

Colney Heath Parish Council



Clerk to The Parish Council
Parish Office
83 High Street
Colney Heath
Herts. AL4 0NS
Tel : 01727 825314
Fax : 01727 825327
Email : colney2heath@btconnect.com

04 OCT 2007

MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY-4TH OCTOBER 2007-7.30.pm

Present; - Cllr P Reeves Chair.-Cllr Brazier Vice Chair-Cllr Rump-Cllr Day
Cllr D Crump- (& 1 Vacancy)

Clerk; Mr J E Dean

Public Attendance- Mr D Becker 95 High Street- Colney Heath
Mr Alan Jenkins
Mrs Nancy Taffs WI & VHC interests

1. APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATIONS

Apologies from Cllr Cloke, Cllr Henchley-Cllr Horner to the members present for this meeting. There were no declarations on the matters contained in the agenda.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council on 6TH September 2007 were approved

Proposed by Cllr Crump

Seconded by Cllr Rump

The minutes were signed by the Chairman Cllr Reeves as being correct.

2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were some minor correction matters arising from the 19th July 2007 minutes that had been included in the September Minutes as pointed out by the Clerk, it is noted that all members present accepted the amendments to 19th July as correct.

Cllr Rump had previously asked about item 10.1 (Sept) Fly Tipping reports about the use of preventative obstruction humps at Highfield Lane triangle area where frequent tips occur as a solution to stop. Mr Surridge was to be approached after the meeting by Cllr Reeves about the idea from Cllr Rump of obstruction humps near farm gates.

3 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN MAY BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Chair said that he would change the running order to allow Mr A Jenkins who had asked the Clerk earlier for a few minutes to speak about footpaths before the council main business began. The Chair suggested he took item 3.2 as the original issue was withdrawn now. The presentation from Mr Rodway 3.4 could then follow.

P. Reeves 15th Nov 2007

3.1 Council owned Building Essential Electrical work to Pavilion

The electrical works to the building had now been completed by contractor Instalec Ltd, Cllr Horner was due to meet them on site and clear up any issues or snags during last week, with the apologies of Cllr Horner the Clerk was sure this had been done. We now had certification and the Clerk said he will be writing to the Secretary with copies of the papers so they can be put into the switchgear cupboard. With the letter will go a reminder that under no circumstances is any work on the electrical circuits to be done at any time without permission in writing from the clerk & RFO. The Clerk added he did not want to be put in the invidious position again on public safety compromise as in June this year (reported) with almost closing the building.

Planning Application-Two Additional Pitches at Barley Mow Gypsy Site

Earlier notification prior to the meeting that the application had been withdrawn.

3.2 Footpaths important update

New work on the footpaths 34 & 68 have been carried out to clear debris by what is described as the "heavy team" a duty undertaken by Mr Alan Jenkins with others in conjunction with Andy Hardstaff CMS. This included clearance of debris, fencing and other fly tipped rubbish is possibly dumped off from the trunk A1M adjacent. Cllr Brazier was pleased to hear this but said he was certain that the responsibility for upkeep was with Watling Chase and the parish that abounded the paths. There was also clearance required at Peggy's Path with the rubbish building up in the ditches again, the Clerk added at a recent Highways meeting it was assured this had been done by HHWP after we had complained several times. Other rubbish was there and past signage used when HHWP contractors were cleaning ditches and coppicing. Still not removed now weeks after completion of the job. Work had been done on the path at the rear of the Crooked Billet to FP35 with repairs to stiles. Again the Clerk added that he had a recent meeting with CMS and Julian Thornton on 27th September and does so from time to time to look at priorities. Plans to FP 24 to provide an improved and safer route into Roestock Park from Roestock Lane and provide DDA gates is in plan. The pathway will be upgraded with crushed concrete and rolled to provide a surface able to take disabled scooters allowing access into the top of the area in most conditions. Cllr Crump was concerned on the soft ground, mainly in winter. Further access to be considered as funds become available later through grant or provision. The dangerous gateway structures will be replaced by the Centrewire DDA Gates. Cost forecast is in the region of £3/4,000 with the greater part coming from CMS and HCC, we are to provide the gates, one we have in stock and Sentry Farms to do the groundwork. Further details to follow and completion by end 2007-January 2008. It was suggested that Mr Jenkins to meet with the Clerk to look at other areas where the volunteer heavy gang can be used to do clearance work. (Perhaps RUPP 32.)

3.3 Matters of serious Anti-Social Behaviour

The increasing issues of anti social behaviour, Cllr Day and Cllr Brazier are to put pressure on the Police to take account of this problem at the next NAG Meeting 24/10 at Colney Heath. Chair-Cllr Reeves urged as many members as possible to attend. Cllr Day suggested starting a record to take account of the specific problems in the BML/Tyttenhanger Green, this was agreed and the Clerk will devise a log. This focuses on two different areas becoming a problem to the parish and the possible scenario of escalation to other areas if not dealt with promptly;-

The pantomime is also becoming popular and if oversubscribed the Assistant Clerk will have to consider either those received early in and sequence get tickets or we may revert to a lucky-dip selection if we go past the allowable numbers. The Clerk advised the date of Saturday 5th January 2008 and unfortunately only one performance. This was a nice thing to provide for the children in our 60th year. The Chair Cllr Reeves asked for confirmation that it was free to all children up to 13 years and two tickets plus one supervising adult per family. Kim Parker-Mead is administering the event.

3.6 Commons Grazing Group Herts and Furze Field

The Clerk was keen to hear from members who wish to attend the viewing of cattle grazing in Epping Forest on 31st October, in conjunction with CMS and SCADC we (CHPC) are to host the sandwich/wine lunch on return at 1.30pm. A brief presentation and networking opportunity and those wishing to exchange information with other parish councillors from Chorleywood, St Stephens, Wheathampsted and Sandridge. Chorley wood and Colney Heath are the two pick up points and CMS and SCADC regrettably Cllr Crump said he was not able to go but the Clerk has reserved 4 places. Members advise by 15th latest, Clerk at arrangement meeting C/Wood- 16th October. Cllr's Brazier-Rump-Reeves-Horner have already expressed interest in attending

3.7 Smallford Station Preservation Order

The Chair Cllr Reeves said he was responsible for requesting this be included and he would explain the concern, the risk of demolition and this building be protected under an order before it is demolished. This could easily happen by stealth or an uncaring act by a developer or a dismissive attitude by others for its justifiable preservation. Cllr Crump gave immediate support to the idea and members present agreed this was an important local landmark with significant history. The name Jane West was given as the district contact for preservation issues. The item to remain on forward agendas. The Clerk needs a photograph and further details from members to begin the process.

3.8 Review of Polling Districts

This was debated following a draft letter from the Clerk for members to approve, the main issue was where boundaries cut right through the middle of properties such as Franklin Close and Tollgate Road. The dividing line between Ridge Parish at Church Lane and other areas in the vicinity of Camp Road and parts of Highfield.

3.9 Invitation to Mayors Civic Service

This takes place on 7th October at St Albans Abbey, opportunities for members to attend; Cllr Brazier said that he was attending in his capacity of District Councillor.

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 & ACCOUNTS

The Clerk gave information to members for all September October parish expenditure and stated to members that this was one of the highest ever he has delivered to council £29,840.59 inc VAT element is £1381.32 with several high payments over £5,000 all questions were answered by the Clerk, the payments were approved by the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Brazier

Seconded by Cllr Day

4.2 Half Yearly Financial Report-2007-8

Details of the half year expenditure was presented to members via computer projector on to the screen in an excel format. Details of the cash book receipts and payments data used for the accounts were displayed. The Clerk took members on a visual tour of the monthly figures since April 07. The comparison to the budget for 2007-8 shows some overspend and a degree of under-spend in the 12 cost headings used since 2004. The Clerk advised members the higher than forecast overall figure for the half year of £74,997.75 ex vat to 30th September needs very careful watching and costing scrutiny with a degree of due and diligent fiscal tightness until March 2008.

4.3 Treasury Reserve & Investments

The Clerk had placed £110,000 on Treasury Reserve re-invested-one months fixed until 3rd November yielding £523.00 in that period. Having worked out the cash flow it will just make the period with no grants or large cheques paid until after that date. To the period 31st October we made £1992.00 interest on this investment vehicle

4.4 Audit 2006-7

The audit and all details have been sent to Lubbock Fine on 28th September for their scrutiny and approval. Notices are out for public inspection at the parish office.

4.5 Budgeted Grant Aid (Section 19 LGA Act-1976-Misc Provisions)

The remaining grants were agreed to be paid having been held in reserve. Charles Morris Hall-£8,000 Members had scrutinised receipts on the expenditure CHFC £1700 second instalment due in November-Agreed in past meeting VPMC £400 agreed for hearing loop-Appealed in 2006-Clerk needs to see bills

4.6 Other Financial Matters

The Clerk drew member's attention to the expenditure on the Pavilion Building which has totalled nearly £17,000 adding that this cannot be sustained. Cllr Reeves said he was very disappointed at the constant expenditure on this building and urged members to look carefully at this in our forthcoming budget. Cllr Day agreed Cllr Reeves added that CHPC must resolve the lease issue with CHFC and seek better long term returns.

4.7 Progress of Vat

Clerk advised, and members noted.

Payroll-Annual Salary Review-& Staff matters

No final outcome yet of national percentage review for the public sector pay round that is expected to be advised by HATPC Past Statement that from 4th October 2007 all staff holiday-days increase in line with new government legislation this council as a local authority must be compliant. This includes both full and part time working. One Employee is under national minimum wage and as a result of legislation we have to increase from £5.45 per hour to £5.65- cost to council is small at around £70 P/A.

Section 137 Payments

The Clerk requested members approve the usual annual expenditure for Christmas Biscuits for the over 60's which is estimated at £1250.00 this year. A proposal for this special Sect 137 grant category has to be agreed and accepted by council.

Proposed by Cllr Rump

Seconded by Cllr Brazier

Agreed by all members present

5 PLANNING

Planning Applications

The following applications were debated in detail;-

General Comments

Members offered views on the current applications and refusals, the prepared agenda notes covered several details and comments

5-1 Planning Applications:

As listed below and received up to the date of this agenda publication-**bold= topical**;-

As listed and received to the date of agenda publication 28th September 2007;-

The Clerk drew member's particular attention to the items in bold type

Number	Address	Application	Decision/Recommendation
5/07/1688	1 Station Rd	Convert roof to 1 st floor	Objected -Overdevelopment of site
5/07/1891*	Notcutts Garden Centre	New external covered retail area	No objections
5/07/1563 See notes* Re decision	Oaklands College Smallford	Erection of new college and other residential buildings for Oaklands	Supports Housing. Objects to road layout. Road should exit Sandpit Lane for College
5/07/1984	30 Firwood Avenue	Single storey rear extension	No objections
5/07/2000	24 Firwood Ave	Demolition of carport and erection of two storey side and single storey rear extension and roof alterations to form loft extension	No objections
5/07/1912	65 Firwood Ave	Loft conversion and extension with two rear dormer windows	Only concerns is Policy 72 overlooking neighbouring Properties
5/07/1911	63 Firwood Ave	Roof extension and loft conversion with two rear dormer windows	Only concerns is Policy 72 overlooking neighbouring Properties
5/07/2024	Plot 2 Redhall House Roestock Lane	Alterations to openings and internal layout	No objections
5/07/1922	Plot 1 Redhall House Roestock Lane	Pitched roof to porch and alterations to openings	No objections
5/07/1687A	The Three Horseshoes PH 612 Hatfield Road	Replacement signage including front logo, painted timber panel with painted lettering to side elevation, externally illuminated double sided pictorial sign on existing post and brass lantern over front entrance	The pub is in a designated green Belt settlement. The proposed signage is out of keeping with the Green Belt policy
5/07/1990	30 Maslen Road	Two storey side extension	Opposed- From continued extension of properties in the Green belt conditions were passed applied to prevent large percentage extensions on these properties – overdevelopment of the site
5/07/2184	48 Starlight way	Rear conservatory	With Cllr Brazier 14/9/2007

5/07/1953	Alban Point Alban Park Hatfield Road	Change of use from Class B8 to class D1	No objections
5/07/2179	16 Sleapcross gardens	Demolition of garage and erection of two storey side part two st/ rear ext	No objections
5/07/2142	7 Puddingstone Drive	Single storey rear ext	With Cllr Brazier 14/9/2007
5/07/2143	71 Colney Heath lane	Single storey rear ext	No objections
5/07/2096	Land at Hill End Lane	Temporary use of land as contractors compound	With Cllr Brazier 27/9/2007
5/07/2235	Monarflex Lyon Way	Change of use from warehouse to church	With Cllr Brazier 27/9/2007
5/07/2147	Chalkdrwaers Arms PH	Erection of pergola	With Cllr Brazier 27/9/2007

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

Application 5/07/2147 was planned overlooking GB

SCADC General Applications List (District) Circulated to all members.

Week ending 28th September

5-2 Planning Approvals

As listed since last meeting

Number	Address	Application	SCADC Decision
5/07/1698	2 Honeycroft Drive	Rear conservatory	Planning Permission
5/07/1603	8 Housefield Way	Rear conservatory	Planning Permission
5/07/1824	44 Puddingstone Drive	Rear conservatory	Planning permission
5/07/1835	24 Tyttenhanger Green	Single storey rear extension	Planning permission

See Attached Sheet for Planning Approvals- Appendix

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

5.3 Refusals

5/07/1606	48 Starlight Way	Rear conservatory	Planning Refusal
5/07/1406	67 Colney Heath Lane	Retention of fence on side boundary in front dwelling	Planning Refusal
5/07/1366	Land to rear of 87 Tollgate Road	Detached two bedroom bungalow with associated parking	Planning Refusal
5/07/1688	1 Station Road	Raising of the roof to create first floor accommodation	Planning Refusal
5/07/1818	5 Sleapshyde lane Smallford	Two storey and single storey rear extension	Planning Refusal

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

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.

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.

Other applications (Carried forward from September minutes)

Oaklands Development -Details of approval might be forthcoming

Debate on other related issues on agenda were;-

1. Issues and Options document
2. Smallford Campus
3. Notcutts Development
4. Home Farm Development

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

SCADC Core Strategy Consultation Paper

A letter has been sent into the consultation process.

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. See copy report Davina Mansell 4/06/07
Further details as received have been sent with members post out

Gypsy issues with the Local Development Framework.

Previously reported, Cllr Brazier said he has refused any debate on this issue until the final plans on the share to be taken by other districts in Hertfordshire are disclosed.

Legal Matters-Land Registry-SCADC Involvement

Land infringement on to verge and Highway area at Franklin Close by a property adjoining is according to Cllr Brazier is to be dealt with by SCADC enforcement

Affordable Housing

Building is nearing completion on three terraced houses on land near play area at Sleafshyde. Clerk said Members may wish to check about local persons chosen from the housing list as promised by SCADC Housing Officer to this council.

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

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

Hertfordshire County Council Minerals & Waste Development

Noted but no comments against at this time.

Bulk Waste Lorry Parking

Issue is still ongoing, but could be un-resolvable if planning permission is in place, it is reported that we might expect a petition from nearby residents.

5-5 Residents Associations

Cllr Brazier said he had met the Highfield Residents Association; they are somewhat disappointed at issues affecting them being seemingly not dealt with. An impression based on their being in closer proximity to St Albans for public services than Colney Heath Village. Cllr Brazier said the dissecting of the A414 is a type of barrier to them and although we strive to include, and have offered a seat on this council, we see the issue not going away. The Clerk said that we deal with all items in the parish and recently we have particularly focused on the Gloucester Park and Highfield area. It was on our agenda regularly we intend to stress this at the police NAG meeting on 24th October. Our minutes are regularly e-mailed & posted. Councillor Reeves wants the matter of who owns Gloucester Park looked into at Land Registry. (See item 6.7)

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

Clerk reported we have no further comments from members on this key report.

6 COMMONS OPEN SPACES & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The written reports were considered of:-

Draft Green Spaces Strategy

Matter in abeyance with SCADC at the moment.

6-1 Parish Warden Report

With similar comments to last meeting, Members were circulated with a copy of the reports with usual general tasks removal of litter and FC pitch marking and various village tasks. New rubbish bins required at Common and Sleafshyde Park. Clerk is still searching suppliers for a cost effective installation/solution- prices are quite high for the product and ground anchor system. A member's suggestion to ask SCADC if they have any used or surplus bins we could have.

6-2 Parish Commons Ranger Report

Report circulated to all members noting the seasonal; changes and wildlife issues also the grass cutting and unofficial changed footpath route being adopted.

The Clerk advised the contractor Complete Weed has now delivered the second dose to control or eradicate the Japanese Knotweed. Reports of more motorcycle nuisance continuing with riding on the common.

6-3 Parish Gardner and Tennis Courts Attendant Reports

Report circulated to all members at the meeting, details show the general satisfaction regarding the appearance of the flower beds. Reported decline in activity of regular players at the Tennis Courts which are now left open. Damage to nets, Clerk suggests leaving replacement on to next season if members wish to save, or request to office and a new net can be purchased.

6-4 Church & Graveyard Keepers work/time sheet

Nothing to report this time.

6-5 CHPC Grass Cutting Contract

The contract continuing-this months total cost £905 included in finance expenditure report. The hay was taken from the common during August alongside other mowing.

6-6 Commons-Grazing & Stewardship

Clerk has reported earlier-re Commons Grazing Committee. The Clerk also informed the meeting about applying parking controls on the common with clamping notices via CPS Watford in an effort to claim the authority of licence or way-leave. The Chair remarked about "flying a kite" to see and judge the feelings of residents if restrictions were put on. Not all residents take their vehicles onto the second half entrance opposite Smart Platforms, but some week-end parking problems have been reported.

6.7 Recreation Areas

Gloucester Park

Continued reports concerning alcohol use and abuse with gatherings of groups and young persons, police have been notified, problem possibly stems from easy purchase of alcohol from nearby new mini-supermarket. Cllr Reeves, Cllr Day had reports of residents reporting problems; Highfield Park is also similarly affected apparently this is being police logged. Clerk has also made several observations on recent inspections and confirms the litter issue. There are also problems with the emptying of dog bins. As previously reported last time, Cllr Day has sent e-mails to PCSO Donbavand back in July, Clerk said we should bring this to the police meeting on October 24, also consider reporting the issues to SCADC Licensing Committee or get Cllr Brazier help if possible for a District Council enforced remedy or term solution- such as an alcohol ban in the recreation area. On a recent visit the Clerk found the EDF Box broken open this has been reported. The question of ownership title was raised or land registry. Cllr Reeves had requested we look into getting the title in our favour, the Clerk was certain that papers on file would make that a little premature. He was sure a letter was on file from Ottaways as statement of fact indicating who the rightful legal ownership title is lodged. The Clerk will find the papers we have on file and copy to Cllr Reeves.

Roestock Park/Sleapshyde Park

The whole issue requires grant funding; Cllr Brazier pointed out at the last Lafarge meeting a grant application information leaflet was handed to him. The Clerk said we have considered this route and work will have to be done in preparation. Tyttenhanger Green/CMH. Clerk to contact Safe & Sound for quote mat plus build.

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

Clerk advised he had a meeting with CMS and rights of way regarding DDA access to Roestock Park for September 27th the details have been noted in 3.2 debated earlier.

Footpath 21

Mr J Thornton reported at the meeting 27th September that a partial resolve has been reached on this one.

Cutmore Drive

Clerk has passed Cllr Cloke request to HHWP for the hedge to be cut since 2 weeks.

7 HIGHWAYS-TRANSPORT-FOOTPATHS AND VERGES

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

Councillor Henschley was not able to make the meeting, the Clerk gave an overview which is very similar to last minutes report, and a brief meeting on 28th September with HHWP introduced, Donovan Young who replaces Kevin Burns who is now on other duties within the partnership. It is worth keeping the same items in these minutes as they are ongoing and not resolved.

- Smallford Bridge traffic lights proposal
- Agreed £70k spend on safer school crossing
- High Street resurfacing
- Repairs to pot holes Tyttenhanger Green and opposite Charles Morris Hall

Minor items;-

1. Hedge cutting Roestock Lane
2. Diversion roadwork's sign leaning against Meadway road nameplate
3. Road patching on bend near Long-about-corrugated surface apparently on HHWP plan and waiting closure order
4. Admirals Close footpath & road patching
5. Opposite the Grange two area of surface patching-HHWP to assess

Tollgate Road

Issues of safety cameras and Tollgate Lane remain unanswered by HHWP.

Highways Response Crew

Assistant Clerk had complained again about the hedge work in Roestock Lane not being done satisfactory and requiring more extensive cutting at the recent meeting on 28th September with HHWP fresh promises were made.

M25 Widening

Clerk advised members by circular leaflet and notice.

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

No reports this time

7-3 Verge ditch and litter or weed maintenance

Peggy's Path has been cleared, but still problems over fencing.

7-4 Transport and Friday Shopping Bus

No reports other than petty theft of monies left in box, couriers now to hand in at next opportunity direct to office or Cllr Horner.

7-5 Long –About A414

Report as previous-deferred issue now reduced to 109 on the list of priorities probably 2-4 years away and could form part of a strategic trunk plan link to other major routes. This is a county matter and any decision would come from HCC.

8 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions this time.

9 COUNCIL BUILDINGS-ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTEE MATTERS

9-1 High Street Recreation Area Pavilion and CHFC

After the decision at the September meeting the Clerk has been given authority to make contact with the Solicitor who provided the last lease for the Pavilion, a brief discussion on the objectives members required was exchanged. The next request is to have a meeting to look at a lease fit for purpose in 2007 and beyond. It is possible that we have to cover new endorsements with bringing this to fruition, and some past practises will change. The Clerk mentioned that we may be under scrutiny by the auditors and issues of public money to seek a more viable option with who ever or organisation a new agreement is reached with. It is clear several members who joined the debate about recent expenditure on the building, current situation cannot continue. The Clerk is preparing a notation for the legal advisors; it is likely an hour of time will be required with the Solicitors, the Chair CHPC, and delegated councillors. Members were given a "blue sheet" with their recent post out examined in Finance to show the amount of money we had paid out since April 07 for essential works. The matter of the newly constructed dug-outs was debated, Cllr Crump said it was disappointing we were not consulted or any prior permission request sent to CHPC. The Clerk said this matter will continue and he will keep members informed of any matters as they come up. The next grant sum of £1700 will be paid in November providing the members agree. A recent cheque for £78 for pitch fees when a direct debit was missed. Until the bank statement arrives we cannot check the sum further.

9-2 Treasure Tots Pre-School.

Cllr Crump had to report a brief monthly synopsis of the pre-school now on a new term. He wished to thank the Leader and Secretary for the data. He noted the new prospectus and was given an opportunity to make any corrections or suggestions.

9-3 Village Hall Committee

Following a meeting with the Chair Mr E Walsh the Clerk received an e-mail from him regarding issues that had been discussed. The matter of replacing the front doors with aluminium style was against CHPC wishes and the Clerk called in Mr Stayton to give an estimate for re-hanging them with triple butts, possibly new locks a jamb strip and generally tidying up/preserving the wood-work believed to be teak. The door also needs a new emergency release and we had suggested that any push bar be put higher than a small child could reach. It was explained that as we were on site every day we keep a watch on the hall and note any problems in the book. Also some further minor conjecture of the ownership and members supported Cllr Crump that all village halls revert back to the council; Cllr Brazier felt certain common land under the building was in the ownership of the council in any case. The Clerk said that in short he had not intended to upset any member of the VHC or intervene in matters connected with their constitution, but he had been told by CHPC the current doors should not be replaced. This has to balance the fire officer's report of having the correct means of escape. Mrs Taffs representing the WI suggested that we were about to stir up a hornets nest if we got involved or changed things, the Clerk said that was not our intention, we wished to co-operate and the council might be minded to help with the costs by way of a grant. The Chair said that we have to search the documents to make sure of the title and restore the situation. This sparked a further issue with Mrs Taffs was assured that the intentions of the council was only to work with the VHC. But now we will be scrutinising the deeds and ownership to correct our records.

9-4 Charles Morris Hall

Approved grants 2006/7 & 2007/8 for £8000 (2x £4000.00) are to be paid after Peter Scott has sent details of all invoices and payments for hall improvements. The Clerk requested members scrutinise the claim and approve to satisfy auditor requirements. Clerk to consider reclaim of vat on some invoices.

9-5 Highfield Community Park & Trustees

Cllr Rump gave details of the opening day for the new pavilion on the 16th September attended by the deputy Mayor, he also advised the Apple Day is on 6-7th October.

9-6 Other local Organisations-Guides Scouts-Harvesters

No reports this time.

9-7 Youth Organisations Locally & Youth Council

No reports this time-repeated again- Assistant Clerk trying to fix one hour children's activities in park same as last year, sponsored by SCADC-school holiday periods.

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

No Reports.

10-1 Fly Tipping Reports

Copies of latest list given to members-Clerk added that Cllr Henchley had reported several tips in the locality of Barley Mow to the office during this month-noted.

10-2 Police, Ward and Community Matters

Next meeting is scheduled at village hall 24th October 7.30 pm

10-3 Code of Conduct-Revised Standard-Statutory Instrument

Previously dealt with.

10-4 Vital Villages

No reports- Next meeting is scheduled for 10am 26th September 2007 at the village hall-Clerk attending and others invited by Jean Horner.

10-5 Twinning

No reports-other than newsletter circulated with dates of activities.

10-6 Reports from Members attending other meetings

Lafarge meeting on 24th September was attended by Cllr Brazier, he took details of the funding opportunities and passed to the Clerk with Smallford play area in mind.

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 have notices.

10-9 St Albans Association of Town & Parish Councils.

No reports-noted last minutes circulated

11 Members Questions

No questions

11-1 Any other issues

No reports-Chair wishes to delete next agenda

11-2 News Releases

SCADC are seeking a village tree warden, advert placed in Chronicle.

11-3 Matters received since publishing the agenda

No reports

11.4 Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk reported that some dog waste bins are being filled earlier than collections and some are becoming overfilled. We are conducting a survey of the locations and how often emptying is needed. Some bins are being filled by imported rather than casual or immediate waste-our licensed collector is SDK Kylesith- matter ongoing.

12 OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Clerk reported that he will submit for items on HATPC grant scheme for new laptop and software-some contribution will be required in 2008-9 budgets from CHPC. Applications in by November 2007.

12-1 Staff and Office Matters

New copier installed includes colour option.

12-2 Clerk Report on future matters needing attention

Franklin Close matter of land overspill by resident-Clerk to write to SCADC

12-3 Notice Boards and Signs & Bus Shelters

Members have past agreed to a new shelter at The Grange, the Clerk advised that a planning application will be required and equally permission from the land owner/title research the quotation is accepted at £3100.00 plus vat to pattern of Oaklands

12-4 Commons Licences & Wayleaves

The Clerk outlined the new plans for licence and way leaves in conjunction with CPS Watford, a licensed firm. The other area to consider is the rear of the High Street accessed by the gap in the building line opposite Smart Platforms. The Clerk has received reports from the members of parking problems and commercial vehicles at week-ends. This might go towards alleviating the problem, and reduce casual parking.

12-5 Publicity & Chronicle

Next issue is due out in December, and with a November 1st deadline it is traditional for the Chairman to write a short piece for the edition due out in the Christmas period. The Clerk will speak to Chair Cllr Reeves on this.

12-6 Flooding and Encams

Noted

12-7 Capital Purchases

No purchases but see report on HATPC Grant for software and new laptop.

12.8 Tyttenhanger Sign

Dedication plate required Clerk and Chair Cllr Reeves to get together on this

Late Matters

The council discussed the options of holding the next meeting if the Government called an election on 1st November which would clash with our next meeting and the possibility of the hall being unavailable. The Chair said we will watch the situation before making a decision. Cllr Brazier was confident there would not be an election.

The meeting closed at 10.04 pm



John Dean
Clerk to the Council

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Note

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH (FULL) COUNCIL IS AT 7.30pm 1st November 2007