

Colney Heath Parish Council



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5th MARCH 2015

MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT COMMUNITY ROOM VILLAGE HALL 83 HIGH STREET COLNEY HEATH AL4 0NS ON THURSDAY 5th MARCH 2015 at 7.45pm

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

*Cllr J Day- Cllr D Horner-Note-Currently in Council there is one new member Vacancy

*(District Council members also)

Clerk: Mr J E Dean-Present at meeting

Deputy Clerk-Apologies

County Members attending; - Cllr D Gordon

Public Attendance: Jeff Lewis-Project Manager-Mrs G Moody-Mr Mrs Falk-Mrs N Taffs

1651 APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Cllr K Barnes welcomed everyone to the March meeting whilst adding there will be a Part II to the procedure at about 9.30pm. There were apologies given for this meeting by Cllr Solts which was accepted and noted.

1652 DECLARATIONS

No declarations on this agenda, an opportunity remains for members if appropriate in the topics presenting at this meeting.

1653 APPROVAL MINUTES FULL COUNCIL MEETING 5th February 2015

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

Proposed; - Cllr C Brazier

Seconded; -Cllr P Cook

1654 APPROVAL MINUTES of PART II COUNCIL MEETING 5th February 2015

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

Proposed; - Cllr C Brazier

Seconded; -Cllr P Cook

1655 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There are no matters arising from the February minutes

1656 PARISH WEB SITE

The Clerk reported he is waiting for the analysis from the webmaster regarding hits and detail of the particular site headings.

1657 APPROVAL OF STANDING ORDERS & CODE OF CONDUCT

Having provided each member with a copy of the above to read before the meeting it was proposed by Cllr Crump that council adopt the standing orders and Financial Regulations for the above year and to review again in May or June 2015.

Proposed; -Cllr D Crump

Seconded; -Cllr P Cook

1658 APPROVAL OF RISK ASSESSMENT

Having provided each member with a copy of the above to read before the meeting it was proposed by Cllr Nash that council adopt the standing orders and Financial Regulations for the above year and to review again in May or June 2015.

Proposed; -Cllr M Nash

Seconded; -Cllr C Brazier

1659 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed the usual refreshments of cheese & wine would be provided to enhance the annual parish meeting. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk confirmed they would provide the food & drinks within the budget for this yearly parish event.

1660 PARISH ELECTIONS

The Clerk explained the deadlines for those members wishing to offer themselves again for re-election; the question of an uncontested election was also explained. We have nine seats. Members were advised the office would be closed in line with past practise on 7th May whilst a polling station is in the building. Staff will be working from home that day and contactable.

FINANCE

1661 APPROVAL OF CHEQUES AND PAYMENTS MARCH 2015

The Clerk presented a report to members and explained the financial details to the meeting. The Cheques this month amounted to £11543.54.

Proposed by; - Cllr M Nash

Seconded by; - Cllr D Crump

Spending approval

The Chair Cllr K Barnes took this opportunity to remind all members other that all invoices need to be presented to council, as a whole and in future members should individually avoid any procurement or authorisation of contractor services or payments. The only procedure is the parish office deals with all incoming financial matters to present to council at the monthly meeting for their approval. The Clerk must agree all invoices, jobs, or procurement.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

1662 GENERAL PLANNING REPORT

Cllr Nash reported to the meeting, a resubmission application was now in for Fredericks Wood Application no-5/2015/0274 suggesting that it was much the same plan as before. It was advised by Cllr Brazier that SADC had received a poor consultation response to the SLP with just over 6000 returns; this fact had also been reported in the local newspaper.

1663 PLANNING LISTS APPLICATIONS-RECOMMENDATIONS & REFUSALS

Members in debate accepted to send our observations along with the other comments from the meeting are forwarded to SADC in the usual format after the meeting. It was also proposed and agreed to hold a planning advisory committee meeting on 9th April in the community room from 7.45pm when all other current applications can be determined.

1664 CURRENT PINS APPEALS & PUBLIC INQUIRY LISTED

At this time, there were no other reports to present. Other than the Welwyn & Hatfield consultation, reply available to see.

1665 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Clerk advised the meeting the RM freepost licence is renewed for another year. Project Manager Jeff Lewis reported with a copy of the latest information to each member. He also reported about the maps we requested from Struan Power were useful to the groups to noting future planning issues that are raised. We also have available a LR licence option via the parish council which needs looking into further. The "Cadcorp" mapping is to be Presented for discussion at the APM. Cllr Crump put forward that development ideas to be considered at our steering committee should discussed at an early stage with the Strategic Planning at SADC in the first instance. Jeff Lewis mentioned about the directive from the Secretary of State regarding removing beurocracy and he had written to Anne Main MP and circulated the reply.

There had been an excellent visit to BRE on the sustainable homes project being considered by the strategic committee. Jeff Lewis is trying to arrange a workshop in April at Oaklands College the outcome is intending delivering a way forward.

Smallford Pits, letters to HCC remains unanswered Jeff Lewis is pressuring for a response The Alban way GAP plan is progressing with CMS taking charge through county funding. Dates for meetings with the various committees were also exchanged with members. It was agreed a resolution to protect the Neighbourhood Plan for the 2015-16 parish year and any new council deciding to deviate from the agreed procedure in this council session.

Resolution

1. The format of the Neighbourhood Plan will be based on the Chapter Headings as past agreed.
2. In Principle the recommendations of the Steering Group shall be considered by Council and, if approved, become additional to the resolution above
3. It is the aim of this Council to work closely with the St Albans District Council throughout the process of producing our NP by 2016 alongside Strategic Plan.
4. The matter of standing down or setting aside committees-shall be a decision taken at the appropriate time according to progress-completion of tasks. The steering group remains

Proposed;- Cllr P Cook

Seconded;-Cllr D Horner

1666 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY OR CIL-PLANNING LECTURE AT SADC

Cllr Cook attended along with the Clerk and Cllr Brazier where all reported on the informative lecture given by SADC invited Government speaker on 17th February. The details gave all present a very comprehensive overview of the new CIL, which largely replaces the Sect 106 monies for public use. Communities will benefit more directly in kind via the new levy where an approved Neighbourhood Plan is in place by up to 25%. The monies will be to provide infrastructure for community use primarily. Cllr Cook answered some questions from members about the outcomes and the Chair thanked those attending.

1667 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions save one from Mrs Falk.

1668 PARISH REPORTS AVAILABLE

Copies of the parish reports for members to see were made available at meeting of Parish Warden and Ranger.

1669 HIGHWAYS GENERAL REPORT

Cllr Gordon gave a report on the Longabout trial A414, adding we should know the results of the week traffic light experiment by May over the Highfield crossing. The Chair opened the debate about what figure CHPC were prepared to contribute towards the crossing from a past budget reserve for highway safety. In the debate, some members took alternative views and reminded of the past S106 allocations. It was proposed, the sum of £4,000 is granted.

Proposed; - Cllr P Cook

Seconded; - Cllr M Nash

ENVIRONMENT

1670 OPEN SPACES & ENVIRONMENT ALLOTMENTS and BUILDINGS

The contractor Mark Walker Landscapes has quoted £860 for the plot cultivation and weed control, which was accepted by council. The date of starting works will be left to contractor to achieve the best option re weather etc. All current allotment holders have been notified of their obligation regarding renewal and some have returned their plots, any vacant plots will now be offered to others. On another issue, Members agreed after debate more quotes are required for the tarmac path renewal works in Gloucester Park.

It was agreed to allow the use of Roestock Park for the summer activities programme for the children promoted by SADC, "1-Life" for one day per week in the summer holidays.

1671 COMMON LAND RECREATION LAND & PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Arrangements for The meeting with the football club regarding the lease will take place on Tuesday 24th March at the club premises. The Special Committee are to look into buildings and leases with Cllr Cook and Cllr Solts who agreed to attend on behalf of the council along with the Clerk. Cllr Cook reported to the council meeting by way of a spreadsheet the key facts that need to be examined by the committee at the meeting. This information will also be exchanged prior to the 24th March with secretary and CHFC managing representatives.

The Clerk updated members on the common's matters with our Section 38 request at PINS for approval. Public consultation is past and we await the outcome for fencing & grazing.

The Clerk advised the grass contract for this year had started and there was no increase in costs. Cllr Nash wanted to see the grass-cutting contract reviewed in our next year budget.

1672 HIGHFIELD PARK TRUST

Cllr Barnes had nothing to add about the transfer of play areas to CHPC at some stage a meeting between the Clerk and HPT Manager will define the issues. Monies will need to be available from SADC. The ROSPA safety report is due May to assess the equipment status before any further comment can be made about taking over the play areas by CHPC..

COMMUNITY REPORTS

1673 COMMUNITY BUS

Cllr Horner gave a brief report adding the passengers have increased by 30% there is also a problem with the step to allow elderly passengers easier boarding and alighting. The item is not functioning properly and does not retract. A temporary step is being offered to use but not entirely satisfactory with the volunteers unhappy about it and the safety aspects. The Clerk has since written to the organisers of the vehicle urging a repair immediately whilst offering solutions to do so. Cllr Gordon has intervened also offering financial support.

There are real safety issues to all in duty of care of passengers and volunteers.

1674 VILLAGE HALL

After debating the request from the CHVHC it was agreed regarding the request to extend the car park that applications for the S38 at PINS will be carried out by CHPC but after the current application for grazing is completed. Cllr Crump proposed and fully agreed by other members was that two applications running together was not a good idea. Also was clear that engineering works to the ground levels and perhaps a retaining bund might be required and that full plans should be made available to allow an application to succeed. Cllr Horner was asked to convey this to next managing committee meeting and perhaps seek some professional advice on the exact layout required with adequate drawings, together with the number of car parking bays etc. Cllr Horner raised the issue of the Trust Deed, where CHPC he was informed are taking legal advice after the District Council legal officer gave a series of strong recommendations to the Clerk. The Council have now engaged a specialist firm.

1675 HCC FUNDING FOR BUS SERVICES A PUBLIC CONSULTATION-SEMINAR

Details for the invitation to all members at Robertson House Stevenage on 12th March.

1676 TREASURE TOTS

Cllr Horner presented a brief report emphasising the crucial matter of intake changes with the JMI- Nursery taking more from us and how this may affect the future of the Pre School. We should know more about the allocations in late April from HCC Education Dept.

1677 ADMINISTRATION-INFORMATION-CORRESPONDENCE-& REPORTING INFORMATION & PARISH REPORTS AVAILABLE IN APPENDIX 2

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

1678 CHRISTMAS BISCUITS

Cllr Nash requested this report be deferred and the request was granted

1679 MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Horner reported having attended SADTPC committee meeting noting the debate issues of relevance to Colney Heath In particular the Longabout with a letter going to Highways to support our campaign for a safety review and permanent solution to the traffic hazards.

1680 CORRESPONDENCE

Other than issues raised, further correspondence was to bring to members attention to the matter of the used car sales parking issues where several High Street residents have made a formal complaint to the District Council. Complaints include huge transporters arriving to deliver vehicles and blocking the road whilst doing so.

1681 PARISH MATTERS OFFICE AND CHRONICLE

The parish magazine had been published on time and distribution under way. The Editor is looking for a person to take over the whole distribution task. The price increase was agreed and to start from 1st April 2015.

1682 LARKS IN THE PARKS

This is being organised by Cllr Brazier, who reported about attending the last organisers meeting with Jo Askam. The theme this year is an English Country Garden. The date is Sunday 28th June 12 noon to 5pm and will be held in Roestock Park.

1683 MEMBERS QUESTIONS OR LATE MATTERS

No matters to report this time.

1684 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full council meeting takes place at 7.45pm Thursday 14th May 2015 and is the ASM (Annual Statutory Meeting) where the new council begin their new term and to elect a new Chairperson at that meeting. The Clerk reminded all members about getting their nomination papers in to the District Office in time and by hand whilst asking for a receipt. Those who do not wish or intend to stand again cease being a member on 6th May and will not receive any further papers or business of the council.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. There now begins a Part II.

The meeting closed at-21.30hrs


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