

Colney Heath Parish Council



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MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT CHARLES MORRIS HALL TYTTENHANGER GREEN AL4 0RN ON THURSDAY 8th JANUARY 2015 at 7.45pm

Present:-Cllr M Nash-Vice Chair-Cllr D Crump-*Cllr C Brazier- Cllr P Cook-*Cllr J Day.
Cllr R Solts Cllr D Horner.

*(District Council members also)

Clerk: Mr J E Dean-Present at meeting

Deputy Clerk-Mrs Kim Parker-Mead

County Members attending:-

Public Attendance: Jeff Lewis-Project Manager-Mr M Rawlins-L&N Plan-Mr Mrs Falk

1590 APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Nash-Vice Chair took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the January meeting and taking the opportunity to wish everyone a happy new year. Apologies received and accepted from Chair Cllr K Barnes, and County Cllr D Gordon. In announcements, the Chair clarified the sequence of agenda to encompass the right point to debate the budget and Part II mins.

1591 DECLARATIONS

Cllr Brazier regarding accepting the Christmas Biscuits made declarations; other members in similar situations debated whether it was entirely necessary, as a District member Cllr Brazier felt it was correct. There remains an opportunity to members during the meeting to declare any further issues. A declaration from Cllr Cook over a recent planning application was noted.

1592 APPROVAL MINUTES FULL COUNCIL MEETING 4th December 2014

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

1593 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

In response to a request from Cllr Crump at the last meeting, the Clerk had not been able to get the police reports from the two recent accidents in the area, Smallford Bridge and High Street the Clerk agreed to check further with the police about obtaining them.

1594 THE PARISH WEB SITE

Cllr Brazier supported by Cllr Nash thought it was in order the Draft Minutes could be posted on the site, the Clerk had intended to check with Mr Lovelady on the legal issues. Cllr Nash

stated SDAC to put out certain draft minutes indicating with a watermark. The Clerk will look into fulfilling this request. It may mean a special place on the site. After viewing the hit results Cllr Solts wanted to drill down further into the particular hit items that people were looking at when visiting. The Clerk agreed to speak to the webmaster about obtaining this update.

FINANCE

1595 APPROVAL OF CHEQUES AND PAYMENTS JANUARY 2015

The Clerk presented a report to members and explained the financial details to the meeting. The Cheques this month amounted to £13,163.00.

Proposed by; - Cllr D Crump

Seconded by; - Cllr R Solts

1596 APPROVAL OF BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2015-16 PARISH YEAR

The Chair asked the Clerk (RFO) to speak on this matter and began with two sheets of information he explained in detail extracted from the budget meeting in December. Members were shown the expected way we can balance our books again over £200k and predicted expenditure during the forthcoming year. He also had set out the amount of grants and other revenue income we might receive giving a slight surplus with moderate use of reserves to service the parish cost centres adequately. It conclusion and unanimously agreed and was resolved that a precept request will be rounded off at an increase of just 1.02% and set at £171,200.00 (One Hundred and Seventy One Thousand Two Hundred pounds) Agreed at budget meeting. The Clerk has to inform the District Council by the end of the day on Friday 6th February 2014. A letter is to be despatched in the next few days to the Head of Finance SADC.

Proposed;-Cllr D Crump

Seconded;-Cllr R Solts

1597 APPROVAL OF GRANT AID- TO BE AWARDED in 2015-16

Members were able to see the list of applicants and agreed the grant awards payable in June 2015. Several being repeated as being reliant to fund running of events or important local associations and clubs such as Twinning and Old Friends Club, vital villages-for parish events, OAP lunch, and Larks. One new application for £500, a new project is to provide more information. All grants were considered and approved subject to the conditions of the powers council have to distribute. It was resolved to approve grant aid of £10,100 in total.

Proposed;-Cllr P Cook

Seconded:-Cllr R Solts

1598 APPROVAL PART II- BUDGET-PRECEPT MINUETS-15th DECEMBER 2014

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

Proposed; -Cllr D Crump

Seconded -Cllr R Solts

1599 CHRISTMAS BISCUITS

The debate had been precipitated by several members' observations noting adequate levels of lifestyle in some areas and perhaps not requiring a gift or hardly concerned if it was part of the parish annual present to all over pensionable age. Several members questioned if it was a proper use of public funds. Conversely, Cllr Brazier was strongly in favour of maintaining the gift and defended the fact that it was looked forward to, supported by the many cards of thanks and messages received by the office. A lively debate followed for some time with lots points put from by both sides of the divide. Cllr Nash had some concerns put to the meeting agreeing with the cost factor versus those receiving the gift. It is an annual tradition going back decades; Cllr Crump recalled past filling and distributing food boxes containing various seasonal items of groceries and goods, sourced, packed, and distributed but not biscuits.

In discussion, a point put by Cllr Solts suggested the overall cost with office time was about £1500 and questioned if it was worth abandoning, or leave alone but being more defined by seeking ways of being concise on the distribution quantity. We cannot discriminate rich or limited means, it has run for years and perhaps better to leave as it is was his conclusion.. In summing up, it was agreed Cllr Nash will report to council with analysis of observations in order to draw up a plan with the annual budgeted gift. A brief mention was made about overs, which Cllr Horner said often went to the women's refuge. The Clerk pointed out some deadlines for a decision in council the office had to meet over ordering, advertising a coupon and distribution. The Clerk also added that going back to choosing groceries it would add cost and more time even if the numbers were reduced down. Suggesting a list of local clubs & organisations that might help with a more precise list of those elderly persons qualifying with a bit more limited means if they decided on an alternative distribution list another year.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

1600 GENERAL PLANNING REPORT

Cllr Nash reported to the meeting, checking members had received the list of applications. Cllr Cook wanted to know more about the "calling in" process of applications that had some marginal issues. The District Members, said is a power they can use if an application has warrants further consideration by the committee or planning authority. Explained it is not a power bestowed on Parish Councils, but reviewed in committee if moved as controversial.

1601 PLANNING LISTS APPLICATIONS-RECOMMENDATIONS & REFUSALS

Contents of the planning list presented to all members debated; and any observations made were noted, which will be reported back to the planning authority at SADC. A brief debate on results of the Oaklands development, which was, refused by the District Council recently. A circular was received regarding a public exhibition on 28th January in a public house at the Three Horseshoes, of a proposed new development at Radio Nurseries for 25 dwellings, (no application filed) One other application at 5 Honeycroft Drive (5/2014/3432) which gave rise to members concerns over the proposed new building line; and street scene. The parish office will remit council observations to the planning authority for them to check any issues. Cllr Crump wanted to know more details about GB policy document sent from recent LGBGC reports to members of the group. The office will enquire further.

1602 CURRENT PINS APPEALS & PUBLIC INQUIRY LISTED

Cllr Nash reported currently that there were no reports to present to members.

1603 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Project Manager Jeff Lewis reported that planned meetings since the start of the New Year will progress during January with the Colney Heath Group on 14th and steering committee inaugural meeting on 21st. He reported on the workshops regarding the new RoW plans with Alban Way, and requirement to note assets of community value which will be looked into. A photo report could be done especially on those we already know about. Committee member Mike Rawlins presented a very good document that had examined the parish consultation and survey in detail sent to every household between last June and September. The booklet draft was considered professional and very well received by council and Mr Rawlins was thanked and congratulated for producing an excellent document. Cllr Cook said as a model for a future draft or final document it gave information and guidance to take as part of the Neighbourhood Plan to the local authority. It was agreed by all to take the analysis further and it will be examined in detail by the steering committee next meeting. Council also agreed this should be available to anyone who wants it, as a draft from the survey and be sent to the local authority available on our web site. (Draft only) to show residents the work so far.

It was strongly recommended that members take time to view other parish and town council Neighbourhood Plan reports to be found on their various web sites. The February council meeting will invite any further observations and comments to the plan from members with a dedicated debate allowing time for full consideration on the make-up and aspirations.

1604 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions

1605 PARISH REPORTS AVAILABLE

Copies of the parish reports for members to see were made available at meeting of Parish Gardener, Warden and Ranger. Issues were noted by members from reports.

1606 HIGHWAYS GENERAL REPORT

With little to report further Cllr Gordon, endeavouring to get the Highways Officer in charge of the plans to attend our next meeting in February and explain will cover the Longabout issue. It is planned that a supervised trial will take place in March for a short period to test highway safety issues and the outcome of proposed improvement plans.

ENVIRONMENT

1607 OPEN SPACES & ENVIRONMENT ALLOTMENTS and BUILDINGS

The Clerk was given delegated authority to call for estimates to deal with the weed and the problem of brambles taking over some plots. Those plots neglected and left uncultivated will be subject to inspection over next weeks and those noted obviously unattended will be subject to termination of tenancy and offered to new persons on the list. Council may also open the list to the district waiting applications. In the debate it was suggested the time and money spent so far by this council had not delivered full and dedicated use by some holders, therefore a more severe option to cease tenancy be used. It was also suggested in view of this problem of use and cultivation to hand over the whole amenity to the District Council. The matter of renewal of the tarmac public path was deferred to the next meeting; the cost here is likely to be in excess of £12,000 for quality and lasting professional works.

1608 COMMON LAND RECREATION LAND & PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Following on from item 1571 last meeting. Matters relating to the lease of the football club where a debate was prompted by Cllr Cook, who agreed to look at the various aspects of the current lease document since circulated to all members electronically. Cllr Nash remained concerned about the containers on site with the current enforcement issues surrounding this. Cllr Brazier attempted to dismiss the argument over permission requirements by offering to produce documents to verify it had been on site for 10 years. Cllr Nash photos dispute this. Cllr Solts was disappointed CHFC had sent a further bill for lining after the decision not to pay anymore. The Clerk was instructed to return the £100 invoice to the club with a note. The Clerk added that once the lease issues are resolved internally we should speak directly to representatives of the managing executive to reach agreements going forward. It was suggested a working group be now set up, Cllr's Nash-Cook-Solts put their names forward. Clerk has supplied an electronic copy of the lease to all councillors other files are available. The Clerk reported works had started on the common regarding the tree die back problem and public safety with risk of hanging branches,. About 61 trees are affected, but there appears to be more. The Contractor was requested to deal with them all and double check on other trees for safety issues, we sometimes get reports by residents and dog walkers. Members to note the original quotation will obviously increase. Ditch works are also being carried out at the same time near Heathside and Church Lane with instructions to remove any saplings if arising in the ditches. Council wished to point out the works at Heathside are a one off and in goodwill as part of an undefined land boundary or boundary, line part of which may not be entirely land owned by CHPC. In response to a member's question, the

Clerk confirmed the request for the Furze Field part of the common is progressing with PINS. This is for permission to fence. Grazing will follow once approval is clear. The consultation period and public notice ends 12th January 2015. Cllr Crump wanted to know about the capping on the borehole in Community Park, it was more obtrusive and left more prominent.

1609 HIGHFIELD PARK TRUST

No report this time with Cllr K Barnes sending apologies.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

1610 COMMUNITY BUS

Cllr Horner gave a brief report. The periodic invoice has just been paid for the hire fees.

1611 VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Horner gave a brief report. Cllr Cook who also added his comments also attended the meeting. Cllr Solts raised the matter of the buildings insurance, which runs alongside & with the entire parish insurance, currently negotiated by the parish council, and as a trustee.

1612 TREASURE TOTS

Cllr Horner again reported on the start of a new term. We had sufficient new attendees this time but significant numbers will be leaving in the summer. The JMI have confirmed their intent to intake from September 2015, to nursery, this having an impact on Treasure Tots. Parents get the choice and will obviously decide the best option for their children but it does not mean an automatic place into reception. Education requires parents to apply to schools.. Note-any Educational funding follows the child of the right age group & where applicable.

1613 ADMINISTRATION-INFORMATION-CORRESPONDENCE-& REPORTING **INFORMATION & PARISH REPORTS AVAILABLE IN APPENDIX 2**

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

1614 MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL

It was noted where members who had attended meetings have reported in the items earlier. On a forward matter, Cllr Brazier had a meeting with Mr Pendock of Lafarge arranged for 20th January requesting the Clerk attended. The matter is regarding trees on the A414.

1615 CORRESPONDENCE

An inquiry was made by the Open Spaces Society regarding Swans Pit-said to be in London Colney, after inquiries it seems we are not able to find out more. The Clerk had received an e-mail in pleading terms of a rather intense neighbourly issue. Suggesting that was beyond the powers of the parish council and suggested the matter is referred to SADC housing trust or maybe District Councillors might help. The Clerk informed council he was still chasing the lease renewal via Hedley's and Gascoigne regarding Michaels Pond.

1616 PARISH MATTERS OFFICE AND CHRONICLE

The next deadline for Chronicle is 1st February, the parish office will be meeting with the Editor soon after if members have any late matters to go in. Parish Matters will need the input of the Chair for this edition, "Beating of the Bounds" to go in with early note of Larks in Parks and date. Other reminders are Annual Parish Meeting in April at Charles Morris Hall. Cllr Brazier had presented an estimate for the parish council to pay for tree works at two locations in Colney Heath. After debate, a decision was the land where they stood is not our property but probably highways. Members all agreed the works were not our responsibility.

1617 MEMBERS QUESTIONS OR LATE MATTERS

In response to a question from Cllr Brazier, the Clerk clarified that any cards or personal gifts he had distributed to any staff were from his own personal funds and had nothing to do with the parish council accounts or monies. He explained, and having done so for many years in open meeting council accepted the explanation and the matter is closed.

1618 PLANS FOR LARKS IN THE PARKS 2015

The Deputy Clerk had spoken to the district organiser Jo Askam earlier giving warning of possibly not being able to hold the event. The matter of Larks in The Parks needed a members debate as some of the more long-standing members and other volunteers were unable to offer help this year. The parish office can continue to offer support. The event in Roestock Park is scheduled on 28th June 2015 with several other venues in the district too. A suggestion of missing a year was considered as the absence of some key volunteers and other volunteers past proving hard to recruit. Having also asked local Church and Scouts & Guides as a voluntary group. (Voluntary groups run most in the district) it might fail. After some deliberation, Cllr Brazier stepped forward and agreed to take it over with hopefully the remaining volunteers being able to help or others recruited. There was a first meeting-taking place on 12th January to which attendance was vital to take it forward. Cllr Brazier agreed to attend. The format for the event is long established there is lots of support via the district main event organiser. It is intense on the day, starting early at 9am setting up then opening at midday; any volunteers should be able to offer at least 8-10 hours plus the safety briefings. We have been running well-supported event for eight years now with 300 plus attending it will benefit from a fresh team and new input.

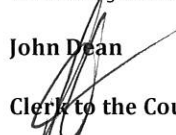
Clerk Report-legal issue.

With notice having been served on 5th January 2014 expiring on 24th December. The Clerk reported having met on 22nd December on site at Four Horseshoes land with the lawyer from D.O and at the person's request who is currently using the land to graze. A brief extension was granted of 14 days from 1st January 2015 to clear all possessions as being reasonable over the Christmas holiday period. The person occupying is still holding belief of legitimate title, which we asked to produce, papers. Those shown and readily available were not seen as appropriate. We informed we held legitimate title-in LR and the formal notice would stand. The Clerk was granted delegated powers to engage an RSPCA vet if the need arose. He was also given authority to engage survey services to GPS the exact boundary off OS mapping prior to establishing a new fence.

1619 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full council meeting takes place at 7.45pm Thursday 5TH February 2015 this time at Colney Heath Village Hall High Street Colney Heath AL4 0NS. Finally, the Chair Cllr Nash thanked everyone for attending and for the use of the Charles Morris Hall and arrangements on behalf of the management committee.

The meeting closed at-22.10hrs


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