19.05.22	J Taylor - jubilee costs	162.85	
19.05.22	L Brown -jubilee craft costs	10.98	
31.05.22	P Palfreyman - May wages	558.13	
31.05.22	Mortimer Contracts -spider climber deposit	7560.00	1260.00
09.06.22	Playsafe Ltd - Play area safety inspections	168.00	28.00
09.06.22	Colchester Brewery - Jubilee drinks	829.43	138.25
09.06.22	BHIB - insurance	776.77	
09.06.22	J Taylor - jubilee costs	262.44	
09.06.22	Jade Lock - village hall cleaner	52.00	
09.06.22	Mortimer Contracts	420.00	70.00
20.06.22	J Bond - VH drain	26.50	4.42
20.06.22	G Allen - village hall window cleaning	14.00	
20.05.22	P Palfreyman - stamps	4.08	
23.06.22	Jan Stobart - Internal Auditor	210.00	
30.06.22	P Palfreyman - June wages	558.13	
30.06.22	Unity Bank - Service charge	18.00	
05.07.22	Glyn Johnson -VH hire refund	50.00	
05.07.22	Jade Lock - village hall cleaner	143.00	
05.07.22	JRB Enterprises - dog bags	279.36	46.56
05.07.22	RCCE - annual subscription	52.80	8.80
05.07.22	Daniel Connal - Fire Risk Assessment for village hall	540.00	90.00
05.07.22	Mortimer Contracts - grass cutting	210.00	35.00
05.07.22	J Taylor - café costs	65.04	
05.07.22	CJO Plumbing - VH oven repairs	266.87	44.48
11.07.22	JM Watt - handyman	108.00	18.00
TOTAL UNITY TRUST ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS		13732.26	

TOTAL DIRECT DEBITS AND PAYMENTS FROM UNITY TRUST 14003.56

continued over

2. FUNDS RECEIVED

Since the last report, the following funds have been received in to:

UNITY BANK			
20.05.22	Village Hall hire	92.00	A P Davey
27.05.22	Main Grants	7000.00	
06.06.22	Sum Up	301.50	
06.06.22	Village Hall hire	198.00	Postu Pilates
06.06.22	Torsbeanie - jubilee food van deposit refund	100.00	
07.06.22	Village Hall hire	84.00	Jennifer Oconnell
14.06.22	Village Hall hire	37.50	NCT
20.06.22	Village Hall hire	100.00	The Well and
20.06.22	Village Hall hire	121.50	The Well and
21.06.22	Village Hall hire	92.00	A P Davey
23.06.22	BDC - Street cleaning agreement	1006.39	
05.07.22	Village Hall hire	30.00	Nopales Ltd
05.07.22	Sum Up	847.62	
06.07.22	Cash credit - jubilee sales	359.00	
06.07.22	Cash credit - jubilee sales	395.00	
07.07.22	Village Hall hire	72.00	Jennifer Oconnell
12.07.22	Village Hall hire	114.00	NCT
18.07.22	Village Hall hire	180.00	Postu Pilates
TOTAL UNITY BANK RECEIPTS		11130.51	

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION

Following the above transactions, the credit balances on the bank accounts are:

UNITY TRUST as at 24 July 2022 **TOTAL BANK BALANCES 34587.19**

Balance held in reserve

Village projects from White Colne 50 Club	1260.73
Village Hall reserves (£11000 prev VH roof fund)	14000.00
Allotments	32.00
Balance of alloc fund	15292.73
Balance of unalloc funds	19294.46

UNITY TRUST BANK RECONCILIATION

BALANCE at 15 May 2022	37460.24
Add Receipts	<u>11130.51</u>
	48590.75
Less Total Payments made	<u>14003.56</u>
BALANCE at 24 July 2022	34587.19

(b)To review the financial statement – the payment of £39.15 and the clerks July wages of £558.13 was also agreed. Cllr Taylor confirmed the bank reconciliation.

(c)To review the budget to date – the budget was noted and agreed.

(d) Any other financial matters - none

450.VILLAGE HALL

(a)To review and agree the Fire Risk assessment – the Fire Risk assessment was reviewed and approved. The clerk will pursue the following actions: PAT Testing, Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detectors, Fire Exit signs and notice board signage. The gas cannister will be removed from the bar area and the cleaning materials will be removed from the boiler cupboard. The Fire Risk Assessment will be sent to the H & S inspector and a copy made available in the Village Hall.

(b)To provide an update on the current hirings at the hall – hall hire is generally quiet at this time of year and will get busier in the autumn. A new Wednesday group called Hartbeeps (parent & toddler group) will be starting in September. The smart lock, hive and bookings system are working well, with Cllr Taylor still managing the bookings.

451.WHITE COLNE VILLAGE GREEN

(a)To consider putting temporary bollards at the top of the Village Green to prevent further damage, until funding can be obtained for a permanent solution – Cllr Wada has met with Cllr Siddall who is unable to commit to funding this area at present. Following discussion, the Council agreed to install some bollards, back fill the area with soil and seed with grass. Cllr Jacobs will lead a working party and liaise with John Watt to arrange the work.

(b)Any other matters raised by members – it was agreed to purchase another bag of bulbs for the Village Green. A greengrocer visits the Village Green of Wednesday afternoons between 3.30pm and 4pm

452.HIGHWAYS

(a)To consider bollards between numbers 79-101 Colchester Road to prevent parking which obscures vision for drivers and damages the verge – the Clerk will contact Cllr Siddall to request a solution from BDC officers.

(b)To discuss the initiative for planting of wildflowers on Essex Highways verges and a recommendation to residents not to cut the verges outside their properties to allow for their growth – following discussions, the Council agreed

that signage would be needed to ask residents not to cut the areas where wildflower seeds have been sown. The clerk will apply to BDC for a licence to plant the wildflower seeds.

(c)Any other matters raised by members – none

453.POLICES

(a)To confirm the Village Design Statement – the statement was considered, and the Council agreed that no substantial changes are needed to the environs and that it remains relevant

(b)To agree a new Equal Opportunities policy - the Council reviewed and agreed the policy

(c)To agree a new Safeguarding policy – the Council reviewed and agreed the policy

454. SALT BAG PARTNERSHIP

(a)To consider taking part in the Salt Bag Partnership – the Council agreed to take part in the scheme this year and the clerk will confirm with BDC.

455.GIGACLEAR WORKS

(a)To discuss unsatisfactory Gigaclear works in Colchester Road – the Council have heard that driveways have been blocked by the works, staff have been rude, and that litter has been left behind. Concerns have been raised over the inspection regimes and the bus stops moved to inconvenient places. The Council are advised that if the road works are unsatisfactory or degrade after completion, the process is managed by Highways, who may contact the contractor for compensation or further works.

456.CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – none

457.TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RECEIVED SINCE THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT – the Clerk will report the broken light outside no 20 Colneford Hill which was damaged by a car, to Cllr Siddall for urgent action. The works are recorded on the ECC website, but the area is a danger to pedestrians without adequate lighting.

There being no further business the parish council meeting closed at 20.55pm