

Colney Heath Parish Council



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4th MARCH 2010

MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH- FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD at the Village Hall 83 High Street Colney Heath AL4 0NS St Albans
THURSDAY 4TH March 2010-7.30.pm

Donnell
13/5/10

Present; - Chair-Cllr J Day –Vice Chair-Cllr D Horner-Cllr A Cloke-
Cllr P Reeves- Cllr C Gowens-Cllr Brazier-Cllr D Crump

Clerk; Mr J E Dean

Public Attendance- Mr D Becker-Mrs G Moody

1. APOLOGIES -ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATIONS

No apologies Cllr Day said Cllr Brazier will be attending at 8pm.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the Full Council-4th February 2010

Proposed by Cllr D Horner

Seconded by Cllr A Cloke

2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Two matters arising from the February minutes according to Cllr Horner. 5.7 Get a Preservation order-Smallford Station can we write to get placed on a list. Bus shelter said no report in fact there was-one objection by nearby resident to his visual aspect which needs to be investigated, Cllr Brazier has agreed to speak to resident.

3 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN MAY BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Chair briefly mentioned the presentation last meeting from Highfield Park Trust adding how interesting he found getting to know more about how it is managed. He said that since our meeting the Trust agreed to exchange reports with us now which will be both informative and positive to CHPC, we thank the Trust for this decision. The Chair also advised we have PC Andrew Shepherd here who wishes to address us on police matters. On completion of the formalities this meeting will be suspended for a short time to allow him an opportunity.

Police Report

In explaining the requirement for police to formally meet the parish as part of the "Policing Pledge"-PC Andrew Shepherd said he is looking to how this can be done. The Clerk had suggested that we resurrect the old option of allowing police a short slot at our meeting, suggesting the Chair consider how this could be achieved. Cllr Crump was quick to point out it was the police's decision to stop attending;

Clr Crump added we past made provision in public questions. However he welcomed this initiative, adding for public it's an opportunity to bring matters to police attention. PC Shepherd spoke about the issues in the area including the theft of telephone cable in London Colney, not Colney Heath as we had mistakenly described earlier in the agenda. Members discussed other crime issues reported, with all members agreeing to give the police every opportunity to attend our council meetings. But asking how we can provide more publicity. The public present at the meeting raised other questions; PC Shepherd spoke more about the local crime figures and local issues of interest in the parish. He was keen to serve the area with his team and strive to reduce crime. Cllr Gowens said the Hill End area really needs more police visits, Clerk mentioned the regular posse of drinkers who leave very clear signs using the area to consume high volumes of alcopops and shorts- bought from nearby Hill End shops. Further brief discussion about the circulating rumour that Herts Police are likely to merge with Bedfordshire Constabulary, Andrew Shepherd said he did not know. The Chair thanked for attending, and for his continued good work in neighbourhood policing. After a question, Cllr Reeves was assured the police attendance at our council meetings did not affect separate quarterly police meeting. Note-next date- the police meeting is combined with the APM at 6.30pm prompt on Thursday 15th April.

Meeting resumed at 7.50pm

3.1 Review of Rural Transport Grant Plan for High Street & Traffic Calming

The Chair had some issues we need to agree this evening connected with the plan in making land available on the common for a bus shelter. The land was past the site of a fire station long since demolished. It was a part of the common that already had the stop and notice board so it would not have any adverse effects but positive benefit to transport users. The other bus shelter near Wistlea Crescent will have to be resisted and put on grass land of the crescent, this was not our land but we have no objections. The two shelters will be subsidised by Passenger Transport but a non budget or part contribution for these two shelters will be required. The normal cost varies from about £4-£6k with concrete foundation slab. Members were agreed-but only the usual type traditional style made locally, not the pre-manufactured ones as suggested by RT P. The Chair asked for a vote on the proposal, the Clerk explained the detail-

RESOLVED

To agree the placing of a new but small bus shelter on the common near present bus stop adjacent to the common in the High Street.

Proposed- Cllr Reeves

Seconded-Cllr Crump

To agree the removal/repositioning of the current bus shelter at Wistlea Crescent

Proposed- Cllr Horner

Seconded- Cllr Crump

To agree the shelters shall be made or altered if possible by local craftsman only and be partly financed by parish funds alongside a maximum grant from RTP/PTU.

Proposed Cllr Reeves

Seconded Cllr Crump

The Clerk explained as un-budgeted costs will have to be found from our forthcoming year revenue but impending VAT reclaim could provide a significant contribution if used on this new but important local project.-He added it was part of the committed

Parish Plan (2004 & item 4c) therefore Council could use powers to agree outside of a budget. Members gave authority to Clerk to proceed immediately and positively with Simon Flew by e-mail or letter to agree the process as required.

3.2 Public Open Space-Gloucester Park-Allotments or Gardens-Highfield

Cllr Gowens gave a report on the progress saying that smaller than normal plot sizes might only allow the site to have 14-16 plots. Measurements taken by Cllr Gowens on south side of the field indicate individual plots could be made out to a reasonable size similar with others in the district but slightly less than the original expectation. Details given on the rents being charged for other plots around the district at circa £25-£32.50 p.a. The current very wet and muddy ground is making progress slow. Clerk said he is getting fencing estimates for chain link on 6' posts and double gates. He was applying for a water service pipe having found out the nearest supply point. Also Mr Paxton has been asked to collect the debris and tidy up dumped rubble and rubbish from the area, also to clear saplings and unwanted trees on the parameter. Some residents have also created unofficial openings in their fences in to the field which will council need addressing before allotments are started. Perhaps a letter or verbal consultation will be required to ensure all are aware of CHPC ownership. No permission has been granted. Cllr Gowens said an Allotment society or Horticultural association might be feasible.

3.3 Legal Issues

Defer to Part II.

3.4 Parish Charter St Albans & District Council

The Clerk reported attending the SAATPC meeting on 23rd February at St Stephens Parish Office, also attended by Jane Ratford and James Blake (SCADC Marketing) during which each line of the document was gone through. Several Clerks/Councillors from other Parish's were present the meeting ably Chaired by Cllr Neil Clements. (Wheathampsted) About 8 parish representatives attended but it was by no means fully supported. The conclusion;-each Parish Councils should be encouraged to sign up, the full benefits having been explained at the last two parish conferences in 2009. Members have been circulated with details over past months. Pressure is on to sign by SCADC and the Marketing and Publicity Team charged with completing the Charter Plan. In debate here Cllr Brazier spoke of his concerns, not against but mindful of the extra work it will bring into already busy administration. Debate continued without a real conclusion. Finally a plea from the Clerk that CHPC should sign up until 2011-it will not commit the council to any great degree, and to see how it benefits or not, and compare other parish's in time. It was agreed and RESOLVED to write to SCADC declaring a very cautious interest to sign, to fall in line with the other main parishes. Cllr Reeves opinion was reserved but suggested joining for a year having little to lose. The Clerk stated it is mainly the larger PC's in the short term to benefit from divulged services but we may loose out later with grants or schemes because of not joining.

Proposed Cllr Reeves

Seconded Cllr Gowens

3.5 Barley Mow Lane Pending Closure (Gating Order)

Cllr Day further reminded the next stage of consultation, a public exhibition by HHWP-11th & 12th March at Charles Morris Hall. Display of plans and the three schemes developed so far will be available to view. Last chance to see gating plan.

Reported from a recent Safety Forum meeting the use of a particular residence in publicity and graphic depiction gave concern to the current owners of the property who complained it had been used in the pictorial description without their permission.

3.6 Oaklands Farm Development-

Cllr Gowens and Cllr Brazier reported issues over the loss of 30m of copper beach hedge. It was rumoured removed because it obstructed the highway vision splay and became a casualty of some misunderstanding. Cllr Reeves said he had visited the site manager's office spoke about it and looked at the plans. Clearly no hedge was to be removed according to drawings, to resolve, it is understood to be replanted shortly. Other observations are the show house is almost complete in time for Easter viewing.

3.7 Colney Heath Parish Council 2010 Year Events

The usual catering arrangements for the APM on 15th April will go ahead; office is to send invites out next week to all including offering organisations table top displays. The possible clash with General Election if held on 6th May, the parish council will postpone the May 6th Council Meeting now to be the 13th May –past reported. Larks in the Parks will be on 20th June this year. Kim Parker-Mead is calling for any volunteers from council or village to come forward. Clerk advised compulsory safety meeting to be arranged, volunteers must go to the briefing otherwise they cannot help. Beating of the Bounds is 9th May at 2pm usual walk round the common followed by tea and biscuits at Village Hall. All welcome for a pleasant 2hr stroll on the boundary. Easter and May holiday break sports events are being organised for children 13.30-15.30-St Albans Youth & Sports, multi-sports, games –details leisure connection. Or contact parish office-Assistant Clerk-Kim Parker-Mead for more details.

3.8 Matters of Serious Anti Social Behaviour

No other reports of issues, monthly report available. Letters from resident handed to Clerk for record purposes-members contact Clerk for further information. (See Part II)

3.9 Oaklands Lane-Area of Land being used for grazing

Cllr Brazier reported the residents association obtaining the details of ownership.

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

Financial Report

The Clerk gave details about our current financial situation & monthly report

4.1 Finance & Accounts

The Clerk handed out copies of the council financial statement & excel reports to each member;-March 2010 expenditure including HMCR of £11274.32 & VAT £515.27
The Clerk explained details & answered member's questions.

Proposed by Cllr C Brazier

Seconded by Cllr J Day

4.2 Investments & Banking Matters

The Clerk reported current situation regarding poor investment percentages, he had with member's suggestion not reinvested reserves balance. With the precept arriving in April- he said we might wait to do a big capital sum for 6 months-say £100k this by balancing and predicting our cash flow. On other issues the meeting with the bank

manager opened up the possibility of phone banking to smooth out monthly transfers into the current account. Clerk to discuss preferences with members in May meeting.

4.3 Progress of VAT

Clerk reported issues members agreed to suggestion claim be made at end of March. This next claim for 2009-10 is to be processed by end of April for submission.

4.4 Other Financial Matters

The precept (2010/11) letter sent setting the sum at £155,850. The payment expected from SACDC on or around 23rd April.

4.5 Audit Preparation 2009-10

The appointment of the Internal Auditor was agreed again for 2010/11 parish year, RBS Solutions Ltd. The next visit is scheduled for 23rd April. The Clerk suggested members note the fee increase to £370 per day. Clerk is also to send preparation earlier to assist RBS with the audit completion. We also have busy time for Clerk with year end task closing the books and final HMCR Payroll, statutory end of year report for employees by 19TH May. Will be working from home some days in next months.

4.5-1 Governance issues;-Approval of Financial & Risk Register-Various-WIP

The Clerk explained the importance of this document as work in progress a standard format that all councils normally approve before audit and by year end -March. The special software has been purchased which provided the documents now set before members for their full approval.

RESOLVED the approval of the 2009-10 Risk Register.

Proposed Cllr C Brazier

Seconded Cllr J Day

The Clerk also spoke of the Standing Orders they approved at the 2009 May ASM which will need review and re-approve in parish year 2010-11 & at May ASM.

4.6 Estimates of Various External Ground Works for approval

Defer-Again reported outstanding works-some held over to next financial year.

This concerning works to renew posts on the Common and at the car park area in Roestock Park. Important works not to be overlooked, but with current costs and commitments it is decided to retain the plans and defer into next municipal year.

4.7 Charles Morris Recreation Area-Ditching works

Council goodwill action against flooding to properties-Mr Paxton chosen to hand dig ditch, at Charles Morris Hall recreation area. Wet conditions hamper work yet to do. Clerk has spoken to resident asking for works on ditches, observing that some has already been done by Oaklands College on adjoining fields near footpaths.

5 PLANNING

Planning Applications

The following applications have been received up to the time of publishing the agenda for this month Cllr Day suggested we briefly look at the list before us;-

General Comments

The Beaumont School application 5/09/2471 for up to 75 dwellings continues. Other applications listed below were briefly reviewed where decisions have been made in appropriate column. The Clerk drew member's attention to the detail in 5.4-1

Planning List received

Printed list circulated to all members;-

As sent	From SCADC-weekly lists	Circulated to members
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Major Development *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
5/09/2492	23 High Street	Rear conservatory	No objections
5/10/0282	23 Roestock Gardens	Demolition of existing det/garage and erection of single st side extension, including the insertion of four roof lights and part single, part two storey rear extension, including insertion of one roof light	No objections
5/10/0201	55 Russet Drive	Variation of condition 3 (obscured glazing) of planning permission 5/09/1747 for a two storey rear extension to include roof alterations and two roof lights	No objections – Officers must make sure the windows do not overlook neighbouring properties and impinge of their privacy
5/09/2582A	Andrew & Suter Ltd	Display of one non-illuminated fascia sign and one non-illuminated canopy sign	No objections
5/10/0045	Andrew & Suter Ltd	Reconfiguration internal layout at ground floor and mezzanine level insertion of windows and fire exit, and partial redecoration of cladding	No objections
5/10/0210	Glinwell Plc	Retention of cold store	This was built without planning consent in the Green belt it is a large building in height and bulk it is an overdevelopment in the green Belt and no consultation with local authority has taken place. The applicant continues to flout planning regs and has a history of doing so.
5/10/0341	4 Smallford Lane	Two storey side extension	With Cllr Brazier 26/2/2010

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.

LDF and Core Framework Strategy-Shaping our Community

No further reports

THE FUTURE OF HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE

Documents and consultations noted-detail and initiatives sent but no further reports.

5-2 Planning Approvals

As listed since last meeting

Number	Address	Application	SCADC Decision
5/09/2406	22 Cairns Close	Conversion of garage into habitable room, alterations to opening and insertion of roof light	Planning Permission
5/09/2358	7 Princess Diana Drive	Roof extension and insertion of two dormer windows to provide further living accommodation	Planning Permission
5/09/2388	14 Housefield Way	Conversion of garage into habitable room and construction of single attached garage	Planning Permission
5/09/2459	10 Church Croft	Conversion of garage to habitable room	Planning Permission
5/09/2327	12 St Barts Close	Replacement of rear conservatory	Planning Permission
5/09/2263	70 Puddingstone Drive	Single storey rear extension	Planning Permission
5/09/2224	11 Honeycroft Drive	Loft conversion to provide additional bedrooms with three front rooflights and three rear dormer windows	Planning Permission
5/09/2209	502 Hatfield Rd	Roof extension and conversion of loft two front and two rear dormer windows, single storey attached garage and front extension	Planning Permission
5/10/0023	24 Stanmore Chase	Demolition of existing garage and erection of single side and rear ext	Planning Permission
5/09/2506	28 Puddingstone Drive	Single storey side and rear extension, alteration to openings and insertion of two rear roof lights	Planning Permission
5/09/2477CP	63 Tollgate Rd	Single storey side and rear extension, hip to gable loft conversion with rear dormer window, alterations to openings and removal of chimney stack	Cert of lawful use or development
5/09/2467	Waters – Lyon Way	Display of illuminated fascia sign	Express consent
5/09/2410CP	122 Roestock Lane	Loft conversion with roof lights	Cert of Lawful use or dev

See Attached Sheet for Planning Approvals- Appendix above.

5.3 Refusals and Appeals- Enforcement Notices

5/09/2513	Land R?O 1& 2 Springfield Rd	Detached two st/two bedroom dwelling and detached garage	Planning Refusal
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5.3-1 Appeals

Application P/ENF/468/LJY-Site at Smallford Nurseries Station Road-the hearing began 10th February 2009-Committee Room 1 SCADC offices.

Application 5/09/0993 2 Redhall Lane issues of retrospective permission for Pine building on GB land. Appeal to be dealt with by Fast Track Householder Appeals System (Inspector makes unaccompanied visit)

5/08/0655 516 Hatfield Road-Erection of a side and rear extension-

Condition Discharge Condition 3 details of materials

5.3-2 Enforcement Appeal Notices

APP/B1930/C/09/2104156-601 Hatfield Road-served 01/06/09

Use extension-intensification and design of outbuildings used as Vet practice in GB.

5.3.3 Refusal on Appeal Decision

B1930/A/09/2111248WF Site Land Adjacent to 1-6 Wynches Farm Drive-Single 3 Bed Detached House plus parking and landscaping

All of these appeals are under the direction of SCADC Legal and Planning Services

OTHER TOPICAL ITEMS FOR INFORMATION-following

5-4 Strategic or Planning issues or referred to ODPM/Secretary of State-SEERA

No further detail-kept on this time re SCADC options on housing growth-see LDF.

5.4.1 Govt announcement IPC-Infrastructure Planning Commission

Government announcement to change the planning rules for major infrastructure applications said to be designed to give improved opportunities to get involved see IPC Website link-Infrastructure Planning Commission- Plans such as Wind-farms Biomass plants Transport infrastructure etc feature in this.

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

This council wish to see more even distribution of extra pitches/sites to other districts

OTHER TOPICAL ITEMS FOR INFORMATION-following

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment for SCADC

Details of legal challenge noted

London Green Belt Council

Cllr Crump-is parish representative.-recent details of next meeting

Harlow North Letter out to member's organisation is seeking funding from other affected or supportive councils for High Court action.

New Barnfield Waste Site

Reminders from MP Grant Shapps

The Future of Hertfordshire Waste-

Continued publicity, also some guidance coming from HCC and MP Grant Shapps who is concerned about waste issues. Consultation on waste is out from HCC.

Former Oaklands Site Highfield Lane Tyttenhanger

Dealt with earlier

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

No further reports.

5.5-1 Other topical brief items;-

Stanstead and Harlow North

Publicity & e-mails -Second runway Application. Legal issues LDF & planning.

5.5-2 BA Stansted Airport Noise Action Appeal

Various notices received from ACTION GROUP-copied -members may wish to note.

5.5-3 Helioslough Rail\Freight Terminal-SRFI-Old Handley Page Site

The P.I decision awaited-Clerk has papers on proceedings if member wishes to see.

5.5-4 LUTON AIRPORT DRAFT NOISE ACTION PLAN

Decision on further runway is to be announced in 2010

5-6 Planning Monitoring

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

Air Quality-(Contained in HHC reports & See Public Questions re Smallford Pit)

Landfill & Quarry

Minerals & Waste

Licences

No further reports

5.7 Smallford Station Preservation order

Cllr Reeves was still concerned at the potential fate of the damaged overhead sign- it was agreed Cllr Horner and the Clerk will make a visit to the site and report again.

5.8 Section 106 Money to be used in Colney Heath or Highfield area

No further reports detailed more last meeting Cllr Brazier confirmed the issue of the available monies and pedestrian crossing or other safety considerations are on the SCADC plans for S106 allocation. (Does this mean "Ring fenced"?)

5.9 Abbey Line-Possible Conversion to Tramway

No further reports.

6 COMMONS OPEN SPACES & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The written reports were considered of:-

6-1 Parish Warden Report

Report was available to members at the meeting including village works. Clerk drew member's attention to report of boundary issue at CMH recreation area. Investigating.

6-2 Parish Commons Ranger Report

Monthly report available-contents noted.

6-3 Parish Gardner and Tennis Courts Attendant Reports

Work difficult due to weather conditions.

6-4 Church & Graveyard Keepers work/time sheet

Employee on a month holiday taking all allocation at once on life-time trip abroad. Mowers and equipment might need servicing this spring.

6-5 CHPC Grass Cutting Contract

Resuming this month on all parish land by Mr Paxton -weather permitting?

6-6 Commons-Works -Grazing & Stewardship & River Colne p reeves

Lafarge have promised some road planings that might have been available but the person who made the decision had passed away and negotiations will have to start again. Pollarding of the willows completed to a satisfactory standard and adequate for at least 7 years. Clerk reported letter dated 1st February regarding impending Land Surveying on the common as part of EA- Thames Region Flood Survey CT0600 Colney Heath cross sections (10362) progressing. Some properties including V/Hall and Park Lane to be included in survey. The residents have all been notified by EA.

6 -7 Footpaths P3 and Rights of Way-Bridleways-BOAT-RUPP F/path 44 and 23

Clerk reported Grant award received from CMS for £1000-.year 2009-10-works still to do-Contact with J Thornton HCC Row/CMS. Mrs Myland commented on the past reported shooting incidents on F/p's saying it was being monitored by HCC RoW.

6.8 Access Track on Common

See 12.4

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;-**New dog bin installed but causing problems with wedding photos being possible to avoid in frame shots. Clerk to move to another place.
3. **Roestock Park;-**Work remains-to do after parish year end-Requires new waste bin and gate returning to hinges RP to do also Basket Ball net and return of goal is requested by Cllr Crump. Cost £400 a decision to purchase a single fixed goal or moveable to be made. Theft problem possible if mobile.
4. **Gloucester Park;-**Cllr Gowens reported.
5. **Sleapshyde Recreation Area;-**Cllr Reeves wants railings painted. RP asked to do with quick drying paint asap. RP to do & reminded-job still outstanding.
6. **Charles Morris Play Area;-**New Wendy house quote sought from Safe & Sound to go in small space between swings/frame-CMH need to secure grant. Members past debated the details asking for more information from CMH
7. **Harvesters & Smallford Dog Walk;-**No reports other than past suggestion of swap idea to other open space- if it becomes available-made by Cllr Reeves.
8. **Smallford Pond & Triangle;-**no reports-near time for hedge cutting.
- 9 **Play areas -Highfield Park Estate/Area-(There are 4)**
Clerk to do-council may consider about plans for funding new equipment required in the future. Liaison with HPT. Clerk and Anna Cohen.

7 HIGHWAYS-TRANSPORT-FOOTPATHS AND VERGES

7.1 Highways Maintenance improvements local Roads or major routes

Cllr Horner wanted to know the date of next meeting-Clerk advised Meeting is set for Tuesday 30th March at VH. Clerk advised we have taken delivery of pedestrian type gritting machine from SCADC for areas in the parish iced up in winter. Further issues need to be considered as additional job specification dependant on agreement for use with Mr Paxton in winter conditions-we might store salt supplies in air raid shelter. Topic for future meeting to consider HSWA issues Equipment to be stored at farm. HHWP-Notice part of entrance to Roestock LaneYellow to get No Parking Lines.

PETITION-PARKING IN HIGH STREET

A petition from residents 96-106 High Street was sent direct to the District Council regarding parking problems in the cul de sac off the High Street near school and entrance to Recreation Area and Football. The issue surrounds claims of residents having difficulty in getting access to properties due to school parking, events, and recreation use or weekend games. Members duly noted the claims from residents, and whilst sympathetic could not see an easy resolve other than yellow line enforcement.

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

LITTER PICK WEEK-20TH 28TH March-council need groups or volunteers Parish Office or District Council will supply pickers-refuse sacks-etc-and drop off points for litter and filled refuse sacks. See message on notice boards or call parish office.

7.2-1 OTHER HIGHWAY MATTERS

Verge Parking.

Some complaints from residents who are not happy at this Clerk are to speak with Head of Department guidance from Cllr Brazier to mitigate certain issues and fines.

Safety Issue-Nicholas Breakspear School

Past complaints referred to local police regarding coaches mounting the pavement when parking outside the school. This should be stopped and drivers given a warning.

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

Details copied to members of latest lists circulated to members and on Notice board

Rural Transport Grant for-High Street & Tollgate Road Improvements

Previously noted this is a main topic reported elsewhere.

Colney Heath Traffic Calming Petition

No further reports on the petition Clerk unsure if it is still in existence.

Temporary Closure of Barley Mow Lane

Past reported

Water leak-

Adoption of Roads-Abysmal performance of Herts Highways

Ongoing issues and remains unsatisfactory-some Highfield Residents in particular are complaining-Still not completely resolved with HCC.

Improving the Visible Street Scene

Application for a grant Clerk has sent letter sent to SCADC.

Cycle Way round about Colney Heath

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

HGV in Wilkins Green Lane

Resident's complaints remain unresolved about misdirected HGV's letter sent to HHWP and SCADC requesting better signs. This needs resolving permanently.

7.2-2 TRAFFIC ORDERS

Recent copies of any traffic orders circulated to members.

7.3 Path Access Verge and Ditch issues Highfield

No further reports.

7.4 Tollgate Road VAS Speed Cameras-and Highfield Area

Deferred.

7.5 M25 Widening started summer 2008 remaining into 2010

Public exhibition at Hunton Park Kings Langley Herts 12-13 March-Clerk has invited to official presentation at 12 noon then open to public 2pm that day. Clerk is to attend. The Clerk said that part of Coursers Road has 40mph speed limit being imposed near to welfare and depot facility, near Willows. Transfer from Denham site to start May.

7-6 Transport and Community Friday Shopping Bus

Cllr Horner said starting problems seem to have been sorted out Bus continuing to serve residents for Friday trip to ASDA. Driver and Courier used own cars when bus was out of action, Clerk has reimbursed car drivers for mileage cost from petty cash.

7-7 Long –About A414

No further reports.

7.8 Highway Warning Signs & Mandatory Signs

Noted and suggest keeping as a reminder

7.9 Adoption of Roads in Hertfordshire

Reported earlier -Independent councillor continues to campaign

7.10 Public Consultation on Streetscape Design

Reply sent to SCADC-Clerk has copy of manual in office.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS -Item 8

Questions put forward on a planning issues in Roestock Lane and Beumont School answered in turn by Cllr Brazier and Cllr Day. The school place allocation continues to disappoint parents. Capacity and oversubscription in popular or first choice schools saw 80% getting their first choice but HCC uphold the fairness of county programme saying a 95% success delivered the right places out of a total of 12000 pupils. Colney Heath has between 9-13 young children affected by the HCC allocation system in not getting any choice with some being offered Onslow-3 Miles. Having to use several busses or the underpass route past considered an unsafe route to school by CHPC also having condemned this route totally unsuitable. A claim that HCC won't accept, but local people District Councillors and MP'S all agree our concerns. The issue is also connected to parish and district boundary demarcations where further effort is needed to get changed. (Boundary Commission) Cllr Brazier added he will continue to claim HCC fail Colney Heath children over their percentage claims on first school choice. They (HCC) won't listen and get down to elimination of at least 120 children who do not live in this district-bussed in. Once this is done the St Albans and Colney Heath residents/ parents/children rightly and properly can receive the first choice school, so every year all of this unnecessary worry and anguish to parents can go away for good. Cllr Brazier said even the Schools Panel quoted the underpass route as illogical.

9 COUNCIL BUILDINGS-ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTEE MATTERS

9-1 High Street Recreation Area & CHFC meetings

The Clerk reported having met The Tree Bureau specialist Claire Nash for a qualified arboriculture report on 17th February for a survey and condition comments on poplar trees and root incursion on the recreation ground. There are issues of public safety the council have obligations to assess. Council have agreed this be carried out. The report had not been received at the date of the meeting members were informed by the Clerk

of the root problem and tree growth at the meeting. More to follow members will be sent copy of report in post out, debate will be required on further action for this safety issue. Costs of tree removal or pollarding can be very expensive on this size of tree. The monthly CHFC meeting with Cllr Brazier and Clerk can discuss trenching of ground for root removal and repair in the off-season. Again further costs likely. We have also been informed of the theft of the chain link fence CHPC had contributed. Groundsman has also made a plea in his report for avoiding pitch training on lining area, the subject again being taken up at separately at monthly meetings with CHFC. A second issue the Clerk has to report is the lamp at the entrance, Instaltec have been called out to repair, and the last inspection with a ground cable identifier concluded the cable is either cut or not connected any longer, the route ends on Lafarge land. The positive action is to consider a new column and lights further into the parking area off old tennis court in winter for safety of public access to building and car park is a risk to be remedied. Estimates have been requested for members to debate. Copies of the CHFC minutes of 22nd February sent to members prior to this meeting

Electrical Safety Inspection

Check on next certified inspection with Instaltec.

9-2 Treasure Tots Pre-School.

A short report on the staffing and operational matters was made by Cllr Crump.

9-3 Village Hall Committee

Report of January meeting available-also noted theft of wheelie bin outside VH.

9-4 Charles Morris Hall & Council owned Field & Access

The Clerk is continuing waiting to receive a copy of the Minutes from 11th November meeting in order to progress LR of site and access. Cllr Reeves & Cllr Day to chase.

9-5 Highfield (Community) Park & Trustees

Cllr Reeves reported the events over next months, and the extension to the park with the legal side nearly tied up. New allotments and consideration for other sport uses. He said there is an overwhelming demand for football pitches but from persons living outside the area. But it is unlikely the Trust will agree to just football sports here.

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

No reports this time

9-7 Youth Organisations Locally & Youth Council

No reports this time

9.8 Sheltered Housing-Review Newsletter

SCADC Publications are available regularly every two weeks in the office.

9.9 Residents Associations.

Highfield Park Residents Association-HPR

No reports.

Barley Mow Lane Residents Safety Group

Reported elsewhere

Smallford Residents Association

No reports but past issue where residents continue to have concerns about the field. Again CHPC have agreed to pay for LR when enough evidence is forthcoming.

Other residents associations

Opportunity to have your comments raised at council meeting-contact the office
To get on the mailing list for the minutes by e-mail or posted out.

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

10-1 Fly Tipping Reports

Copies of reports available to members.

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

Dealt with earlier in meeting-Hertfordshire Police Authority invitation any councillor to the launch of the new Policing Plan on Monday 29th March at 11am Fielder Centre. With closing date 5th March the Police Authority were asking for names put forward on the Hertfordshire Safer Neighbourhood Awards.

10-3 Twinning

Twinnings go over to France visit next year. Details of events posted out to members.

10-4 Reports from Members or attending other meetings

No reports

Lafarge Liaison Meeting

Lafarge-next meeting to be advised as soon as date is announced-usually June.

10.5 Flood & Environment Agency Reports

Letter from Capital Surveys Ltd to office confirmed the survey work on the common is taking place this month; we have readily given verbal permission. It is understood some residents of Park Lane have also been copied by EA. Cllr Brazier has secured a quantity of new style sandbags to deploy at time of risk, they come flat packed, light, simply expanded by ingress in water. Clerk suggests offering a pack each to the 11 residents in most vulnerable properties. Clerk to discuss the best method of distribution with Cllr Brazier for those homes at prime risk.

10.5 Fairs Festivals and local/or Community events

St Albans Arts and Festival 2010-Details circulated to all councillors of the events calendar 11th June 27th July 2010.

It was agreed the Parish will not be entering the CPRE Hertfordshire Village of the Year 2010 this time. A working party of volunteers to run it cannot be found this time.

12 OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Cllr Gowens had past raised issues of shortening the reports agenda and minutes. Having met with Cllr Brazier some ideas were put forward, which in looking at the paperwork trail several suggestions made are to be considered at the next May ASM. The Clerk mentioned about normal structure format of council meetings which follow guidelines executed similar to most parish councils. This was an inherited way and he had modified the format on two previous ASM's, similarly he mentioned another was modified for another council (*example shown*) which is still running since late 90's.

He added the average word count is over 5000 and often at least 14 pages for minutes and similar for the agenda notes. He was quite prepared to modify or be briefer. Cllr Day liked the agenda notes because it helped and guided the facts of the debate. It was agreed paper savings can be made showing another example of double side print, also e-mail instead of paper but not all members can receive. Chair Cllr Day said the Clerk is duty bound to follow common practise, he could see opportunities to save paper and copying. Cllr Gowens said it was also prevalent we produce a lot of agenda and minutes here, can these be cut? The Clerk normally prints 10 copies of each as public attending is entitled to a copy. We also get people call in the office for copy. However the Clerk added he can see an idea to produce on demand when we have meetings at the Village Hall. The Chair Cllr Day agreed that all members should receive appropriate information clearly this was the adopted procedure of most other councils. It was agreed a working party to look into reducing the paper flow amounts in the next parish year. It was agreed to revisit this subject at or after the May ASM.

12-1 Staff and Office Matters

General matters reported.

12-3 Notice Boards and Signs & Bus Shelters

Reported elsewhere, Cllr Horner asked if the two new shelters would affect the Hall Gardens shelter going through now, the Clerk assured it would not.

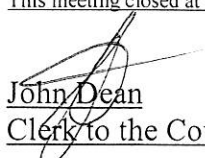
12-4 Commons & Licences- Easements or Wayleaves

This said the Clerk is normally called *Prescriptive Rights of Way*, which under the present system most councils who own land are not easily able to give and or/are a minefield of potential problems. The track at the rear of the village hall was intended to allow access to properties. If properties are being sold or advertised with off road parking the council had not given any such an undertaking. Nor was it an inherited Right Of Way. Cllr Reeves suggested a plan of action to alleviate the conjecture and resolve the issue once and for all. The Clerk said it might also be an issue with other parcels of land under the ownership of CHPC sooner or later it will arise elsewhere. The law of Trespass was also involved and past experience was costly to the parish. It was RESOLVED and agreed by all members present the Clerk be given the full authority to research and to procure the necessary advice in order to report back to council at a future meeting for long term solution. Costs were debated and agreed on the two options discussed here.

12.5 Publicity, Web Site & Chronicle

Next issue is spring Cllr Crump to do parish matters-edition due out this month. Parish web site updated and should have notices and agreed minutes to date on the site, details of the council APM and cheese & wine on 15th April with further work in progress on links and other site options during this year.

This meeting closed at 9.36 pm where a PartII followed


John Dean
Clerk to the Council

Copies available on the parish web-site:-Note no responsibilities accepted for errors typos or mistakes or statements until approved by council @ MAR 04 Mtg-Published—10 Mar / 2010 © Jed/full-CHPC- mins Mar 10-@ 10/03/10-No copies to be made or alterations without permission of Clerk-file-CHPCMINS-MONTH-FULL-MAR -2010-DOCS FILE-MINS & stick 1+ Data Share -FILE-JED/CHPC MINS-4 MAR 2010-MSW-& TRANSFER BLUE STICK- Word count -6074-15. pages- E&OE-

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4th MARCH 2010

CONFIDENTIAL-4TH March 2010-Part II-(BLUE PAPER)

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL **MINUTES OF THE PART II MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON** **THURSDAY 4TH MARCH 2010-9.40pm**

Present; - Cllr J Day-Chair- Cllr Cloke-Cllr C Brazier-Cllr P Reeves
Cllr Brazier-Cllr Horner -Cllr Gowens-Cllr Crump.

Clerk; Mr J E Dean (Published 8th March 2010 © Jed/full-CHPC)

1. Apologies Announcements & Declarations

Apologies given for Cllr Lewis -Cllr Henschley-no declarations.

2 The Business of the Part II

This was outlined and explained by the Clerk who reminded members present that confidential matters of pay, employment and legal issues are to be debated here.

3 General Payroll

This issue had been covered and agreed in December and budget issues, National awards had been agreed by NALC in April 2009, but we had not paid employees. The 1% COL increase the first for four years was taken into account with our budget. It will add about £900 to the yearly payroll, and 1% to the grass contract, this also applies to all Treasure Tots Staff & employees, a separate payroll paid out of revenue. RESOLVED it will be paid at the end of year as a one off payment, hourly rates will all increase and be adjusted from 1st April 2010 accordingly.

Proposed Cllr D Horner

Seconded Cllr D Crump

4. Legal Action Secretary of State & Nuckies Farm

Next hearing is 15th March, Cllr Brazier was asked to attend on behalf of the council, Mr Robb is seeking a second date for a legal option of another verbal hearing before a Judge. Our solicitors suggest this be struck out unless he files the submission paper with the court clerk, this his second date, February 18th passed because he asked for more time. Again no submission papers, we believe this is no more than delaying tactics with the risk of adding more costs to CHPC. High time this was struck out.

5 Pre School Treasure Tots

5.1 The Clerk advised issues of employment regarding the Deputy Leader position; it was being advertised in the Chronicle and offered to existing staff who have necessary qualifications. This is in accordance with advice from Liz Ecksteen, who we will ask to help us with the interview process. No further reports on other staff.

5.2 Leader appraisal is complete, remainder of staff to have interview.

5.3 Staff Pay award of 1% agreed in overall increases-T/Tots is a separate payroll funded from the income revenue of the business

6 Parish Year End

The Clerk said he will be working from home in quiet on some days to complete year end and HMCR which this year has to be done on line. This is a very busy time and is also coinciding with APM arrangements, & staff using up leave before end of month. It is important we purchase a new edition of SAGE Payroll for 2010-11 as version we use is not fully compliant with sending on line submissions. This version is now over 7 years old and updates are essential with current work load- we have 15 employees in total with Treasure Tots staff included.

RESOLVED the Clerk has authority to purchase new software and replace current maintenance contract with new dual payroll software-“submission on line compliant”.

Proposed Cllr Day

Seconded Cllr Brazier

Other matters

Springfield Road-Anti Social Behaviour

Mr Mrs Falk has deposited some letters of information into the archive file.

This part two meeting closed at 10.13 pm


John Dean
Clerk to the Council

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