Colne Engaine Parish Council

www.colne-engaine.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COLNE ENGAINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH MARCH 2017

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

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

CLERK: **T ROOTSEY**

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

   Cllr Barnard welcomed the attendees. Cllr Messenger sent his apologies for personal reasons.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

   None.

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

   None attended

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

   Cllr Spray attended and said that the Council leader was making changes to Councillor responsibilities. The District Council elections will take place in May when our ward will again have a representative. The 2017/18 budget was approved on 22 February and things were very tight and although it was the first time in 4 years that BDC had increased Council Tax the rise was limited to 1%. The police and fire authorities increased their precepts significantly. Planning was an ongoing problem as Braintree does not yet have a 5 year land supply as demanded by the government. The Local Plan should be ready to present to the inspector in 2018. The Councillors Community Grant scheme was going well with both of our District Councillors each having spent half of their allocation for this year. Any unspent funds will be carried forward to 2017/18.

5. CONFIRMATION OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MEETING HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY 2017

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

PROPOSED: Cllr Everitt SECONDED Cllr Orrow Unanimous

6. PLANNING APPLICATION 17/00340/FUL

Installation of sewage treatment plant at Parkview Countess Cross CO6 2QJ

No objections were raised.

RESOLVED: The Clerk should advise planning department accordingly.

PROPOSED: Cllr Everitt SECONDED Cllr Johns Unanimous

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial statements for February 2017

b) Items as per February 2017 payment schedule to be approved for payment and signed

c) Formally approve payment to Mortimer Contracts in the sum of £36 for additional footpath cut. The cheque was signed at last meeting to meet PRoW deadline.

d) Budget information as at 28th February 2017 as prepared by clerk

e) Approve schedule of funds to be transferred to reserves as prepared by Clerk.

RESOLVED 1: Items a) to d) were correct and cheques could be signed.

PROPOSED 1: Cllr Everitt SECONDED Cllr Orrow Unanimous

RESOLVED 2: item e) was acceptable apart from the suggested contingency reserve which was not considered appropriate. The unspent portions of the budget for 2016/17 for recreation ground repairs, playground maintenance, computer maintenance & new equipment, and election fees should be transferred to earmarked reserves in anticipation of future expenditure.

PROPOSED 2: Cllr Everitt SECONDED Cllr Orrow Unanimous

.

8. CONSIDER REQUEST BY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE TO USE RECREATION GROUND FOR FUN RUN ON SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2017 AND THE FESTIVAL FROM 30TH MAY 2018 TO 3RD JUNE 2018.

Discussed and;-

RESOLVED: That the requests be approved subject to adequate parking arrangements being put in place with clear signage. Clerk to advise Festival Committee accordingly.

PROPOSED: Cllr Everitt SECONDED Cllr Taylor Unanimous

9. APPROVE POLICY FOR THE COMMERCIAL USE OF THE RECREATION GROUND

Discussed and;-

RESOLVED: That the policy as set out be adopted and published on the Parish Council's web site.

PROPOSED: Cllr Orrow SECONDED Cllr Taylor Unanimous

10. CONSIDER REQUEST BY LOCAL BUSINESS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL TO SEEK COMPENSATION FOR THE BUSINESS EFFECT OF ROAD CLOSURES

This matter was discussed in detail and the Members fully understood the business man's frustration with the situation but did not feel that it was not within the Council's mandate to seek compensation on his behalf.

RESOLVED: Once a District Councillor has been elected to represent our ward in the May elections the matter would be put in front of him/her asking that representations be made to support the complainant in his quest for compensation.

PROPOSED: Cllr Barnard SECONDED Cllr Everitt Unanimous

11) PERSONNEL MATTERS

a) VILLAGE MAINTENANCE MAN: MR C RACZI continues to do a good job, Members are pleased with his conscientiousness.
b) CLERK: MR T ROOTSEY continues to undertake his duties satisfactorily.

Signed…… ……

12) HIGHWAYS - CONSIDER ANY MATTERS THAT NEED ATTENTION

Nothing mentioned that hasn't already been taken up with Highways.

13) 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 reported.

1. Clearance of Footpaths. Both land owners contacted last month regarding overgrown/blocked footpaths on their land have responded both promptly and with much co-operation. As a result, 2 of the 3 paths highlighted as needing clearance within Councillors Everitt's earlier report have already been cleared. The remaining path south toward Greensted Green across Stonebridge Meadow has been walked with one of the two land owners involved, Mr George Courtauld who is more than happy for Essex Probationary Services (EPS) to undertake the required clearance work. Agreement of the neighbouring land owner is also being sought. I am arranging to meet with EPS on site on Monday March 13th to enable them to assess the work required and also undertake their own risk assessment. Assuming they are happy to undertake the work then the path could be cleared as early as Saturday March 18th.
2. Footpath Map: I have approached Peter Mair a local artist who has kindly agreed to review the previous map and offer initial artwork suggestions for a new updated map.
3. Sexton's Field Trust. The Trustees (including the two representatives of the PC) are arranging to meet to ensure the Trust is compliant with the requirements of the latest Charities Act. At that meeting they will also agree actions required in respect of the overflowing spring along the boundary of the allotment field.
4. Blocked drains: Mill Lane. Notwithstanding receiving yet another advice from Essex Highways that work has been undertaken to address problems previously reported, the said drains remain blocked with no evidence of any work being undertaken. I have again lodged yet another report (ref 2508207) via the Highways Web Site.

Cllr Everitt reported.
Michael Lambert has cleared the footpath for which he has responsibility.
Three footpath signs have been replaced on Brickhouse Road.

Cllr Orrow a member of the Courtauld Memorial Hall Committee reported that the Committee had decided to press on with an application for a 5 year extension to its temporary permission to keep the demountable building (the Jubilee extension).

The Clerk ran through his report.

14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Consider Unsung Hero nominations and decide on winner.

15) DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

13th April 2017

Cllr Barnard thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed……
Chairman of the Parish Council Date: 13th April 2017