Colne Engaine Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE ON LINE COLNE ENGAINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH MARCH 2021.

IN THE CHAIR: **CLLR T EVERITT**

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

CLERK: **T ROOTSEY**

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

District Cllrs Spray & Courtauld sent apologies as they both had to attend the same AGM.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

Cllr Barnard declared an interest in item 4 as he holds a lease on the phone box opposite the Five Bells.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Gordon Brown of Earls Colne attended to talk about the possible refurbishment of telephone boxes. He had arranged with Earls Colne PC the refurbishment of a K6 telephone box for use as a book exchange which he said had been a great success. He used the services of three local tradesmen for the refurbishment at a cost of around £200. He had seen the two boxes in this village and commented that one was in poor repair and the other in reasonable condition. He added that if CEPC was interested he would be happy to be involved to help develop one.

4. DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE RENOVATION OF THE TWO VILLAGE TELEPHONE BOXES. *DECISION REQUIRED*

There has been interest in using the box opposite the Five Bells to house not only the existing defibrillator on the pub wall but also a new generation version. Whilst the new version works at any temperature it is more effective at 5 degrees C and as there is electricity in the box a small heater could be installed to maintain that minimum temperature. If the defibrillator were to go in the box the method of access would need to be looked at. There was a concern raised that the church currently ran a book swap as a fund raiser. It was felt that we would not wish to compete with the church. In the meantime the box at Countess Cross is in a very poor state of repair and the Clerk should investigate who is responsible for repairs.

RESOLVED: Defer a decision on this matter until more information was available.

PROPOSED: Cllr Everitt SECONDED: Cllr Orrow unanimous

5. UPDATE REPORT FROM COMMUNITY SPECIAL CONSTABLE TOWNSEND–

Special constable Spike Townsend reported that he has worked 92.25 hours this year. He went to Earls Colne school to check on the parking and congestion issues. He has been speaking to Julie Sarti the head of CE school and will check on those issues there. He was asked about the theft of a catalytic converter from the car park he said that the village does not have an underlying crime issue. Crime is sporadic and usually overnight. He questions the value of crime prevention measures. "Nottingham Knockers" had been active in Earls Colne and he urged that residents reported them to the police on 101 before they shared it on Facebook. He suggested that perhaps the PC could have a dedicated Facebook page to keep residents informed of this type of issue and perhaps a report in the Parish magazine quarterly. Cllr Barnard suggested that Spike educated the public with a regular piece in the Parish magazine.

6. **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS, IF PRESENT, TO ADDRESS THE MEMBERS** – *FOR INFORMATION*

Cllr Beavis reported that BDC had confirmed that they were freezing their portion of the Council Tax for 2021/22. Essex County Council were increasing their portion by 1.5% and the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner an increase of 5% which was destined for the front line.

As a County Cllr she felt that she was working hard on highways matters to make the best of a bad job as the deeper she dug the worse it seemed to be. The system seemed to be very disjointed. The thing that has worked well, was the jetting of the drains.

Social distancing was still the key to reducing Covid 19 infections.

At the budget the local highways panel would receive additional funding of £400,000 in each of the next 4 years which would enable some smaller projects to be brought

forward. A speed survey is to be instituted by Greenstead Green PC in the back roads leading to Colne Engaine.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 11TH FEBRUARY 2020.– *DECISION REQUIRED*

RESOLVED: The minutes were a true record of the meeting

PROPOSED: Cllr Orrow SECONDED: Cllr Taylor unanimous

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS – *DECISION REQUIRED.*

a) Financial statements for February 2021.

b) Items per February 2021 payment schedule to be approved and paid on-line.

c) Approve reconciliations of both bank accounts

d) Budget information as at 28th February 2021 as prepared by Clerk.

e) Review Earmarked Reserves.

f) Agree which Cllr to approve payments on-line.

RESOLVED: Items a) to e) are correct and payments can be paid on-line. Cllr Barnard agreed to approve the payments on-line.

PROPOSED: Cllr Barnard SECONDED: Cllr Orrow unanimous

9. PLANNING APPLICATION 21/00194/HH PROPOSED TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION – 41 PEBMARSH ROAD CO6 2HD – *DECISION REQUIRED.*

RESOLVED: The members had no objections

PROPOSED: Cllr Barnard SECONDED: Cllr Orrow unanimous

10. PLANNING APPLICATION 21/00273/OUT OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED FOR THE ERECTION OF AN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS DWELLING AT HOME FARM LAWSHALLS HILL CO6 2HU

RESOLVED: The members had no objections subject to the new building being earmarked as an agricultural dwelling tied to the farm

PROPOSED: Cllr Taylor SECONDED: Cllr Barnard unanimous

11. PLANNING APPLICATION 21/00436/OUT OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED FOR ERECTION OF A SINGLE-STOREY DWELLING HOUSE AT LAND ADJACENT TO MILLBROOKS FARM

RESOLVED: The Members objected to this application as it was outside the village envelope, appeared to be an example of greenfield development and they could see no mitigating circumstances whatsoever to build a house in this location.

PROPOSED: Cllr Everitt SECONDED: Cllr Taylor. unanimous

12. DISCUSS PROTECTED LANES STATUS WITHIN THE VILLAGE… *-DECISION REQUIRED.*

This matter is to be deferred to a future meeting when the Braintree District Councillors are present.

13. **CLLR WARWICK TO REPORT ON PROGRESS REGARDING THE NEW CYCLE WAY AND HIS MEETING WITH EARLS COLNE PC.** *FOR INFORMATION AND DECISION IF REQUIRED.*

The route between Coggeshall and Kelvedon had been agreed and it seemed that the various landowners were keen to talk. Discussions had taken place with Marks Hall Estate regarding the route for Coggeshall to Earls Colne, they had identified this as a key project for the next year. They would like a metalled access all the way across their land which would be more expensive. They have an expert fund raiser to help with this. Braintree District Council strategic plan has made progress on their future proposition of which cycling would be a part. They are also putting together an action plan now to run alongside so that once it has gone through the action plan would be in place. Mention of the cycle ways appears in the Open Spaces Action Plans for the councils currently involved. Funding for quiet lanes agreed an additional £400,000 year on year. There was talk about the route down Station Road to Elms Hall Road and that Earls Colne PC suggested the need for a 30mph limit all the way down but Nigel had doubts about that and it was a question that needed to be asked. He said he would type up his notes regarding his meeting with Earls Colne PC and circulate them before the next meeting.

14. **RECEIVE UPDATE ON POSITION WITH THE COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR AND THE CURRENT LIST OF AUTHORISED OPERATORS .**-*DECISION REQUIRED*

The Townland trust has agreed to utilise the rental income from Little Bowcroft field to organise defibrillator training which Adrian Gasser is organising and to update the list of authorised users as well as possible upgrading the defibrillator. It would enable Adrian to take control which is considered the best way forward.

No resolution or vote required.

15. REVIEW FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE PROPOSED REDUCTION IN GRASS CUTTING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS AND AGREE LOCATION FOR THIS INITIATIVE WITHIN THE VILLAGE.

The proposal is to use the western triangle of Booses Green which is about 1000 square meters with one full first cut in March and the last in October. The idea being to allow wild flowers and seeds to grow naturally and hopefully provide a more favourable habitat for invertebrates and pollinators. Julie Sarti the head of the village school is keen on this as it fits with her teaching at the school and Essex Wildlife Trust have discussed a mini beast hunt on the site assuming the Council agrees. It has been suggested that some signs be produced one idea being “pardon our weeds they are for the bees” and Cllr Barnard is minded to ask Julie Sarti to get the children to produce some art work. Cllr Messenger suggested that perhaps someone could produce something that could be put on the village Facebook page. Cllr Barnard had received 15 positive messages and one negative on aesthetic grounds.

RESOLVED: Reduce grass cutting as above on the western triangle of Booses Green

PROPOSED: Cllr Barnard SECONDED: Cllr Orrow. unanimous

16. CONSIDER OFFER OF HARDCORE TO BE INTRODUCED TO THE SURFACE OF THE . FOOTPATH (NORTHERN END ONLY BEFORE PATH EMERGES INTO FIELD) RUNNING FROM VILLAGE GREEN TO BRICK HOUSE ROAD.

RESOLVED: It was felt that this was a matter for Essex Highways and therefore the offer was turned aside.

PROPOSED: Cllr Barnard SECONDED: Cllr Warwick. Unanimous

17. <u>PERSONNEL MATTERS</u> – *FOR INFORMATION*

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE WORKER: MR C RACZI – UPDATE
Mr Raczi continues to do a good and conscientious job.

CLERK: MR T ROOTSEY – *UPDATE*
Clerk said that it had been another busy month but all was ticking over well

18. <u>HIGHWAYS</u> – *FOR INFORMATION AND DECISION IF APPROPRIATE.*

Consider any matters that need attention.

Cllr Orrow reported that some drains on Brook Street were blocked with leaves and other detritus. Cllr Beavis will take it forward.

Cllr Taylor mentioned there was a huge amount of water on a bend in Pebmarsh Road near to Booses Green where vehicles were driving fast on the wrong side of the road to avoid it and in the process had caused near head on collisions. There was also a large hole in the road near to her house. Cllr Beavis asked for more detail to be forwarded to her.

19. <u>TO RECEIVE CHAIRMAN'S BRIEFING, CLERKS REPORT & COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.</u> *FOR INFORMATION* (The Clerk's report has been circulated prior to the meeting for all Members to read).

Cllr Orrow attended a Braintree Association of Local Councils meeting on 25th February. The committee are committed to getting this going and 75% of Parish Councils have shown an interest. The proposal is for an annual subscription which should be no more that £40 a year and consideration was being given to adjusting this on the basis of per capita residents. The plan is to look at issues that affect everyone and to have four meetings a year.

20. <u>FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS</u> –

Protected Lanes

Phone Box/defibrillator

Planting trees

21. <u>DATE FOR NEXT MEETING</u> – *8th April 2021*

Councillor Everitt thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 21.47 .

Minutes approved by unanimous vote Item 7 meeting 8th April 2021