

Colney Heath Parish Council



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MINUTES OF THE FULL COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY -8th JUNE 2006

Present; - Cllr's Corley Chair-Cllr Hall Vice-Chair-Cllr Day -Cllr Crump
Cllr P Reeves.-Cllr Henchley - Cllr Clarke.-Cllr Rump
Clerk; Mr J E Dean

Public Attendance-Mrs G Moody-Mr D Becker. Pc R Cawte & PCSO Donbavand

1. APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATIONS

Cllr Day had advised the Clerk that he would be late- having to attend an earlier meeting at SCADC. Cllr Brazier had already sent his apologies.

The Clerk reminded everyone that this was the first trial of the new format agenda and briefed the members on the running order adding that it was designed to allow more time for debate. The members had agreed this at the emergency meeting on 11th May.

It was also noted that the minutes for 11th May 2006 Emergency Meeting and APM had a typo error being incorrectly stated as Tuesday 11th May instead of Thursday 11th May, the would not be presented for signature to-night the mistake is significant and to be corrected for signature and so they will be carried forward to next meeting.

The Chair noted the Election of Cllr Day to SCADC and wished him success from the Parish Council, and hoped he would continue to help the village on important issues.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The Clerk noted Cllr Henchley role as President of CHFC. He has a non pecuniary interest in matters-member accepted to abstain from voting on all matters connected with CHFC. Being allowed- to remain to offer a viewpoint without suggesting of or bearing due influence to, on the matters debated following on in the agenda items.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council held on 9TH March 2006 were approved and accepted as correct-

Proposed by Cllr Rump

Seconded by Cllr Hall

The minutes were signed by the Chairman as correct.

2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising other than the date/day error to be corrected.-Membes will be issued with fresh corrected copies and should dispose of the incorrect.

SCHall

3 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN MAY BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Faith School Transport Funding

The Chairman said she was concerned at the withdrawal in September 2007 of the transport funding for faith schools, the issue would deprive children locally as well as the wider area. It was part of a consultation cut to save £3.4 million in the HCC Education Budget. This will affect almost 200 HCC schools. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr John Harris Director of Education Schools & Families registering our strong disapproval. Cllr Crump agreed about the effect locally. The meeting to decide is on the 18th and 24th July at County Hall, a controversial debate according to news paper reports, likely to be lively. Public attendance permitted by ticket only is noted. It was noted that Redbourne Parish Council had sent a similar disapproving response.

3-1 Matters connected with the storage and disposal of Caravans at FMS

The Clerk said he had spoken to the proprietor at FMS and it was agreed that a lesser charge could be accepted for the storage. The members needed to decide about the disposal after the recent letters from Ottaways indicated that the solicitors acting for Mr Robb had stated their client had accepted (2/6/6) he could not pay the costs. The valuation report from Watling Caravans had been sent for them to examine, they were of little value with age and condition and a buyer was unlikely. Accordingly it was a proposal in the circumstances they be destroyed and the Clerk was given authority to see this is done-FMS Account for removal and storage since last August be settled.

Proposed Cllr Rump

Seconded Cllr Hall

Agreed by all present.

At this point the representatives of local police and support officers unexpectedly attended the meeting- Cllr Corley said that she would introduce them later.

3-2 Matters connected with the Pre School-Treasure Tots-and the Open Day.

The day was a success with about £250 being raised for the funds. Everyone had a good day; there were lots of activities to participate. Thanks to staff and organisers. Cllr Corley gave details of the current intake at the Pre School, numbers of children attending and up to 127 sessions per week sold. A lunch club was being run as well as a Mums and Toddlers group in the afternoon. The Clerk added the ratio the staff costs payroll, insurances and fixed costs we were expecting to have a shortfall of £500/pcm. This was in line with the members expectations, the school is registered for a total of 26 children and if full with uptake of 130 sessions would provide a break even.

3-3 Annual Beating of the Bounds

This event took place on the 14th May and 20 people attended including two Parish Councillor's, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk. A report is published in the Chronicle by Kim Parker-Mead. With thanks to St Marks Church for allowing us to use as a base.

3-4 Annual General Meeting

The outgoing Chair Cllr Rump had asked the Clerk at the AGM to note two issues of concern following comment from the electorate. Namely, the new bridge over the Colne planned for 2006. Mr Becker at the invitation of the Chair asked if this was likely to go ahead. The Clerk said it had been put back as issues of flood and other access problems were possibly unresolved. Cllr Brazier had involvement but it was not possible to ask him. Cllr Clarke also queried the planned building of this bridge

and its position on the Common. The Clerk said he believed it was a Lafarge project and a meeting with them was scheduled 4pm Wednesday 21st June at C/Heath V/Hall and this could be raised and he would report back at the next meeting. Cllr Corley said she may attend the Lafarge meeting this time.

The second issue was the collating and storage of artefacts and historic items. The Clerk said no venue had been found yet for this purpose but it was kept in focus and if any one had or knew of any CHPC artefacts then they could be catalogued now.

4. FINANCE

The Clerk gave members details of the June expenditure, totalling £15,926.53 some include vat payments the portion of which is recoverable.

Accounts; - The Clerk said that details and statements of the Parish Accounts may be inspected here now if members wished and at the office at other times. The Clerk was able to answer member's questions regarding the finances, several large payments this month making a slightly larger expense month than average including the Tyttenhanger Sign being finally paid for. Plus IR payments and the end of year balances paid over.

Investments;- The Treasury Reserve has £150,000 invested until 14th August 2006 as pointed out last meeting and he has to manage the cash flow until then on pooling all funds in the accounts at present.

VAT Claim; - Yet to be finalised and will be submitted after the Auditor visit in July. The Income and Expenditure as noted on a separate sheet for June was approved;-

Proposed by; - Cllr Crump

Seconded by;- Cllr Henschley

5. PLANNING

The LDF Consultation document was just published and we received copy to-day, the Chair was urging members to allow a debate on the matter at the next meeting. The Clerk said he had ordered a copy for every member and this would go out with these minutes allowing adequate time for reading and understanding. If we dedicated a large portion of the next meeting on 13th July to this it would allow response by the deadline of 14-19th July.

5-1 Planning Applications

Members are presented with the tablet of applications received by the office to the date of the agenda and their comments were debated including advisory notes.

General Comments

Cllr Reeves who has an application in process (This Council in protocol declined to comment and returned to SCADC) said he had not heard within the 42 days and had assumed that approval could be by default.

Cllr Henschley wanted to know what was happening on the Glinwell site with regards to the public inquiry held on 15th January this year. The Clerk said we had received no notice in the office. Cllr Henschley reminded all that Cllr Brazier attended the inquiry.

Cllr Corley asked what could be done with the Detached House in Roestock Lane, being under extensive piece meal development. Cllr Henschley recommended contact with Mr Alan Moorhouse at Building Control.

Application 5/06/0972-The new additional works was considered to be verging on overdevelopment, it was suggested we should we ask Cllr Brazier when approval given for and when was it passed.

Application 5/06/0670 The works at 8 Sleafcross Gardens were refused after we had noted- No Objections

5-2 Planning Approvals

Number	Address	Application Detail	SCADC Decision
	As Agenda Notes		

5-2 Refusals

Number	Address	Application Detail	SCADC Decision
	As Agenda Notes		

5-3 Planning Appeals-Inquiries-Enforcement notices received

Number	Address	Application Detail	Progression
	None received or listed		

5-4 Strategic or other Planning called in by ODPM/Secretary of State-SEERA
None reported

5-5 Residents Associations

It was agreed that the residents associations be advised that the debate on the LDF will take place next meeting 13 July and they be given a copy with these minutes in case they wish to have an opportunity to comment at that meeting.

5-6 Planning Monitoring

No comments this time

6 COMMONS OPEN SPACES & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The written reports were considered of:-

6-1 Parish Warden Report

Members have copies circulated. Clerk explained after a question from Cllr Henschley about the work at High St Recreation Ground including some re-seeding work and make up of the drive way with road planings (15 tons from CHPC and 8 tons donated by Ivory Haulers Ltd. Use of Mill Hill Plant and planings-the £550 cost borne by the Parish Council under the matter of Lafarge Lease obligation this time.

6-2 Parish Commons Ranger Report

Members were copied the report, Cllr Clarke made some suggestions about the facts contained in the report being of interest to the parish. The Clerk said he would have a discussion with Mr Nash about some ideas.

6-3 Parish Gardner

No report available this time-gardens have been observed by Clerk as being well kept.

6-4 Church & Graveyard Keepers work/time sheet

The new employee has worked two months each of about 45 hours off the total of 336 hours. The Clerk is considering additional work 1 hour per week to clean and mow grass at T/Tots play area. One mower at repairers with cutter damage from debris.

6-5 Grass Cutting Contract

Clerk had no adverse comments to report; the acid grass on the Common will be cut at a suitable time in or around July-August.

6-6 Commons Stewardship

Clerk gave overview of situation re DEFRA also the stewardship Payments applied for in May-contractor jobs out -Japanese Knotweed to be treated- to be arranged E/A

6-7 Recreation Areas

Members agreed that the recent ROSPA playground inspection identified some issues requiring attention. It was further agreed that inadequate time and notice to debate this properly this time. The matter will be deferred to July 13th Meeting along with the LDF and devote the majority of the agenda to resolve the issue. (Clerk to report).

Roestock Park-

An immediate requirement is the concrete plugging of six legs of the climbing frame which has been identified with some loose ground fixings. Safe & Sound quoted £600 and members agree with the Chair and Clerk recommendation to have this done ASAP.

Cllr Corley gave members an update on the BIFFA Award being sought for the refurbishment of this public open space. This has been called in again by the funding principals having requested further information via CDA involvement.

6-8 Footpaths P3 and Rights of Way-Bridleways-BOAT-RUPP

Cllr Crump wants to see the fencing and stile replaced at Park Corner.

Definitions-members asked the Clerk for an explanation of abbreviated terms

RUPP Road Used as Public Path (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1968 & 1981)

BOAT-By way Open to All Traffic (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1968-1981 Sect 27)

7 HIGHWAYS-TRANSPORT-FOOTPATHS AND VERGES

7-1 Highways & Maintenance & Signs local Roads or major route reports

Cllr Henchley reported that council officers did not turn up to a meeting as arranged for 11.30am on Tuesday 6th June. He is keen to go ahead with delivering a response to the letter from Head of Highways Agency Mr V Gilbert dated.... Members agreed. He added that news of £10m new money from HCC reserves for pot hole repair and road maintenance and resurfacing had been agreed. This has been widely reported in the media, St Albans area will get 22 road closure orders to complete work in 2006-7. A damaged or bent over sign reported at Tyttenhanger Green and Highfield Lane- Clerk (at the request of Cllr Henchley) to report to Mr B Peers SCADC.

7-2 Paths and Access-attached or adjacent to Highways

Cllr Crump reported a recent village litter pick revealed that Peggy's Path is suffering from a consistent litter problem that may be linked to alcoholism or abuse with the number of beer cans found in one place. Clerk to report to SCADC and PCSO.

7-3 Verge ditch and litter or weed maintenance

No report other than Clerk has been to see SCADC new mapping programme in April

7-4 Transport including Village Council funded Friday shopping bus

Cllr Corley reported that the bus was full most weeks, it was very popular. The Clerk Advised that on average around £16/20 per week was received in fare contributions and we were funding the difference in the community bus cost with volunteer drivers.

8 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was a question from Mr D Becker about the bridge over the Colne that was to be constructed in 2006. After several comments from members the Clerk said he would raise the matter at the forthcoming Lafarge Meeting here on 21st June.

9 COUNCIL BUILDINGS-ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTEE MATTERS

9-1 High Street Recreation Area Pavilion and CHFC

Part of grant has been paid to CHFC and remainder to be paid on production of invoice paid or confirmation, Clerk has sent explanatory letter. Road planings have been used to re-surface access road as past reported. ROSPA report also covers the small children's play area here. Further debate 13th July meeting on this subject.

9-2 Treasure Tots Pre School.

Cllr Corley has past reported in earlier part of the meeting. AGM date is to be set for Wednesday 19th July at 8pm. T/Tots Secretary KPM will be putting out notices.

9-3 Village Hall Committee

Members to note AGM on Wednesday 5th July.

9-4 Charles Morris Hall

Grant towards Hearing Loop and lighting is held pending a response to letter from Clerk/Parish Council concerning estimate/contractor invoice.

9-5 Highfield Hall Trustees

No reports this time

9-6 Other Buildings/Local Organisations/Events

Harvesters open day and prize-giving on Saturday July 8th Cllr's Crump and Day may attend on behalf of CHPC.

9-7 Youth Organisations Locally & Youth Council

No reports, the start of the new youth club is awaited in conjunction with YMCA

10 COMMUNITY REPORTS-MEMBERS REPORTS-OUTSIDE BODIES-OTHER COMMITTEES-REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

10-1 Fly Tipping Reports

Members were circulated, it is noted that there is a slight decline in the incidents in Barley Mow Lane. Further tipping noted in Highfield area with Traveller incursion and problem on Home Farm where there are development plans for houses.

10-2 Police Reports

Various crime reports/letters are received by the office and available to members on request- see list attached to agenda notes. Next Community Police meeting (invitation) is on Wednesday 26th July at 7.30pm Village Hall. Contact is Sgt Helen Savage at London Colney Police Station. Email address available from Parish Office. New PCSO is Richard Donbavand.

10-3 Vital Village Matters from the Plan

No reports

10-4 Twinning

Letter of thanks received from organisers for £500 grant made by CHPC.

10-5 Reports from Members attending other meetings

No reports.

10-6 Fairs and other local community matters

Amer Fair are seeking approval again to have a small fair on the common end of July

10-7 Reports from listed items-HM Govt; Local issues; National; Local Govt etc

No debate took place on this subject

10-8 St Albans Assoc Parish Council; & LGBC HALC/NALC

Report from LGBC circulated.

10-9 Minutes & matters received also other associations and local organisations

No reports.

11 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

11-1 Correspondence not previously dealt with in the agenda

No reports

11.2 News Releases

No reports

11-3 Matters received since publishing the Agenda

Letter circulated from Ottaways regarding Robb and caravans dated 6th June 2006

11-4 Proposals for Next Agenda

It was agreed that the majority of the next meeting will be devoted to debate on the Local Development Plan-copies of booklet circulated to all members.
The ROSPA report will also be debated-consideration to renewals and maintenance

12 OPERATIONAL MATTERS AND CLERK REPORTS

12-1 Staff issues-Office administration matters

The Clerk said that the new desktop computer has been delivered and arrangements made to install on Tuesday 13th June with the IT expert coming in. Cllr Clarke asked

what was happening with the old one. The Clerk said it was very unreliable and low G/bite hard disc, the Assistant Clerk had bid for it to use for her children's education- suggesting a donation to treasure tots. The hard drive would be wiped off and flattened. For security and rapid disposal that was considered the best option.

12-2 Future issues requiring attention

a) Boundary Issues;-The boundary at the Wilkins Green end of the village is causing the residents in parts of Franklin Close to be excluded from Colney Heath village. Members agreed that the Clerk should seek to try and resolve this firstly by contact with the Clerk at NMPC and then a response to the as was ODPM office to seek a reversion. Homes here also come under Hatfield as a borough and their community charge is more expensive and planning matters and applications are missed by us. The numbers affected are 2-18 Franklin Close; it seems there would be no objections from those residents to seek a change in favour of Colney Heath.

12-3 Notice Boards-Bus shelters-Signs

No reports

12-4 Commons Licences Wayleaves-Fairs and uses of the Common

Cllr Reeves asked what the position was on the licences, the Clerk said he was to consult with Paul Clayden about the legal words and then begin the issue.

12-5 Chronicle & Publicity

Recent summer edition of the parish magazine included several topical articles from members of the council. Advertisements were making small contributions to the overall revenue. On average we post about 22 copies to past residents and other interested parties at second class rate.

12-6 Flooding and River Colne Reports

The Clerk is to co-operate with the Clerk of London Colney PC to gain a place on the River Colne committee to register further interest in river general matters. Attention focused on the Colne, Ver and Ellenbrook rivers running through our area.

12-7 Capital Purchases

Items purchased since the start of the parish year include;

New mower for the graveyard/grounds keeper	£ 295
New Strimmer for the graveyard/grounds keeper	£ 250
New Tools for the graveyard/grounds keeper	£ 100
Computer for office-Dell Optiplex GX620	£ 900
(Plus installation and set up costs by IT consultant)	£tba

12-8 Meetings-venue-planning for calendar of meetings-dates-public meetings

Lafarge meeting here on 21st June

HATPC AGM meeting here on 18th July

Treasure Tots AGM here on 19th July

Police community meeting here on 26 July

All Parish Council meetings have been agreed and published to all members

LATE MATTERS

The Clerk added that the minutes for the Emergency meeting held on the 11th May will be presented for Chairman's signature at the next meeting.

CPRE-HERTS

There is also an invitation for all councillors to attend meeting about the LDF Issues Options and Consultation on Tuesday 4th July 2006 at 7.30pm venue to be advised-see copy e-mail. Suggest you contact KPM at the office to book your place if you wish to go, KPM can update you once the venue is decided and we get further details.

ST ALBANS LDF

A copy of the plan is enclosed for each member Clerk reminding all members that this is one of the principle topics for 13th July Meeting-Cllr Brazier has promised to give an overview if possible.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.10 pm



John Dean
Clerk to the Council

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NOTE

The Clerk to remind members that he is taking a vacation from Friday 23rd June until Monday 10th July.

Assistant Clerk will be on holiday during school break time in August.

The office will remain open during these times but with one member of staff on duty the hours may vary accordingly.

Emergency contact is available at all times.