

WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at White Colne Village Hall
on Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Batchford, Cllr Taylor (Chairman), Cllr Wada, Cllr Watt. Also present: Clerk P Palfreyman, Essex County Council (ECC) Cllr Siddall, Braintree District Council (BDC) Cllr Courtauld, and 5 members of the public

390. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Spray and Cllr Bond

391. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS ON ITEMS SHOWN ON THIS AGENDA. None

392. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last parish council meeting on 18 January 2022 which had previously been circulated, were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

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

Cllr Courtauld

Cllr Courtauld has been designated the contact point for Supporters of Walkers against Bicycles. There are various routes between Kelvedon, White Colne, Coggeshall and Halstead. The routes range from lanes with tarmac and lights to tidied up footpaths. Some walkers and dog walkers are asking to be represented. Fuel and commodity prices are increasing which is causing issues in the rural community. BDC will be providing short term loans for emergency help for people in need. BDC are trying to help with the situation in Ukraine by offering support within communities for schooling and health, where homes have been offered to refugees. The government are offering £350 support for month.

Cllr Siddall

Cllr Siddall said he hoped walkers and cyclists could get on and £25000 has been allocated to a new bike path. Landowners have been asked to cooperate – the track through Marks Hall will be permissive and will allow

access to walkers and cyclists. The Earls Colne end of the track may get Quiet Lanes status. The hope is the track will allow students to cycle from Honeywood school to Earls Colne. The lights in Earls Colne High Street have been upgraded to LED and the cabinet members for Highways will visit the area soon. The ECC budget has increased by 4.59% with a high percentage of the budget being allocated to adult social care and £2M toward pothole repair investments. The Community Support Councillor grant will remain at £10000, with £5000 to be allocated against climate change initiatives. The original kerbing scheme for the village green has been archived by the LHP but the new scheme for reducing the width of the pavement is still under discussion and hasn't made the LHP list yet. The work will be carried out in due course but there are other schemes that are worse and must be prioritised.

394. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Following discussion, the Council agreed to co-opt John Jacobs on to the Council. Cllr Taylor welcomed John to the Council.

395. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

What plans do the Parish Council have for helping the Ukraine crisis – the Council would consider offering the village hall to the Ukraine Community for gatherings, lunches and education. The local church has been collecting supplies to send out to the Ukraine.

Are there any plans for the junction on Tey Rd – this is a dangerous road to cross. Cllr Siddall advised this is part of the White Colne to Earls Colne scheme and has asked Highways to investigate it.

Is there any update on Chalkney House – no update.

Will there be a litter picking event -the Council will consider the next available date.

Can a speed limit be put on E bikes – the emphasis should be on education and users observing the rules.

396. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Applications:

22/00109/FUL Pippins Montessori Kindergarten At Whites Farm Bures Road White Colne Essex CO6 2QF Single-storey extension to infill the current covered shop porch. A new porch/entrance and office space to nursery within existing garage. New entrance ramp, paved area and disabled

parking bay. Alterations to existing playground inc new covered walkway, privacy screening and hedging. Expiry date 7 Mar 2022. - No comment
22/00344/OUT Brooms Farm Colne Park Road White Colne Essex CO6 2QN
Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the erection of 2 dwellings. Expiry date: Tue 22 Mar 2022. The Council recommend refusal as the development is outside the village envelope and does not comply with the Village Design Statement. The application has poor sight lines, there is no pavement and access is poor and via a single track

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – DATE EXPIRED

22/00119/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Ash (T1) - Re-coppice at 1m approx. The tree is an historic coppice stool consisting of 4 main stem. 1 of the stems has recently failed and collapsed across the river. - Bridge House, 8 - 10 Colneford Hill, White Colne

FOR INFORMATION ONLY 22/00089/HHPA Erection of single storey rear extension. Extension will extend beyond rear wall of the original house by 5.7m, with a maximum height of 2.85m and 2.7m to the eaves of the extension. 116 Colchester Road White Colne Essex CO6 2PP

This application seeks to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed extension.

397. WHITE COLNE MEADOWS

To discuss the quotes for The Chase gate repairs of £348.42 and £383.00, and agree the next actions. The Council agreed to order the gate with the cheapest quote and a local handyman will install it.

The Blossom Avenue has been planted and is showing signs of growth. A working party has planted 300 hedge plants from The Conservation Trust and 50 from Braintree District Council, the majority of which form a new hedge line between the allotments and the Meadows with the remainder used for gapping up the original hedge. March 23 is National Reflection Day and the 2nd anniversary of Covid lockdown. There will be a 1-minute silence at midday to consider Hope, Reflection and Inspiration. A leaflet drop with details will be printed and all are welcome. The Conservation Volunteers have asked if the Council want any work done and the Council may consider repairs to the dipping pond platform.

398. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Payment of accounts since the last meetin

WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL MATTERS 15th MARCH 2022

1. PAYMENTS

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

UNITY TRUST ACCOUNT		£
METHOD	PAYEE	
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall electricity 28 Jan	20.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall gas 28 Jan	50.30
DD	Everflow water - 18 Feb	54.79
DD	GoCardless - County Broadband WiFi at hall - 10 Feb	29.00
DD	Information Commissioners Officer - 21 Feb	35.00
DD	Anglian Water - 22 Feb	7.87
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall electricity 28 Feb	20.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall gas 28 Feb	50.30
DD	Go Cardless - County Broadband 10 Mar	29.00
TOTAL UNITY TRUST DIRECT DEBITS		296.26

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT (ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS)			VAT
	Gary Allen - village hall window cleaning (PAID)	14.00	
	P Palfreyman - January wages (PAID)	548.77	
	Bill Mapes - putting up canopy	720.00	
	Page Computers - 2 years anti virus (PAID)	58.00	9.67
	CJO Plumbing - village hall boiler service (PAID)	78.00	13.00
	J Hallam - village hall hire refund (PAID)	50.00	
	Bill Mapes - screws for canopy (PAID)	5.76	
	J Taylor - Coffee morning costs (PAID)	31.00	
	J Taylor - Coffee morning costs (PAID)	34.71	
	J Bond - cap for Wave shelter & folder for minutes in VH bookswap (PAID)	9.28	
	Complete Gleam - Village Hall cleaning (PAID)	90.00	
	MBM Landscapes - Wave shelter at Village Hall (PAID)	5322.00	887.00
	Lockshop - Village Hall lock (PAID)	158.40	26.40
TOTAL UNITY TRUST ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS		7119.92	

TOTAL DIRECT DEBITS AND PAYMENTS FROM UNITY TRUST **7416.18**

2. FUNDS RECEIVED

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

UNITY BANK		
	Sum Up credit - café receipts	33.56
	Bank credit	74.00
	Village hall hire	36.00
	Villagehall hire	18.00
	Village hall hire	189.00
	Village hall hire	105.00
	Sum Up credit - café receipts	111.70
	Village hall hire	99.00
	Village hall hire	27.00
	Village hall hire	18.00
	Allotment income	13.00
	Village hall hire	18.00
	Village hall hire	162.00
	Sum Up credit - café receipts	534.63
	Village hall hire	60.00
	Village hall hire	27.00
	Village hall hire	18.00
	Village hall hire	162.00
TOTAL UNITY BANK RECEIPTS		1705.89

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION

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

UNITY TRUST as at 15 MARCH 2022	37013.13
TOTAL BANK BALANCES	37013.13

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 21720.40

UNITY TRUST BANK RECONCILIATION

BALANCE at 14 January 2022	43071.41
Less payments not cleared from Jan finance statement	109.99
	42961.42
Add Receipts	1705.89
	44667.31
Less Total Payments made	7416.18
BALANCE at 15 March 2022	37251.13

- (b) Financial statement – the Clerk advised the report had previously been circulated and there were no questions.
- (c) To review the budget for 2021/22 – the clerk advised that spending was almost on budget, if the grant expenditure wasn't included.

399.VILLAGE HALL

(a) To discuss and agree signing up to Hallmaster software at a cost of £187.00 per year.

Cllr Taylor confirmed this is now live on the website for customers to book. The Council agreed to sign up for the year.

(b) To discuss and agree a raise in village hall hire rates.

Following discussion, Cllr Jacobs agreed to review an increase in hall hire rates.

(c) To discuss and agree smart devices for the hall at a cost of £248.00 + VAT.

The Council agreed to install a smart device in the village hall to control the heating.

400.WHITE COLNE VILLAGE GREEN

To discuss and agree the quotes for extra Christmas lights on the Village Green, costing £697.80 + VAT.

The Council voted not to go ahead with this quote and to use the lights last used in 2020 for the foreseeable future.

401.GRANTS UPDATE

To receive a report on the various projects being funded by grants.

Cllr Taylor advised that the Council were unsuccessful with the Enovert grant but will put in another application to them for a smaller bid for items on The Meadows, once 3 quotes have been obtained.

Three quotes have now been obtained for the play area and the grant application will be submitted this week.

The only area outstanding is the drainage under the canopy and there should be sufficient funds for this.

402.EMAILS

To discuss the arrangements and the importance of making decisions by email, between meetings.

Cllr Taylor emphasised the importance of replying to emails on a regular basis to keep communications open and to make decisions between the bi-monthly meetings. The Councillors agreed to check and respond to their emails more often.

403.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The annual Parish meeting will be on Tuesday April 19 2022. The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday 17th May 2022. Both meetings will be held at White Colne Village Hall and commence at 7.30pm.

404.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

405. TO DISCUSS ACTION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF VILLAGE HALL HIRE

The Clerk provided a brief history of the outstanding payment and following discussion, the Council agreed to pursue the claim via the Small Claims Court.

There being no further business the parish council meeting closed at 9pm.