

Colney Heath Parish Council



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07 JUNE 2007

MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7TH JUNE 2007-7.30.pm

Present; - Cllr P Reeves Chair.-Cllr D Horner-Cllr Cloke-Cllr Henchley
Cllr Rump.

Clerk; Mr J E Dean

Herts Police Attendance PC Jack Carson-Roads Policing Unit

Public Attendance- Mr D Becker 95 High Street- Colney Heath
Mr Pluck Tollgate Road Resident's association
Ms C Pluck Tollgate Road Residents Assoc;
Ms H Parker Tollgate Road Residents Assoc;

1. APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATIONS

Apologies received from Cllr Brazier and Cllr Crump.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council on 10th May 2007 were approved

Proposed by Cllr Day

Seconded by Cllr Horner

The Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting 10th May 2007 were approved.

Proposed by Cllr Henchley

Seconded by Cllr Day

Both sets of minutes were signed by the Chairman Cllr Reeves as correct.

2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Having gone through the pages there were no matters arising from either minutes.

3 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN MAY BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Chair welcomed PC Carson who had been directed by the area commander to attend on issues of traffic speed in Tollgate Road following a 138 signature petition. The Clerk had received a suggestion from a past resident and now living in Norfolk a Mrs Joy Tompkins to come to the village and archive all the historic artefacts and papers belonging to the village hall and Parish Council. The Chair said that she would

be welcome to undertake this task and asked the Clerk to contact her. There are some items scattered all over various residences and keepers and he said that this was an important task. It is apparent that County Hall now charges for keeping documents and other artefacts and memorabilia. It should be inventoried who ever has care of it

3.1 Election and Vacancies for Co –Opted Members

Vacancy for Co-opted Members due to resignations and retirements

The Clerk the Chair there were two vacancies, Ms Chris Gowan had decided her work load prevented joining at this time, the Chair said the option was open to her whilst the vacancy stood. One other new application had been received for co-option that of:-

Mr A Cloke of 43 Cutmore Drive Colney Heath to represent Colney Heath Ward

The Clerk added that the co-option notice had been on public display for 14 working days expiring on 31st May, members were now able to vote and accept the candidate. It was proposed by Cllr Day and seconded by Cllr Horner, accordingly Cllr A Cloke was invited and welcomed by the Chair to join the meeting and become a Councillor.

3-2 Community Park-Reopening 6th June

The Chair Cllr Reeves gave members details about an event he attended on the 6th June at 12 noon along with the Worshipful Deputy Mayor Cllr Geoff Harrison and Deputy Mayoress Moira Seton performed the official opening ceremony of the newly refurbished Community Park after a £6000 grant had been spent. A Teddy Bears Picnic had been arranged by the Assistant Clerk Kim Parker-Mead and Louise Morris CMS Project Apprentice to encourage local mothers and children to attend. Smarties parents attended with their children and our Treasure Tots children and parents. It was indeed a very good attendance with over 62 parents, children and other local people turning up. The weather was very sunny and tea and cakes were served after the opening ceremony. Other attendees included Cllr Horner the Rev'd Spanner and Clerk. New DDA gates and field gate fitted for better security as part of grant along with a new field gate to replace the rotting wooden one for better security.

3.3 Chronicle Magazine and Web Site

It was agreed this would be deferred until the 19th July meeting.

3.4 Colney Heath Parish Council 60th Anniversary-1947-2007

Cllr Rump said there were no other matters to add and that other events were planned during the year and would be advertised.

3.5 Tyttenhanger Sign

The Clerk added that the dedication photos will be in the June issue of the Chronicle.

3.6 Roestock Park

The planning of the family event is well underway to have a local session of "Larks in the Parks" on Sunday 1st June as part of the 60th to encourage families to have a day out of fun. Cllr Brazier, Cllr Day and Cllr Horner Cllr Crump have all pledged help on the day. Kim Parker-Mead is co-ordinating with SCADC Arts on the details. It is the intention to have five simple amusement or display ideas plus the circuit entertainment by SCADC Arts. The Clerk is on holiday at that time but the Assistant

Clerk will be in charge of the event. It is hoped that several hundred will attend and for fine weather. All free and people are encouraged to bring a picnic and walk there. Any members or volunteers are welcome and should contact Kim Parker-Mead. It is intended to cone off Admirals Close and seek "Police watch" involvement for the event. Notices will appear on the parish notice boards and an insert in the Chronicle.

3.7 Grazing on Furze Field

The Clerk reported on his visit with CMS to Epping Forest to see the commons set up on Highland Cattle run by the Corporation of London. Part of the Commons Grazing Group to promote the regeneration of the commons in Hertfordshire plan.

3.8 Annual Beating of the Bounds

The annual event was a band of six very wet walkers and a dog, most of the posts were checked and no adverse misdemeanours detected. Part of the west side of the top common near the water works would benefit from the annual commons pollarding of scrub and evasive trees blocking light to the under cover. The blue bells might then have more of a chance to mature in the spring.

4. FINANCE

The Clerk gave information on the following financial matters which was supported by the relevant information and data reports to each member;-

4.1 MONTHLY EXPENDITURE

The Clerk gave information to members for the June expenditure of £12496.07 and VAT element of £576.52 after questions payments were approved by the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Rump

Seconded by Cllr Day

4.2 Treasury Reserve & Investments

The Clerk advised placing £150,000 on Treasury Reserve re-invested-one month fixed until 2nd July 2007 at 4.093% yielding £698.00 in that period.

4.3 Progress of Audit 2006-7

The Auditor is returning again all day on 20th June to check the books and assist the Clerk with finalisation of the accounts for submission to Lubbock Fine. The Clerk said he expects to present to the full council at the 19th July meeting for signing by the Chair prior to sending to L.F. after which we will be up to date with our audits.

4.4 Progress of VAT Recovery

The Clerk advised there is a considerable reclaim to be completed once the petty cash is done in Audit and every penny of vat tax is extracted.

4.5 Parish Accounts

The Clerk said that all details and statements of the Parish Accounts he gave at the APM may be inspected if members wished or at the office at other times.

4.6 Charles Morris Hall Grant

The Clerk advised members we had paid some invoices we are also awaiting some other materials invoices as part of the overall £8000 grant, over this year and last as agreed in order the VAT element can be saved by council from any payments.

4.7 Other Financial Matters;

Herts Highways are agreeing to a repayment for the traffic control not used at the sign installation at Tyttenhanger.

Payroll year end-Annual Salary Review-Staff matters

The Clerk advised members that he had completed the staff P14/35 statutory payroll end of year details to HMCR. We await their scrutiny for any re-payment or charges. The pay review for the position of Assistant Clerk had now set the new salary at scale points 25 which members had already approved. But no increases for other staff whilst local government review sits and to announce details. Over 4% pay rise is requested.

5 PLANNING

5.1 Planning Applications

The following applications were debated in more detail;-

General Comments

Members gave some views on the current applications and refusals, from the prepared agenda notes, giving several detail comments

Cllr Henchley followed with other comments of past applications and refusals at the invitation of the Chair and gave members his views of the planning issues to date.

5-1 Planning Applications:

As listed below and received up to the date of this agenda publication June 6th 2007 ;-

Number	Address	Application	Decision/Recommendation
5/07/0906	Land rear of 47 Firwood Avenue	Detached chalet bungalow	Opposed- Inappropriate, harmful to the street scene and totally out of character
5/07/1119	48 Oaklands Lane	Single storey rear extension	No objections
5/07/1090	Wickes Building Supplies	Use of land for siting of a mobile catering unit	Objected- Objections on Green Belt and unsuitable development
5/07/1031	66 Wynches Farm Drive	Conversion of garage into habitable room	No objections- parking standards must be observed
5/07/1012	67 Wynches Farm drive	Single storey rear extension	No objections
5/07/1020	1 Edison Close	Two storey and single storey side extension and conversion of garage into habitable room	Overdevelopment of site, parking standard will also be compromised
5/07/1092	28 Tyttenhanger Green	Rear conservatory	No objections
5/07/1198	45 Firwood Avenue	Detached chalet bungalow	With Cllr Brazier 25/5/2007
5/07/1163	13 Puddingstone Drive	Single storey side and rear extension	With Cllr Brazier 25/5/2007
5/07/1165	The Three Horseshoes PH	External alterations new door and window openings, new rear patio, paths, soft landscaping, lighting and picket fence	With Cllr Brazier 25/5/2007
5/07/1102	7 Puddingstone Drive	Two storey rear extension	With Cllr Brazier 25/5/2007

Note items with Listed Building Status are noted with suffix LB after the plan no- e.g 5/07/000LB

5-2 Planning Approvals

As listed since last meeting

Number	Address	Application	SCADC Decision
5/07/0577	Nicholas Breakspear RC	Replacement d/g metal framed windows	Planning Permission

See Attached Sheet for Planning Approvals- Appendix

Note items with Listed Building Status are noted with suffix LB after the plan no- e.g. 5/07/000LB

5.3 Planning Refusals

As noted

5-3A Planning Appeals-Inquiries-Enforcements-Other issues

There is an appeal lodged by BT PLc & Telereal Services Ltd for Development of Trial Site-Application number 5/06/1655.

Oaklands Development -Details of approval might be forthcoming

Hyde Bungalow-Cllr Henschley said this is in a conservation area.

Home Farm;- No applications received so far although ground work is beginning-Cllr Reeves said that the Police Helicopter was there at the week-end possibly observing or locating thieves extracting lead from a derelict buildings and the stealing of a van.

Planning Appeals-Inquiries-Enforcement notices received;-

Application 5/06/1578 & 5/06/1665 Radio Nurseries St Albans-13 new homes.

The District Council has refused on GB issues.

5-4 Strategic or other Planning referred to ODPM/Secretary of State-SEERA

Helioslough-Rail Freight Terminal- Going to appeal-SCADC announced cost of £1m is expected to defend this application-opposition so vital in the eyes of the local community opinion and congestion potential.

London Luton Airport-Master Plan expected any time now

Scott Wilson Report-Sites for Travellers & SEERA New consultation for 2009

The report published-a copy in the office for public examination

There is a further report from SEERA received to-day from HATPC concerning a full and public consultation. Members requested a response by letter from the Clerk with a draft letter from Cllr Brazier-views (CHPC) must be received by 5pm 31st July to *East of England Regional Assembly Bury St Edmunds IP28 6EG.*

Legal Matters-Land Registry-SCADC Involvement

Land infringement on to verge and Highway at Franklin Close reported to SCADC by letter from Clerk-District Council enquired this may not be highways registered land

Affordable Housing

Three terraced houses on land at Sleafshyde Lane Smallford previously application 05/04/1222 dated 04/06/2004. These were agreed for rental by local persons only as priority at an earlier Council Meeting.

Section 106 Consideration to accept developer land for a Public Open Space

The Clerk is waiting responses from Mr Ian Holland Leisure Services SCADC

5-5 Residents Associations

Tollgate Lane Residents Association attendance regarding Highways issues in item 7
Highfield Residents Association recent meeting minutes circulated.

5.6 Planning Monitoring

No specific reports & other than matters noted here,
Air Quality; - No reports
Minerals & Waste;-Waste strategy report circulated-public consultation
Licences;- No reports this time.
LDF;-No reports this time.

SCADC-PATHFINDER REPORT

No further comments received from members on this key report.

6 COMMONS OPEN SPACES & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The written reports were considered of;-

6-1 Parish Warden Report

Members were circulated with a copy of the reports with usual general tasks removal of litter and FC pitch marking. Cllr Henschley wanted attention paid to the emptying of the bins. Clerk to remind Mr Paxton about this job.

6-2 Parish Commons Ranger Report

Report circulated at the meeting and noting Beating of Bounds walk on 13th May.

6-3 Parish Gardner and Tennis Courts Attendant Reports

Report circulated- low use of courts and flower beds planted with summer bedding.

6-4 Church & Graveyard Keepers work/time sheet

No specific report, satisfactory work and clearance continuing, some minor problems with mower, Clerk to arrange service whilst Mr Bralant is on holiday soon. Note other persons may use the equipment and have shed key.

6-5 CHPC Grass Cutting Contract

The contract continuing and this months cost included in finance expenditure report.

6-6 Commons Stewardship

The Clerk has earlier reported visit to Epping Forest-High Beeches grazing.

6.7 Recreation Areas

The annual ROSPA inspections are due to be done this month, report will follow from office when received. Probable debate for July or September meeting. A request from Cllr Reeves to have the pine bark at CMH raked, RP tasked to do this ASAP-more bark not needed at this stage but monitoring. Safe & Sound put in 10 cu/m² last year.

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

Clerk has installed a DDA gate at the A414 end of Community Park in line with the CMS grants and work plan. The gate was in stock at Warren Farm. Installation was by Highfield Hall staff under John Ely.

Clerk had received a complaint regarding O'Connor's verges left uncut and making hay in Swans Close and strimming required at entrance to long-about A414. Clerk has asked for work schedule programme from them and the cutting mapping for Colney Heath. Tyttenhanger Sign area also unfinished and poorly cut.

Footpath 21

The Clerk gave members a quick update on the footpath 21 issue with Herts Rights of Way and landowner Mr Day, he said that things were improving and a resolve was in sight acceptable to both sides.

Gloucester Park

Problems notified Clerk to investigate at earliest opportunity.

7 HIGHWAYS-TRANSPORT-FOOTPATHS AND VERGES

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

The Chair welcomed PC Carson who on the instruction of Chief Superintendent Roome Gifford in response to a letter regarding traffic speeds in Tollgate Road. Mr Pluck was also representing the residents association following an earlier residents meeting attended by Cllr Brazier in the Scout Hut a few weeks ago. This had meeting well attended had culminated in a 132 signature petition on a very emotive subject of speed cameras. *MR PARKER* Mr Pluck was possibly under the impression that CHPC had powers to deliver the camera set ups after the debate at that meeting. After he gave his opinions to the meeting at the invitation of the Chair. PC Carson explained the very rigorous highways procedure and consultation required, and went on the give examples of installations and how they had been achieved and funded. *MR PARKER* Mr Pluck was disappointed that it was not possible to install average speed cameras as he felt along with other residents that Tollgate Road was overlooked in the priorities, speeding was an issue there and little was being done by Highways and Police. Residents were up in arms and expected action, which he said could or should be done.

The Chair managed to dampen down a vigorous exchange and to give PC Carson an opportunity to open up the issues of obtaining such apparatus that could be afforded by part funding or other means via local authority or police service. The subject of VA signs came up. Cllr Horner remarked on the vehicle activated signs that operate to alert motorists and slow them down. The Clerk added that one parish council he knew in Bucks had paid £14k to have installed, he also asked if HCC or Police had allowed citizens to operate speed devices and the process of taking car registrations and reporting to police who issue a warning to the driver. This was not being done in Hertfordshire. Other questions examined the covert van scheme fitted with covert cameras recording data. PC Carson said the first was to get a loop to record the average speeds so information can determine the solution options and how this was prioritised. Mr Pluck felt that the point was being missed, inn the meantime children were at risk from speeding, the elderly crossing to the bus stops and vehicles having damage from passing vehicles. It is apparent that village speeds are approaching 38/39 mph and that does qualify for attention. The outcome is that PC Carson will send details of the last speed loop report done in 2003 and see how another report can be funded before he tackles this further. He will also write on the alternative options

MR PARVIER

open to CHPC, the District Council and Highways Partnership. Mr Pluck was invited to the planned meeting on 19th July at Colney Heath office when HHWP and the road safety consultant are going to tell us about the High Street traffic calming and school crossing plans and funding. He was welcome to join that meeting.

The Chair thanked PC Carson for his attendance giving the report of the options open to us with sufficient external support from police and highways.

Highways Response Crew

The Clerk reported that we had requested the hedge near Chalk drawers be cut back as motorists naturally swerved to the centre and oncoming traffic because of poor vision the hedge was overgrowing into the road. Assistant Clerk had contacted HHWP

Traffic Management

Chevron signs at Coursers Rd/Common & Bridge have been repaired.

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

No reports this time.

7-3 Verge ditch and litter or weed maintenance

Reported that general opinions are that work is failing and often not being done or missed, Cllr Henchley asked members support for a letter to HHWP Mr V Gilbert. Yet again Peggy's Path was the classic, reported 4th June and still no sign of activity.

7.4 (&7.6)- Transport and Friday Shopping Bus

Cllr Horner is discussing a replacement bus from London Colney that has fixed seats; the drawback is that it cannot take wheelchairs. He is having negotiations with the voluntary organisation owners and will report again. Hoping to try the bus on one trip.

7.5 Long –About A414

Deferred

8 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr Becker asked about a litter picker in the village-he was told that Mrs Brazier and Cllr Brazier do sometimes undertake a voluntary litter pick. Cllr Crump also arranges an annual pick with volunteers and this is probably about due. In Colney Heath we do not get services from District Council on this such as district contractor O'Connor.

9 COUNCIL BUILDINGS-ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTEE MATTERS

9-1 High Street Recreation Area Pavilion and CHFC

The Clerk had requested Mr C Gibbs to do some electrical work on the club; he had responded that a test on the wiring was essential before anyone did work on it. There were some very serious issues and he was not qualified for three-phase (floodlights). On Friday 1st June a site meeting was held with Mr Gibbs and two NCEEIC engineers from a firm Plowright Hinton Ltd. What was seen and the warnings given on the spot gave serious concern to the Clerk that the building could be a risk. A call was made to Mr Marlborough the Chair of CHFC to advise him of the situation we had found. He accepted the decision to close the premises may have to be made. The bar area was without lights as they had not been working for some time, it was agreed that CHPC pay for temporary lighting up to £100 for safe illumination in a dark area.

Mr Marlborough would get it done and we (CHPC) will pay. The overall situation was far from satisfactory and the CHPC Chair was informed, the Clerk had delayed his leave to attend the site visit. Cllr Brazier came to see what had been agreed and was advised the conclusion. Issues of public safety would remain until the electrical inspection is carried out; the engineers were given immediate instructions to do a survey the following week to ensure this council had acted correctly on the warning. It was pointed out to the Clerk the tenants legal certification was not in place and that was required as soon as possible which endorsed the so necessary decision for an immediate inspection. (£600) (It could have rendered the building insurance invalid) In conjunction a discussion with the Chair it was decided that as no showers were in use at the week end any future closure issue would be considered at an emergency Finance Committee meeting called for Monday 11th June. All matters will be then decided in council by the members as to the future compliant requirements of CHFC. In the terms of the lease, any dilapidations has very clear responsibilities for a tenant, equipment added since lease start (1992) may not meet required installation standards The PII meeting date was agreed for the 11th June 2007 to be chaired by Cllr J Day.

9-2 Treasure Tots Pre School.

In the absence of Cllr Crump the Clerk gave some latest statistics and figures for the attendance and finances for the pre-school. The planned AGM for the 19th June is postponed until October 2007. The Clerk said that he and the Assistant Clerk had been asked to attend a meeting of Herts Pre-School Alliance to present an application put in earlier for a funding opportunity, £1400 was requested to take up some bad debt and payroll shortfalls in early 2007. The current attendance is up on last term at 25.

9-3 Village Hall Committee

No reports, VH committee has given permission for the CHPC screen to be installed.

9.4 Charles Morris Hall

Grant (£1968.13) paid on towards recent refurbishment works as agreed in council.

9.5 Highfield Community Park & Trustees

Cllr Rump said there were no reports this time.

9-6 Other local Organisations-Guides Scouts-Harvesters

No reports other than Scouts are without a leader and possibly having to cease activity

9.7 Youth Organisations Locally & Youth Council

No reports

10 COMMUNITY REPORTS-Members reports Outside Bodies and reports from Committees and other Organisations

10.1 Fly Tipping Reports

Copies of latest list given to members. There have been a number of real nuisance fly tips reported by Cllr Henchley and Cllr Day, usual BML & Highfield Lane near bend, the police liaison meeting on 13th June may show some progress on apprehension of those responsible. Further nuisance with Gypsies in a field off BML use for temporary Caravan site whilst attending a funeral. The unofficial opening and destruction of the hedge was considered inappropriate by members, little chance of prosecution levied.

10.3 Code of Conduct-Revised Standard-Statutory Instrument

Clerk advised Members are invited to an overview at SCADC on 18th July-please advise office if you wish to attend-new booklets will be distributed in post out. Members will need to formally adopt the code and in particular section 12(2) in this parish year and by October.

10.4 Vital Villages

No report

10.5 Twinning

Details circulated to all members of latest newsletter, participation in Larks in the Parks on July 1st with picnic and Boules demonstration. Cllr Brazier attended the 25th Anniversary Supper 26th May -De Havilland Club on behalf of Colney Heath Parish . Council meeting with members and twinning guests from Boissy St Yon.

10.6 Reports from Members attending other meetings

No reports

10.7 Fairs-Festivals and local community matters

No reports

10.8 Reports as listed –HM Govt; Local Govt Issues; National; HCC Etc;

No smoking in public places-all council owned buildings should have notices up.

10.8 St Albans Association of Town & Parish Councils.

No reports

11 Members Questions

Cllr Henchley asked if all planning had been covered as he arrived after this had been dealt with, the Chair invited him to add any applications again he felt appropriate.

11.1 Any issues

No reports

11.2 News Releases

No reports

11.3 Matters received since publishing the agenda

No reports

11.4 Proposals for Next Meeting Agenda

Members had no subjects to add at this stage-any can be raised up to 13th July when next agenda is published.

12 OPERATIONAL MATTERS

No reports

12.1 Staff and Office Matters

No issues

12.2 Clerk Report on future matters needing attention

No report

12.3 Notice Boards and Signs

Noted

12.4 Commons Licences & Wayleaves

Noted

12.5 Publicity & Chronicle

Previously dealt with

12-6 Flooding and Encams

Noted

12.7 Capital Purchases

No purchases other than gate replacement to Community Park-old rotten-part of grant funding CMS & SCADC to ward off any anti unlawful pitching or squatting risks.

The meeting closed at 10.08 pm

John Dean

Clerk to the Council

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Note

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL IS AT 7.30pm 19th July 2007

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Alan -
19th July 2007