

WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held at White Colne Village Hall **on Tuesday 8th June 2023 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Batchford, Cllr Bell, Cllr Taylor (Chairman),. Also present: Clerk P Palfreyman, Braintree District Council (BDC) Cllr Spray and 4 members of the public. Following co-option Cllr Drizen and Cllr Wilson

Due to unforeseen circumstance, the meeting started at 8pm

537. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Bond, Cllr Siddall & Cllr Courtauld

538. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS ON ITEMS SHOWN ON THIS AGENDA – none

539. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS - the council were advised about a spate of vandalism in the village, with a riverside cabin being smashed up, destroyed and set alight and another incident with lodges being broken in to at the Browning fishing lake, the hot tub used and then chemicals poured in to it. The Police have been called, taken forensics and given the names of suspects. The Police are asking for witnesses to come forward and make a statement. Cllr Spray advised that the appeal on the traveller's site has been delayed due to strike action and will now be heard in November.

540. CO-OPTION – the Council unanimously agreed the co-option of John Wilson and Denise Drizen. Cllr Taylor welcomed them to the council.

541. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) To note the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023 – noted and agreed
- (b) To receive the report from the Internal Auditor – noted and agreed
- (c) To approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section1) – noted and agreed
- (d) To approve the Accounting Statements (Section 2) – noted and agreed
- (e) To notify the Exercise of Public Rights dates - noted
- (f) To agree up to £50 per café can be spent using the Multipay card – discussed and agreed

(g) To agree a temporary credit limit increase to £1200 in total, and £1000 per single transaction for the Multipay card held by Jane Taylor, for the purchase of kitchen units for the pavilion – item no longer needed

542.VILLAGE HALL ELECTRICITY COSTS - following discussion, the Council decided not to proceed with a fixed contract and to see how costs fall in the next few weeks. The clerk will obtain cancellation costs from the best supplier, in view of the pending solar energy project.

543.ESSEX FUND FOR THE COMMUNITY GARDEN – the sum of £4523 has already been granted as this project was initially considered for the new Youth Club to look after, but the club is not currently going ahead. There may be interest in a neighbouring parish to set up a community garden at the village hall with some raised beds. Cllr Taylor will review and report.

544.PLANNING MATTERS

(a)To consider planning applications received. 23/01291/TPOCON15 Colneford Hill White Colne Essex CO6 2PJ Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Tree 1, Tree 2 - Silver Birch - fell trees. Expiry date: Not available. No comment

(b) 23/01187/FUL Land at Chalkney Wood Meadow Colchester Road White Colne Essex Installation of 50KW ground mounted PV solar array Expiry date: 21 June 2023. Council supports this application

545.TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RECEIVED SINCE THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT – the land behind the village hall is being considered by ECC as a Forest Initiative. ECC Forestry dept. are paying £1500 to survey the land on July 5th.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 18th July 2023

There being no further business the parish council meeting closed at 8.50pm