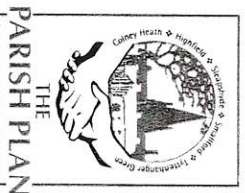


Colney Heath Parish Council



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05 MARCH 2009

MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH- FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD at the Village Hall Colney Heath AL4 0NS

—on THURSDAY-5TH MARCH 2009-7.30.pm

Present; - Chair-Cllr Brazier Vice Cllr Day -Cllr Horner-Cllr Crump-
Cllr Henchley-Cllr Reeves.

Clerk; Mr J E Dean

Public Attendance- Mrs J Moody-Mr D Becker-Residents of Colney Heath
Mr Peter Cook-Chris Driver-Chris Gowans-Highfield Park Residents Association

1.APOLOGIES -ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATIONS

The Chair Cllr Brazier asked for apologies; - these were received from Cllr Rump who was away on business- Cllr Lewis sent apologies being unwell, Cllr Henchley who was unable to attend due to the road closures on A414.-The taxi firm demanded an extra £40 for supplying a DDA taxi and the extra journey miles. He felt this was totally unjustified as he also asked HHWP for a dispensation to cross the road works but was refused. No declarations by members present on the matters contained in agenda. The Clerk confirmed to Chair if the meeting was quorate, with six members now present we are in order to proceed. Cllr Brazier welcomed residents from HPR.A.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the Full Council-15th January 2009

Proposed by Cllr D Crump

Seconded by Cllr D Horner

Minutes were agreed and signed by Chair Cllr Brazier as being correct.

2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes, other than to note no council meeting took place on 5th February 2009-cancelled due to bad weather-heavy snow. The Clerk said one important in finance-item 4 concerning postponed precept and its acceptance.

3 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN MAY BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Cllr Brazier had a meeting with Welwyn & Hatfield Borough Council about the plans to build 5000 new homes-part of their LDF-some on GB land. From this meeting he requested a public exhibition at Oaklands on 30th March 2pm-9pm to show the new LDF plans. Copies and details (Documents) are also held at the parish office for those who cannot attend the exhibition. Public Notices (Boards) out to inform the Parish. Cllr Brazier also wants to arrange more meetings on the Highfield side of the parish.

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12/5/09

3.1 Purchase of Gloucester Fields POS

The Chair reported the progress in that we hoped to complete the legal process by the end of March; he said the Clerk was dealing with final exchange process, via Solicitor and Public Works Loan Board after receiving the £30,000 loan into the bank. Several Councillors asked about intentions for the future of the land, Cllr Brazier said he hopes we can afford some play equipment in future, and allotment plots. The Chair also answered questions from the Highfield Park Residents Association. They were pleased council has purchased the open space it was a relief to residents in the area. Some other issues came out about land being hospital open space, probably going back a century, risk of contamination was minimal council had decided it was safe. The Clerk added with permission of Council he planned to instruct a surveyor soon to check the land to clarify any encroachments by openings or fencing now it was ours.

3.2 Legal Issues-Action Secretary of State over Planning Enquiry reversal

Cllr Brazier answered questions from members about the legal challenge, he said that the hearing was scheduled for 20th March, more legal papers had arrived to-day and he asked the Clerk to supply each member with a copy in the next post out. He was planning to attend the hearing with the Clerk which should be no more than one day. Cllr Reeves asked if we are to get any help from the DC, the Clerk is to check this as £1200 was promised. Clerk said further legal invoice account of £1743 has been paid.

3.3 Matters of Highfield and Hill End Area

Cllr Brazier said this was the opportunity for residents to bring matters before council. Issues of litter, a need for an extra litter bins in the area of Spar shop, plus the general litter existing in all areas is of concern in the big challenge of “A cleaner St Albans” The explanation of the rating and precept “Band D” percentages split over the entire parish was briefly discussed. Cllr Brazier had already passed details by e-mail to reply to earlier questions raised at October meeting. The adoption of play areas with more attention maintenance was another issue to resolve. Cllr Brazier said council will look into, as Section 106 money was passed for this. Also an official handover to Parish or Highfield Estate Administration, noting HHE looking after it when now retired Jon Ely was in charge. We need to define a forward plan. Cllr Brazier is conscious about the challenge to CHPC to take matters forward for HPPRA. He hoped CHPC has now proven the commitment over the purchase of Gloucester Fields. With keeping general grass maintenance up in the POS since loss of lease back in 1998. It was now firmly in PC hands, residents are assured any further development proposals are quashed. He wanted more meetings that side of the A414 and asked the Clerk to fix this he also reminded the APM at Charles Morris on 16th April and more on that side during 2009.

3.4 Lease of Pavilion Building

In the absence of Cllr Rump the Chair asked the Clerk to give an update. He said the lease alterations had gone off to Debenhams-Ottaway by e-mail soon after the January meeting at CHFC showing agreed alterations. We are now waiting for the document to be legally checked. He had vision of signing off at next executive meeting on 30th March at the Club accordingly he will remind the solicitors this was to be our plan.

3.5 London Colney Parish Environmental Action Plan

The Chair advised we have received a copy of the plan and a PDF if any member wishes to have a copy please contact the Clerk or we can transfer the PDF to your e-mail address. Or we can print a hard (paper) copy on request-order from the office.

3.6 Chronicle Magazine and Web Site upgrade

Members would like to see our links to other organisations be given priority and asked about links to Highfield site-Clerk to see DR. It appears the office missed out on the agenda being up in time, he added apologies. There were also queries about a creating simpler web link to CHPC Agenda and Minutes- Clerk to ask editor DR.

3.7 Lease and Matters connected with Harvesters Land

A letter received from Hampton Lambert Smith HCC Land Agents indicates that CHPC are jointly responsible with Harvesters for the upkeep of the roadway to the recreation area. The lease originally signed in 2001 make the obligation clear. The Clerk said obviously the signatories at the time wanted to create the best opportunities for enhancing local sport when that lease was agreed. However if we take this forward costs will inevitably be high to repair/resurface making some kind of grant essential. Just to set the record straight he added Council has not budgeted this forthcoming year for any provision. The Clerk said he had already photographed and will also measure the track so we have some idea about the project. He had observed some repairs to fill the holes with type 1 scalping had taken place. A brief meeting is to be arranged with Harvesters Club Executive as soon as possible to discuss options. Cllr Horner spoke about similar problems at the High Street Recreation area, but this issue was not the same, that roadway needed scraping and much more engineering works to be a more acceptable and more permanent resolution . Especially with high use by JMI parents and children, comings and goings. Again here a grant was essential for the project.

3.8 Venue of Annual Parish Meeting-16th April at 7.30pm

It was agreed the venue is the Charles Morris at Tyttenhanger, members also agreed to the catering budget as last year for cheese & wine and sandwiches. The Clerk is to arrange this and invitations sent out together with opportunities for table top displays. Agenda a available after 6th April both on web site/paper format -all are welcome.

3.9 Colney Heath Parish Council Year Events

Next parish event is the APM already mentioned, the Beating of the Bounds takes place at 2pm on 17th May starting and finishing at the parish office. All families welcome to take part for refreshing walk, refreshments served after at V/Hall ending at about 4.30. Larks in The Parks -the date of Sunday 28th June-Kim Parker-Mead is organising again with Cllr Brazier. JMI PTA agreed to do a BBQ again. Volunteers were needed and members to help with some jobs on the day. We have not received any firm dates for Village Day, Sue Green/CHFC or JMI Fete run by PTA & school.

3.10 Matters of Serious Anti Social Behaviour

List circulated to members, Cllr Brazier gave details of some recent incidents with a local lad receiving a broken jaw outside a pub in an attack by a gang from Hatfield. Police meeting was covered by Cllr Reeves and Cllr Day, the next NAG meeting is scheduled for 8th April. Sgt Mark Andrews has agreed to address the APM on new plans for community policing starting in April and consultation with Parish Councils.

3.11 Consultation on Schools Admissions

Cllr Brazier said 11 parents had not received their choice of school, and for many the choice preference was completely ignored by HCC. He expected a high amount of appeals as a result. He has also arranged a meeting with parents to outline the way the

procedure runs on appeals. This issue he said will not go away, local schools for local people is the best but sometimes allocation does not always suit parent expectations. Cllr Brazier said the Hertfordshire allocation method was wholly unsatisfactory if so many had not received choice of school leaving many parents with appeal board or little option for changing. Some with genuine boundary issues were being ignored Advocating local schools for local people in Colney Heath goes to help unnecessary parent car journeys, less Co2 -promotes exercise and safe walking to school routes.

3.12 A Parish Conference

At the time of the meeting a new date for a spring conference had not been decided, Cllr Reeves asked about a grant promised by Cllr R Donald. Clerk to chase this up.

4. FINANCE-(Clerk RFO J.E.Dean to report)

4.1 Financial Report

The Clerk gave details about our current financial situation, quarterly report and also reported the cash position, investments and other transactions not covered in the other reports to follow. He requested members noted the items 4.1 and 4.3 were interlinked.

4.1 Precept 2009-10

The Part II section of the 4th December 2008 meeting had suggested the Precept for 2009-10 be set at £147,100.00. The Chair agreed with the explanation from the Clerk to re-consider item 4.3 within the overall debate in view of un-budgeted additional P.W. loan cost of £2700 pa. After debate the Chair recommended the decision be deferred to next full council meeting 5th February 2009. However this was postponed with a cancelled meeting and heavy snow. The district came to a halt for two days.

The figure was agreed after contact with Chair and Chair Finance to meet the deadline that it is now set at £150,000, the Clerk had written to apply for that sum to SCADC. Letter had been copied to members. Cllr Brazier said we now required a retrospective vote to accept the proposal;-

Proposal;-The Parish Precept be set at £150,000 for the 2009-10 parish year.

Proposed;-Cllr Day

Seconded;-Cllr Horner

4.2 Parish Accounts

The Clerk gave out copies of the council financial statement & excel reports to each member;-February -March 09 expenditure of £36,601.58 including the payments for the Land Purchase£30,000.000 –see 4.3 (*un-reconciled awaiting statement*)

The Clerk gave explanations of the figures and answered member's questions.

Proposed by Cllr Henchley

Seconded by Cllr Lewis

4.3 Purchase of Gloucester Park.

The Clerk said much of the legal process had been done; we now had the PWB loan transferred into our bank on 17th February 2009. Currently before members were two cheques to sign for the deposit and actual sum -£3000.00 & £27,000.00.

They should approve and sign the cheques. Also the legal Agreement and Transfer Documents here to be signed by Cllr Day and Cllr Brazier on behalf of the council.

4.4 Progress of Vat

Clerk gave members details of the recent submission to HMCR

4.5 Other Financial Matters

The Clerk said he has returned the cash from TR to the current account and has not reinvested due to low rates-quoted 0.5% looking for better say 2-3% had approached Chelsea BS and other banks. It has to be safe so TR might be the only option. Next year will need greater scrutiny on all additional expenditure with nil interest revenue.

4.6 Conclusion of Audit-2007-8

The Parish Audit papers have been approved by BDO Stoy Hayward the Clerk has complied with all notices. The internal auditor has visited in February to review the accounts and members accepted the report given by the Clerk

Proposed Cllr Day

Secoded Cllr Cloke

4.8 Estimates of Various External Works for approval

Members were advised last meeting that Grants for two of these projects had not been successful the Clerk explained Natural England offered just £56 for two owl boxes. The Clerk said he had since complained quite strongly to N/Eng that they had wasted his time in promoting up front grants in October then awarding a paltry £56. It was in fact obviously clearly oversubscribed or DEFRA money was withdrawn or maybe due to loss of govt support or cash being short, it was in the intervening time pulled back. This point however not admitted after his calling the CEO to register disappointment but silence prevailed after speaking to him at some length. He was left in no doubt on our disappointment not getting the grant after being fed positive expectations. Grants for important *commons work was eagerly promoted-but are unfulfilled by DEFRA. It was agreed the Charles Morris Hall Fencing to keep out horses was important and should go ahead Cost £1710.00. Members instructed the Clerk to start and engage the contractor. That has been done although he had not started at the time of this meeting. Other jobs include Fencing Posts and renewal to bridge area of common, quote is £1910 (*DEFRA) reconsider parish fund-or reserves. Roestock Park renewal of posts around grassed area to prevent access by vehicles £1540. Members agreed with the Chair—at the last meeting both to be to be deferred to next parish year or try for other grants that may come available. Clerk is to keep on agenda.

5 PLANNING

Planning Applications

The following applications received February/March up to the time of publishing the agenda Cllr Brazier explained the issues surrounding the plans that were debated as:-

General Comments

Cllr Brazier said the Oaklands/Wimpey Planning Inquiry started on 3rd March.

Welwyn Hatfield Core Strategy-Options-Major Development Proposal-LDF

As previously reported Cllr Brazier is arranging an exhibition for residents of Colney Heath about the nearby developments of Hatfield & WGC-date proposed 30th March at Oaklands College between 2-9pm—objections may follow to the proposed growth (LDF) affecting the wider coalescence of parish and boundary by plans to build 5000 new homes by 2021. Some details are available at the parish office. Consultation is closing on 1st May 2009. This is a significant document according to Cllr Brazier.

Major Developments-See Bold Type;-

5-1 Planning Applications:

As listed below and received up to the date of this agenda publication-**bold= topical**;-

Number	Address	Application	Decision/Recommendation
5/08/0620	Oaklands College Smallford Campus	Erection of new college building for Oaklands and asse educational buildings to provide total of 31930 sqm of educational floor space and erection of 62 flats and houses. Demolition of existing use of former mansion house as 26 units of non self contained accom. Use of former stable block as children's nursery and retention of cottage within walled garden and asse lodges. Provision of sports pitches, 820 car parking spaces, highway works including a new access from Hatfield Rd with new roundabout, landscaping and other ancillary development	CLlr Brazier-CHPC response submitted. Debated at SCADC July Dev control meeting- New issues of calling in by Sec State over GB & LDF Plans for District-PUBLIC INQUIRY DATE SET 3 MARCH 2009
5/08/2838	6 Church Croft	Conversion of garage into habitable room	No objections
5/08/2537	Homebase Car Park	Stationing of mobile catering unit	No objections
5/09/0082	28 Puddingstone Drive	Front porch	No objections
5/09/0130	24 Stanmore Chase	Single storey side and rear extension	SADC – Planning meeting 23/2/2009
5/09/0099	Glyn Hopkin	Display of one internally illuminated fascia sign, four non illuminated fascia signs, two non illuminated wall mounted signs, four non illuminated free standing pole mounted signs and two non illuminated entrance signs	No objections

Note items with Listed Building Status are noted with suffix LB after the plan no-e.g 5/07/000LB
SCADC General Applications List (District) Circulated to all members.

5-2 Planning Approvals

As listed since last meeting

Number	Address	Application	SCADC Decision
5/08/2258	35 Colney Heath la	Single storey front extension	Planning Permission
5/08/2153	2 Newfield Way	Rear conservatory	Planning Permission
50/08/2280	1 Manston way	Side canopy	Planning Permission
5/08/2539	58 Tollgate Road	Conversion of garage into a habitable	Planning Permission

		room, single storey front extension and alterations to openings	
5/08/2447	10 Firwood Avenue	Two storey side and single storey rear extension and loft conversion and two rear dormer windows	Planning Permission
5/08/2470	76 Tollgate Road	Single storey rear extension	Planning Permission
5/08/2515CE	58 WYNCHES Farm Drive	Certificate of lawfulness- loft conversion with rear dormer window	Planning Permission
5/08/2433	16 Church Croft	Erection of outbuilding	Planning Permission
5/08/1739	Colney Heath Farm, Coursers Rd	Replacement outbuilding	Planning Permission
5/08/2322	10 Sleepcross Gdn	Rear Conservatory	Planning Permission
5/08/2719	15 Starlight Way	Loft conversion with two rear dormer windows and alterations to openings	Planning Permission
5/08/2528	48 Russet Drive	Single storey rear extension	Planning Permission
5/08/2579	18 Church Croft	Loft conversion with two rear dormer windows and alterations to openings	Planning Permission
5/08/2571	2 St Yon Court	First floor side extension	Planning Permission

See Attached Sheet for Planning Approvals- Appendix

Cllr Henchley had provided a list of planning details to the Clerk by phone earlier in the day that were read out to members present and noted. Cllr Brazier thanked him in his absence for that it was very informative.

5-3 Planning Refusals-Appeals-Inquiries-Enforcements-Other issues

None reported

5.3 Refusals and Appeals

5/08/2237A	Gyn Hopkin	Display of two internally illuminated fascia signs, two internally illuminated wall mounted signs, one non illuminated wall mounted signs, two non illuminated entrance signs, four non illuminated free standing pole mounted signs, two non illuminated fascia signs and one internally illuminated totem sign	Express Consent Refusal
5/08/2497	55 Russet Drive	Roof alterations to include loft conversion with three dormer windows and two storey rear extension	Planning Refusal
5/08/2546	1 Park Corner	Two storey side and rear extension and alt to openings	Planning Refusal

5.3-1 Appeals

Appeal P/APP/3171/LJY-Mr T Rance-16 Cairns Close AL4 0EB was refusal on Green Belt issues and the visual appearance and character of extension.

Public Inquiries (or written submissions to Sec-State Bristol) & decisions
Appeal P/APP/3109 Mr Mrs A M Musk Site at 23 Station Road Smallford St Albans

5-4 Strategic or Planning issues or referred to ODP/Secretary of State-SEERA
No further detail remains over SCADC options for housing growth.

OTHER TOPICAL ITEMS FOR INFORMATION-following>

5.5 Go East-SEERA Consultation Regional Assembly-Gypsy Site Allocations

No further news-details and minutes from the EIP-have been circulated as received Final report expected spring 2009. Noted nearby parish North Mymms seeking consultation with MP Grant Shapps over planned site issues in parish of N.Mymms.

5.5-1 The Planning Inspectorate Bristol-Regional Strategy Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England.

Again this is part of overall consultations ending at this time to all counties in SE. More details of expected sites due in summer for local councils and areas to bid for £94m Govt funding to set up new sites. National publicity and reports are noted.

5.5-2 Other Items in Brief

Helioslough Rail Freight Terminal

Cllr Brazier said this issue is back on the agenda-public consultation an exhibition takes place on the 13/14th March at The Noke Hotel Chiswell Green-the St Stephens Parish Council is looking for support. Public concern and news reports indicate public opinion is very much against this issue with predictions of extremely heavy increases in traffic volumes. This is a future strategic development & may link with nationwide freight terminal plans. Might be overriding local planning as a Strategic Development. Cllr Brazier said it will bring a great deal of problems to all the surround ding areas.

Response Gypsy Sites in Hertfordshire & East of England

Recent issues and SEERA response is noted. Final report expected summer 2009
Planning Portal

Kept on agenda-for member's comments.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment for SCADC

Details of council appeal dated February noted earlier-progress details expected.

London Green Belt Council

Cllr Crump-is parish representative-duly noted but not yet received mininutes

BT Payphones

Tytenhanger might be at future risk-this was noted-BT want to get rid of payphones

NATS-Air Traffic Control Consultation

Further consultation announced, previous clearly received many complaints-see letter 19 February 2009 suggestions from over 14,000 responses hammered home the fact it was a "done deal". Hence sensitivity on this comment so a second consultation will be run for fairness but no date forthcoming on this as yet.

Harlow North Letter out to member's organisation is seeking funding-this was noted

5-6 Planning Monitoring

Matters the Clerk may wish to inform or members have reports to bring if applicable

Air Quality-(Contained in HHC report)

Landfill & Quarry

Minerals & Waste

Licences

Local Delivery Framework Policies of SCADC and other DC's comments noted elsewhere in the minutes. Latest is Hatfield and Welwyn.

5.7 Smallford Station Preservation order

Cllr Horner expressed concern at finding the iron structure over the entrance to the station car park lying on the ground when walking in the area recently. The Clerk is to look into this and speak to Jane West SCADC conservation officer. Possible site visit. This is being kept on agenda-request Cllr Reeves mentioned its importance, could we find a use for it? Likely to become a "Listed building at risk register". The Platform is also very overgrown. Currently a Grade II listing having limited conservation status.

5.8 Section 106 Money to be used in Colney Heath

Keeping on as a debate topic-noted on past minutes Cllr Brazier is keen to claim that any developer funds from S106 are for the benefit of Colney Heath as the village faces continued demands for building. A meeting is remaining outstanding and to be arranged with Cllr Brazier + Clerk with SCADC regarding the Sect 106 on hold over Oakland's Development. Such as pedestrian crossing, VAS, Play Areas-Cycle way.

6 COMMONS OPEN SPACES & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The written reports were considered of:-

Draft Green Spaces Strategy

Noted-no further reports

6-1 Parish Warden Report

Clerk circulated this to members at the meeting. Flooding noted and stones being put on the common on a track rear no 74. Clerk has investigated and agreed they can be put under turf to strengthen track, otherwise it will become too muddy where residents cars may access the area at night for parking.

6-2 Parish Commons Ranger Report

Monthly report previously circulated-still some motorcycle nuisance riding on land.

6-3 Parish Gardner and Tennis Courts Attendant Reports

Report circulated to members at the meeting usual work in the gardens and spring flowers/shrubs coming through. All looks clean and tidy- Cllr Brazier said we should consider the future of the Tennis Courts as no one is using the one remaining court which is falling into a sorry state with net and fencing damage regularly occurring. Looks as if the slugs are in for a hard time around the gardens.

6-4 Church & Graveyard Keepers work/time sheet

No specific reports this time-but again with usual duties undertaken results are good which was agreed by all members. Cllr Horner spoke about the volunteer day that took place on 24th January -clearing scrub-tidy up boundary hedge.

6-5 CHPC Grass Cutting Contract

No reports last cut has been made this season-winter work by Mr Paxton on Furze Field cutting overhang and scrub-recover 5m x100m for £350.00 now paid. Clerk sought further remaining work costing £300 for Mr Paxton to clear remaining part of common towards Coursers Road. Agreed. Clerk added that we will have recovered at least 2 acres by the finish of this clearance.

6-6 Commons-Works-Grazing & Stewardship

Clerk spoke about the probation service offender's day on 19th February to clear the Furze Field area of sapling risings left from the volunteer day. Three persons came plus the supervisor. This work was carried out in a satisfactory manner although he was surprised at the clothing /foot-ware people turned up in for heavy manual work. However the supervisor had a van full of wellies and gloves and protective clothing. Members were given details of the Stewardship annual works to trees (year 5) cutting overhang for tractor to get round more safely. Flail work quote on Furze Field to go ahead as agreed with members. Works start 19th March delayed due to soft ground.

6.7 Dudley Wood

Clerk has managed to trace and find past details or deeds of the above since sent off to Debenhams Ottawa on land we are transferring to London Colney PC.

6-8 Footpaths P3 and Rights of Way-Bridleways-BOAT-RUPP F/path 44 and 23

Cllr Brazier wanted to know what progress has been made. The Clerk has quote from Centrewire for new DDA gates planned for these paths with member's approval for purchase nearer time. Grant application made from CMS for £1000.-year 2009-10. The commons bridleway project is a future agenda subject for defining a clear marked route across the common. Herts & Middx Footpaths Society Secretary had contacted offering a free working group install gates, asked them to write and set out their plans.

Members in particular Cllr Crump & Reeves want more detail in this item showing individual POs-new format as 6.9 here

6.9 OPEN SPACES Play & Recreation Areas. CHPC land or playing fields

At the request of members this heading will appear in the "6" category of the agenda each time and listed as herewith-comments if applicable will be noted & subsequently in the minutes of each meeting if a debate or comment is received or tabled.

1. **High Street Play Area;**- No Reports
2. **Community Park;**-No reports Requires a bench seat when purchase opportunity arises-was part of original CMS funding.
3. **Roestock Park;**-Requires new waste bin and gate returning to hinges RP to do **Play Rangers**- Booked by Assistant Clerk for age 8-13 summer children's activities-dates-29 July-12 Aug-26 Aug also possibility mobile skate park.
4. **Gloucester Park;**-Land deal nearing conclusion.
4. **Sleapshyde Recreation Area;**-Now finished and being enjoyed. Cllr Reeves wants railings painted. RP asked to do when weather improves in spring
5. **Charles Morris Play Area;**-Hedge work out to RP to do-Also fencing start with contractor-starting on 19th March. The Clerk is to check the hedge cutting
6. **Harvesters & Smallford Dog Walk;**-Reported elsewhere- road make up
7. **Smallford Pond & Triangle;**-New sign in place according to Cllr Crump.

Walking Strategy-SCADC Consultation and encouragement

Local interest in new group promoting exercise through walking, see Chronicle.

ROSPA

Clerk will be booking annual report on play areas to be done in May.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS -Item 8 Brought Forward at 8.55pm

A question previously dealt with, where does the parish precept go and how spent? Highfield Park Residents expressed their thanks to council for buying Gloucester Park Exchanges and cross talking between several members, Cllr Crump gave his apology.

7 HIGHWAYS-TRANSPORT-FOOTPATHS AND VERGES

7.1 Highways & Maintenance & Signs local Roads or major route reports

A meeting was held on the 3rd March with Damian Higgins; also attending was Cllr Horner and James Spanner who had recently written over the state of the pot holed roads to Sandy Wallington the prospective Lib/Dem Parliamentary Candidate.

Cllr Henchley gave members and overview of the matters on the spreadsheet before putting the issues to Damian Higgins for an update on progress. He confirmed that road works at night planning and renewing the surface will end by 13th March. He also confirmed other items on the CHPC list will be looked at, he gave dates and the expectations. Assistant Clerk Kim Parker-Mead has updated the sheet based on his comments a copy of which was passed to the members at this meeting.

OTHER HIGHWAY MATTERS RAISED

HCC Road Traffic Orders Past Received-(important to retain information)

Lane closures-speed restrictions -A414-Westbound 40 mph & Eastwards to junction Colney Heath Lane 20 mph-now 8 weeks 5th January 2009-13th March 2009.

Temporary Closure of Barley Mow Lane

After a period of consultation the final decision is expected to be delivered at the at a later date with other agencies consultation, such as police and emergency services.

Cycle Way round about Colney Heath

A topic to remain under review, also connected to S106 money

7-2 Paths and Access-and verge ditch works attached or adjacent to Highways

Matters noted in a general debate on matters but no specific reports. HHWP Adoption of Highways--was a district wide Generic topic. More pressure to conclude this, according to Cllr Brazier, SCADC is working with HHWP to provide a list of Roads adopted past left by developers some now 8 years. A larger cash bond will be sought in future from all developers on new build estates. Also letter from D/Cllr Swendell.

7.3 VAS Speed Cameras-at Tollgate Road & Highfield-Hill End area

The debate led by Cllr Reeves supported by Cllr Brazier and other members is to pursue the installation of VAS. The Clerk informed about past letters from HHWP after requesting details of funding. Cllr Horner said the position of HHWP is that strategic planning and statistics from accidents with road speed data is the only way forward according to D Higgins at the March CHPC bi-monthly meeting. Adding HHWP will not just install anywhere even with public opinion! RTP have to decide. The two places we have focused on are Tollgate Road recording speed more recently the Highfield/Hill End area with a "Slow Down" version. The Clerk said we have past tried to find to out if any grants are available from SCADC/HHWP with possible installation next parish year 2009-10. Reports suggest the cost to be in the region of £8,000 each. Our budget meeting confirms CHPC will pledge some funds towards installations but members had agreed costs really should be met from other agency budgets. The Highfield issue VAS issue was supposed to be debated at the CHPC 5th February meeting at Charles Morris Hall cancelled due to heavy snow. Residents from the Highfield area at this meeting to-night were very much in favour.

The debate centred over the cost of installation about £16k but we have to rely on other authorities to install. It must be also approved by HHWP according to the Clerk, there is no other opportunity. He also said we would have to use our reserves to fund and probably £16-18k to put in the two, plus yearly maintenance of about £500 each.

Cllr Brazier said this is what local people want and we will try to get it, but if we can get HHWP to fund or part fund so much the better. CHPC will keep up the pressure on HHWP in 2009-10 parish year. It won't go away and they should understand that! (RTP=Rural Transport Partnership)

7.4 M25 Widening starting summer 2008

Cllr Brazier said from the recent Lafarge Meeting it is clear details are emerging that the contractors are looking for a plant, welfare/stores site somewhere near Coursers Road in time for this section's works 2010-11 to Bell Roundabout and AIM. All part of over 100km widening to J27 to be built by 2012! Perhaps for a VIP fast track route from LHR to a significant event around that time? The road contract is worth £1Bn

7.5 Transport and Community Friday Shopping Bus

Cllr Horner gave his report with continued success of the service very popular and taking extra passengers almost to the limit of the bus.

7.6 Long –About A414

No further reports, recent road works have tidied it up free of saplings.

7.7 Highway Warning Signs & Mandatory Signs

Noted and suggest keeping as a reminder

7.8 Progress on Verge Parking

Cllr Brazier gave members an update on the DC position and outlined reasons for the delay in implementing the plan-still scheduled to go ahead in next municipal year. He said it is likely to carry a £70 fine

7.9 Tree Removal in Hall Gardens

The Clerk was pleased to report this has been done but surfacing repair remains.

8 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No further public questions, matters but noted elsewhere in minutes.

9 COUNCIL BUILDINGS-ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTEE MATTERS

9-1 High Street Recreation Area & CHFC new Lease of Pavilion Building

This was previously debated at this meeting in 3.4.

Cllr Brazier had spoken to the Club about getting rid of the bonfire area it was still being used by individuals and is difficult to stop them. Cllr Rump had past agreed at the regular meetings this would be dealt with and a sand pile for the pitch put on the hard stand. A further meeting to take place on 6th March with Cllr's Brazier & Rump And Mr Marlborough and Secretary of the club. All agree it will go soon as possible.

Fire Alarm at Pavilion

Inspection carried out this week

Electrical Safety Inspection

Now completed, CHFC will get copy of certificate-next inspection August 2009

9-2 Treasure Tots Pre-School.

A report was read out from the leader, Cllr Crump was able to read this to the members. The Clerk gave better news on the children's attendance that was gradually

increasing to 85 sessions a week now. About 25% less than 2008 but still better than the start of the year in January. Lunch Club is proving popular adding to the revenue. Still no news of OFSTED -due this year at any time and will just walk in.

Clerk requested member's approval to purchase laptop for the Leader administration tasks, was agreed budget circa £300. A positive way produce/record essential plans.

9-3 Village Hall Committee

No specific reports, Cllr Horner gave brief details about the last meeting. They require a procedure for the door closure and its release in case of an emergency. Cllr Brazier is arranging for a safety officer to see from SCADC. The Clerk has obtained guidance plus secondary dispensation from ACRE supporting the risk is low in case of fire and balanced against risk of children running out in road. A standard plastic item used in many similar circumstances sold by a specialist supplier to education establishments.

9-4 Charles Morris Hall

No reports -Booking made for APM-fence work in playing field starts 19 March.

9-5 Highfield Community Park & Trustees

Cllr Reeves reported some vandalism and police are aware. He added the Summer Fete this year is on 25th July.

9-6 Other local Buildings/Organisations-Guides Scouts-Harvesters/other

No reports, Clerk said they still had not come back regarding getting cheaper quotes for proposed works and possible Scout HO additional funding.

9-7 Youth Organisations Locally & Youth Council

Cllr Brazier said he had no reports adding youth did not want this sort of thing now.

9-8 Sheltered Housing-Review Newsletter

Publication in the early spring, office will have free copies available when published. Cllr Horner said the residents of the Grange are disturbed about the forward plans.

9-9 Residents Associations.

Highfield Park Residents Association-HPRA

Much of the input from the three residents present had been debated already under the various categories amid public questions. Cllr Brazier promised more meetings at the next parish year. The Clerk will give members to dates at the May Annual Statutory Meeting-not to be confused with the Annual Parish Meeting. The latter is parish reports the first is electing new chair, committees, plus accepting Standing Orders.

Tytenhanger (Barley Mow) Residents Safety Group

No reports-Cllr Reeves other than lane closure dealt with elsewhere.

Smallford Residents Association

No reports-Cllr Crump who added that he was not part of this but just got reports **Other residents associations**

Opportunity to have your comments raised at council meeting-contact the office

10 COMMUNITY REPORTS-Members reports Outside Bodies and reports from Committees and other Organisations

10-1 Fly Tipping Reports & Raised Humps-adjacent to Mr Sturbridge's Land

Copies of reports presented to members. Trend is showing signs of a slight increase The Police requesting (Neighbourhood Meetings) to be included in the report loop.

10-2 Police and Community Matters-Police Ward Meeting & ASB List

Nine attended the recent meeting and Sgt Mark Andrews is to be our new ward Sergeant, the ward constable's job is still to be decided. The date of the next meeting is at 7.30pm Wednesday 8th April. Mark agreed to do a five minute slot at the APM about new operational changes in Herts Police within 11 new districts. The Clerk has circulated details from Chris Roach Community Support Manager d/d16th December also front counter service hours advertising new direct contact line **0845-3300-222**. Also to be arranged is an initiative against vehicle number plate theft which is on the increase, a free replacement number plate locking screw kit is to take place in the area soon on a date to be decided being planned- with Halfords and Herts. Police. Once we have a date CHPC will publish in Chronicle or web site or notice boards.

10-3 Twinning

Clerk has posted out usual publicity on events French here 2009. Cllr Brazier added they are not getting enough new recruits to join the association.

10-4 Reports from Members or attending other meetings

Cllr Reeves, Cllr Horner, Clerk and Assistant Clerk attended a Standards Board update at District Council Offices on Monday 23rd February, best turnout of parish in district.

Buckingham Palace Garden Party

HATPC offering Chairmen to add to list allocated 6 invites Tuesday 14th July.

Lafarge Liaison Meeting

Meeting was 3rd February -Cllr Brazier and Clerk attended, report circulated.

10.5 Fairs Festivals and local/or Community events

No reports-Cllr Brazier remarked that fair had not attended for a couple of years.

10-6 Reports as Listed-HM Govt: Local and National Issues ect: & HCC

The Gypsy issues -SEERA consultation -circulated to all members.

10.7 St Albans Association of Town & Parish Councils

Members agreed to host next meeting on ...April 2009 in VH attendance required.

10-8 Minutes received from other Associations

Members noted the list of committee and other papers.

11- Members Questions

No further questions.

11-1 News Releases

SCADC are still continuing to seek a village tree warden, advert placed in Chronicle.

11-2 Dudley Wood Memorial Woodlands

Dealt with elsewhere in the minutes.

11.3 Dog Waste Bins

Clerk reported SDK are providing a satisfactory service to the council's bins, the waste licence just signed off for 2009-10. Two new bins will be ordered for 2009-10 one is destined for Community Park. The second new one kept by for an appropriate site or location if any member has a recommendation.

11.4 St Albans Wheelie Bin Introduction

Clerk said some confusion reported over which bin has what recycled, might help if colour code was a national standard. Each district seems to have different ideas.

12 OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Bus shelter Clerk has drawing –D Higgins looking into permission from Highways about verge behind proposed site had to be changed due to Highways regulations has to be 1.5 meters from verge. Clerk has provided DH with photo to check L.Registry.

12-1 Staff and Office Matters

General matters reported to members- VH Boiler broke down in bad weather-no heat.

12-2 Clerk Report on future matters needing attention

No reports this time-immediate matters may have been dealt with elsewhere

12-3 Notice Boards and Signs & Bus Shelters

Shelter- damage repaired at Oakland's and to High Street n/board now out for repair.

12-4 Commons Licences & Wayleaves

No reports

12.6 Publicity & Chronicle

Spring Edition out 6th March next Deadline is 1st May for the summer edition; Cllr Day has agreed to do council statement on summer and perhaps Cllr Crump Autumn edition. Debate and decide at ASM in May. DR does need forward plan.

12-6 Flooding and Encams

No reports

12-7 Capital Purchases

Office filing cabinet for archive storage in back store to be paid in next parish year.

12.8 Tyttenhanger Sign

Clerk to do a mock up and pass to Cllr Reeves

This meeting closed at 10.04 pm



John Dean

Clerk to the Council

*(Copies available on the parish web-site. Note no responsibilities accepted for errors o/pas or mistakes until approved by council
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