

PLEASE BRING TO MEETING
ON 12 JULY 2000

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Colney Heath Parish Council held at the Village Hall, High Street, Colney Heath, on Wednesday 14 June 2000.

PRESENT

Cllr F S Ellis (in the Chair)
Cllr C Brazier
Cllr D Crump
Cllr J Day
Cllr Mrs H Falk
Cllr Mrs J Jeffery

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs G Moody – Greenleas, Roestock Lane
Mr & Mrs Gwillim – Avalon, Sleapshyde
Mr & Mrs Russell – Penlu, Sleapshyde
Mr & Mrs Carpenter – The Bungalow, Sleapshyde
Mr & Mrs Martin – Conifer Corner, Sleapshyde
Mr Roberts – Rose Cottage, Sleapshyde
Mr & Mrs Stayton – Little Bushes, Sleapshdge
Mr & Mrs Nairne – 32 Sleapcross Gardens, Smallford
Mr I Stringer – Buckland, Sleapshyde

Mrs C Leggatt – Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES

Cllr S Defoe (CPRE meeting)
Cllr A Thomas

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 10 May 2000 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 (previously minute 9.1) Rental of Boissy Park – a reply from the Council's Solicitors is still awaited. **Action: Clerk**

2.2 (previously minute 9.2) Inspection of Play Equipment – the Clerk has requested quotes for the inspection of the play equipment from companies other than RoSPA in order that comparisons can be made. Since these have not yet been received it was agreed to defer a decision regarding the inspection of play equipment until the next meeting. **Action: Defer**

2.3 Community Safety – PC Ken Lane forwarded his apologies for this meeting but indicated that he was attempting to get the desk at Colney Heath Police Station open on a regular basis and that he will liaise with the Clerk over community safety issues.

3. Chairman's Special Announcements

The Chairman reported on the following:-

3.1 Alderman Jim Armstrong – recently passed away.

- 3.2 Women's Institute – letter of thanks received for Parish Council donation.
- 3.3 Town Twinning Association - letter of thanks received for Parish Council donation.
- 3.4 Trestle Theatre Company - letter of thanks received for Parish Council donation.

4. SPECIAL BUSINESS

4.1 Review of the City and District of St.Albans – the Clerk presented a draft submission to the District Council concerning the current Parish Review that they are undertaking. It was agreed that this draft submission should be forwarded to meet the District's deadline of 30 June for initial representations. The submission will request that previous arrangements made between London Colney Parish Council and Colney Heath Parish Council are formalised in order that the Highfield area falls within the parish of Colney Heath.
Action: Clerk

4.2 Electoral Review of Hertfordshire County Council – Members noted a draft order circulated by the District Secretary and Solicitor concerning the electoral review of Hertfordshire and noted that this is unlikely to affect the St Albans District.

4.3 Sleapshyde Lane Garage Site – the District Council's Housing and Environment Committee is to consider potential uses of the garage site in Sleapshyde Lane in a meeting on 22 June. Potential uses so far include (a) selling the land on the open market for development, (b) allowing a housing association to develop and (c) developing the site for two homes for senior citizens. The latter option was welcomed by both Councillors and those members of the public in attendance and it was agreed that this should be conveyed to the District Council.
Action: Clerk

4.4 Secondary School Admissions (Shareen Eames) – the Chairman reported on the case of a child in the village who has been unsuccessful in gaining a secondary school place in St.Albans. Following several appeals by the parents and a letter of support forwarded by Cllr Brazier on behalf of the Parish Council, Ms Eames has very recently been awarded a place at Nicholas Breakspear School to the delight of her parents.

4.5 Archive Records and Parish Photographs – following a request from Mrs Joy Tompkins to purchase a filing cabinet for the storage of archive and history records it was agreed to purchase a cabinet to house these records.
Action: Clerk

It was further agreed to look into the possibility of reproducing photographs of Colney Heath currently held by the History Society. It is believed that this could be a costly exercise but Cllr Brazier indicated that he may be able to reproduce these over a period of time providing it can be established how many photographs need copying.

Action: Clerk

6. Finance

6.1 Parish Council Accounts

Members received copies of all emergency accounts and current accounts. The meeting **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.

6.2 Audit 1999/2000

The auditors have notified the Clerk that the audit for 1999/2000 is likely to commence in late July/beginning of August.

6.2 Charity of Charles Morris for Allotments Accounts

Charlotte Leggatt, as Honorary Clerk to the Trustees, presented an up-to-date financial report.

7. Planning

7.12 Planning Applications

Members received the weekly lists of planning applications from St. Albans District Council and considered comments collated by the Planning Applications Officer as circulated since the last meeting as follows:

RECEIVED	APPL NO.	ADDRESS	COMMENT
12 May 2000	5/00/0894	9 Tyttenhangar Green	Objections
12 May 2000	5/00/0899	87 Tyttenhangar Green	Comments
12 May 2000	5/00/0923	8 Grafton Close	None
19 May 2000	5/00/0960	4 Stanmore Chase	Comments
26 May 2000	5/00/0986	7 Princess Diana Drive	None
26 May 2000	5/00/1014A	Wayside VW, Alban Park	None
26 May 2000	5/00/1024	PDE Geesink Ltd, Acrewood	Comments
9 June 2000	5/00/1087	Land Adj Rose Cottage	Objections*
9 June 2000	5/00/1101	Birch Centre, Hill End	None
9 June 2000	5/00/1107	19 Meadway, Colney Heath	Objections
9 June 2000	5/00/1117	19 Princess Diana Drive	None

* It should be noted that there was strong public opposition voiced at the meeting in relation to planning application no 5/00/1087 – debate and explanation lasted around 45 minutes.

7.2 Appeals and Enforcement Notices

There has been no notification of any appeals or enforcement notices issued since the last meeting.

7.3 Planning Decisions

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

5/99/2339	Land R/O 330 Camp Road	Reserved Matters Approval
5/00/0427	2 Alban Park, Hatfield Road	Planning Permission
5/00/0441	1a Sleafshyde Lane	Planning Permission
5/00/0507	80 Tollgate Road	Planning Refusal
5/00/0525	65 High Street	Planning Refusal
5/00/0603	12 Sleafcross Gardens	Planning Refusal
5/00/0628	Barley Mow Public House	Planning Permission
5/00/0630	8 Princess Diana Drive	Planning Permission
5/00/0719	108 Roestock Lane	Planning Refusal
5/00/0746	106 Roestock Lane	Planning Refusal
5/00/0786	12 Meadway	Planning Refusal
5/00/0856	3 Edison Close	Planning Permission

9. Open Spaces

9.1 Colney Heath Common

9.1.1 Common Rangers Report - the Common Ranger's Report for May was received.

9.1.2 Fencing on Common – it was agreed to ask Groundwork to remove the remainder of the fencing.
Action: Clerk

9.1.3 Warren Track Fly Tipping – following further fly tipping on the Warren Track it was agreed that Humana should be approached to remove their clothes bin on the High Street since this appears to be the source of some of the waste material. It was further agreed that the District Council should be contacted to ascertain whether they are responsible for removing this waste.
Action: Clerk

9.1.4 Land Ownership on Warren Track – the Clerk reported that she and Mrs Nash met on sight with Parish boundary maps and confirmed that the hedge on the right of the Warren Track (as one faces the farm) appears to form the boundary.

9.1.5 Vehicle Crossover at Coursers Road – further dumping of waste to create an access road onto the stables in Coursers Road has been occurring. A wayleave is required to cross land thought to be owned by the Parish Council and such permission has not yet been applied for. The Council's Solicitors are still trying to confirm who owns the land for which a wayleave is required. The District Council's Enforcement Officers are aware of the illegal dumping (to create the access road) and are trying to establish who the owners are in order that appropriate enforcement action can be taken. As the land forms part of a flood plain it was agreed to write to the Environment Agency to ensure that the waste is not contaminated.
Action: Clerk

9.1.6 Colney Heath Common Local Nature Reserve Review – a site meeting was held between the Parish Council and CMS to establish access to the common for the enhancement works due to commence in the Autumn. Kate Maltby of CMS has agreed to write an article for the Chronicle to ensure that residents are aware of the works scheduled. River bank clearance work has already commenced.

9.1.7 Common Enhancement Work – it was agreed that GEM should commence work as soon as possible on area B of the Common Enhancement programme. The Clerk was requested to contact GEM to establish whether their original quotation still stood and when they could commence work.
Action: Clerk

9.2 Recreational Areas

9.2.1 Smallford Playing Fields Grounds Maintenance – Mr Paxton has now taken over grass cutting in this area and the County Council has instructed its contractors to cease work from 1 July 2000.

9.2.2 Smallford Playing Fields Play Equipment and Dog Bins – a dog bin has been ordered at a cost of £220 installed. As Councillor Defoe was absent a report on the progress of installing play equipment was deferred until the next meeting.
Action: Defer

9.2.3 Oaklands Lane Pedestrian Crossing – following the last meeting the Clerk wrote to the District Council to request whether it was possible for a pedestrian crossing to be installed in Oaklands Lane to ensure the safe passage of children from Smallford to the new play area. The District Council has indicated that the County Council has already established Oaklands Lane as a potential site for a pedestrian crossing but actual installation will depend on funding becoming available. It was agreed to request support from Cllr Rosie Sanderson. **Action: Clerk**

9.2.4 Smallford Pit – a letter received from R H Fairburn concerning further investigative work scheduled to commence on the Smallford Pit was noted.

9.3 High Street Recreation Ground

9.3.1 Resurfacing of Car Park – due to commence in August.

9.3.2 Light in Roestock Car Park – in the absence of Cllr Defoe it was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting. **Action: Defer**

9.3.3 Waste bin – as a new bin will cost in the region of £139 it was agreed that Mr Paxton should attempt to repair the broken bin but failing to do so a new one will be ordered at the end of June. **Action: Clerk**

9.4 Parish Wardens Report

9.4.1 Parish Wardens Report – the Parish Wardens Report for May was received and noted. The Clerk agreed to discuss items of work with Mr Paxton and add these to his schedule of work as agreed at the last meeting.

9.4.2 Gloucester Park - in a recent meeting between Mr Paxton and the Clerk, Mr Paxton indicated that the removal of concrete from Gloucester Park will require mechanical removal and he can provide a quote for the hiring of JCB and driver and removal of waste from site. It was agreed that a quote from Mr Paxton should be sought and the Clerk was requested to investigate the current state of the lease. **Action: Clerk**

9.5 Community Park

9.5.1 Renewal of lease - AMEY are still in the process of drawing up a lease.

9.6 Highfield Trust – nothing to report

10. HIGHWAYS

10.1 Public Transport – Members noted a letter from Julian Thornton concerning maintenance works adjacent to 43 High Street that are due to commence to prevent further flooding in the High Street.

10.2 Smallford Trail – the Environment Agency are investigating an area of possible pollution on the Smallford Trail.

10.3 Footpaths and Bridleways - Members noted a letter from David Bean concerning the Public Rights of Way Service and the fact that this will now be managed at County level. Cllr Brazier requested that the Clerk respond by indicating how disappointed the Parish Council are with these arrangements particularly as the District had agreed to assist with the four wheel drive problem (and the District Highways and Works Committee had agreed to this on 15 March).

11. COUNCIL OWNED (OR TRUSTEE) BUILDINGS

11.1 Village Hall – Cllr Julia Jeffrey tabled a report on the Village Hall. Serious vandalism has been an on going problem and it was agreed that the Clerk should discuss this with the Police with a view to having some kind of surveillance installed. Local residents are reluctant to report the vandalism so the Police are unaware until after the event.

Action: Clerk

The alarm to the Parish Office should soon be installed but Cllr Jeffrey is discussing with the Village Hall Insurers as to whether the remainder of the building has to be alarmed. If so this will cause difficulties with the number of key holders who will all have to know the alarm number.

Grimwades have presented a further invoice for work to the Village Hall. This now takes the account to date way over the original estimate. It was agreed to convene a special meeting to discuss this situation with Peter Stockman.

Action: Clerk

11.2 Charles Morris Hall – Members considered a request from Peter Scott for the Parish Council to position two metal posts outside the Charles Morris Hall to prevent traveller invasions. It was agreed that metal posts should be installed and the Clerk was requested to get quotes. However, the exact positioning would need to be discussed with the contractors to ensure that adequate prevention was provided. **Action: Clerk**

12. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The following documents were made available at the meeting:

Boissy, St Yon Twinning Association	Newsletter
CMS	Environmental Activities Diary June – September 2000
Community Development Agency	Invitation to become members & Newsletter Spring 2000
CPRE	Notification of meeting to be held 14/06/00 Publication VOICE - Summer 2000 Raffle Tickets – any takers?
HALC	Notification of AGM 01/07/00 Minutes of AGM 03/07/99 Parish Information
Hatfield Quarry Local Liaison Group	Minutes of meeting held 11/05/00
Hertfordshire County Council	Environment Matters Spring 2000
Hertfordshire Police Authority	Policing Plan 2000/01
Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust	Notification of meeting to be held 06/07/00
London Green Belt Council	Minutes of meeting held 16/05/00
NALC	Local Council Review May 2000 Developing Communities – consultation document
National Playing Fields Association	Notification of meeting to be held 29/06/00
Wildlife Matters	Publication No 109 Summer 2000

13. STAFF AND OFFICE

13.1 Closed Churchyard Keeper – Members noted the resignation of Stephen Gordon since he is due to go off to University shortly and agreed that Mark Marlborough should be appointed as his successor (as nominated by St Marks Church).

13.2 Equipment – the Clerk indicated that a photocopier was likely to cost in the region of £400 to £500 but she was still seeking information about service agreements. It was agreed that further information should be reported to the next meeting.

14. ST.ALBANS CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following committee papers were made available:

Joint Community Government Forum	- Minutes of meeting held 06/03/00
Community Safety Consultation Forum	- Notes of London Colney/Colney Heath Public meeting held 28/03/00
Road Safety Advisory Committee	- Minutes of meeting held 18/04/00
Council Meeting	- Agenda for meeting 17/05/00
Extraordinary Meeting of Council	- Agenda for meeting 23/05/00
Planning Committee	- Agenda for meeting 24/05/00
Planning Sub Committee (South)	- Agenda for meeting 30/05/00
Community Safety Consultation Forum	- Agenda for meeting 06/06/00

15. URGENT BUSINESS

15.1 District Council Grass Cutting – the Clerk reported that a number of complaints have been received at the office relating to the new grass cutting contractors. Members also indicated that they too have been disappointed by the standard of work and requested that the Clerk write to both O'Connors and the District Council in relation to this matter.

Action: Clerk

Meeting Closed at 10.30pm

Chair.....

Date.....13 ix 00