

Colney Heath Parish Council



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MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT COMMUNITY ROOM VILLAGE HALL 83 HIGH STREET COLNEY HEATH AL4 0NS ON THURSDAY 4th DECEMBER 2014 at 7.45pm

Present:- Cllr K Barnes Chair M Nash-Vice Chair-Cllr D Crump-*Cllr C Brazier-

Cllr P Cook-*Cllr J Day. Note-Currently in Council there is one new member Vacancy

*(District Council members also)

Clerk: Mr J E Dean-Present at meeting

Deputy Clerk-

County Members attending:- Cllr D Gordon

Public Attendance: Ms Gill Moody-Jeff Lewis

1555 APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr K Barnes Chair welcomed everyone to the December meeting, and announced that he sought member's views about holding the Part II after this as some members had suggested a separate meeting. It was resolved after a short deliberation the meeting is re-scheduled to Monday 15th December at 7.45pm in the community room. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr D Horner and Cllr R Solts, apologies received from Deputy Clerk at school evening.

1556 DECLARATIONS

Cllr Barnes suggested he might have a planning declaration; however, Cllr Nash reminded the meeting the particular application had gone by the time line. The Clerk agreed but said he will note in the minutes.

No other declarations were made but with an opportunity to members during the meeting.

1557 APPROVAL MINUTES FULL COUNCIL MEETING 6th NOVEMBER 2014

Minutes were read by page and were accepted, the document was subsequently approved as correct and **resolved**.

Proposed; - Cllr D Crump

Seconded; -Cllr M Nash

1558 APPROVAL OF PART II MINUTES 6th NOVEMBER 2014

Minutes were accepted; the document was subsequently approved as correct and **resolved**.

Proposed; - Cllr D Crump

Seconded; -Cllr C Brazier

1559 APPROVAL of PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES 19th NOVEMBER 2014

Minutes were accepted & the document was subsequently approved as correct and resolved.

Proposed; - Cllr P Cook

Seconded; -Cllr M Nash

1559 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Crump thought it a good idea to get the police reports from the two recent accidents in the area, Smallford Bridge and High Street the Clerk agreed to check with the police.

1560 THE PARISH WEB SITE

Members were satisfied with the site it had built up to be quite a useful information source. Cllr Nash suggested we put the minutes out earlier in a draft format; the Chair spoke about the procedure for approval first. The Clerk said he would speak to the DC for guidance. Cllr Cook advised that a watermark with the word "draft" could be included to differentiate. At this point, it was suggested that our Parish Matters could go on the web site for public interest. Cllr Barnes wanted to thank Cllr Brazier for stepping in at the last minute to do the parish matters when Cllr Barnes was unable to do them in time of the deadline.

FINANCE

1561 APPROVAL OF CHEQUES AND PAYMENTS DECEMBER 2014

The Clerk presented a report to members and explained the financial details to the meeting. The Cheques this month amounted to £13,513.83. This included a Section 38 Public Notice to go in a local newspaper regarding our application to PINS for grazing on the Furze Field.

Proposed by; - Cllr M Nash

Seconded by; - Cllr D Crump

PLANNING COMMITTEE

1562 GENERAL PLANNING REPORT

Cllr Nash reported to the meeting, checking members had received the list of applications.

1563 PLANNING LISTS APPLICATIONS-RECOMMENDATIONS & REFUSALS

Contents of the planning list presented to all members debated; observations made were that members had no real issues with the planning applications presented. It was reported that the District Council Planning Committee had refused the "Oaklands" development; more details as to why- will emerge when SADC committee minutes are available. The main issue according to District Council members, Cllr Brazier-Cllr Day was the Green Belt policy.

1564 CURRENT PINS APPEALS & PUBLIC INQUIRY LISTED

Cllr Nash reported this time there was no reports to present to members.

1565 DRAFT STRATEGY-ST ALBANS LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

The Clerk reported the extended deadline of 28th November for our letter and comments to SADC was met it is to be put on the web site in due course for the public to see.

1566 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

With reports on recent meetings, Project Manager Jeff Lewis reported the latest detail to council bringing them up to date whilst looking forward into further subjects that need to be looked at, also to begin assembly for the first draft expected in April 2015. The written report noted, containing the detail and facts of the more recent meetings including the workshop at Oaklands more recently, which several council members attended. Cllr Cook was seeking some clarification from Jeff Lewis on certain points from that meeting in particular about

Highfield. Group and efforts in trying to get more residents engaged. In the short exchange, following it was put forward Jeff Lewis has a review of progress and steering panel set up by January. Further debate on the qualification of those who should be on that group or chosen to sit was debated, suggesting that just eight persons be involved. Jeff Lewis agreed to speak initially with each chair of the committees and come up with a list to put forward. It was suggested the Clerk and Project Manager plus Chair Cllr Barnes of CHPC remain ex-officio within project life span. The Chair Cllr Barnes said it was important the parish made that final decision and not the council. It was after all their Neighbourhood Plan to influence the right policies for residents. Member of one group Mrs Falk wanted to thank the council, via the Chair, the project manager and the parish office for the foresight and budget taking the plan forward. Adding whilst it imposed a great deal of additional work, at the end it will result in Colney Heath becoming just that bit stronger towards developers with the outcome of an established and recognised plan within the district. Jeff Lewis advised the two survey reports will go on the web site. He also spoke briefly about the nearby Sandridge Parish Plan and their progress that may eventually link with ours on the joint boundaries. Whilst adding there is many more different or intrinsic mix of circumstances attached to their designated areas than ours in Colney Heath, with its more urban/rural diversity. Cllr Crump wanted to see policies in the plan, which met with our expectations and came from the residents input or from the reports. The Smallford Station Project was reported briefly, by Jeff Lewis. This is a separate issue but one of great importance to the locality with good support. Clearance of the platform through CMS and volunteer group is being arranged in the new-year alongside other supportive work to the Alban Way.

1567 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions

1568 PARISH REPORTS AVAILABLE

Copies of the parish reports at available at meeting of Parish Warden and Ranger.

1569 HIGHWAYS GENERAL REPORT

Cllr Brazier reported about the theft of batteries from the temporary traffic lights equipment at Smallford Bridge after an accident, which severely damaged the wall. It had since caused congestion and chaos to motorists as it was a popular short cut. Temporary lights and one-way traffic controls are in place. The works have started with contractors repairing the old brickwork, this is expected to take up to five weeks to complete and continued disruption. The police were aware of the battery thefts, and this council has requested an increase in patrols at the site.

Cllr Gordon was invited by the Chair to comment about the Longabout issue after hearing comments from a highways officer about the T.L trials planned in March 2015. Cllr Gordon confirmed with comments on the arrangements this was going ahead for five weeks. Whilst disappointing to the parish, at not being much earlier, the trials are aimed at gathering data about the traffic movements. Conclusions should show just how important this singular highway safety issue is about getting the priority it deserves. Vehicle movements especially emerging from Station Road and Colney Heath High Street into the fast stream of the A414 traffic remain, it is a dangerous, hazardous, crossing path to negotiate in complete safety. Cllr Barnes brought up the subject of the Toucan Crossing in Highfield Lane in response to a funding question posed by Cllr Gordon. He assured Cllr Gordon this is in mind to review in our forthcoming budgets meeting. Where council need act is to finalise the suggestions for the HCC 2015-16 HLB-(Highways Locality Budget) most probably a large portion on this.

ENVIRONMENT

1570 OPEN SPACES & ENVIRONMENT ALLOTMENTS and BUILDINGS

With complaints, coming in about the uncultivated plots and brambles the Clerk is seeking about £800 CHPC grant for works and bring the plots back to a manageable position for new holders to take over. The Clerk reminded it is inevitable vacant plots will be offered to the District Council lists to get things back to regular cultivation. Plot holders who have not yet cultivated are to be put on notice, if not done forfeit their licence to hold a plot in April 2015.

1571 COMMON LAND RECREATION LAND & PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Members were concerned the container stored on the area next to the pavilion has been the subject of an enforcement action by SADC and has reached the stage of time limitation.

In order to avoid enforcement action and potential fine CHFC need to do something about the application. Cllr Brazier has taken the matter up separately from the parish council with the Planning at SADC hoping to get acceptance. He believes it has been on site for over 4 years and so therefore may not need planning permission. Matters of the white lining were debated, the last invoice had been paid reluctantly, but council did not want to continue this. Cllr Brazier reported on the matter from the last club monthly meeting, he said they were expecting the service to be paid for. In the search for proof of any past arrangements, the Secretary had found a letter from CHPC confirming we offered this service. The Clerk then suggested the matter is debated at the budget meeting, The Chair agreed and moved on. In response to questions from members, questions on the progress of grazing and fencing on Furze Field the Clerk advised that our Sect 38 notice was pending in the hands of PINS. Reminding council that finding a contractor and executing the clearance to Furze Field, caused a delay of 9 months. It was now getting into the last stages with a public notice to go in the Herts Advertiser will coming up in next weeks. This is a procedural requirement of the S38 qualification so we can prove this to PINS that adequate public consultation has taken place. It is being put in Chronicle and will be on the web site for maximum publicity.

Cllr Nash spoke about attending the Lafarge Liaison meeting and supporting the application for seeking a grant towards fencing, the Clerk had a written an earlier request to Lafarge. The budget is £10,000 but with DEFRA grant of £2400 we will need to find the remainder. Land Fill Tax the target of a grant aid application via the firm, available to local Biodiversity Projects we should qualify. The Clerk will follow up in the new-year with the area manager. The Clerk informed the meeting about progress on the ditching works for the Common, off Park Lane/Hawthorns and Church Lane. He is meeting with the contractor next week and will produce an estimate for the budget meeting on 15th December. The works need attention due to the sapling weed and bramble growth in the ditch and for flood prevention. The Chair said council needs to decide some action, the Clerk also informed the meeting the boundary may be unclear, years ago where clearance done by others according to some residents. We may not be entirely responsible beyond the kerb line of Park Lane, adjacent to Cllr Nash property; we may need to establish our responsibilities with land maps. Council agreed it was important works as residents had canvassed the office and some members to be done. The meeting agreed, we need to be quite clear if we agree for us to do the works that a precedent or expectation for the future is not set. That it is firmly understood whilst the land might not be part of the common, this a goodwill gesture from the council to combine with further general concurrent commons ditching works.

1572 HIGHFIELD PARK TRUST

Trust member Cllr K Barnes spoke about the successful apple day that went ahead on the weekend 4th 5th October, he reported the popular event had completely sold out.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

1573 COMMUNITY BUS

In the absence of Cllr Horner, the Clerk gave a brief report.

1574 VILLAGE HALL

With Cllr Horner absent the Clerk gave a brief report.

1575 TREASURE TOTS

Cllr Horner apologies, the Clerk gave a brief overview of progress whilst reminding members about the JMI recently announced decision to start a nursery intake from age 3 years from September 2015. This is a subject for our budget meeting now rescheduled for 15th December regarding Treasure Tots and the implications of our own operation.

1576 ADMINISTRATION-INFORMATION-CORRESPONDENCE-& REPORTING

1577 INFORMATION & PARISH REPORTS AVAILABLE IN APPENDIX 2

Members had noted the reports, none of which has any further issues.

1578 MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL

It was noted where members who had attended meetings have reported in the items earlier.

1579 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had progressively reported to the Chair any incoming correspondence to items in the agenda list. One item left about from a resident about inconvenient parking at the rear of Tollgate Road in Fellows Lane from an overspill of residents cars, from Jasmine Court was beyond the powers of council. Whilst sympathetic to a nuisance and parking near garage access we have no powers to prevent this occurring. The resident can make a complaint to the housing trust at the District they may act with a warning but equally cannot enforce.

1580 PARISH MATTERS OFFICE AND CHRONICLE

The Winter Edition had been published in time on the day of the meeting, the Clerk advised the council the Editor was sticking strictly to the deadlines in order that gathering of the copy was not delaying the publishing date. This will be the sequence in future and deadline dates are available in the magazine. Adding the parish financial report was in this edition and in line with our procedure of publishing after audit is completed and approved. The Clerk had published the details in Chronicle of the parish office closure over Christmas and New Year. Adding that the office will be visited twice by staff during the holiday to purely to check any planning notices or important matters needing urgent attention. All e-mails and other post will be opened on return unless seen as urgent. This arrangement had worked satisfactory in past years. *Office closed 12 noon 19th December-2014 reopen 5th January 2015 at 9.15am.*

1581 MEMBERS QUESTIONS OR LATE MATTERS

The Clerk reported about a rustic hardwood memorial seat from a benefactor, after the death of a lifetime resident in Colney Heath. It is to be placed on the common, we are in touch with the family who intend to pay and grant the seat over to CHPC. One further seat has been ordered following a request from Barnet Ramblers. A decision on the best location to follow or is now open to members suggestions to the parish office please. We will install in the new-year once we have spoken to the family and council approve the location.

Clerk Report-legal issue.

Members informed of a legal action on land acquired by the council to serve a notice as checked by our lawyers, this is being displayed on Friday 5th December 2014.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full council meeting takes place at 7.45pm Thursday 8th January 2015 this time at the Charles Morris Hall. Finally, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and wished those

members of the public attending Seasons Greetings. Members also took away the biscuit allocation for distribution to the residents where households are over 65 years of age.

The meeting closed at-21.50hrs

John Dean

Clerk to the Council

Note-Planning listing is not included in the minutes-please refer to the appendix list

Disclaimer-The Minutes are in draft- format until agreed and approved at the next full council meeting. No facts or expression matters here in any way so noted considered final until the Chair signs the document. Our publication of the minutes are in good faith for public information and should not be taken as a full statement of fact unless properly supported by evidence or documentation-No copies can be taken without the written permission of Chair or Clerk. No electronic scanning or transmission allowed other than by the office or produced on our web site. **NOTE**-Appendices that were already part of the agenda (are not repeated here) -Planning Appendix 1 In addition, Papers for member's attention Appendix 2 available on request to the office