

# WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at White Colne Village Hall  
on Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Batchford, Cllr Bond, Cllr Brown, 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 1 member of the public

**502.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Spray**

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

**504.CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the last parish council meetings on 17 January 2023 and 28 February 2023, which had previously been circulated, were agreed as a true record.

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

**Cllr Siddall** – the ECC budget is now set at 3.1%. Adult social care is 2% of the precept. There will be a need to save millions of pounds in future years. In addition to the £34M budget, there is an extra £10M for road repairs and the pothole scheme has been expanded to include pavements. This will also include repairs needed after broadband has been put in. Tru Cam is being rolled out for use around villages. The Village Green scheme to lower the wall and step the Village Green down has been rejected. The original scheme to take the edge off the Village Green, now stands. Drawings will be sent for circulation. There is not a date for when Boley Rd Quiet Lane signs will be installed and Colchester Road parking is not being pursued as not a priority for the LHP, but the Parish Council can investigate this if they wish.

**Cllr Courtauld** – the charge for green bins has had a legal objection so may not proceed. There has been a lot of correspondence about Wethersfield airfield and the impact on local villages if it becomes a holding centre for asylum seekers. This is a government decision and not an ECC decision. This is unlikely

to affect White Colne as it is too far away. A £25000 saving has been made by not printing recycling calendars. Hard copies are available be request. There is not date yet for the appeal for the traveller's site.

**506.PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS** - a query was raised about the website and the clerk explained that a new website has been set up with a redirect from the old website, which did not appear to be working. The clerk agreed to send details of the new website.

### **507.PLANNING MATTERS**

(a)Applications approved by Braintree District Council

APPLICATION No: 22/02902/OUT DESCRIPTION: Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the construction of 1 No. 3 bedroom bungalow

LOCATION: Land To The Rear Of 5 Colne Park Road White Colne Essex CO6 2PL

DECISION: Granted

### **508.COMMUNITY LIASON**

(a)To receive an update on the Community Energy meeting on 22 March 2023 – a community meeting will be held on 22 March 2023 and presentations and a feasibility pack will be given

(b)To receive an update about the Three Colnes magazine – a donation of £216 per month has been requested which the Council agreed is too expensive to go ahead with.

(c)To consider the purchase of a new defibrillator in the near future or consider raising funds in preparation for a new one, when consumables for the current defibrillator are no longer available – the Council agreed to purchase a new defibrillator from the balance of the Covid grant fund. It was agreed that The old defibrillator will not be used at the Village Hall.

### **509.OPEN SPACES**

(a)To report on and discuss the orchard at The Meadows – a working part of three started to strim The Meadows but it needs a contractor to clear it properly and then include it in the regular grass cutting. It was proposed and agreed to get quotes for the work.

(b)To confirm the grass cutting quote for the coming year – the quote with Mortimer Contracts for £70 + vat per cut for The Meadows and Village Green and £40 + vat for the village hall and football pitch was confirmed.

(c)To discuss the purchase of a new bench for the Blossom Avenue and new perching benches in the Heritage Orchard – following discussion it was agreed to purchase the Glenham curved seat at a cost of £1824 + vat

(d)To agree the quote for the tree works advised following the tree survey – the Council reviewed the quotes and agreed to engage the contractor quoting £780 for the works

(e)To review and agree a risk assessment for the pond at The Meadows -the risk assessment was reviewed and agreed. The Council handyman will be asked to check the lifebuoy every month.

(f)Any other matters raised by members - none

### **510.FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a)Payment of acccks since the last meeting – the payments listed were approved

(b)Financial statement -the financial statement was agreed

## WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

### FINANCIAL MATTERS 28 FEBRUARY 2023

#### 1. PAYMENTS

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

UNITY TRUST ACCOUNT		£
METHOD	PAYEE	
DD	Go Cardless - County Broadband - 12.01.23	29.00
DD	ICO - 25.01.23	35.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall electricity 30.01.23	1.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall gas - 30.01.23	50.30
DD	Go Cardless - County Broadband - 10.02.23	29.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall electricity -28.02.23	1.00
DD	Scottish Power - Village Hall gas - 28.02.23	50.30
<b>TOTAL UNITY TRUST DIRECT DEBITS</b>		<b>195.60</b>

#### UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT (ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS MADE)

13.01.23	High Speed Training - H & S training	259.20
13.01.23	P Palfreyman - Cheapest Print on Line leaflets	59.14
13.01.23	E R Rai - VH hire deposit refund	50.00
13.01.23	Nisbets - Hub costs	75.43
13.01.23	EALC - clerks allotment training	180.00
13.01.23	Jane Taylor - Café & Hub costs	184.56
23.01.23	G Allen - VH windows	14.00
23.01.23	K Nolan - Repairs to ticket office	525.00
23.01.23	Jane Taylor - Hub costs	121.39
24.01.23	K Leatherbarrow - VH hire deposit refund	50.00
24.01.23	S Buxton - VH hire deposit refund	50.00
24.01.23	R Tibbert - VH hire deposit refund	50.00
24.01.23	NAS Ltd - allotment society membership	60.40
24.01.23	Jane Taylor - Brewery & Hub costs	372.50
24.01.23	CJO Plumbing - VH boiler service	90.00
24.01.23	HMRC - PAYE	7.00
31.01.23	P Palfreyman - Jan wages	585.50
03.02.23	R Robinson - VH hire deposit refund	50.00
03.02.23	Suffolk Cloud - new website	270.00
03.02.23	Tidy Garden - VH road surface	260.00
03.02.23	Jade Lock - VH cleaner	247.00
03.02.23	Jane Taylor - cleaning materials, Café & Hub costs	297.08
14.02.23	Jane Taylor - Hub costs	59.49
14.02.23	Tidy Garden - VH posts	350.00
14.02.23	G Allen - VH windows	14.00
14.02.23	P Palfreyman - printer ink	39.99
22.02.23	Applause - Suitcase Shakespeare	341.00
22.02.23	V Duchar-Clark - VH hire deposit refund	50.00
22.02.23	P Palfreyman - Cheapest Print on Line leaflets	44.14
22.02.23	Jane Taylor - Hub costs	208.42
28.02.23	P Palfreyman - Feb wages	661.80
<b>TOTAL UNITY TRUST ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS</b>		<b>5627.04</b>

**TOTAL DIRECT DEBITS AND PAYMENTS FROM UNITY TRUST** **5822.64**

continued over

#### 2. FUNDS RECEIVED

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

##### UNITY BANK

16.01.23	Councillors grant	633.00
17.01.23	Sum Up	44.44
18.01.23	Sum Up	37.07
18.01.23	C J Still	95.00
18.01.23	A P Davey	24.00
23.01.23	The Well &	191.50
24.01.23	P Brooks	140.00
30.01.23	East Anglian Centre	50.00
30.01.23	PayPal	163.26
31.01.23	Sum Up	12.78
01.02.23	Sum Up	62.90
03.02.23	Credit	693.50
06.02.23	PayPal	135.64
08.02.23	C Upward	126.00
09.02.23	V Duchar-Clark	50.00
14.02.23	NCT	36.00
14.02.23	Sum Up	62.14
17.02.23	C Masters	135.00
17.02.23	Sum Up	78.65
20.02.23	V Duchar-Clark	155.00
20.02.23	Postu Pilates	72.00
20.02.23	Jennifer O Connell	72.00
20.02.23	M Breary	95.00
21.02.23	EALC bursary	165.00
21.02.23	P Chillingworth	95.00
24.02.23	Scottish Power	60.00
28.02.23	Sum Up	78.84
<b>TOTAL UNITY BANK RECEIPTS</b>		<b>3563.72</b>

#### 3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION

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

<b>UNITY TRUST</b> as at 28 February 2023	<b>38615.41</b>
<b>TOTAL BANK BALANCES</b>	<b>38615.41</b>
<b>Balance held in reserve</b>	
<b>Fund raising</b>	1260.73
Village Hall reserves (£11000 prev VH roof fund)	14000.00
Allotments	32.00
	<b>Balance of alloc fund 15292.73</b>
	<b>15292.73</b>
	<b>Balance of unalloc funds</b>
	<b>23322.68</b>

#### UNITY TRUST BANK RECONCILIATION

<b>BALANCE at 11 January 2023</b>	40874.33
Add Receipts	3563.72
	44438.05
Less Total Payments made	5822.64
<b>BALANCE at 28 February 2023</b>	<b>38615.41</b>

(c)To agree the appointment of an internal auditor at a cost of £230.00 – the appointment of the internal auditor was agreed.

(d)Any other financial matters -the clerk has recently applied for a Unity Trust Bank Multipay card but on checking with the bank they advised the application cannot be found. The clerk will make another application online.

### **511.VILLAGE HALL**

(a)To receive an update about the Community Hub – BDC visited the Hub and thought it was the best one in the district. The current hub will end on 3 April and users will be signposted to the community café which is every other Friday, also in the village hall. The Hub has been very successful with over 40 visitors a day and may reopen next year if there is sufficient funding. A vote of thanks was given to Councillor Taylor and all the volunteers.

(b)To advise the date for new free Gigaclear – this will be available from 30 March 2023

(c)To review the Freedom of Information reply and consider a way forward. The answer to the FOI request stated that there was no asset value listed for the village hall. The land reserve price of £350000 was not met at auction in autumn 2017 and was not sold. The meeting was suspended for Cllr Siddal to speak. Cllr Siddall agreed to speak to the portfolio holder for assets and ask if they would transfer the hall with the land, as a community asset transfer. The meeting was resumed.

(d)To confirm the details of the new Youth Club – Cllr Taylor has applied for a £4500 grant for a community garden at the front of the Village Hall for the Youth Club to manage. The Youth Club will start after Easter – date to be agreed. Another quote for preparing the ground and laying a membrane at the rear of the hall will also be sought.

### **512.COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION**

(a)To receive an update about the grants received this year – grants received this year total £12843 and was used for play equipment, storage at The Meadows, repairs to the village hall ticket office and the community hub. Covid safe grants from 2021/22 were used for the canopy, air filter, tables/chairs and dishwasher in the village hall.

(b)To confirm the new Parish Council website and email addresses – the new website is live at [www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The clerk welcomes comments for improvements and additions. The new gov.uk email address will be used after the elections, once the new council is known.

(c)To confirm the date for the next local elections, how to apply to stand for a council and the new requirements to vote – the clerk has added information to the website and there is also information on the BDC website.

**513.CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** - the UK Mens Sheds initiative is a community space for men to connect, converse and create and help combat loneliness. Details can be found on the internet and there are dozens of groups all over the country.

**514.TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RECEIVED SINCE THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT** – none

**515.DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** –Annual Parish Meeting on 9 May  
Annual Council Meeting on 16 May at 7.30pm

There being no further business the parish council meeting closed at 9.00pm