

Colney Heath Parish Council



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13th JANUARY 2011

MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH-FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD at the Village Hall 83 High Street Colney Heath St Albans -on
THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2011-7.30.pm

Present; - Chair-Cllr J Day -Cllr P Reeves-Cllr C Brazier-Cllr A Cloke.

Clerk; Mr J E Dean
Assistant Clerk Mrs K Parker-Mead

Public Attendance-Mr D Becker-Mrs J Moody-Sally Britton-John Britton-Stewart
Wales-Jean Wales-other High Street Residents-Mr D Crump
C Battersby-A Battersby.

1. APOLOGIES -ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATIONS

Apologies received from-Cllr Solts, Cllr Horner, Cllr Gowens- reasons known, plus
Cllr Barnes-away on Business-one vacancy.

No declarations from members regarding items on the agenda

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES 2nd December 2010

The Minutes were approved and signed as correct-;

Proposed by Cllr P Reeves

Seconded by Cllr C Brazier

2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES ABOVE

No matters arising this time.

3. MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN MAY BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

In the absence of Cllr Horner on holiday and resignation of Vice Chair Cllr Crump, Cllr Day took the Chair. With low attendance he asked the Clerk to confirm council was quorate. The Clerk said requirement is one third of council plus Chair and confirmed we could proceed with the meeting. The Clerk also asked if council are considering filling the current vacancy by co-option as he has a name of an applicant. The response from members present was vacancy should be filled so the item can be put on the next agenda. The Clerk also said he had consulted the District Electoral Officer and he in turn had read the Electoral Law on this, he further confirmed the procedure had been complied with and in regard to the resignation of Cllr Crump. If he wished to re-apply for a vacancy he can return as an "Independent". The expiry of the vacancy notice is noon 21st January. All applicants can be proposed for co-option at the February 3rd meeting. In moving on Cllr Day recognised the public attendance may have planning issues to raise in public questions and he intended to change the format take item 4 finance after item 7. To allow adequate opportunity for comments. The Assistant Clerk wished to thank members for delivering the biscuits, adding we have received lots of letters and thanks to the council.

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

Cllr Day asked the Clerk the current position, being static and between works already partially completed and main works start is scheduled for February or March 2011.

3.2 Public Meeting on Commons Issues

The deferred issue in agenda notes remains the same, so whilst not repeating again. All agreed more work to do on this, meanwhile a search by Jo James has uncovered some documents from past 1960-70's minutes withdrawn from County Archives. Meanwhile the Clerk has discussed resident's spokesperson about the plans to scrape the site, not likely to be done until spring. We have agreed to supply a bag of shingle to make a land drain on the edge of part of the track. Clerk added the time for planting hedging is almost past for planting and we will miss this year's opportunity, planting deferred to next season. Choice of whips, suggest no hawthorn- to avoid berries.

3.3 Legal Issues

Cllr Brazier gave a brief report, whilst bringing attention to the next item on agenda.

3.4 Town & Country Planning Act 1990-Appeal Mr P Robb site at Nuckies Farm

This refers to an Inspector appointed by Communities & Local Government –Section 1(i) of Schedule 6 to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 to hold a Public Inquiry to determine an appeal by Mr Robb which was started at 10am on 11th January 2011 in Council Chambers. The CHPC legal team was represented by a QC leading our case. We are also presenting a statement of fact by Cllr Brazier. The Clerk attended along with Mr Jones of Coursers Road but not offering any statements to the hearing, merely observing. Other representations from Environment Agency and the District Council were called by the Inspector Mr R Clegg who announced the hearing was expected to last two days with a site visit on the second day. The Inspector also said he will change the agenda to take expert witness's statements and tests of challenges on the first day. This has caused CHPC a problem in that we were notified by PINS the court service this hearing was to be for one day only. After spending a very long day with minimal intervals, the business was conducted in part without the hearing loops making the debate and discernible volume of statements very difficult to the audience. After the Clerk complained it was rectified but not all parties switched on the devices. The statements were duly tested by inspectors questioning of detail, with the main emphasis on flooding and exchanges by the experts to various challenges. It mainly related to experts differences of opinion as to risk or not of having mobile homes on the site with depths of potential flooding in 1-100 & 1-1000 year risk from estimates ranging from 0.4m Mr Robb legal expert to 0.75m from EA legal expert. Plus the consequential expectations of such disaster or occurrence in a major flood event happening. On Mr Robb appeals various overtures were made in defence of the district lack of traveller site provision. The SCADC planning Officer was firm in ruling out these as side issues against the policy of district planning guidelines and strategy agreements. The matter was simply GB planning & not meeting PPS 25 & PPG 25-S this was a top class A or 3 flood risk area and nothing else mattered. It was the safety and risk to the public and others in the area that may flood or be a flood plain, any building should not take place unless the structure is appropriate. Cllr Brazier added Mr Robb knew this was a flood plain and on GB land when he purchased the site. He also criticised the expert statements that relied upon hydraulic measurements made after 2002. Before Mr Robb illegally built up the land height with imported hardcore which now exacerbate the flooding issues there. It was also

possible no planning application existed for the stable conversion to a habitable area comprising day room, kitchen, & bathroom. He said it was clearly an illegal building. At the end of the late session at 6.40pm in the evening the inspector asked if we could agree or manage the second day without representation. He added Cllr Brazier might wish to do the report and summing up with the help of the legal team but without QC. We requested an interval to meet outside and discuss our position with the legal team. The Clerk was positive at the council meeting to approve legal expenditure it required CHPC having legal representation at the hearing. The Clerk said he had the mandate but knew it will cost another unexpected legal day. This was such a final and crucial issue having CHPC gone so far since 2002. CHPC might risk summing up in covering all proper legal facts, and thereby without QC could be depriving the case of a fair and reasonable conclusion. It might even be predidicial to council and local people. After all Mr Robb was represented at Barrister level, we would be deprived of same. These facts were presented to Inspector by our QC adding this involved the final summing up, the QC in turn delivered a submission to the Inspector to adjourn. On considering the facts he agreed to an adjournment to 10am Friday 11th February. Adding he would not take any further evidence but calling for some missing planning documents. At this council meeting Cllr Brazier answered a question from the public and both he and Clerk agreed at this stage it is much too early to say how the case will evolve after such a deep and careful examination of various facts and opinions

3.5 Oaklands Lane Open Land Used for Grazing

Cllr Brazier said the owners were willing to sell and we have requested confirmation of title made a fair offer subject to conditions. Not much more could be said here.

3.6 Public Open Space –Gloucester Park Allotment Provision

The Clerk in the absence of Cllr Gowens gave a brief report; the water supply was on order to complete works by Veolia or their contractors. Little opportunity to progress in the recent bad weather. The marking out has been done by the contractor the Clerk has spoken with him about next stages of ploughing up plots. Again recent ice & snow in past months have restricted progress. The Clerk has received several requests about applications for a plot, including SCADC asking details of what we are doing. It was explained about the site and no parking, how the whole site was very quickly oversubscribed. Our current list has 24 names. Next stages to get agreements in place. Cllr Reeves wanted to know if applicants could cultivate the plots themselves now. Clerk replied best to wait as issues of site safety apply until contractor has finished.

3.7 Colney Heath Parish Council 2010 Year Events

The Clerk gave a quick update on the over 60's Christmas Lunch, about 72 attended and the whole thing went very well. The Children's carol singing was enjoyed by all and the catering by Mrs Jean Horner and volunteers was excellent, a letter of thanks was proposed by Cllr Brazier and supported by all present. The Clerk added we have got to find a team of volunteers to wash up suggesting a men's team might be an answer and that he would volunteer. Time to debate a plan before next time. Assistant Clerk Kim Parker-Mead gave an overview of the Larks in the Parks due to take place on June; Kim made a report having attended a steering committee meeting on 10th January announcing that Jo Askem is once again running/managing the event. The theme this time is a beach party, gives lots of scope. We will again be participating in Roestock Park, on the day. Kim said we are looking for a jazz or rock band/group prepared to do a stint and entertain. The event has less SCADC money.

3.8 Matters of Anti Social Behaviour

List was made available to members, Cllr Brazier spoke about thefts using a simple technique in the snowy weather by observing if cars had been moved or footprints were obvious residents were at home. After which their entering properties was clearly less risky to remove possessions calculating the occupiers were away or out. One other issue not exactly ASB but concerns a local person sleeping rough on the common, Cllr Brazier said efforts to help are being passed off as the individual is not willing to accept. Charities and others have been alerted, he is declining assistance is also avoiding attention. Many were concerned at sleeping in bus shelters and by the river over Christmas. The Church was left open for him. Clerk has already sent a letter to Housing Officer SCADC. The matter is noted and members have offered to monitor the situation and note reports from members of the public on sightings.

3.9 Parish Charter St Albans & District Council Bi-Annual Conference

There was no additional information to add at this time, no news of any meetings.

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

Financial Report

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

4.1 Finance & Accounts

The Clerk handed out copies and details of the council financial statement & reports to each member;- January 2011-£12234.73 expenditure Inc £728.91 VAT. The Clerk went over the expenditure, details explained to the meeting and taking questions.

All payments were agreed;-

Proposed by Cllr A Cloke

Seconded by Cllr C Brazier

4.2 Approval of Budget/Precept/Grant Aid/Payroll/Audit Report/Pre-School

It was agreed to consider and approve the following *en-bloc*.

To accept and approve minutes in Part II of 2nd December 2010

To approve the Budget to Precept for £159,840 for the Parish Year 2011-12

To approve the Grant Aid Applications as presented in the above total

To approve the nominal payroll for 2011-12 within the Part II & Budget proposals.

To approve Council management the Community Pre-School Treasure Tots.

To agree Parish year end figures and Audit report for 2010-11.

Proposed by Cllr C Brazier

Seconded by Cllr P Reeves

4.3 Investments and other Banking Matters

The Clerk reported about new NW banking on line that had been passed approved by council to make it easier to transact the accounts and council business. The Clerk also mentioned we should reduce the number of accounts to perhaps two or three. That is a resolution for the next meeting; each account has a monthly cost we could save on.

The Assistant Clerk Mrs Parker-Mead demonstrated with the transaction detail the office had tried to-day by transferring a £300 deposit via the system.

Other banking matters were covered and in response to a question from Cllr Brazier the Clerk gave an opinion as to what capital would be left at the end of March 2011.

4.4 Charles Morris & Recreation Area

Our ditching work is done-works of balancing pond is with Oaklands Agriculture to do Cllr Reeves wanted to know details about a new notice board; the Clerk explained how we were helping the Committee to save some money without cost to CHPC. Members agreed a letter draft from Solicitor explaining a recent boundary issue was satisfactory, represented our policy, and be sent on CHPC note paper from the Clerk We are to re-invoice the cost of the notice board to CMH after help of saving vat.

4.5 Other Financial Matters

Village Hall has paid our invoices and we have since banked, council send thanks. Invoices for St Marks and Chronicle insert has been paid again with thanks. VAT claim is work in progress. Clerk said he might need to work from home on this as the interruptions make concentration difficult. It needs to be submitted by February The second of our twice yearly payments to PWLB is due next month. (15 year loan)

4.6 Estimates for Various External Works

Decision to defer- important outstanding works (2) -held over to next financial year. Clerk explained Cllr Reeves and Cllr Cloke thought common works should be done. The Clerk explained he will see how the yearly expenditure over next two months might allow works to one of the sites. Cllr Reeves moved we should still do works.

5. PLANNING

(Planning Advisory Committee)

Planning Applications received since last meeting-as-& at 01.12.10-as listed;-

The Weekly list of planning applications from St Albans City and District Council Members considered the comments for the District Planning Applications, updated or circulated to members of CHPC planning advisory committee. Members were invited to note the comments offered in each case and offer additional planning comments if applicable to be forwarded after this meeting to SCADC

Planning on Line-SCADC

Submissions to "*planning on line*"- reported by Assistant Clerk Kim Parker-Mead adding the procedure we are doing has not needed to change. We had it confirmed with the planning office our normal procedure is acceptable. The other issue is what we do if a member of the public wished to see the plans in the office and we have no paper copy to show now. The Clerk explained a few ideas to council but it involves changes and expense of equipment linked to the current wireless system. It was agreed we monitor the next months and ensure we can meet public expectations.

High Street Butterfields Site-

Those at the meeting and were given an opportunity to speak to council of the issues. Members agreed the whole is far from satisfactory in a residential area.

Nicholas Breakspear School

The concern from residents was aired Mr Battersby hoped plans will not be passed, he felt there were no real changes to what had been applied before. Cllr Brazier said when it comes into committee his points would be put forward and he agreed it was not conducive to a residential area. The intense floodlighting proposed and parking were issues that really affect peoples lives. He also added that it was unnecessary in view of the other sports facilities either already in place in the area or proposed from Harvesters to Oakland's new developments, adding they would soon be joined up.

As sent	From SCADC	
	Weekly lists	Circulated to members

Planning List received

Printed list circulated to all members;-

Number	Address	Application	Decision/Recommendation
5/10/2797	18 Roestock Lane	Two storey side and part s/ storey side rear /extension	No objections
5/10/2729	18 St Barts Close	Two storey side extension with integral double garage and one f/dormer window& demolition of existing garage and conservatory and alterations to openings	No objections – As long as the officers are satisfied that the previous reasons for refusal have been addressed.
5/10/2587	9 Puddingstone Drive	Rear conservatory	No objections
5/10/2486	Oaklands College, Smallford Campus	Two/three storey building comprising new teaching block and sports hall with roof plant, five grass and three synthetic turf sports pitches, single storey detached substation building, 70 space car park with associated access and landscaping following demolition of existing build & ancillary dev	CHPC has been given till 17 th January 2011 to comment as agreed by Heather Cheesbrough
5/10/2690	16 Drakes Drive	Single storey front extension, two storey side and rear extension, enlargement of existing first floor rear window internal alt of openings insertion of rooflights	Opposed – Overdevelopment of the site the percentage increase of the original will be out of keeping with the street scene and by its mass, bulk will have a detrimental impact
5/10/2537	Glinwell Plc	Retention of cold store and change of use of the land from Sui Generis (agriculture) to Class B8 (storage & distribution)	Opposes- We are against retrospective applications the process of applying for planning permission and stakeholder consultation has been ignored. Has the workers accommodation been removed as part of the application. Has enforcement been involved or what is the comment?
5/10/2761	Nicholas Breakspear RC	Changing/teaching building and new multi use games area with floodlighting to existing school playing field resubmission of 5/10/1536	Concerns- While encouraging the school to develop and enhance its facility we have a few areas that we would like addressed. 1. The MUGA should not be available on Sundays to give local residents a

			day of peace. Various times in the application are ambiguous. 2. Car parking must have good signage and limited to the school not onto the site road on Colney Heath Lane. 3. There is already a litter problem from the school – how is this going to be addressed in the future? We have concerns spill from the floodlights & effect local residents-impinge on their homes.
5/10/2948	1a Smallford Lane	Front Porch and single storey side extension	No objections- Has the caravan on the site got permission. If so for how long and if it has permission for what is the timescale for the removal?
5/10/2903	Colney Heath Service Station High Street	Change of use from Class b8 (hire/storage centre) to Class Sui Generis 9=(car sales) retro application	With Cllr Brazier 30/12/2010
5/10/2902	Colney Heath Service Station High Street	Change of use from Class b8 (hire/storage centre to Class B1 (car valeting)	With Cllr Brazier 30/12/2010
5/10/2987	60 Firwood Avenue	Part single part two storey side extension conversion of garage into habitable room and loft conversion with one rear dormer and two rear rooflights	With Cllr Brazier 30/12/2010
5/10/3030	15 Newfield way	Garage conversion and alterations to openings	With Cllr Brazier 30/12/2010

Major Development See Bold Type.

Amendment

5/2010/2540/NMA-7Lynch Court Princes Diana Drive-see application notes

HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE-CORE STRATEGY-PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Responses sent to consultation after debate and by 13th December deadline- our letter of response was dated 8th December since circulated to all members.

5-2 Planning Approvals & Decisions

As listed since last meeting

Number	Address	Application	SCADC Decision
5/10/2416	13 Starlight Way	Single storey rear extension	Planning Permission
5/10/2099	46 Firwood Avenue	Part single part two storey part first floor rear and two storey side extension and insertion of lantern light to existing single storey rear extension	Planning Permission
5/10/2273	66 Firwood Ave	F/floor r/ext with 2 r dormer windows	Planning Permission

5/10/2326	12 Cairns Close	Garage conversion alteration to opening	Planning Permission
5/10/2110	11 Firwood Ave	First floor rear extension	Planning Permission
5/10/2747	Colney Heath Farm house 42 High St	Installation of one 11kw wind turbine with max ground to tip height of 24.8m	Planning Permission
5/10/2663	37 Princess Diana Drive	Single storey side and rear extension loft conversion including front and rear window and insertion of rooflights	Planning Permission

5.3 Refusals and Appeals- Enforcement Notices

No Reports			
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5.3-1 Enforcement or Appeal Notice

Appeal Application 5/10/1043-Notice-Mr R Evans 2 Roestock Lane Colney Heath,

5.3-2 Application to Discharge Planning Conditions or Amended Descriptions

Site Former Oaklands College Site Application 5/08/2429

The Oak Hosue-14 Starlight Way-5/10/1726 Refused

PUBLIC INQUIRY

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

5/2009/2471-Site at Beaumont School and land to north of Winches Farm St Albans

Hearing 10am on 5th April 2011 at SCADC Council Chamber-lasts 4 days min.

DETERMINATION OF APPEAL

Appeal by Mr Peter Robb-5/06/1574LJY-Site at Nuckies Farm Coursers Road.

Hearing was 10am Tuesday 11th January 2011 SCADC Council Chambers.

5.3-2 Enforcement or Appeal Notices

Application 5/10/1043-Notice of Appeal-Mr R Evans 2 Roestock Lane Colney Heath, by written representations. Does this council wish to respond-debate? Advise Clerk.

5.3-3 Application to Discharge Planning Conditions or Amended Descriptions

No reports

OTHER TOPICAL ITEMS FOR INFORMATION-following

5-4 Strategic or Planning issues SCADC

No reports.

5.4-2 BA Stanstead Airport Noise Action Appeal

No Reports this time

5.5 Helioslough Rail\Freight Terminal-SRFI

No further reports on Legal Challenges or Public Inquiry and Sec of State intervention being challenged see additional disruption to an already busy area and road network.

5-6 Planning Monitoring

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

Landfill & Quarry-Next Lafarge Meeting 18th January 2011

Energy Efficient Measures Available to Households

Past noted the District Council are promoting throughout Hertfordshire energy saving measures to insulate you home, we have been asked to help promote. The scheme closes in March 2011 and has nearly £4.4 million left to distribute for insulation. Reports from a couple of residents in Smallford Lane clearly unhappy about the mud and mess being left by the roofing and insulation contractors work for SCADC.

5.7 Smallford Station Preservation order

The Clerk reported last time of trying to arrange a meeting herewith interested parties, SRA are also keen to see a resolve. The Clerk added that in view of the intransigent attitude of the landowner or leaseholder, who according to reports had been served but refuses to acknowledge restoration (Local Press) the situation is becoming critical. Two options are seen, (1) create a reserve area around and fence off to allow safe access for assessment by experts on restoration. (2) Move off site -place elsewhere. The second more controversial as origin of the historic building is defined. The risk is damage or even worse if it remains vulnerable amongst heavy plant and stack portable buildings and other machinery. Cllr Brazier thought it was still being used as storage. The Clerk added when he & Cllr Horner tried to visit last year safety issues precluded any opportunity and the yard office denied. We need a meeting of interested parties to decide a strategy. We can suggest uses for a building but is academic until we have it. Ms West at SCADC Conservation, department is facing cuts, we need that meeting.

5.8 Section 106 Money to be used in Colney Heath

Cllr Brazier reported his discussions continue with HHWP, members copied with the past exchanges and letters. Cllr Brazier is clearly trying to prove various requests.

5.9 Boundary Changes

Cllr Brazier reported the exchanges with two members of Parliament in effort to bring changes. Realistically he added that it might be achieved with Franklin Close for now.

OTHER TOPICAL ITEMS FOR INFORMATION-following Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment for SCADC

No reports

London Green Belt Council

Cllr Crump-is parish representative.

Harlow North Any new issues noted and circulated to members

New Barnfield Waste Site-No planning applications as yet-

6 COMMONS OPEN SPACES & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The written reports were considered of:-

6-1 Parish Warden Report

Report will be made available to members at meeting-including village works.

6-2 Parish Commons Ranger Report

Monthly report available-contents noted.

6-3 Parish Gardner and Tennis Courts Attendant Reports

Report includes winter tidy up; bulbs coming up & all our gardens look very good. Normally at this time the mower goes for a service and check up.

6-4 Church & Graveyard Keepers work/time sheet

No further reports. Mower needs service, Clerk to take for service next week.

6-5 CHPC Grass Cutting Contract

No reports or cuts-winter season.

6-6 Commons-Works -Grazing & Stewardship & River Colne.

No further reports other than past noted a forthcoming meeting arranged with CMS starting at 10am on 8th February 2011 to walk common and review work done and agreement, appraisal, plus advice on projects to follow. In particular the bird feeding strip on Furze Field Clerk will take up with Natural England & DEFRA.

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

Cllr Cloke made a report about unauthorised use by 4WD on bridle track near quarry and discarding of gates and barrier. Julian Thornton HCC RoW was informed by the Clerk and agreed to inspect that day. Clerk explained details of other work claim sent off for P3 grant to replace stiles on common. (Mr Paxton's land.)

Cllr Reeves and Cllr Brazier requested a memorial seat for relatives of local family; Clerk advised costs can range from £480-£600 plus according to type. Some new seats are a resin composite and require virtually no painting or maintenance. A place needs to be chosen and a contribution made if the applicants are able to proceed. Community Park requires a seat if of interest to the relatives wanting a memorial.

6.7 Access Track on Common (Rear of V/Hall-High St & High St Cock PH end

Reported earlier, no further progress with resident who agreed to scrape surface and lay drain ditch, Clerk will purchase m2 bag of 20mm shingle to back fill ditch. The suggestion to close the track left rutted by a commercial vehicle according to reports, Clerk asked if members would agree to a 7 day closure to allow it to recover. All councillors present approved, a notice will be delivered to residents that the gap 35-39 High Street will be closed starting Friday 14th and reviewed on 21st January.

6.8 Flood Survey and continuing watch by Environment Agency

Office receives regular flood warnings from both SCADC and EA. Flood risk might be immanent over next weeks after heavy rains and recent bad weather.

Residents encouraged to register with:-

<http://www.excercisewatermark.co.uk/en/homepage.aspx>

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

Councillors or Clerk to report on any issues:-

1. **High Street Play Area**;- No Reports
2. **Community Park**;-No reports
3. **Roestock Park**;-Work remains-to do after parish year end.
4. **Gloucester Park**;-No reports other than Allotments.
5. **Sleapshyde Recreation Area**;-No reports
6. **Charles Morris Play Area**;-No reports
7. **Harvesters & Smallford Dog Walk**;-bent fence post-RP asked to repair-Mr Paxton to do & check.
8. **Smallford Pond & Triangle**;-A volunteer day on 29th January 2011 for the clearance of Sleapshyde Pond, CMS have advised we can clear the pond as newts or toads will be dormant. CMS attending and are to provide some tools.

Railing needs painting-Cllr Reeves request-Mr Paxton asked to do.

- 9 Play areas -Highfield Park Estate/Area-(Own management) (There are 5)**
No reports.

7 HIGHWAYS-TRANSPORT-FOOTPATHS AND VERGES

7.1 Highways Maintenance improvements local Roads or major routes

January is next meeting on Friday 28th January 2011 at Colney Heath office.

7-2 Other Highways and Related Matters

No reports, Cllr Day and Cllr Brazier have made request HHWP over flood risk issues to a property in Tyttenhanger

Re Improving the Visible Street Scene

A the meeting members were notified we have a further opportunity and perhaps the last in view of cuts to the above grant, we still have work in progress to complete the 2010-11 tranche but bad weather and other issues have delayed a start. In the debate few ideas apart from a seat at Cutmore Drive/Wistlea Crescent were put forward. This can be debated again in February. We should try to use the opportunity for this grant.

7.2-1 OTHER HIGHWAY MATTERS

Nicholas Breakspear School-safety issues bus turning and parking

No further reports.

Rural Transport Grant for-High Street & Tollgate Road Improvements

Changes to road scheme-details to follow from HHWP

Adoption of Roads-Abysmal performance of Herts Highways

Ongoing issues, Cllr Brazier trying to resolve with HHWP.

Improving the Visible Street Scene

Application for a grant was awarded-Cllr Brazier has provided suggestions parish Gardner is involved with works, Clerk to look at project WIP.

Cycle Way round about Colney Heath-SCADC

A new cycle map has been produced for the district copies available at the office.

HGV in Wilkins Green Lane

HHWP has been asked by residents for a proper warning sign be put up-not done. Still awaiting confirmation of action to install notice, residents might wish to attend meeting 11.30am 28 January 2011 and put their own questions.

Adoption of Roads in Hertfordshire

Still static issue has gone to H.O.P. and under HCC review according to Cllr Brazier.

7.2-2 TRAFFIC ORDERS

Recent copies of traffic orders sent to the office circulated for information to members

7.3 Path Access Verge and Ditch issues Highfield

No further reports.

7.4 Tollgate Road VAS Speed Cameras-and Highfield Area

CHPC has reserved a contribution to this safety issue, possible tie up with missing portion of S106 monies now being investigated by Cllr Brazier with HHWP.

7.5 M25 Widening started summer 2008 remaining into 2010

Reports-none received however CHPC remain on message e-mail facility.

7-6 Transport and Community Friday Shopping Bus

No reports service is being provided under watchful eye of Cllr Horner who is also still looking at other bus options to save putting in seats, need more volunteer drivers?

Consultation-Proposed Changes to home to School Transport Policy

HCC Consultation closed 14th January 2011. CHPC had no comments to make.

7-7 Long –About A414

A safety survey is to be done by HHWP on the approach to the longabout with a view to installing traffic lights. More news at meeting on 28th January.

7.8 Highway Warning Signs & Mandatory Signs

Noted and suggest keeping as a reminder, the Clerk asked if this need be retained

7.9 Barley Mow Lane Pending Closure (Gating Order-Temporary)

Cllr Brazier repeated his last report about the plan and reviewed the closure facts as he saw them. Cllr Reeves still wanted to see a copy, Clerk to try and obtain.

7.10 Village of the Year & Street Parties Royal Wedding

Council have no objection to any residents holding children's street parties for the forthcoming Royal Wedding, there are however certain Highway restrictions to be considered first. Clerk said contact the parish office for any advice or help on this.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS -

Public questions again over the Car Wash and wind turbine.

9 COUNCIL BUILDINGS-ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTEE MATTERS

9-1 High Street Recreation Area & CHFC meetings

Problems with the lights in the main meeting room part of the club are continually blowing some not working. Lights are some of the early type having smoke hoods fitted as requirement in public buildings. The proposal to move away from this fitting in favour of a fluorescent- running cooler. The Clerk suggested it is improving the building adding to the asset owned by council, Cllr Brazier supported the proposal. A further issue making a decision very important, the building can be used by public as "hire of rooms" CHFC can openly let the facility as a meeting room for revenue. Three lighting options explained to members over the recent quote from the electrical contractor who has past carried out rewiring and remedial work. The best option is the option 2 to rewire fittings from a four switch position creating four zones, better for saving energy-cost estimate £1862.00 +vat. If the Club wish to have option 3 which is an improvement on 2 they pay the difference of the works-estimate £2084.00 +vat. Members were initially reticent to continue expenditure in this direction but issues of safety in a public building and other factors concerning council ownership as landlord put a different perspective on a requirement. Our insurers would expect duty of care. The past approved decision to allow up to £1300 for an external safety light in the car park is not likely to go ahead now as EDF have got the lamp column working in the car park, a new junction box was required. It runs on unmetered supply, after we had contacted them about 15 months ago. This will represent a saving to council of past monies not used. The car park lamp may not be required as there are lights positioned externally on building switched automatically giving direct illumination to car park.

After debate option 2 was agreed, with some reluctance by two councillors present for reasons of continued spending on the premises. Cllr Day saw little option to works. The Clerk has explained important issues to the safety improvement to the building.

Proposed by-Cllr Brazier

Seconded by-Cllr J Day

High Street Recreation Area Entrance Track

The Clerk met on site for a second time with Lafarge on 10th January to discuss the track, it looks as if the matter is moving forward. They are going back to assess costs and when it might be done. Clearly safety issues are understood as is the ownership of the land and access but we do not have "A yes as yet" If it is to go forward summer school holiday being the most likely time. Prime concern is the gradient and making a sub base capable of withstanding use and weather, indicating excavation and type one under any topping will be high cost. The representative suggested HHWP take care of their margin e.g. the footpath entrance/exit which requires an engineering plan.

The Clerk is to take this up with HHWP at next meeting- Cllr Brazier is also to help. One final point is the referral to the site as a car-park, where it is in fact an access track to recreation area, not officially a car park. Although use over years by parents to drop children off at school is suggesting custom and practise over years allowed it to become widely used and known as such. It makes the safety issue more important.

9-2 Treasure Tots Pre-School.

The Leader report was read out to members indicating a slight increase in numbers of children, we have taken on an additional special needs assistant to be paid by HCC. The advertising and recruitment of a Deputy is to be done during this term.

9-3 Village Hall & Committee

The Clerk sent a letter to the Committee before the Christmas break explaining the decision of council has agreed to the back charges and matters going forward. The Clerk was pleased to report o council the invoices have been paid, we should thank the committee for a very prompt settlement.

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

The Clerk reported Several matters to resolve and mentioned the archive search had revealed information on past minutes. The legal issues were explained but Cllr Reeves was not entirely happy as to how it had been reported. The Clerk explained what he was trying to achieve but with limited proof, this really was a Part II matter and he was finding it difficult to explain. He accepted and apologised to Cllr Reeves if there were misunderstandings. He had met with the Solicitor this week and matters are going forward as he will see shortly. Members examined and agreed a draft letter by the legal advisor can now be sent from the Clerk on our position.

9-5 Highfield (Community) Park & Trustees

Cllr Reeves asked if we had received the application for the remainder of fund if qualified. Clerk said he would put the issue on the agenda to the February meeting and if approved it could be paid in March. This is past Govt LAGB-1 funding.

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

No reports.

9-7 Youth Organisations Locally & Youth Council

No reports this time.

9.8 Sheltered Housing-Review Newsletter

Publications for housing (SCADC) are now available on line only.

9.9 Residents Associations.

Highfield Park Residents Association-HPR

No reports

Barley Mow Lane Residents Safety Group

The gating order and funding outcome is immanent, agencies deciding who is to do.

Smallford Residents Association

Matters for the SRA mentioned elsewhere.

Springfield Road-(Part of Smallford Res Assoc)

Survey carried out of Lorries and HGV report circulated to all Councillors-with HHWP to resolve by warning notice or other means.

Other residents associations

Clerk was keen to obtain details from members of any other residents associations as SCADC have enquired requesting an up to date list, others-Tollgate, Sleepshgyde and Tyttenhanger were mentioned as not being active at this time.

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

Copies of reports made available to members-two recent reports in BML area and two and Warren Track at a cost to CHPC of £250.00 for grab loader service.

Clerk to Members note it is helpful when contacting the parish office to report a fly-tip we have the following information SCADC wont collect unless we can tell them this;-

- *Location*
- *Type of waste*
- *If you have already reported the fly tip to SCADC and you are updating our log*

10-2 Police and Community Police matters

Members should note communication n from Herts. Police Service.

10-3 Twinning

Newsletter circulated. Details of AGM in January 2011.

No specific reports-Following the Chair passed by;-

10-4 Reports from Members or attending other meetings

10.5 Flood & Environment Agency Reports-See 6.8-item repeated

10.6 HM Govt Issues

10.7 St Albans Association of Local Councils –SADALC

The Clerk sent an apology for the 11th January as he had not heard if any member was attending. The St Albans & District Association of Town & Parish Councils is the new name old association with fresh constitution. The April meeting is being hosted by CHPC at Charles Morris Hall.

10.8 Lafarge Liaison Meeting

Lafarge-next meeting will be at 4pm on Tuesday 18th January 2011 here V/Hall

11 Members Questions and Late Maters

No reports.

11.1 Charles Morris Recreation Area

Council wish to thank the management Committee for the payment £4343.33.

11.2 Dog Waste Collection

Service is satisfactory-no adverse reports.

12 OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Alternative Meeting Places Highfield Area

Next in this area is the Full Council on February 2011 at Charles Morris Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting will also be held there in 2011 now on 7th April at 7.30pm

No specific reports following

12-1 Staff and Office Matters

A PAT test is required-arrangements being made.

Standards Board announcements

Members circulated with informative details from M Lovelady.

12.2 Clerk to Report on Future Matters requiring attention

No reports.

12-3 Capital Purchase

A future requirement for Windows 2010 to replace current Windows 2003 software.

Plus a computer IT health check March/April, combine the two is best option.

12-4 Publicity- Parish Council Web Site & Chronicle

Spring next edition, Clerk will meet with editor in February, should include details of Annual Parish General Meeting. Any other council announcements to go in as needed.

Web site hosting mentioned by Cllr Reeves, Clerk advised situation.

12.5 Notice Boards and Signs & Bus Shelters

New Oak style notice board going up at Charles Morris Hall-they have paid for this but we ordered to save Vat. CHPC are to be given a space on a triple view board, plan ours being removed and will be available for re-setting in another place. Council to decide, but Gloucester Allotment area is one prime consideration.

This meeting closed at 10.02 pm.

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 @ 13th January 2011 Mtg-Published-21-01-2011 © Jed/full-CHPC- mins 2011-@21/01/11--No copies to be made or alterations without permission of Clerk-file-CHPCMINS-MONTH-FULL-JAN- 2010-11-DOCS FILE-MINS & stick 1+ D/Share -FILE-JED/CHPC MINS-JAN-11 -& TRANSFER BLUE STICK- Word count -6776 & 15. pages- E&OE-

Note!

Next meeting is at Charles Morris Hall on Thursday 3rd February 2011-7.30pm