

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **PARISH COUNCIL** held at the Village Hall, 83 High Street, Colney Heath on Thursday 2 October 2003 commencing at 7:30pm.

1. Apologies: Terry Cox who is ill in hospital, and Ian Gibson.

Attended : Cllr Day, Cllr Hall, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Henschley, Cllr Crump, Cllr Brazier, Cllr Rump.

2. Minutes of September 11th approved and signed subject to altering "Hatfield"

3. Chair's Special announcements

Chairman congratulated the Twinning Association and Womens's Institute for jointly reviving the Colney Heath Autumn Show. It had been a great success, and he hoped it would now become an annual Village event.

The Chairman regretted that Clerk Designate Mr Malcolm Williamson would not now be taking up the position of Clerk. The vacancy would be discussed in Part 11.

6.1 No action to date – Clerk to write to HCC to find out reason for the extra monitoring.

6.2 Margaret Corley updated the Council on progress with the Vital Villages project. A successful open meeting had launched the initiative, which now has its own logo. A series of drop in meetings around the Parish is planned for October 16th, where residents' concerns can be formulated for inclusion in the Village Questionnaire. The Council recommended that the provision of a Youth Group be one area for the questionnaire.

The Chairman was nominated as the Parish Councils link person to the Vital Villages Committee. The Parish Council thanked Mrs Corley and her team for all their efforts to date.

7.0 Finance:

7.1 A set of accounts prepared by Cllrs Day, Brazier and Crump in the absence of a Clerk was tabled. Cllrs were informed that the staff changes over the summer meant that the financial records had got behind. Cllrs AGREED Cllr Brazier's proposal that HALC be approached to recommend a suitable "troubleshooter" to bring the financial records up to date.

7.2 The audit has been deferred until December.

7.3 End of year returns for the audit and VAT are outstanding and come within the decision at 7.1.

7.5: defer until Clerk in place.

8 Planning

8.1 The Redhall application is still with the planners, and the Highfield development is due for discussion at District level on October 10th. The Council reiterated its disappointment that there was no place of worship or public house, and were concerned that there should be adequate parking for the all-weather football pitch. Saturday morning football on the Highfield playing field was already causing congestion in the area.

8.2 The Coursers Rd High Court hearing was due to be heard on October 13th. Cllr Brazier had discussed the case with the SADC solicitor Mr Edwards. Cllr Henchley asked that Peter Lerner be contacted to ensure that he let CHPC know the exact time and place of the hearing, so that the PC could be represented. Cllr Henchley also pressed for Mr Lerner to commit to using bailiffs to enforce any decision by the high Court in the Council's favour. Members discussed whether the local press should be copied in on the correspondence, but the Chairman advised that a proper press statement with the background to the case be prepared for use when felt appropriate.

Cllr Henchley reported that 4 additional pitches had been approved for the Paddocks.

The Highfield Clinic decision had been deferred.

10. Common.

10.1 The Council is happy to proceed with a working party when Charlie Nash is ready. Agreed that Royce should install the extra posts – 30-40 needed - but best to wait for the right ground conditions.

10.2 Cllr Brazier to chase Richard Pugh for a contract.

10.3 Cllr Brazier reported that it had been too dry to control weeds effectively, and the work would have to wait until the spring.

10.4 Quotation still awaited - Cllr Brazier to meet with Martin Parry.

10.5 Cllrs noted Cllr Braziers report. Any decision on the grasscutting contract was deferred until the outcome of the Stewardship application was known.

10.4.1 Cllrs authorised Cleanaway to clear the flytipped materials on the Warren Track.

11 11.1 and 11.3 – Reports noted.

11.3 Cllrs noted installation of new play equipment. Mr Crump asked for more playbark at Sleepshyde, while Cllr Day reported that a working group had laid a membrane below the Tyttenhanger swings, but some 14 cubic metres of play bark was needed. The Council agreed the play bark for both sites should be ordered.

11.4 It was agreed the clerk should commission signs for the 3 parks with new equipment.

12.2. The insurance claim forms for the latest Pavilion burglary had been completed and posted by Cllr Brazier. The Clerk was to obtain quotations for roller blind security shutters for the ground floor windows.

12.3. Cllrs agreed the Tennis Court should be prepared for winter.

13. No lease for the Community Park had been received yet – Clerk to chase.

14. Roestock: The graffiti on the equipment still had not been painted over. Mr Paxton to be instructed to obtain red paint and carry out the job as soon as possible.

Councillors agreed that a replacement bench, with concrete supports and wooden slats should be ordered and installed.

15. Boissy Park. Cllr Day reported that a site meeting recently had resulted in a briefing note for the PC solicitor, which refuted Mr Musk's claims of a breach of the lease point by point. However it was agreed to obtain quotes for the purchase of two extra litterbins for installation by each of the two entrances. Clerk to first ascertain whether the District Council had any spare litterbins.

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16. Cllr Henschley reported that the improvements to the entrance were now unlikely to be scheduled due to a lack of available funds.

20.1. The gates are made, but Howe Fencing are waiting for payment before delivery.

21. Highfield Trust: The Highfield Trust AGM is at 7.30, Wednesday October 22nd. Agreed to ask the Trust to supply the Parish Office with a regular list of meetings and events.

22.1 Public Transport: Cllr Brazier reported that the 602 service from Hatfield to Welham Green would now make an additional stop on Coursers Road. In addition, County had agreed to fund a weekly service from Roestock Lane and Hall Gardens to Sainsbury's and back.

It was agreed that the changes should be advertised locally and in the Chronicle.

Cllr Crump reported that the bus shelter at Smallford Lane had been vandalised. Clerk to ask Geoff Stayton to check and repair as necessary. In view of the continued vandalism problem, Councillors discussed whether concrete and glass bus shelter structures might be cheaper to maintain. Clerk to contact Brian Piers at SADC for advice on progressing this.

22.4 Cllr Henschley reported on the widening of the barrier at Peggy's ^{WALK.} ~~Park~~, hedge cutting at Wilkins Green and Tyttenhanger, the restriction of the entrance to Highfield Hall lay-by and the possibility of traffic lights for Smallford Bridge.

22.3.2 Cllr Crump noted that the 4.30 am movements of waste lorries had stopped since District Council monitoring had started. He was less confident that the problem would not return as soon as the monitoring stopped.

23. CH Village Hall – No report

24. Charles Morris Hall: Cllr Day reported that the Car Park refurbishment works were due to start on Oct 6th, and should take a fortnight. Cllrs agreed that the invoice could be paid through the Parish office, since the Hall was on Parish Council land, in the same way as payment for the Colney Heath Village Hall extension had been administered.

27.2 Cllrs agreed installation of a Parish Council notice board including the Highfield Trust logo in Puddingstone Drive.

New Bench: Parish Councillors AGREED to purchase 2 concrete "Lastingham" benches for the green opposite Bennetts Close, and to replace the vandalised bench on Coursers Road. Clerk to order and progress.

27.4 Village Hall. Clerk to consult Village Hall committee whether Parish Council post could be delivered through the main Village Hall door. Alternatively, to proceed with a Quotation for the installation of an internal letterbox in the Parish Office.

PART 11

1. Football Club: Cllr Henchley reported that the Club was grateful for the settlement agreed at the previous meeting.

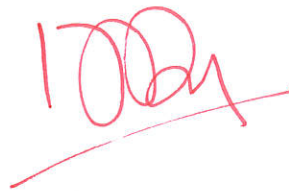
2. Boissy Park lease. Chairman reported that a response had been made through Ottaways to Mr Musk's allegations of Breach of Contract, following a site inspection by Councillors. It appeared that Mr Musk had not banked the Council's £875 cheque for rent arrears – Clerk to confirm this from bank statements.

3. New Printer: Cllrs agreed that the assistant clerk could order a suitable printer, up to a limit of £100.

4. Clerk Vacancy: In view of Mr Williamson's decision not to take the job, it was agreed that the chairman should approach the other candidate interviewed for the post, John Dean, to see if he was still interested.

Cllrs agreed Cllr Brazier's proposal that HALC be approached to recommend a suitable person to carry out emergency financial work as necessary.

Meeting closed 10.05

A red handwritten signature, possibly reading '10024', is written in the lower right area of the page.