



WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

White Colne Village Hall, Bures Road, White Colne, CO6 2QA.

Minutes of White Colne Parish Council Annual Meeting held at White Colne Village Hall on Tuesday 16th July 2024 at 19:30hrs.

Present: Cllr Paul Batchford
Cllr John Brace
Cllr Denise Drizen
Cllr Jane Taylor (Chairperson)
Cllr John Wilson
Jim Morris, Parish Clerk

Also Present: Cllr George Courtauld, The Colnes Ward
Cllr Gabrielle Spray, The Colnes Ward
1 member of the public

018/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Kris Bell, Cllr Jim Bond, and Halstead Division Cllr Chris Siddall.

019/24 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None received.

020/24 PUBLIC SESSION

No questions or comments received.

021/24 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 21.05.2024; MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of White Colne Parish Council Annual Meeting held on 21.05.2024 were received, confirmed, and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairperson.

022/24 MATTERS ARISING

Members noted the list of matters arising and ongoing from previous meetings (attached to record Minutes). Waste sacks would be delivered in September; confirmation of the date for defibrillator training was expected; data from the Speed Indicator Device (SID) would be assessed at a future meeting, as would the new model Financial Regulations. Correspondence with Cllr Whitbread regarding the status of White Colne Village Hall would be sought.

023/24 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Braintree District Councillor Gabrielle Spray Offered a report to the meeting. The end of July and into August were likely to be busy for district councillors as many scheduled meetings had been rearranged due to the general election.

Three hundred potential sites had been received during BDC's call for its Local Plan review. A series of meetings of the Local Plan Sub-Committee would resolve which sites would be put forward. There would be two further rounds of public consultation.

The new government had taken office with promises of reforms to the planning system and had already approved a large solar farm on the Cambridgeshire-Suffolk border. BDC was remaining vocal in its assertion that undersea cabling would be preferable for the proposed upgrades to the National Grid.

Braintree District Councillor George Courtauld noted that the new government had promised to devolve power from Whitehall, although there was scepticism over its workability.

Cllr Courtauld was a trustee of the Earls Colne & Halstead Educational Charity. There were significant funds available for distribution as small grants to young people to help with purchasing equipment for their studies. A former beneficiary of the scheme, who had been able to buy their first violin with funds provided, was now a member of the London Symphony Orchestra. Members were asked to share details of the grant fund extensively.

024/24 PLANNING

i. Applications

a) Ref: **24/01178/TPOCON** (attached to record Minutes).

Location: Pumping Station, Colneford Hill, White Colne.

Proposal: Fell 3no trees.

Response: White Colne Parish Council can see no reason why the Applicant wishes these trees to be felled. They are not particularly large, and are unlikely to be causing concern to neighbouring properties. There is mention of the tree works application being entered due to a customer complaint. It is not clear whether the customer is a neighbour of the application site. Neither the Application nor the accompanying Report provide adequate detail, such as species and age of the trees in question. Within the Conservation Area, healthy trees should be adequately managed to ensure their longevity and the amenity of the local area. In this case, the trees enhance the appearance of the Conservation Area by screening Anglian Water's pumping station. White Colne Parish Council therefore requests that an amended Application be entered, depicting the correct tree species and offering to carry out crown reduction rather than felling.

b) Ref: **24/01283/ELD** (attached to record Minutes).

Location: Brooms Farm, Colne Park Road, White Colne, CO6 2QN.

Proposal: Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use – Change of use to residential garden.

Response: No comment.

c) Ref: **23/02106/S106A** (attached to record Minutes).

Location: Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust, Land Opposite The Flying School, The Airfield, Earls Colne, Essex.

Proposal: REVISED MODIFICATION – Application made under Section 106A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligations) Regulations 1992 (as amended) – Remove the weight restriction of the aircraft operating from the site and replace this with a requirement that aircraft operating from the site comply with specified CAA certified noise levels.

Response: No comment.

d) Ref: **24/01232/DAC** (attached to record Minutes).

Location: OS 7271 Land South West Of Fox And Pheasant Farm, Colchester Road, White Colne, CO6 2PS.

Proposal: Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 7 of approved application 21/02421/FUL.

Response: White Colne Parish Council had not been formally notified of the Application. Cllr Spray would ask BDC Planning whether WCPC should have been consulted and if WCPC's opinion was sought.

ii. Decisions – none received.

iii. Appeals – none received.

iv. Great Bardfield Neighbourhood Plan (attached to record Minutes). Members noted Great Bardfield's Regulation 19 Consultation.

v. Braintree District Local Plan Review 2041 (attached to record Minutes). Members noted the mediation of BDC's Local Plan Review. Cllr Taylor encouraged members to respond as either parishioners or in their capacity as members of the parish council.

025/24 HIGHWAYS

i. Correspondence: *White Colne Speed Limit* (attached to record Minutes). Members noted the correspondence and thanked the parishioner for attending the meeting. Issues with speeding traffic were known to be longstanding. The council's SID would be used to gather data on traffic speeds and the results would be passed on to the Rural Engagement Team.

It was RESOLVED: That Cllrs Bell & Bond add Bures Road as a site to be assessed.

ii. Correspondence: *GRIDSERVE Electric Forecourt®* (attached to record Minutes).

It was RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

iii. Speed Indicator Device data. Item deferred to a future meeting.

iv. Bures Road drainage and manhole cover. A quote for the necessary works had been received.

It was RESOLVED: That the quote be accepted, and the works progressed.

v. Passenger Transport *Summer Transport Meeting*.

It was RESOLVED: That the invitation to attend the meeting, the date of which had passed, be noted.

026/24 FINANCE

i. **To APPROVE** the schedule of payments 22.05.2024-30.06.2024 (attached to record Minutes).

ii. **To RECEIVE and CONSIDER** the budget reconciliation for 2024-25 Q1 (attached to record Minutes). The schedule of payments and 2024-25 Q1 budget report had been circulated via email ahead of the meeting.

It was RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments and budget report to end of Q1 be approved.

iii. **To RECEIVE and CONSIDER** information regarding Scribe accounts package. The clerk had attended a zoom meeting with a representative of the Scribe accounting platform and had circulated information ahead of the meeting. The package would produce reports for parish council meetings, VAT126 returns, and the Annual Return.

It was RESOLVED: To subscribe to the Scribe accounts package.

027/24 LEISURE & FACILITIES

i. Play area Health & Safety inspections – Bures Road (circulated with Agenda). Some minor issues had been reported.

It was RESOLVED: That Cllr Taylor would liaise with the council's handyman regarding the repairs needed.

ii. Play area Health & Safety inspections – The Meadows (circulated with Agenda).

It was RESOLVED: That Cllr Batchford would assess the report and action any items needing progressing.

ii. Allocation of available Allotment plots. A request for an Allotment plot had been received from a resident of Earls Colne.

It was RESOLVED: That available plots be offered to residents of the four Colnes, with priority given to White Colne parishioners. A price for strimming and placing membrane on vacant plots would be sought and considered at a future meeting.

iv. Village Hall noticeboard on Village Green. The noticeboard on The Green had toppled since the previous meeting and a repair had been carried out.

028/24 COMMUNICATION & LIAISON

i. Colne Valley Community Energy project. Cllr Taylor had given a well-received talk about the project at a Silver End Parish Council meeting. Pay as you go contracts had been prepared for social housing tenants in Braintree, and it was hoped to have private contracts ready in October 2024.

ii. White Colne Village Hall net zero project update. Works were scheduled to begin week commencing 19th August. Eight workers were expected to complete the project within a week. A full launch and open day would be held in November 2024 to help promote the Colne Valley Community Energy Project.

iii. *Awards for All* grant funding update. An application for £19,980 had been entered by Cllr Taylor with the aim of funding a part-time chef, three personnel, food and hall hire for two years of Community Hub provision during winter. It would be 16 weeks before finding out whether the application had been successful, although all the boxes had been ticked. Cllr Spray was thanked for providing £500 of funding towards the project.

iv. White Colne Parish Council social media, livestreaming, and community liaison. A Facebook page had been launched. Cllrs Bell and Drizen were due to meet to discuss tasks.

v. Correspondence: *Local Bus Tender Outcome* (attached to record Minutes).

It was RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

029/24 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE MEETING

Items from the council's Matters Arising & Ongoing would be considered.

030/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of White Colne Parish Council was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 17th September 2024 at White Colne Village Hall at 1930hrs. Cllrs Batchford, Brace, and Wilson offered apologies for absence. The meeting closed at 20:45hrs.

Signed.....

Date.....



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MATTERS ARISING & ONGOING

007/24 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

ACTION ARISING: Cllr Taylor to organise delivery of waste sacks to White Colne residents.

012/24 HIGHWAYS

ACTION ARISING: Cllrs Bell and Bond to report speed data comparison.

013/24 POLICIES & DOCUMENTS

ACTION ARISING: Clerk to assess new Model Financial Regulations for future consideration.

014/24 VILLAGE HALL

ACTION ARISING: Cllr Siddall to clarify White Colne Village Hall ownership.

015/24 ALLOTMENTS

ACTION ARISING: Cllr Taylor to ask for Allotment availability to be advertised in Three Colnes Magazine.

022/24 MATTERS ARISING

ACTION ARISING: Cllr Taylor to write to Cllr Whitbread regarding Village Hall ownership.

025/24 HIGHWAYS

ACTION ARISING: Cllrs Bell and Bond to gather speed data at Bures Road.

027/24 LEISURE & FACILITIES

ACTION ARISING: Cllr Taylor to liaise with handyman re items arising from Bures Road play area report.

ACTION ARISING: Cllr Batchford to assess items arising from The Meadows play area report.

ACTION ARISING: Seek quotes for vacant Allotment plot maintenance.

ACTION ARISING: Clerk to update Allotment Allocation Policy.