

**PLEASE BRING TO MEETING
ON 9 FEBRUARY 2000.**

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Colney Heath Parish Council held at the Pavilion, High Street Recreation Ground, Colney Heath on Wednesday 12 January 2000 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllr. C. Brazier
" I. J. Day
" F. S. Ellis
" Mrs. H. Falk
" Mrs. J. Jeffrey

IN ATTENDANCE

D. Becker - 95 High Street
F. Graham 58 Tollgate Road
Mrs. G. Moody - Greenleas, Roestock Lane

Mrs. C. Pluck - Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES

Cllr. D. Crump (work commitment)
" Mrs. S. Defoe (unwell)
" Miss A. Thomas (work commitment)

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Cllr. Mrs. H. Falk and Cllr. I. J. Day to the meeting.

Cllr. Mrs. Falk and Cllr. Day signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office book before commencing their duties as Parish Councillors.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 1999 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Page 1 - Millennium Mugs

The Clerk reported that many mugs had been claimed by primary school children in the parish who did not attend Colney Heath JMI and many mugs had been sold.

The Clerk reported that there were approximately 130 mugs left and she was still attempting to claim a refund due to the original order being 36 mugs short.

Page 1 - High Street Recreation Ground

Received a letter from the Council's Solicitor confirming that he expected to spend up to two hours investigating the Council's queries over matters relating to the High Street Recreation Ground and the Common and asking the Council for details of any separate agreement for pitch rental at the HSRG.

RESOLVED to ask the Solicitor to proceed with his investigations and inform him that no formal agreement had been drawn up relating to the hiring of pitches.

2. MATTERS ARISING (CONT.)

Page 2 - 1999 Senior Citizen's Xmas Parcels

Received a letter from Savacentre, London Colney, apologising for the problems and delays experienced by the Council when purchasing tins of biscuits for the 1999 distribution.

RESOLVED to acknowledge the letter, stressing that the Council would be investigating alternative suppliers in future years.

Page 2 - Recreational Areas

The Clerk reported that she had been quoted a figure of £300 for a sign for Sleapshyde Pond which could include a design by Colney Heath JMI school screen printed onto aluminum.

RESOLVED to consider the quotation at the Council's Budget meeting on 26/1/00.

Page 2 - Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported that the Christmas Social for staff and Cllrs. had not taken place due to the Pavilion having a prior booking on the suggested date.

Page 6 - Colney Heath Common

The Clerk reported that no reply had been received from the Solicitor acting for the owner of the piece of land adjacent to the Common at Coursers Road.

Page 7 - Public Transport & Highways

Received a letter from the CDC acknowledging the Council's support for the residents of Camp Road in their attempt to introduce traffic calming measures in the section of road between Hill End Lane and Drakes Drive.

Page 7 - Smallford Trail

Received a letter from the CDC confirming that Highground had now been asked to park their vehicles in the Company's own compound rather than in the Smallford Trail car park.

Page 7 - Footpaths & Bridleways

The Clerk reported a telephone conversation with Mr. J. Riley of the 4-Wheel Drive group, who was prepared to attend a meeting or speak to the Chairman of the Council regarding the legal status of Footpaths 51 and 51a and the intentions of the 4-wheel drive users.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no items to report since the last meeting.

4. SPECIAL BUSINESS

a) Peter's Green to South Mimms Gas Pipeline

There had been no update on the pipeline.

b) 2000/02 Grass Cutting Contract

Cllrs. discussed the 2000/02 Grass Cutting Contract to run from March 2000 to October 2002 and considered recommendations from HERC and CMS for amendments to the management of the Common for inclusion in the new contract.

RESOLVED to include the minor amendments to the management contract and put out to tender to five contractors for consideration by the Council at the meeting on 9/2/00.

5. FINANCE

a) Parish Council Accounts

Received copies of all emergency accounts and current accounts, having previously been circulated to all Cllrs.

RESOLVED that the Chairman's action in authorising the signing, out of meeting, of all emergency cheques be confirmed and that cheques be drawn to cover all current accounts.

b) Charity of Charles Morris for Allotments Accounts

Caroline Pluck, as Honorary Clerk to the Trustees, presented an up-to-date financial report.

c) Parish Precepts - 2000/2001

Received details of payment for the 2000/2001 parish precepts which would be paid in full on 28/4/00 and asking for details of each Council's precept requirements by 24/1/00.

6. PLANNING

a) Planning Applications

Received weekly lists of planning applications from St. Albans City & District Council.

Cllrs. considered comments collated by the Planning Applications Officer as circulated since the last meeting.

5/99/2237 Conservatory at 47 Princess Diana Drive.

NO OBJECTIONS

5/99/2266 Erection of two dormer windows and alterations to the existing front dormer at 542 Oakholme, Hatfield Road.

CONCERNS

1. The plans supplied by the applicant are not accurate. On the eastern proposed side elevation the dormers new (rear) and altered (front) are not shown.
2. There are serious concerns over the position of the eastern dormer, as it will overlook the flats at Ryecroft Court (1 & 2) According to the plans this dormer is the new en-suite bathroom. Considering the location of this new element, the Parish Council would expect conditions 514 or 515 to be attached to protect the privacy and amenity of the adjacent residents. Although the rooms that could be affected in the flats are a mixture of major use and minor use rooms, it is still appropriate for the conditions to be applied.

5/99/2273 Change of use of land to agriculture and/or open spaces (duplicate application) at

5/99/2274 Hatfield Aerodrome.

NO OBJECTIONS provided the constraints of the BA Development Plan are followed.

5/99/2287 Conservatory at 24 Princess Diana Drive.

NO OBJECTIONS.

5/99/2288 First floor extension at 12 Wistlea Crescent, Colney Heath.

CONCERNS

1. The site already has the benefit of a large extension that materially affects the amenity of the attached neighbours. It is single storey and reduced at proximity to the neighbours. To add a first floor to this existing extension would be too overbearing. If there are to be additions they need to be restricted to one bedroom over the kitchen. At 3.1m x 2.7m this would be an acceptable increase within the criteria of Policy 13.
2. The Parish Council has no objections in principle to an addition to the rear of the property at first floor level but feels that this particular application is too large and too overbearing at the boundary with the attached neighbours.
3. The Parish Council recommends that an amended scheme be pursued and hopes that this can be achieved within this application.

5/99/2321 Variation of Condition 2 Planning Permission (5/1280/83) to allow sale of pets, pet food and supplies at Focus-Do-It-All, Unit 2, Hatfield Road.

6. PLANNING (CONT.)

OBJECTIONS

1. This will add increased traffic along the Hatfield Road, introducing a new use that could lead to duplication.
2. The Parish Council is concerned about the provision of live animals. The dried goods and pet supplies can be stored quite easily but the controls and safety needed for animal care is a totally different situation that cannot be addressed just by asking for a variation in condition. Very careful provision needs to be made e.g. in the case of fire, the mix of potentially lethal products in the same area as pets has to be addressed so they can be isolated. The Council is interested to know what type of animals will be sold.
3. 24 hour supervision and correct care will need to be controlled and assessed. The Parish Council would expect that a written reference and report from the Environmental Health section/Waste section would be expected to help determine this application. This might still be A1 class but the provision of live animals as well as pet supplies is not the norm.
4. The Parish Council feels there is a general lack of detail contained within this application that is not acceptable and would request officers to request clarification.
5. The Parish Council will request District Ward Cllrs. to call this application in.

5/99/2330 Erection of storage building at Countryside Management Service Site, Hixberry Lane.

NO OBJECTIONS

5/99/2332 Conservatory at 25 Wynches Farm.

NO OBJECTIONS but suggest reducing width to 3m to safeguard neighbours' amenity.

5/99/2339 Erection of 10 dwellings with associated parking, garages & access (approval of reserved matters personate to outline planning permission (5/98/2344) at land rear of 330 Camp Road.

OBJECTIONS

1. Roof height on main building is far too high, unnecessary, over powering and over developed in a residential area. It should be reduced in parallel with the gable heights.
2. There is too much hard surfacing, although broken up by paving, there is greater opportunity for extra landscaping than is apparent. Also, wire post & rail fencing is not appropriate in relation to enclosures or any kind. Need to refer to Police document on building out crime.

b) Appeals and Enforcement Notices

No appeals or enforcement notices had been issued since the last meeting:

c) Planning Decisions

The Clerk reported on the following planning decisions received since the last meeting.

5/99/1510CA Demolition of Garages a 12-19 Sleapshyde Lane.

APPROVED

5/99/1651CE Use of building as a dwelling house at 9 Tyttenhanger Green.

REFUSED Certificate of Lawfulness

5/99/1859 Change of use to theatre base, training and resource centre and extensions at Hill End Chapel, Russet Drive.

APPROVED

5/99/1934 Conservatory at 7 Edison Close.

REFUSED

6. PLANNING (CONT.)

5/99/1942 Single storey front, side and rear extension at 13 Swans Close.
APPROVED

5/99/1961 Erection of detached triple garage at 8 Wilkins Green Lane, Smallford.
REFUSED

7. OPEN SPACES

a) Colney Heath Common

i) Common Ranger's Report

Received the Common Ranger's report for December.

Received a copy of the Management Plan Review 2000 for Colney Heath Common prepared by the CMS and HERC.

RESOLVED to comment on the Review at the next Council meeting.

Received information from CMS on Shrub Clearance on the Common which would take place on 26/1/00 from 10 - 3.30.

The Chairman reported on the recent problems with horses wandering off the Shell land at Church Lane and onto the Common, grass verges and the A414.

RESOLVED to write to Shell urging them to take action to prevent this continuing problem.

b) Recreational Areas

Discussed the recommendations from Zurich Municipal for play equipment inspections.

RESOLVED to contact Highfield Trust for information on whom to contact for the annual play equipment inspection by qualified personnel.

Received final details of the Smallford Playing Fields scheme to provide a children's play area and a dog walking area.

Received information from the HCC on proposals for the future of the Smallford Pit site.

RESOLVED to reply to the HCC that the Parish Council was interested in the future plans for the site and would be interested in attending a site meeting when more details were available.

c) High Street Recreation Ground

Received a letter from the Football Club asking the Council if they could have the wooden fencing along the pipeline route when it was no longer needed on the Common.

RESOLVED to inform the Club that the fencing would be available in the spring once Transco had removed the fence posts and filled in the holes on the Common to prevent any accidents.

The Club also asked if they could have any unbroken slabs and "muck" from the works to widen the car park at the HSRG.

RESOLVED to inform the Club that once a contractor had been appointed to carry out the car park widening the Council would approach them about the slabs and muck.

The Clerk reported that the Council's contractor had now started work on the exterior of the Pavilion.

RESOLVED to invoice the Football Club for £500 as their contribution towards the repairs and painting of the exterior of the Pavilion.

d) Parish Warden's Report for December

The Parish Warden's report was not available at the meeting.

RESOLVED to remind the Parish Warden that the monthly report must be presented to the Council at the meeting and to inform him that the fence around the play equipment at Roestock Park needed attention.

e) Community Park

There were no matters to report relating to the Community Park.

7. OPEN SPACES (CONT.)

f) Highfield

Received a report from the Trust representative.

Received the Trust's winter newsletter and details of two apple-pruning workshops.

8. HIGHWAYS

a) Public Transport & Highways

Received a letter from P.C. Carson (St. Albans Traffic Unit) regarding various road traffic matters brought to his attention at the Parish Council meeting on 10/11/99.

The Clerk reported that a resident of Hall Gardens had voiced his concerns over the speed and volume of traffic along Hall Gardens. He was particularly concerned due to the high number of elderly people living in the road and the children crossing the road to use the adjacent play facilities at Roestock Park.

Received a copy of a letter from a resident of Tollgate Road asking the CDC to introduce traffic calming measures along Tollgate Road.

Cllr. Mrs. Falk mentioned the potential hazard at the junction of Wilkins Green Lane and Springfield Road where traffic approaching from the Hatfield direction could not be seen by vehicles or pedestrians leaving Springfield Road.

RESOLVED i) to write to P.C. Carson, with a copy to Graham Stephens (CDC) pointing out all the above comments and urging for appropriate action to be taken as soon as possible.
ii) to acknowledge the letter from the resident of Tollgate Road informing him of the action taken.

b) Smallford Trail

There was no information relating to the Smallford Trail

c) Footpaths & Bridleways

Received Cllr. Brazier's report on footpaths in the parish.

Cllr. Brazier reported that signs would be erected along some footpaths indicating their inclusion in circular walks.

Cllr. Brazier reported on problems with refuse collection in the parish over the Christmas and New Year period.

Despite information on the weekly collections, there had been no collection in Colney Heath on 29 December or 5 January. Consequently there had been problems with rubbish sacks being split open and their contents being spread along the streets and rats had been reported in one area.

Cllr. Brazier had been informed that MRS were behind with their collections due to staff sickness and he eventually managed to secure the attendance of a low loader to remove most of the refuse.

RESOLVED to write to MRS, with a copy to Barbara Bamber (CDC Client Services) stressing the Council's disappointment with the refuse collection arrangements in Colney Heath over the Christmas and New Year.

9. COUNCIL OWNED (OR TRUSTEE) BUILDINGS

a) Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs. Jeffrey presented her report on progress with the building of the Village Hall extension.

The plastering had now been completed and the plumbing was presently underway. The next stage would be the screeding of the floor.

Received a report from the Working Party meeting held on 5/1/00.

A burglar alarm system was to be installed and a metal post box for the outside of the building needed to be organised.

9. COUNCIL OWNED (OR TRUSTEE) BUILDINGS (CONT.)

Cllr. Mrs. Jeffrey reported that she had arranged for the Mayor of St. Albans to officially open the extension on 13 May 2000 at 2 p.m.

Cllrs. discussed the arrangements for the office and community room and the VHC's suggestions that the Council would not pay rent for the office but that a proportion of gas, electricity and cleaning costs would be chargeable to the Council. The Village Hall Council would take bookings for the Community Room and use the revenue to offset the costs of heating, lighting, cleaning and maintenance.

All meetings held in the room would be chargeable except those arranged by the Parish Council or the Village Hall Council.

RESOLVED that the Working Party meet again in March to discuss invitations to the opening ceremony and other matters relating to the management of the hall.

Cllrs. discussed a letter from the CDC regarding the Millennium Plaque and Trail arrangements.

RESOLVED to write to the CDC asking if funding would be available for the production of a plaque for the Village Hall to commemorate its official opening by the Mayor of St. Albans.

Received a letter from a resident of the High Street, Colney Heath, complaining of blocked access to the rear of her property due to construction works at the Village Hall and asking if a landscaping scheme had been planned to screen the extension.

RESOLVED to thank the resident for her letter, informing her that the works would not continue for much longer but that there was no funding available for landscaping or screening around the extension. The Council was also aware that it would not be permitted to plant some species on the Common due to its LNR and Heritage Site status.

Received a copy of a letter to the District Council regarding concerns over access arrangements outside the Village Hall during construction works.

RESOLVED to reply to the CDC that all the work to the sewer which had affected access had now been completed.

b) Charles Morris Hall

Cllrs. discussed the vacancy for a Councillor on the hall management Cttee.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Day be the Council's second representative on the Charles Morris Hall Management Cttee.

10. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

a) CPRE

South East Housing

Village Design Statement Workshop

Planning for People

b) HALC

Parish Information - December 1999

Details of NALC conference in Brighton on 16-18 June 2000

c) Hertfordshire County Council

Environment Matters - Autumn 1999

STRAP - Autumn newsletter and information note.

d) St. Albans & District Association of Parish Councils

Agenda for meeting on 11/1/00 at Marshalswick Community Centre.

11. STAFF

There were no matters to discuss relating to Council staff.

12. ST. ALBANS CITY & DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEES

14/12/99	Planning S/C South
15/12/99	Highways & Works Cttee.
16/12/99	Special Planning Cttee.
16/12/99	District Plan Second Review
04/01/00	Planning S/C South
05/01/00	Planning Cttee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

DATE

J. King
9 11 00

[Signature]