

Colney Heath Parish Council



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MINUTES OF THE FULL COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY -13th JULY 2006-7.30pm

Present; - Cllr Hall Vice-Chair-Cllr Day -Cllr Crump-Cllr C Brazier
Cllr P Reeves.-Cllr Henchley -Cllr Rump
Clerk; Mr J E Dean

Public Attendance- Mrs G Moody-Mr D Becker. Mr A Jenkins

County Officer- Mr N McCabe Gypsy Liaison Officer HCC

1. APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATIONS

There were two apologies received, Cllr M Corley was unwell and Cllr D Clarke called saying he could not attend the meeting. Cllr Crump had indicated being late due to late travelling in connection with his work and joined the meeting at 8.10pm. Cllr Hall Vice-Chair convened the meeting with Cllr Corley being unwell.

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 8TH June 2006 were approved and accepted as correct-

Proposed by Cllr Rump

Seconded by Cllr Reeves

The minutes were signed by the Chairman as correct.

2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

3 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN MAY BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Chair agreed at the suggestion of the Clerk that in order to allow Mr McCabe to depart reasonably quickly after he has spoken the next items on 3 be taken out of sequence and item 3.2 requires input from Cllr Bazier.

3.3-Gypsy Matters

The Chair decided to allow Mr McCabe to give an overview of the current situation in Colney Heath and to answer some of the questions concerning members regarding the

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Barley Mow Lane sites. He would take the matter 3.3 first followed by 3.1 and 3.2 after. Cllr Henchley asked Mr McCacbe if the PP application for Nukkies Farm had been withdrawn, Mr McCabe said he could not answer this question, and equally did not know about it. He was not a planning expert and could not comment. At this point the issue was best left unanswered as it was clear Mr McCabe did not know.

Cllr Henchley was also concerned about a "quasi business" operation at the site in contravention of the site rules and normal planning guidance. (PPG). Discussion continued about the licence of the site and the number of caravans pitched there. Mr McCabe answered the questions as best he could underline the difficulties of the transitory nature of the particular way of life. A separate debate was started on the fly tipping issue and again Mr McCabe said that he was working with the police and other agencies to monitor the situation. CCTV had been installed to identify certain movements and get vehicle registration details. It was clear this work should not be hindered by unnecessary public knowledge; members ceased the debate on the issue. There was a further matter of concern where the caravans might be re let to others who maybe were not in gypsy or roama status. Cllr Reeves was equally concerned of the flagrant breach of regulations generally having an instance of a temporary fence being erected and painted with a garish shade of green after a council officer was said to have granted tassid approval.

The Clerk via the Chair sought to clarify the issue to members that Enforcement was the route to go with the DC. It was suggested that with provision of facts or photo's we can press the Planning Authority via a letter to act. Powers under The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 and 1968 may apply if there is a breach. Or there may be other powers to issue a 28 day "Temporary Stop notice" under Section 52 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Members agreed with the Chairman and in order to cover this, to provide the Clerk with more details in order that a letter can be sent to SCADC.

The debate continued with Cllr Henchley complaining about scrap cars on the site, the continued instance of "racers" up and down Barley Mow Lane with old bangers. He had counted 53 occasions passing his window on a Sunday afternoon. He was in touch with the DC and Police and was reporting and logging the incidents. The Police were threatening an ASBO on the individual concerned. It was a dangerous act and the culprits were probably devoid of D/Licence or T/P/Insurance. Cllr Reeves spoke about the Pony and Trap "Trotter" races on the A414 dual carriageway in amongst busy traffic. This had produced a crazy situation with traffic police unwilling to take action. Mr McCabe said many still have their ponies and wish to exercise them it was not illegal to use horses on the highway unless the strayed into the outside lane. At times it is alleged they have held Trotter races and held up the traffic whilst it went on. The Chair then put a close to the debate and thanked Mr McCabe for attending and sharing the facts of his position and responsibilities with the meeting.

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

The Clerk said he had written to FMS since the last meeting. After the disposal had been delayed on the advice of the Solicitor giving those acting for Mr Robb a final chance to pay us the County Court Orders we have in place. The two touring caravans have now been disposed of as a result of no payment forthcoming. The Clerk had seen FMS that afternoon to collect photographs confirming the disposal. These prints were passed around to all members to see. The next stage was to press ahead for other costs to cover the matters connected with the two Court Orders we have in our possession.

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The Clerk has been in contact with the Solicitor regarding the further actions in line with the previous expectations of the council members to try and recover costs that we have incurred. Further information will need to be provided to the solicitor once these additional costs become clear in order to begin this legal process.

3-2 SCADC-LDF –Joint issues and Consultation Document-by 14th July

The Clerk had circulated each member early in June with a copy of the document and to bring their points to the meeting also the Chair had agreed to a primary debate on the subject at this meeting. Several members had matters to add to the debate after the Clerk had produced a report as to exactly what he thought would be the typical responses to the six main items of the consultation document. After a brief review on the points set out it was agreed that the points covered were typical of the member's views. The Clerk with making two minor changes was thanked for preparing and was authorised to send as our response to Mr J Chapman the Planning Policy Manager at SCADC within time scale by of Friday 14th July.

4. FINANCE

The Clerk gave members details of the July 2006 expenditure, totalling £7886 some include vat payments portion of £328 the total sum 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 the expenses this month as average.

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 that time pooling all funds in accounts if necessary. He would provide a 6th month statement October.

VAT Claim; - Yet to be finalised and will be submitted after the Auditor visit now put off until September due to an acting class booking at the Hall, making the task and attendance in the parish office almost impossible for necessary care- concentration.

Chairman's Allowance

This is to be paid in the usual way to past Chair Cllr Rump.

Income and Expenditure

Noted on a separate sheet for July was approved;-

Proposed by; - Cllr Brazier

Seconded by; - Cllr Crump

5. PLANNING

5-1 Planning Applications

The weekly lists received from SCADC were debated and various exchanges made from members regarding the 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 Henchley asked the direct question about the withdrawal of the application at Nukies Farm. Cllr Brazier confirmed this, adding that orders will be implemented regarding the bathroom and kitchen removal from the stables.

Cllr Reeves expressed concern about a report made to him of a person exercising a trio of Bull Terriers in Gloucester Park without leads or muzzle. The Clerk said the District Dog Warden should be informed.

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Cllr Henchley and Cllr Reeves asked about the application for St Marks Church regarding the sighting of a mobile home as a youth and Christian centre. Cllr Brazier said an application had been withdrawn but this was for a renewal of the temporary permission required after two years. The application for the extension was different.

Application 5/06/0972- Was approved by SCADC

Application 5/06/1019- Withdrawn

Application 5/06/1167- Approved with conditions

Application 5/06/1098- Approved with conditions

Application 5/06/1121- Approved with conditions

Application 5/06/1090- Approved with conditions

Application 5/06/1402A- CHPC Application for the Tyttenhanger Sign-pending

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 Planning or called in by ODPM/Secretary of State-SEERA

None reported

5-5 Residents Associations

The Clerk said that information had been passed giving an opportunity to respond to the LDF consultation and he had expected attendance from them but as noted no one had turned up.

5-6 Planning Monitoring-Public Enquiry

It is understood that the Glinwell Development proposals have been turned down after the Public Enquiry last January although so far this has not been officially or directly or formally notified to the parish council by SCADC.

Cllr Brazier said that Home Farm part of the Smallford Campus is likely to go ahead With a development of 30/35 homes via Laing Building.

6 COMMONS OPEN SPACES & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The written reports were considered of:-

Draft Green Spaces Strategy

There has been an exchange of letters on this and generally the Clerk felt that we had been short changed on the issues, section 106 money especially.

6-1 Parish Warden Report

Members have copies circulated to them.

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6-2 Parish Commons Ranger Report

Members were copied the report.

6-3 Parish Gardner

Report available to members, problem of the dry weather but gardens standing up ok.

6-4 Church & Graveyard Keepers work/time sheet

The hours worked so far are 124 out of 336 totals for year to April- a second mower is at the repairers with cutter damage from debris.

6-5 CHPC Grass Cutting Contract

Clerk had no adverse comments to report; the acid grass on the CH common was in process of being cut and baled, the small portion left on the river bank was for a rare species of butterfly hatch, now to be cut next week after hatch is finished.

6-6 Commons Stewardship

Clerk gave overview of situation re DEFRA also the common stewardship payments have been applied for contractor jobs out -Japanese Knotweed to be treated- Clerk to arrange with E/A under riparian ownership. In any case they have to be notified, cost at this stage is unknown-but job has to be done.

6-7 Recreation Areas

The Clerk gave members a presentation and complete virtual tour of the play areas in the village following the ROSPA report that had highlighted some of the play areas to have attention. Fortunately we have only one area requiring attention immediately, the frame in Roestock Park and that was dealt with by Safe & Sound-reported last time.

High Street

This is a small infant's area and older children climbing frame connected to the CHFC amenity space off the shower back entrance and table area for members. In hind sight the Clerk said not a good area to have chosen within the whole cartilage of recreation area, advice from the report suggests that the benches are removed or repaired and nearby equipment and beer crates are not conducive to child safety. The Clerk advised members that he will speak to the Chairman Mr Marlborough and ask him to look at. A suggestion from the Chairman Cllr M Corley (absent) was to uplift the small child equipment to Roestock if the BIFFA award was not forthcoming. The Clerk said we need to get a share of district S106 cash; this was becoming more difficult to obtain.

Charles Morris

The pins to support the BBQ are exposed and the Clerk said this might cause injury to a child playing an imaginary game or hide and seek. A letter will be sent along with the digital photo asking it be fenced off when not in use for obvious safety. Swing seat chain linkage needs checking and greasing to meet EN 1176. Also a bolt on the entrance gate needs filing off. The edging needs complete replacement. And spring daisy and spring bird need raising higher off wood chip.

Harvesters and Dog Walk

All appears to be in good order, more bark required, some seat chains on the swing linkage need minor attention. A gate latch needs repair RP be asked to do. Apart from litter all looks in reasonable order. No adverse comment from ROSPA.

Sleapshyde Recreation area

This is a more robust type of play equipment but is probably over 80% worn. The age of installation is assumed in the 1980's is probably in need to go on the replacement list at some stage. Mainly wooden kit the replacements offered now are of a different style. This area is badly littered, bark top up and for the see saw a new pivot bolt.

Sleapshyde Pond

The Clerk said there was nothing to report, it was keeping in good condition, and there was scope for regaining more land by removing dead elms behind the seat.

Roestock Park-

This has a poor report and the council are now faced with spending money ahead of the application for the BIFFA grant if it matures. Latest reports indicate September as the decision time. Cllr Corley has expressed disappointment at the delay and to some extent frustrated by the process of application. It is the Clerks opinion we complete all future applications in house and avoid the use of other busy agencies.

Community Park

Reports that the gate was missing, Clerk to investigate.

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

The Roundhouse Farm footpath/BOAT was now closed to all traffic, a new order had been received recently according to Cllr Brazier.

7 HIGHWAYS-TRANSPORT-FOOTPATHS AND VERGES

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

A copy of the PC response was passed to Cllr Henchley on the day it was received (12th July) and all other members circulated at the meeting. In addressing the issues it was clear that whilst we had put our points forward quite strongly the key facts were not being adequately addressed either HCC/HWP or the SCADC Highways team according to Cllr Henchley. The matter still left disappointment and he claimed the ditches had not been done or Peggy's Path in spite of statements to the contrary in the letter from the officers. They had also failed to turn up to an arranged meeting at his home earlier in June, nor had they communicated since. The Clerk had past added that it is also clear that the local team want us to take our issues to or via the HJMP Parish Council representative as stated in the later paragraph. The debate continued with various points of view, the Chair intervened several times asking members to stick to one meeting. It was agreed that the local officers be invited to the September meeting of the Council, as the letter suggested along with the County Council representative C/Cllr B Lee. It was also agreed that the Clerk will send this letter as soon as possible. The Clerk suggested that ideally pictures of faults could be taken and presented to officers at a meeting thereby factually serving to confirm the jobs were or were not executed on such a date. This was agreed and steps taken to provide the Clerk with the information to photograph over next few weeks.

Cllr Crump said he had noticed some deep pot holes in Smallford Lane opposite the numbers 4-5, if the Clerk could add the list of prospective pictures.

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

The gate to the Hixbury Lane Bridleway has been damaged, the Clerk said it is a bar gate but he is unclear who has the responsibility. Contact to be made with SCADC and Juliann Thornton at HCC-ROW office. Possible this is a RUPP but unclear why it is gated off.

7-3 Verge ditch and litter or weed maintenance

Cllr Henchley said he was unconvinced some of the work was being carried out!

7-4 Transport including Village Council funded Friday shopping bus

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. We were also using a small number of volunteer drivers.

8 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

In response to the question from Mr D Becker about the bridge over the Colne that was to be constructed in 2006. The Clerk said he had raised it at the Lafarge Liaison meeting but no one knew about it. This had been dealt with by Mr Mike Pendock who was not present at this meeting.

9 COUNCIL BUILDINGS-ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTEE MATTERS

9-1 High Street Recreation Area Pavilion and CHFC

Cllr Hall said the door issue with the disabled toilet had been resolved. The matter of unsafe "A Frame" benches will be put to CHFC Magement.

9-2 Treasure Tots Pre School.

AGM date is to be set for Wednesday 19th July at 8pm.

9-3 Village Hall Committee

At the time of writing the minutes there was no report from the committee on the AGM held Wednesday 5th July. It is understood that more users of the hall came to the meeting and there is a new chairman.

9-4 Charles Morris Hall

Cllr Reeves said that the details of the Hearing Loop and lighting grant being prepared by CMH is immanent.

9-5 Highfield Community Park Trustees

The AGM will be held in two weeks time, the Clerk said he had not received any dates, Cllr Rump said he will be attending. There was also a good number of people doing the charity run "An Extra Mile on Sunday 16th July using a circuit of the grounds at Highfield. Cllr Rump added a correction to the title and this is noted.

9-6 Other Buildings/Local Organisations/Events

Harvesters open day and AGM and prize-giving on Saturday July 8th was very successful this was reported by Cllr Crump. The accommodation of football for the disabled was continuing and growing.

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.

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.

10-3 Vital Village Matters from the Plan

No reports-this item is kept in the agenda for reasons of follow up's to the plan

10-4 Twinning

No reports

10-5 Reports from Members attending other meetings

No reports.

10-6 Fairs and other local community matters

AMER Fair asked to have a small fair on the common end of July-fee fixed at £150

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

No reports

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

None to deal with other than already dealt in specific subjects

11.2 News Releases

No reports

11-3 Matters received since publishing the Agenda

None to add

MC

11-4 Proposals for Next Agenda

Members had no issues

Cllr Brazier asked about a financial report to see how much was left on the budgets, the Clerk said he would be delivering the half yearly statement as normal at the October meeting if that was acceptable. (Auditor in here two days on Sept 4th 5th)

12 OPERATIONAL MATTERS AND CLERK REPORTS

12-1 Staff issues-Office administration matters

The new computer was installed and costs after purchase still left £600 in the budget after the IT and installation was paid for. Kim wished to thank the members for the provision and had said it gave her more confidence as the old system was prone to glitches and crashes in the middle of work.

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. 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. Members agreed the Clerk to write to the relevant authorities.

12-3 Notice Boards-Bus shelters-Signs

Cllr Rump suggested a notice board be put up at Highfield, the Clerk said he had discussed this with John Ely and a place had been agreed on their land. Once the ground was suitable for installation the Clerk will arrange the installation.

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

The Clerk said he was to consult with Paul Clayden about the legal words.

12-5 Chronicle & Publicity

The next issue of the magazine is being compiled at the moment if any members have any articles please contact the Assistant Clerk.

12-6 Flooding and River Colne Reports

The Clerk is to co-operate with the Clerk of London Colney PC.

12-7 Capital Purchases

No reports

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

Police community meeting here on 26 July

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

MC

Further late items that will be circulated that members should read;-

The Health Service and its Financial problems

Letter received 6th July from Cllr Tony Swendell

Parish Charters

Letter from Cllr Robert Donald dated 7th July-re meeting of SADC Parish Council Liaison Group on 19th October. We should date this in our diaries to be sure and send someone to put our views. The Clerk intends to attend.

Member Training

Matters of Ethical Training and Code of Conduct-arranged for 11th October-a member and Clerk should try and attend.

Buncefield Explosion

Letters 6th July concerning local issues-worth reading

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.05 pm



John Dean
Clerk to the Council

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THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL IS 7TH SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 7.30 PM THE AGENDA WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE 1-4TH SEPTEMBER

IF ANY MEMBER HAS ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE BY THEN OR SOONER

MEMBERS NOTE THE OFFICE MAY BE OPEN AT INTERMITTENT TIMES DUE TO STAFF AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

