

**MINUTES OF AN EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE
HALL ON THURSDAY 11TH MAY 2006 AT 8.30pm**

Present:- Cllr's S Rump-Chair-C Brazier-Cllr S Hall-Cllr Corley-Cllr D Clarke
Cllr D Crump-Cllr P Reeves-Cllr J Henchley

Clerk:- Mr J E Dean

Public Attendance- Mrs Moody Mr Littlechild-residents in Roestock Lane

Apologies- Cllr Day involved in District Council matters

1 & 2 . APOLOGIES ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECLARATIONS

Apologies this time from Cllr Day, who having been elected recently to the District Council was attending SCADC council induction meeting in St Albans.

There were declarations from Cllr Henchley, regarding his involvement with CHFC.

3 MATTERS THE CHAIR MAY WISH TO BRING BEFORE THE MEMBERS

Cllr Corley thanked members for electing her as Chair, indicating that this was just a short meeting in order to give the Clerk guidance on some issues that needed action.

4 & 4a URGENT BUSINESS AND IMPORTANT EMERGENCY MATTERS

Cllr Corley invited Cllr Brazier to give an opinion on the possibility of putting an ASBO on the offenders regarding illegal pitching in Roestock Lane. He said that advice was that an injunction was more effective. The Clerk said that as several agencies, bailiff, including the police had been involved in the incident on Saturday 6th May removal we could hope for witness to the nuisance. All agreed that the situation had gone on long enough and the residents had endured this situation since January 2006. In the issues of this matter Mr Littlechild pointed out that council had not acted quickly or that they had allowed the parking. Cllr Brazier advised the procedure was long and several stages had to be legal to make the removal enforceable. The Clerk said the Bailiff Officers had encountered some resistance in the operation, but once the police had stepped in it took a different turn. Several possible offences had come to light. Mr Littlechild said that there were threats the gypsies would return and what could we do to stop them. It is clear there is not much we can, they have freedom as anyone and are protected by law unless an offence is caused, which can only be ascertained at the time. Mr Littlechild was not satisfied with that explanation, but he hoped that if they returned council would act quicker. The Clerk added that the order came from the District Council and that the pitching was on Hatfield Parish land, we could only advise as we did immediately they moved on the verge. Cllr Brazier said that the land title had to be proven ad several years ago it was acquired by Highways Agency to build the A1M.

The Clerk said that he had informed all members about the solicitors meeting with Cllr's Rump, Crump, Day and Corley, and the outcome of disposing of the touring caravans stored at Aldenham. The Mobile home had been stolen from Chelmsford and any pursuit of negligence would be directed to the company used by the Bailiff. The question now was to cease the liability of the storage fees and the solicitor had urged caution or return. Cllr Brazier was opposed to that, Cllr Reeves and Rump supported that view. It was agreed that the Clerk get a valuation on the caravan's ad the members would consider the next move. The cost of valuation is likely to be

about £600 from an expert who may be asked to appear in court according to Cllr Reeves that explains the high cost. He agreed they should be scrapped as soon as possible. The Clerk said he would inform members in the usual way once we had received a report and inform the solicitor. (Solicitor is on holiday 27May-12 June)

4b PLANNING ISSUES

Cllr Henchley gave an overview of the recent applications, approvals, and refusals but members wanted to be brief. He mentioned an application that had exceeded the 42 days. Cllr Brazier raised the question of the new children's home, at Wynchlands Gardens and said it was still going ahead but under the County Hall directive.

Cllr Crump raised the matter of possible Development of a large rail freight Terminal interchange at Radlett aerodrome, handing the Clerk some brief published details to agenda next time.

4c GRANT AID PAYMENT

The Clerk sought guidance from the members in paying out the above; two grants were clear cut, Twinning and Old Friends Club. Charles Morris Hall had not let us have the details of the costs or copies of their accounts. This was obviously to follow but it will delay a payment. CHFC had advised on their grant there was no contractor invoices or other bills the auditor would scrutiny for sums over £2000. It was agreed that they be given 50% now and rest on completion of works and showing invoice.

5 FINANCE

The Clerk advised members of the proposed investment schedules being placed on Treasury Reserve until 14/08/06. Members agreed the strategy.

The monthly expenditure was fully explained by the Clerk, and he sought member's approval to pay the creditors on the spreadsheet.

Proposed;- Cllr Reeves

Seconded;-Cllr Henchley

The Clerk said that the staff had been paid the COL 3% national agreements back dated to April. The administration staff had also adjustments in line with the 2004/5 agreements on the new and correct scale points budgeted for. He was working on the payroll year end and needed to get details to the Inland Revenue this week.

6 ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNUAL BEATING OF BOUNDS CEREMONY-2006

Assistant Clerk Mrs Kim Parker-Mead had the arrangements in hand and the meeting will begin at 2pm on Sunday 14th May at the Church this time. It is hoped that several councillors can attend and join with the members of the public to walk the boundary. We all expect to meet back at the church about one and a half hours later for tea and cakes and lemonade for the children.

7 OTHER MATTERS MEMBERS MAY WISH TO BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Cllr Henchley said although we had received a response from Mr Vince Gilbert of the Hertfordshire Highways he was far from happy about it. The roads were not getting pot-holes repaired, ditches not done, and longer term issues remain static. It was not acceptable and he sought member's approval to write again. There was some debate that roads generally were very poor throughout the county, if we wrote what effect will there be. Cllr Henchley was adamant that both council tax payers and motorists were indeed getting a raw deal. Colney Heat Lane was a disgrace; some pot-holes were more like craters that cyclists would have a job avoiding. (This is continuing)

The Clerk advised members that road works in the area will see Coursers Road amongst many in the district being the subject of a County diversion programme. Letter had been circulated to all councillors.

Cllr Brazier spoke briefly about the proposals for a youth centre at Highfield Hall, run by the YMCA and SCADC.

Cllr Hall wished to have his name put forward for a HATPC/NALC training seminar and update on new legislation on Thursday 15th June. This will be booked and paid.

The Clerk advised members that both he and the Assistant Clerk attended a FOI Act 2001 seminar run by HATPC on 12th May in Stevenage, this was new legislation that will have an effect on Councils and sooner or later we will have to adopt a fairly robust and rigid policy. It will be essential to conform.

The new groundsman had started work in the churchyard, his rates and hours were set in line with affordable limits and was a new category for the budget. This was within the powers Parish Councils have to provide upkeep of the churchyard and closed graveyard. This was being extended to include the burial ground as well.

Garden & Tennis Court Report

Copies of the report were available

Parish Warden Report

The report indicates work done including making up the roadway at the High Street recreation ground with road planings, a new dog bin on the common, and removal of dumped garden rubbish in WarrenTrack.

Ranger Report

Reported nature observations around the common-copies of the report available

Fly Tipping Report

Four incidents since notified the start of the new yearly report.

Correspondence

HATPC will be holding the Annual General Meeting here at the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th July 2006 agenda is to follow. John Boulter is to give a report on the Buncefield incident. Members may wish to attend-open to all councillors and Clerks.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

John Dean
Clerk to the Council.

Next meeting 7.30pm Thursday 8th June 2006