



## Little Braxted Parish Council

---

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Little Braxted Parish Council held at the Braxted Bakery, Witham Road on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: French, Speakman and Yeates

**Also present:** One member of the public

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Barke and Jepson.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Yeates declared an interest in item 8 as a Director of a company extracting gravel at other sites in Essex. No other Councillors had any interests in matters on the agenda.

#### **3. To Consider any requests from Members for Dispensations**

The Council considered a request from Councillor Yeates for a dispensation to enable her to participate on the item in which they have a pecuniary interest, and agreed that she could remain, speak and vote on all future issues regarding Colemans Farm Quarry.

#### **4. To Agree and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The Council agreed and approved the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as a true record.

#### **5. To Invite Members of the Public to speak on Matters Regarding and Affecting the Parish**

A member of the public spoke in opposition to planning application ESS?36/21/BTE, citing the impact of the additional vehicle movements, the loss of the bio-diverse habitat which was to have been delivered on the conclusion of the original quarry works, the potential flood risk from importing and backfilling voids, and reminded the Council that the original application for the quarry had scored badly in the original site assessment matrix but had been approved because of the planned uplift in bio-diversity, which was now unlikely to occur.

**6. To receive a Financial Statement as of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

The Council received and approved a financial statement as of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 including detailed income and expenditure, budget comparisons and a bank reconciliation supported by a bank statement, showing total funds as £9,532.59.

**7. To Approve the following payments:-**

The Council approved the following payments which were signed at the meeting:-

<b>Document Reference</b>	<b>Payable To</b>	<b>In Respect of</b>	<b>£</b>
647	SALC	Internal Audit Fee	£189.60
648	H Bendall	Litterpicking	£54.04
649	G N Mussett	Clerk's Salary	£96.33
650	BHIB	Insurance Renewal	£320.78

**8. To Comment on Planning Application ESS/36/21/BTE for proposed western extension to the current site using existing approved facilities (site access, plant site, mineral processing plant and other ancillary facilities); including for the diversion of the Burghey Brook; with restoration to arable land using imported inert restoration materials, and on-site materials in advance of the A12 road widening and improvement national infrastructure project - Land at: Colemans Farm Quarry, Little Braxted Lane, Rivenhall**

The Council agreed to object to Planning Application ESS/36/21/BTE for proposed western extension to the current site using existing approved facilities (site access, plant site, mineral processing plant and other ancillary facilities); including for the diversion of the Burghey Brook; with restoration to arable land using imported inert restoration materials, and on-site materials in advance of the A12 road widening and improvement national infrastructure project - Land at: Colemans Farm Quarry, Little Braxted Lane, Rivenhall as follows:-

- a) The site is not contained within the current Minerals Plan policy
- b) As the pre-application advice to the applicant (page 15) states (and restates later on a number of occasions) the sand/gravel which may lie under the surface cannot be claimed to be in danger of being sterilised by the proposed A12 as the route of the new A12 is not yet out to formal public consultation
- c) Should the A12 eventually cross the site such aggregates as lie beneath the site may best be used for on-site construction of the A12 at that time
- d) There is no evidence that, should this permission be granted, and the A12 route subsequently approved across this site, that the minerals can be extracted without delaying the construction of the A12 (With lorry movements taking aggregate from site remaining at 75 outward movements per day, even if no

other aggregate or concrete mix was taken from site, it would take nearly 2.5 years to extract and export all the implied 500,000 tons because of the limitation already on the site of a maximum extraction of 225,000 tons/annum).

- e) With the current extraction limit on the existing site any extension at this stage can only result in a future need to extend the overall quarry life, to the detriment of the fauna, flora and nearby residents
- f) The local traffic network (particularly for vehicles travelling to the west – Braintree and beyond - or the East – Tiptree/Maldon) cannot cope with an additional 330 lorry movements
- g) The adjoining quarry was only narrowly included in the Minerals Plan because of the claimed extensive improvement in bio-diversity which would be likely to occur; the proposed importation of inert waste will not only impact upon the current habitats but make it less likely that the projected improvement will occur
- h) There is no clear indication of how the dust, already visible on hedges surrounding the current quarry, will be contained on the new extension, nor on the infilling process which, to comply with EA guidance requires physical separation of some solids
- i) This extension to the west brings the quarry closer to the neighbouring property across the A12 and without the benefit of established hedging is likely to impact on that property
- j) Without adequate screening the sight of the works immediately adjacent to the A12 is likely to be a driver hazard
- k) The need to line the voids with clay to prevent any leaching of the imported inert waste will have an impact on the ability of the site to absorb rainfall, leading to potential flooding issues both on the site and in the river, especially impacting upon the cottages and other properties.

## 9. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.25pm