



Clerk to The Parish Council
Parish Office
83 High Street
Colney Heath
Herts. AL4 0NS

Tel : 01727 825314
Fax : 01727 825327

Email : colney2heath@btconnect.com

8TH SEPTEMBER 2011

MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH-FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD at the Village Hall 83 High Street Colney Heath St Albans -on
THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2011-7.45.pm

Present; - Chair-Cllr D Crump-Cllr C Gowens Vice Chair-Cllr J Day-Cllr R Solts-
New Councillor- Cllr E Martin-Cllr K Barnes-Cllr W Huckle.

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

Public Attendance- Mr D Becker-Mrs G Moody-Mr Mrs S Wales

226 APOLOGIES -ANNOUNCEMENTS

No apologies received, Cllr Gowens advised about arriving half hour later. The Chair Cllr Crump welcomed all back from the summer recess. The Clerk read out a brief warning notice from rural watch about the possibility of travellers seeking to occupy fresh sites in rural areas after being evicted from the Essex site in the national news. Cllr Crump welcomed and introduced Mr E Martin who applied to join the council.

227 TO ELECT A NEW COUNCILLOR BY CO-OPTION

Cllr Crump announced a candidate for co-option Mr E Martin who was attending and introduced-Mr Edward Martin of 38 Sleafshyde Lane AL4 0SB. Having been duly proposed and seconded new Cllr Eddie Martin signed the Declaration witnessed as required by the Clerk.

Proposed; D Horner-

Seconded;-R Solts

228 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS

No declarations.

229 APPROVAL of MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7th JULY 2011

The minutes were approved and **Resolved.**

Proposed by; -Cllr R Solts

Seconded by; - Cllr K Barnes

230. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES

The Chair Cllr C Crump carefully scrolled the pages of the past minutes for members comment; there were no matters outstanding from members present on issues from those minutes. The Chair duly signed as correct.

[Signature]
6/10/11

231 PETITION STREET SCENE IMPROVEMENTS HIGH STREET

With the guidance of Cllr Brazier a consultation poll was carried out with 250 homes including the High Street, Coopers Close, Tollgate Road & parts of the Roestock Lane and Hall Gardens areas to giving a simple yes/no answer. The results were those in favour 95 replies and those against retaining the planter's was 40 replies. Some of the comments made by residents both in favour and against were presented analysed on a spreadsheet, members noted those comments made. A member commented about the logic of the debate and the cost priority to the parish, but all agreed a consultation allowed the issue to be aired. The matter was put to the vote and agreed in unanimous decision to retain the planters. Other ideas was to look at an enhancement if funding allowed was to either darken the green colour or make a wood slatted jacket around.

Proposed;-Cllr D Horner

Seconded;-Cllr W Huckle

232 CONSIDER PLANS & IDEAS FOR STREET SCENE GRANT 2011-12

Having had no response from village organisations it was deferred to allow another opportunity for them to make suggestions. An open letter inviting comments from the WI and High Street Residents and any other organisations is to be published on the notice board and web site The Clerk will send a list of options to consider around to all councillors. The expected budget for the matched grant is £1200-deadline Nov.

233 OAKLANDS FIELD

In the absence of Cllr Brazier the Clerk gave a brief overview of the position and engagement of the legal process. Cllr Brazier had already made it clear a title paper must be produced from the vendors before we agree to any purchase. However whilst on the subject and in light of village greens consultation the Clerk sought members opinion in order to respond to OSS & DEFRA consultation.

234 HIGHFIELD PARK FETE

Cllr Solts spoke about the embarrassment and missed opportunity of us not having a presence by CHPC in the way we wanted. The Gazebo was not collected as arranged it had been left for collection by office, but there was a general misunderstanding over arrangements. Cllr Day Cllr Brazier and Cllr Solts did turn up on the fete day but the gazebo had not been collected. The Clerk had spoken at length with Cllr Solts on the following Monday it was clear a procedure needs to be adopted. Cllr Day spoke of the difficulties in getting the gazebo to the site. The Clerk said in hindsight he wished he had delivered it to Peter Reeves and left in his barn. All agreed a different option next time. Cllr Barnes said HPT we going to change the allocation of pitch sites in 2012 which might make it simpler in avoiding gaps in the display line up.

235 TOWN & PARISH EMERGENCY FORUM

The option for members to attend on Wednesday 19th October 9.30-1.30pm The Clerk and Assistant Clerk are to attend as part of their community safety & resilience action duties. Members can attend if they wish by contacting the parish office for enrolment. In the absence of Cllr Brazier at this meeting does he wish to attend if so call office?

236 NEW PRINCIPLE PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

Details and the name were given out as Mr Carl Cheevers a newly created post for the future action plan; various opportunities are to follow to introduce into councils

237 SPRINGFIELD ROAD-RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS LIST

Cllr Crump read out the issues following a note from a concerned resident, the main issues fell into four categories and he read them out. Whilst CHPC had no specific powers to deal with the complaints we intend to pass on the relevant agencies and authority with our support. The Clerk is to write to SCADC on some of the issues.

FINANCE

238 FINANCE POLICY & RESOURCES

The Clerk reported on the main financial issues-

Approval of cheques for August £16,622.27 Expenditure agreed and **Resolved**;-

Approval of cheques for September £7502.89 expenditure agreed and **Resolved**;-

Proposed Cllr R Solts

Seconded Cllr D Horner

Other Financial matters-(Clerk RFO)

Following the approval of expenditure the Clerk gave a reconciliation of the parish finances and balances to date. He emphasised the need for caution in order to meet and maintain our budgetary levels of the monthly expectations and line in with the year 2011-12 projection. He will provide a 6 month resume at the October meeting and further financial information in the following months as we proceed towards the Parish Budget review in a Part II at the December meeting.

Audit 2010-11

Clerk advised having had telephone discussions with external auditor during August to answer queries about expenditure issues on parish accounts in progress for audit.

District Budgets

As a forward reminder to the council Clerk reported having been notified by SCADC the 2012-13 Budget meeting (Approval of Parish Precepts included) will be debated by the District Council on 23rd February 2012. One day later than normal.

239 PARISH INSURANCE Renewals due 13th NOVEMBER 2011

The Clerk explained the issues, seeking approval from members to seek a parallel quote to measure cost and competition- Members agreed.

PLANNING

240 REPORTS FROM LEAD MEMBER PLANNING ADVISORY

In the absence of Cllr Brazier the Chair amended and delayed this in the schedule to gauge the option to the members late arrival, however as this did not materialise the debate covered the issues later in the meeting in the member's absence.

241 PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PLANNING LIST SEPTEMBER

From the list provided members commented on the following applications;-

242 WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY

Confirmation of CHPC response to the consultation recorded. Refs csht/331

243 HIGH STREET RESIDENTS

Members noted the cessation of the car wash operation; with relief to the residents however complaints were noted over the continuation of the car sales on this old garage site. Residents are aggrieved at unacceptable levels of parking with potential customers waiting in the street some with engines running to view vehicles on sale.

It is also claimed preventing residents parking in limited space adding to congestion on available parking. Members agreed a separate letter is sent to record CHPC support for provision of visitor parking on site is best solution for this type of business. The matter will be raised with Mr D Higgins at the HHWP meeting 13th September

244 NEW BARNFIELD VEIOLIA PARTNERSHIP-WASTE INCENERATOR

The Chair gave an overview of the controversial partnership between Veolia/HCC which has featured in local news and media with a strong public opinion against the building the operation. It has been emotively described in the media by protesters as a huge operation fed by hundreds of HGV movements to produce toxic ash as a result of the process. Suggestion of an alternative recycling of materials is a better long term solution. The plant will be in a residential area and near a special school. It is noted a protest march *(HAI) will take place on 24th September in Hatfield. It was suggested a simple letter recording our concern against building the facility.

**Hatfield Against Incinerator*

245 HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE CORE STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICY DOCUMENT-Letter 25th August 2011-09-14

Issues noted, hearing and public examination before an inspector starts 15th November allowing members or public attendance by invitation letter. Clerk asked if any wish to attend please advise office who will arrange a place.

246 PLANNING ON LINE-NEW PROPSALS FROM SCADC

No further information yet on the suggestion to provide all parish councils within the district better IT or electronic equipment to assist with public presentation for on-line planning. The issue will be debated at the next St AATPC meeting in October.

247 BT TRIAL SITE-ALBANY FIELDS TAYLOR WIMPEY HOMES

Holding response received 26/08 from Heather Cheesbrough of SCADC whilst CHPC suggested issues are examined including visit by an Enforcement Officer over claims of a building incorrectly sited near an established property. SRA have been informed. Any responses received will be forwarded to SRA- Mr Musk and Chair Mr G Lewis

248 BOUNDARY CHANGES-Re 2-18 FRANKLIN CLOSE

This proposal is welcomed by CHPC and fully supports the changes proposed

249 GLINWELLS

No further reports however Chair was keen to contact SRA on this for their views

250 DEFRA CONSULTATION REGISTERING VILLAGE GREENS

After brief debate members agreed a short letter suggesting any changes should not prevent parish councils and community organisations being able to register land or village greens. Preferably as Village Greens, open space available to communities is very important and as such should not dissuade their community use long term or being in control of it.

251 TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT-PLANNING APPEALS

A brief debate on the two applications was noted, having already made statements.

252 DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Clerk urged members to download and absorb the document from CLG web-site and let him have any comments by end of September, the consultation is out until 17th October 2011. There are important issues for all parish councils to absorb. The Clerk said we could defer until October meeting. Cllr Horner suggested a letter should be sent from CHPC so we are on file at CLG now. Any comments to Clerk please send to Clerk by 30th September Details of downloadable files noted to all members. See CLG e-mail 25 July or contact office if there are any difficulties. The Clerk directed members to the SCADC study on Ward Profiles June 2011 which will be e-mailed to all councillors later; it is a very important and informative study to read.

OPEN SPACES & ENVIRONMENT

253 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr Gowens gave a report on the allotment plots, informing some changes of holders where cultivation had not taken place within the three months so meant the loss to the individual under the rules. There was a need for a composter the Clerk had provided details of a ready made product but Cllr Gowens suggested old pallets are just as good and help with recycling. The Clerk will arrange for the remaining pipe work to be done for the water supply around the parameter. He is to get the contractor to trench down to 12 inches saving costs of going deeper. It should be adequate to fulfil the use requirements of most plot holders. In winter all the water will be turned off so the less deep ditch should not be susceptible to frost or freezing. Cllr Gowens wanted to acknowledge the kind resident who supplied temporary water supply. It was also suggested he be acknowledged for that kind service whilst we were waiting for Veolia to connect the mains water. The report also dealt with a dandelion crop and the Sumac roots still coming up here at there, a suitable weed killer will have to be applied.

254 COMMON LAND

Council agreed to light pollarding works to trees- behind no's 15 and 41 High Street but only to be done during the winter months. The Clerk is to seek estimates later including a tree surgeon and Warden Mr Paxton for members to compare prices. Matters concerning the Boundary walk in May were debated but a resolve cannot be agreed at this time. The Chair Cllr Crump felt the Environment Committee might meet and discuss a way forward. The Clerk reminded the meeting that the residents were to form a High Street group following past Chair Cllr Horner efforts to get agreement in place. One that could be recognised by the parish council and negotiation and a set of rules agreed going forward. So far no residents have stepped up to take that on. It was agreed that good relationships with all residents was very important but against this council had statutory duties to protect common land. It was noted about a complaint from a resident in Coopers Gate about parking, washing lines and children's toys appearing to be a garden extension. The comment was noted. After receiving reports about a wall or fence being constructed near the post office adjacent to the common boundary it was agreed by the Clerk and the shop owner construction will stop and go no further until the LR document is available to enable the exact boundary check to be made.

255 ROESTOCK PARK

It was noted the rough sleeper was occasionally using the park on occasions although no reports of defecation. The district outreach worker is in touch with him and has

reported her progress to the parish office. He is entitled to benefits and needs to be encouraged to take the offers of shelter and social help available.

256 COMMONS STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

The Clerk reported on the weed wiping £1200 to the whole of Furze Field plus the hawthorn clearance in one specified area over one day at £400. The remaining hawthorn will probably need another 4-5 days at a cost of £2000. It was suggested contacting CMS to see if they know of a cheaper route. This is a decision for council to make by early spring 2012. The Clerk is to meet with Sentry Farms later this month the contractor, to assess how the weed wiping has taken effect.

257 CHARLES MORRIS HALL

Cllr Day wanted to see the legal issues resolved, The Clerk is to make an appointment with the solicitor and take the file along. It requires an assessment of legal costs.

258 REQUESTS FOR DOG WASTE BIN-at WILKINS GREEN

It was agreed a bin will be provided in Springfield Rd/Wilkins Green area either in this parish year or next, soon to do the budget review. If a suitable position can be located on either parish or SCADC land. Clerk to add to projects list.

259 HIGH STREET RECREATION AREA & PAVILION

The minutes of the last CHFC 22nd August meeting had been circulated to council. The Clerk has reported the burglary in the agenda notes. It is clear the fixings for the grilles over the windows are the weak point. It has been suggested if we obtain stronger screws club will agree to fix in place of 12 gauge Phillips Screws in place. Other matters reported earlier prior to this meeting from Cllr Brazier where any costs should be agreed in council first before any expenditure. Next meeting is 19th Sept.

260 HARVESTERS DOG WALK

Reports from Mr Paxton the angle iron and chain link fence has been reversed into possibly by a delivery lorry turning round. Clerk seeks approval to replace with a more substantial fence. Members considered options, such as concrete posts and chain link but agreed replacement. Clerk to get quotes for replacement.

261 PARISH REPORTS AVAILABLE

Parish Warden

Ranger's report-Motorcyclist riding on common noted

Parish Gardener report-Stolen 12 geraniums from V/Hall bed.

Fly Tipping monitor

Anti Social Behaviour monitor

Copies were handed out and briefly debated and members noted specific issues

262 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

One question from Mr D Becker was he observed the padlocks were not being used at a vulnerable place on the common, a risk that could make entry simple. The Clerk has issued a triple lock matching set last year to be put in place a check is to be made. Reports of the tree still in the river were noted and the Clerk will instruct Mr Paxton to remove it. Another question focused attention on various developments in the village.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

263 HIGHWAYS REPORT

Lead Member Cllr Huckle gave a brief report, advising the next HHWP meeting is on Tuesday 13th September at 11am at Parish Office with Mr Damien Higgins HHWP. As reported in the agenda notes the following will be put forward.

- Patching work for access to High Street Recreation area ordered
- Firwood Avenue footway undergoing slab replacement
- Quotes being sought for long-about vegetation clearance A414

Several other highway matters reported to office by Cllr Brazier after his contacting residents in Rowan Close –Cranbrook Drive over very poor road surface and paths. Seeking a policy decision from HHWP on the upkeep of maintenance on those roads. The meeting will also include a past report Cllr W Huckle indicating poor signage & regular HGV use of Station Road against axle weight limit. No right turn notices at Wilkins Green Lane not obeyed, A414 cycleway obstructed by branch overhang. Cllr Brazier suggestion to HHWP regarding the longabout and safety changes.

Road Notices

Notice of TRO5187-Temp Closure-Wilkins Green Lane-10-14 October for 5 Days
Notice of TRO 5171-Temporary Closure of Colney Heath Lane & Hill End Lane starting on 1st October for a period of up to 1 year. Both for various maintenance and works to take place.

264 HIGH STREET SPEEDING

The council noted the e-mail sent by resident Nigel Furlong regarding speeding and dangerous overtaking near the school speed cushions. Council recommended the matter be passed to HHWP and Police. Agreeing there needs to be more checks on speed also it questions the effectiveness of the road scheme as others have observed similar bad driving without regard to others. Cllr Gowens reported having witnessed similar bad driving in Hill end Lane. Police & HHWP to be informed

265 HERTFORDSHIRE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT DATA REPORT

Council noted the conclusions to the report.

266 BUS SHELTERS INSTALLATION-HIGH STREET

Now installed and in use, remedial issues over the bus stop sign & timetable position. Intervention by Cllr Brazier who got the faults fixed after High Street works.

267 GATING ORDER FOR BARLEY MOW LANE

Reported over local publicity indicating there is reluctance for the agencies to pay the costs of installation, Cllr Brazier has written asking to HHWP for an explanation after it was agreed in principle. Anne Main MP is involved enquiring over the delay. Local Barley Mow Safety Forum pressing very strongly to see the completion. Cllr Horner said unfortunate for residents it appears “kicking the can down the road”

268 COMMUNITY BUS

Cllr Horner gave his report saying the new bus is much better and cheaper we are on average taking four to six passengers and there is room for more persons to use the facility on Thursday's to the supermarket at Hatfield. He was keen to recruit more volunteer drivers on the rota. Contact him if they can spare 4 hours on a Thursday. Clerk advised a CDA minibus operators meeting on 22nd September details at office.

COMMUNITY

269 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE-COUNCIL MEMBER

Cllr Horner is the representative spoke about 6th September meeting where it is clear hall management are facing increasing costs especially energy. The increase was over 22% and more on the way. The Clerk said about the past suggestions to VHMHC for grants to install "green/solar" energy available to village halls via CDA help.

Cllr Horner also confirmed the community room use for CHPC at £750 pa was agreed and the booking secretary will inform the office if they get a request for a booking in time agreed for the council. We are also free to install a parish filing cabinet now.

The Clerk said it will be helpful for "ad-hoc meetings" and open to other community or residents meetings if required. There will be a police meeting here on 20th Dec

270 TREASURE TOTS PRE SCHOOL

Cllr Horner now Chair of the Pre School, reported we have 25 children on the books and a few more are registering late as the term starts. He recorded a vote of thanks to Cllr Brazier for his contributions from two of his County Locality Budget Scheme which will benefit staff for training and qualification purposes viz-£1400 & £2000 grants. The evaluation form (HCC) has been completed for both grants and sent back to HCC by the parish office. Staff reports all working well together, some are taking additional training. Senior Bank Staff Mrs Montebello who has been with us for 5 years retired in July, we are grateful for her kindly attention with the children. She was also very popular with the parents too. We are geared up expecting an OFSTED visit at any time. The Autumn Term ends on Friday 16th December with a Christmas Party for the children. No prizes for guessing who is doing Father Christmas!

272 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS

Reports noted:-

The Clerk made members aware he and assistant Clerk are to attend a Parish Charter Clerks briefing meeting with CEO Daniel Goodwin at the District Offices at 9.30am 21st September –this means the office will be closed from 9.15 until about midday.

273 TWINNING REPORT

Newsletter circulated to members indicating various events

274 PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS

Cllr Horner said arrangements are in place for over 60's Christmas Party to be held at St Marks Church Centre from 12.30 on 9th December, a coupon will be in Chronicle. Questioning should we hold a Pantomime this year? It was debated but decided as in a past year it had not reached the level of popularity expected to be a worthwhile event which needs 80 to 100 attendances. That figure could not be guaranteed. Also many other party events going on at same time, council decide not to go ahead this time. It gives more opportunity to use the events budget to promote more activities at Larks in the Parks which draws over 300 people in the summer. Next is the Queens Jubilee celebrations, plus other parish events to be debated for a council decision in October.

275 BRODBAND IN COLNEY HEATH

Many complaints over the poor and sometimes virtually no speeds are affecting some who wish to work from home, several e-mails and responses from frustrated residents asking what we can do. In a debate with Cllr Solts knowledgeable advice was listened to, the council will try and push this forward in some way by complaining to OFCOM

276 REPORTS FOR COUNCIL TO NOTE

Reported on a separate list and noted in the progress of business.

277 CORRESPONDANCE

Action on the following dealt with:-

Cllr Crump Will try and attend a Civic Service at the Cathedral & St Albans Abbey 11.15am on Sunday the 16th October-he will make own arrangements by 9th October

Invitation open-Herts LAF Meeting 20th September 7.30-9.30pm rB154 Campus UH

Invitation open-Planning & Climate Change-6th October Business & Technology Centre Stevenage-Clerk will arrange a place if you wish to attend.

Invitation open to St Albans Food & Drink Festival 2011 on 15th September at 3pm Clerk open to all Parish Councillors.

278 MEMBERS QUESTIONS OR LATE MATTERS-LETTER

Any late matters or brief items not tabled this time but to be considered in future.

Members were informed of the following:-

New Cllr Martin has requested to attend code of conduct seminar at Harpenden on Monday 12th September, parish office to see if he can be offered a place.

Review of Polling Places-No objections to listings.

Booking confirmation CMH for 6th October meeting

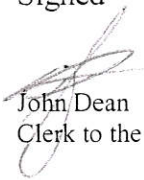
MEETING START TIME

Cllr Gowens sought clarification on the start time of the council meetings, her opinion was 8pm other members thought 7.45pm May minutes noted 7.45pm but that was a disputed statement. A free informal vote was put to members by the Chair Cllr Crump to choose a time and after a brief debate the time of 8pm will start from 6th October for a trial period until January new-year. The Clerk will put a general informative notice out and also on the web site.

The Chair thanked members for dealing with the business effectively it was a long agenda with regular items in amongst some fifty two matters including many issues that have come about during the recess since July but still needing council attention. Some nine letters also to do

The meeting closed promptly at 10.07 pm

Signed


John Dean
Clerk to the Council

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING IS THURSDAY 6TH OCTOBER AT CHARLES MORRIS NEW TIME START at 8.00pm

*Copies available on the parish web-site:-Note no responsibilities accepted for errors typos or mistakes or statements until *approved by council in the next meeting. Published-16 Sept-16-09-2011 © Jed/full-CHPC- mins 2011-*

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6/10/11