

WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at White Colne Village Hall **on Tuesday 17 MAY 2022 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Bond, Cllr Jacobs, Cllr Taylor (Chairman), Cllr Wada, Cllr Watt. Also present: Clerk P Palfreyman, Essex County Council (ECC) Cllr Siddall, Braintree District Council (BDC) Cllr Courtauld, Braintree District Council, Cllr Spray (BDC) and 1 member of the public

412.ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Taylor was proposed as chairman by Cllr Jacobs and seconded by Cllr Wada. There were no further proposals. Cllr Taylor was duly elected chairman, and she took the chair.

413.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

414.ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Bond was proposed as vice chairman by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Watt. There were no further proposals and Cllr Bond was duly elected vice chairman.

415.DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS ON ITEMS SHOWN ON THIS AGENDA.

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in item 427 as she has a plot reserved and 4 members of her family buried in the church yard.

416.CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last parish council meeting on 15 March 2022, which had previously been circulated, were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

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

Cllr Siddall

Cllr Siddall reported that the Earls Colne to Coggeshall cycle way is nearly ready. There is a large fund for potholes and footpath repairs and locations for repairs are welcomed from parishes. An email requesting a meeting has been sent to the County Member for a discussion about the transfer of the Village Hall from ECC to WCPC.

Cllr Spray

A local resident has asked about the progress of work to prevent parking on the bank/verge going out of the village, which causes poor sightlines. A former Councillor had referred this to NEPP and agreed bollards are needed. Cllr Spray will contact NEPP to review. The BDC website displays information about cost-of-living support information, fuel costs, benefits and more. The Rural Verge cutting trial has been extended for 3 years. ECC own the verges, but BDC cut them. The cuts will be in the Autumn, but any intervening visibility issues can be reported to BDC. Parish Clerks are encouraged to attend the Clerks forum. The member of staff responsible for road naming is still waiting for another member of staff to join the team. There is an appeal to the planning application on the travellers site but no date set for the hearing. The site has not been vacated and nothing has been removed so far.

Cllr Courtauld

Seven Ukrainian families have been rehoused in the Ward. A social worker and health visitor is assigned to each household where there are children under five years old. The Visa process was very slow. The Committee scrutinising performance have reported a big rise in complaints about litter. BDC may redefine what litter and fly tipping is. Cllr Courtauld reported that BDC are very quick to respond to fly tipping reports.

418.PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS – None

419.CLIMATE FOCUS AREA

(a) To discuss the implications of the Climate Focus Area.

Cllr Taylor reported on ECCs own Climate Emergency Strategy in which they have set up the Essex Climate Action Commission, (ECAC). This is an independent, voluntary, and cross-party body advising ECC about tackling climate change and providing specific recommendations to move Essex to net zero by 2050. One of the core recommendations of the ECAC is to create a Climate Focus Area (CFA) in Essex – an accelerated demonstration

site for best practice in climate change and mitigation. The main objective of the CFA is to reach net zero as soon as possible and no later than 2030. The focus area is the catchment area of the Colne and the Blackwater. As part of the CFA reaction programme, parish councils, local businesses and landowners have been invited to attend workshops to help identify the threats to our local environment. To co create and co design strategies to be part of the decision-making process to help shape and improve our local environment. Cllr Taylor and Lynne Brown attended two workshops at Essex University, and it is obvious that the CFA will be a bottom-up decision-making body, with residents and local landowners driving the strategy. Cllr Taylor will be attending the final meeting in July to which government, DEFRA and Environment Agencies, Utility Companies, county and district councils and major stakeholders have also been invited.

Following discussion, the Council voted in favour of White Colne becoming a climate focus area and the Council considering this declaration in everything they decide.

420.PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Applications:

22/01030/FUL Baggarets Farm Dawes Hall Road White Colne Essex CO6 2QH Single-storey detached welfare unit Expiry date: Tue 31 May 2022

We object to this application as there is no ecology report. Although this is a minor development and the poultry farm with existing dwelling is established, the site is in the open countryside surrounded by woodland and hedgerows. It is sited off an ancient single-track lane. We therefore ask for an ecology report.

As White Colne is positioned in the new Climate Focus Area and is working towards net zero by 2030, we also expect there to be a bio-diversity net gain from this development of 10% in accordance with the Environment Act 2021 EA7 and EA6.

22/01075/AGR Brambles Farm Brambles Lane White Colne Essex CO6 2QG

Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - General purpose farm machinery store and workshop building.

Please note that this is for information only and due to the type of application we don't seek your comments.

- (b) Applications approved by Braintree District Council - none
- (c) Any other planning matters raised by Members – Cllr Spray is finding out why some decisions are not notified to the Council.

421.TO RECEIVE A REPORT ABOUT THE ECC DEVELOPMENT BEHIND THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Taylor reported that as we are now in a CFA it is wholly inappropriate to support the development of the land behind the hall. ECC has struggled to sell the land over the last 20 years and a planning application lodged in 2010 has expired without any action. The development requires lorry loads of contaminated soil to be dug up and moved off site which will also destroy an area which has become part of our green infrastructure. After discussion it was agreed to inform our agent that we will no longer be supporting any development on the site. Cllr Taylor agreed to format an email for approval by the Council.

422.COMMUNITY LIASON

- (a) To receive an update about the Jubilee celebrations.

The recent quiz night raised £400 towards the Jubilee events which include live music, a fun dog show, a scavenger hunt, children's crafts, various refreshments, and the beacon lighting at 9.45pm on Thursday 2nd June 2022.

- (b) Any other matters raised by members

The Awards for All grant of £7000 has been confirmed towards the £9000 cost of the new climbing frame. The price has increased by £1700 but the supplier has agreed to only charge another £1500.

The meeting was suspended for Lynne Brown to speak

Lynne advised that she is hoping to join The Colne Nature Network which will be good to discuss local issues in the village. Wivenhoe Town Council have also been asked to join.

The meeting was reopened

423.FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) Payment of accounts since the last meeting

WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL MATTERS 15th MAY 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	Everflow water - 15 March	29.38
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall electricity 28 Mar	20.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall gas - 28 Mar	50.30
DD	Go Cardless - County Broadband - 14 Apr	29.00
DD	Everflow water - 19 Apr	30.84
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall electricity 28 Apr	1.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall gas - 28 Apr	50.30
TOTAL UNITY TRUST DIRECT DEBITS		210.82

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT (ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS MADE)		VAT	
22.03.22	J Taylor - trolley	69.99	11.67
22.03.22	J Bond - Witham Timber Chase gate	373.42	62.24
22.03.22	Hallmaster Ltd - VH Booking system	224.40	37.4
22.03.22	J Heathcote - VH bookings, cleaning & cleaning materials	281.55	9.90
23.03.22	Mortimer Contracts - Village Green bollards	144.00	24.00
23.03.22	J Taylor - café costs	74.80	
23.03.22	Paula Bull - leaflet printing	22.00	
23.03.22	Complete Gleam - village hall cleaning	30.00	
31.03.22	P Palfreyman - March salary & overtime	735.23	
31.03.22	EALC - Finance training course PP	84.00	
31.03.22	Street Solutions - No waiting traffic cones for VH	69.89	11.65
31.03.22	EJ Fire Security - Fire Extinguisher checks	184.56	30.76
31.03.22	Bank Charges	18.00	
08.04.22	Mortimer Contracts - grass cutting & play equip repairs	798.00	133.00
08.04.22	J Heathcote - VH papers towels	17.40	2.90
08.04.22	EALC - annual subs	167.98	
08.04.22	J Taylor - café costs	39.15	
08.04.22	P Palfreyman - small claims court costs	50.00	
08.04.22	CJO Plumbing - VH hive thermostat & fitting dishwasher	381.60	63.60
25.04.22	Lockshop Direct - VH Smart key bos	158.40	26.40
29.04.22	P Palfreyman - April salary	558.13	
05.05.22	Gary Allen - VH window cleaning	14.00	
05.05.22	Paula Bull - leaflet printing	39.24	
05.05.22	Mortimer Contracts - grass cutting & back board repairs	516.00	86.00
05.05.22	J Taylor - parish meeting exps & café costs	82.34	
05.05.22	Complete Gleam - village hall cleaning	240.00	
09.05.22	Huws Gray - jubilee dance floor	299.19	49.86
12.05.22	P Palfreyman - Go Daddy website subs	14.39	2.40
12.05.22	CL Horlock - Village Hall deposit refund	50.00	
12.05.22	J Taylor - café costs	41.55	1.67
TOTAL UNITY TRUST ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS		5779.21	

TOTAL DIRECT DEBITS AND PAYMENTS FROM UNITY TRUST **5990.03**

continued over

2. FUNDS RECEIVED

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

UNITY BANK		
18.03.22	Village hall hire	69.00 A P Davey
23.03.22	Village hall hire	63.00 The Well &
28.03.22	Village hall hire	320.50 Colchester First Aid
05.04.22	Sum Up credit	137.37 Hall hire & café receipt
11.04.22	Village hall hire	27.00 The Well &
14.04.22	Village hall hire	69.00 A P Davey
19.04.22	Village hall hire	175.00 Postu Pilates
22.04.22	Village hall hire	20.00 G Parlsey
28.04.22	Braintree District Council - 1st instalment precept	6122.00 Precept
04.05.22	Sum Up credit	229.02 Hall hire & café receipt
06.05.22	Village hall hire	72.00 C Upward
09.05.22	Village hall hire	94.50 Postu Pilates
09.05.22	Village hall hire	32.00 Postu Pilates
10.05.22	Village hall hire	168.75 NCT
TOTAL UNITY BANK RECEIPTS		7599.14

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION

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

UNITY TRUST as at 15 MAY 2022 **TOTAL BANK BALANCES** **37460.24**

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	22167.51

UNITY TRUST BANK RECONCILIATION

BALANCE at 15 March 2022	35851.13
Add Receipts	7599.14
	43450.27
Less Total Payments made	5990.03
BALANCE at 15 May 2022	37460.24

(b) Financial statement

The final payment of £360 was also agreed for the Jubilee singer.

(c) To agree the annual insurance premium

The Clerk advised 3 quotes had been obtained and following discussion, the Council agreed Zurich was the most competitive at £677.88 per year.

424.VILLAGE HALL

(a) To consider quotes for a Fire Risk Assessment.

The Clerk confirmed that two quotes for a Fire Risk Assessment had been obtained and following discussion, the Council agreed to engage the Daniel Connall partnership at a cost of £450 + vat.

(b) To consider a request and the implications to use the Village Hall kitchen.

Further to a request for use of the Village Hall kitchen, the Council agreed a hire fee of £30 per 4 hours.

(c) Any other matters raised by members.

Further to the agreement to commit to become a Climate Focus Area, Councillor Taylor affirmed that future considerations with the Hall would be a commitment to decarbonise the building with solar panels, rainwater harvesting, EV charging points and an air source *heat* pump when the boiler needs replacing.

425.WHITE COLNE VILLAGE GREEN

(a) To consider quotes for remedial works on the corner of the Village Green.

Only one quote has been provided so far. Further quotes will be requested.

(b) Any other matters raised by members.

Cllr Taylor requested that in future we consider not cutting areas of the Village Green such as around the trees and the roadside banks. This will be noted for next year. Cllr Bond asked if the NHS Support sign could be converted into a sign to show the number of vehicles speeding through the village. Following discussion, it was agreed to remove the sign.

426.HIGHWAYS

(a) To approve the Street Cleaning agreement for 2022 of £1006.39.

Following discussion, the Clerk confirmed the Street Cleaning agreement payment for this year was increased by 3% to £1006.39.

- (b) Any other matters raised by members. Some residents are cutting the verges outside their homes. The Council agreed to consider 'left for nature' signs in the future. It was agreed that dangerous junctions will need to be notified to BDC.

427.DONATIONS

- (a) To consider a donation to St Andrews Church
Cllr Taylor left the room. Following discussion, it was agreed that the donation should no longer be paid as the Council have limited funds to carry out all the work needed.

428.BROOK HOUSE (FORMERLEY CHALKNEY HOUSE)

- (a) To receive a report about Brook House (formerly Chalkney House)
A number of comments had been received by the Council about the trees in the drive of this property which appeared to be earmarked for felling. The BDC Landscape & Tree officer visited, met with the tree surgeon and advised that some trees have a TPO (and therefore need permission before any work is carried out) and other trees do not meet the criteria for a TPO. An ecology report was commissioned but this was in March when the bats were hibernating and although roosts and nests are protected, the foraging areas are not.

429.DOCUMENTS & POLICIES

- (a) To approve the Financial Regulations
(b) To approve the Standing Orders
(c) To approve the Village Green advertising policy
Following discussion, the documents and polices were agreed without amendment.

430.CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Cllr Taylor welcomed Lynne Brown to the meeting and advised that Lynne was interested in joining the Council. Co-option will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

431.TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RECEIVED SINCE THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT - None

There being no further business the parish council meeting closed at
9.35pm