Colne Engaine Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COLNE ENGAINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2016

IN THE CHAIR: **CLLR. A BARNARD**

PRESENT: **CLLRS: P TAYLOR, L ORROW, T EVERITT, T JOHNS, I MESSENGER, N WARWICK**

CLERK: **T ROOTSEY**

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

   Cllr Barnard welcomed the Members all of whom were present

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

   Cllr Orrow declared an interest in item 6.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST**

   Three members of the public attended to express their worries about the safety of horse riders around the village particularly on Halstead Road (Brook Street) near to Abbots Shrubs. They cited incidents of cars travelling too fast and not slowing down or giving horses a wide enough berth. They asked if there was anything the Parish Council could do to get what is currently the national speed limit reduced.

4. **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS, IF PRESENT, TO ADDRESS THE MEMBERS**

   Cllr C Siddall sent his apologies.

   Cllr G Spray reported that there was a huge amount going on with planning and the Local Plan. There was a very heavy agenda with many split decisions on the committee. The Local Plan was nearing the end of its process before going to the Government Inspector for final decisions. It seems possible that a large part of the housing requirement was being taken by Witham, Braintree and Halstead.

   The Council grant scheme was under way and the first donation was made last week. Details of the scheme are on the web site.

5. CONFIRMATION OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MEETING HELD ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED: The minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting

PROPOSED: Cllr Everitt SECONDED Cllr Johns Unanimous

6. PLANNING APPLICATION 16/01614/FUL Erection of first floor rear extension, side porch and basement room at 6 Crossways CO6 2JA

Cllr Orrow left the room before the application was discussed in detail and it was -

RESOLVED: that the Council had no objections providing that Braintree District Council considered that adequate parking remained on the site and that the Clerk should inform Planning at BDC accordingly.

PROPOSED: Cllr Everitt SECONDED: Cllr Barnard Unanimous

Cllr Orrow returned to the room

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS (1)

a) Financial statements for September 2016

b) Items as per September 2016 payment schedule to be approved for payment and signed

c) Budget information as at 30th September 2016 as prepared by clerk

RESOLVED: items a) b) c) were correct and acceptable and cheques could be signed

PROPOSED: Cllr Messenger SECONDED: Cllr Orrow Unanimous

FINANCIAL MATTERS (2) – Annual Return year ended 31 March 2016. Consider external auditors comments in section 3 and decide upon any action required.

RESOLVED: That comments 1 & 2 should be corrected by the Chairman and RFO at the meeting but item 3 required more information and the Clerk should provide it at the next meeting.

PROPOSED: Cllr Barnard SECONDED: Cllr Taylor Unanimous.

Signed…… ……

8. DISCUSS COMPLAINT FROM RESIDENT REGARDING SPEED OF TRAFFIC ON VILLAGES ROADS IN PARTICULAR REGARD TO SAFETY FOR HORSE RIDERS

This was discussed in detail with road safety and education being the predominant items discussed as well as the Cllrs ongoing concerns about the expected increased traffic through the village as a result of the development of Halstead in the Local Plan. Cllr Orrow agreed to contact the police and Braintree District Council for guidance.

RESOLVED: The parish Council should seek support for safer roads and look at any options available

PROPOSED: Cllr Orrow SECONDED Cllr Messenger Unanimous.

9. DISCUSS CONCERNS RAISED REGARDING CARS USING THE FOOTPATH FROM MILL LANE TO CHURCH STREET NEXT TO THE CHURCH

Cllr Barnard has had a conversation with the Church Warden regarding cars using the footpath next to the church. The path is owned by the church but is a designated footpath. It is understood that first time visitors to the church are guided up the footpath by their satnavs. The footpath sign at the foot of the path is obscured by tree branches and the Clerk is to arrange for them to be cleared. The fact remains that regular users of the church do park on the footpath having brought elderly worshipers and delivered flowers etc. There is clearly a safety issue here and it was:-

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should write to the PCC expressing the Parish Councils concerns regarding the risks of vehicle movements on the footpath and suggest a risk assessment would be prudent.

PROPOSED: Cllr Everitt SECONDED: Cllr Orrow.

10. DISCUSS POSSIBLE SITING OF THE PUDNEY FUNERAL BIER CURRENTLY IN THE ARCHIVE OUTSIDE IN THE VILLAGE AND CONSIDER LOCATION, OWNERSHIP AND LIABILITY

This item was discussed but no decision was made. The general feeling was that it should be outside in the village although it would need regular maintenance. Cllr Barnard agreed to speak to interested parties and come back to Council with a proposal.

11. REVIEW RESPONSES TO VILLAGE SURVEY AND IDENTIFY SUGGESTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN FORWARD

Cllrs had considered one or two items each which included - gruffalo trail – static table tennis table – clear brook in Station Road – unsung heroes award – litter pick. Cllr Spray outlined the District Council grant scheme and it was suggested that Cllrs Barnard, Johns and Orrow meet with her to discuss some viable options and bring them to the December meeting for further discussion.

Signed…… ……

12. DISCUSS FOOTBALL CLUB'S REQUEST TO PERMANENTLY REMOVE ONE OF THE GOALPOST ON THE LOWER RECREATION GROUND

Enquiries revealed that the goal posts are used on non-match days by a number of village children as well as the Youth Club. It was therefore -

RESOLVED: That the Clerk would contact the football club to decline their request.

PROPOSED: Cllr Everitt SECONDED Cllr Orrow Unanimous.

13. CONSIDER INDICATION OF COST OBTAINED BY CLERK TO REFURBISHMENT OF THE DIRECTIONAL SIGN ON THE VILLAGE GREEN AND WHETHER TO PROCEED

The Clerk had discussed the project with Tatham's in Wakes Colne and Maycast Noakes in Halstead neither of whom could undertake the work. It was recommended that he contact Finch Seaman Enfield Group in Braintree. They could possibly assist but would be unable to produce a quote before this meeting. The matter was therefore to be deferred until all the information was available.

14. PERSONNEL MATTERS

a) VILLAGE MAINTENANCE MAN: MR C RACZI – UPDATE – continues to do a good job.

b) CLERK: MR T ROOTSEY – UPDATE - continues to undertake his duties satisfactorily

c) CONSIDER SETTING UP ANNUAL APPRAISAL FOR CLERK AND MAINTENANCE WORKER. – It was agreed that appraials should be carried out before each Council year end. The Clerk will prepare a suggested appraisal form for consideration.

15. HIGHWAYS CONSIDER ANY MATTERS THAT NEED ATTENTION

No matters raised

16. TO RECEIVE CHAIRMANS BRIEFING, CLERKS REPORT & COUNCILLORS REPORTS (The clerks report has been circulated prior to the meeting for all members to read.) The Clerk, Chairman and Councillors will deliver progress report if applicable at the meeting

Cllr Barnard had been advised that the Festival Committee would like to donate £400 for the purpose of purchasing a new bench for the Parish. The Clerk was requested to obtain quotes to purchase and install a bench and bring them to the November meeting.

Cllrs Taylor and Johns attended a workshop "NHS Mid and South Essex Success Regime" and were disappointed that there was nothing in it to benefit Colne Engaine.

Signed…… ……

Cllr Everitt reported that he had a call from a villager to complain that the Pat King memorial tree and that footpath sign indicating the path from Pebmarsh Road to the Village Green had been knocked over.

The Clerk ran through his report which had been circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting

17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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Village survey - December

Directional sign on Village Green – November

Quotes for new bench – November

Update on item 8 regarding speed reduction.

18. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

10th November 2016

Cllr Barnard thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 10.15 pm

Signed……
Chairman of the Parish Council Date: 10th November 2016