

Colney Heath Parish Council



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7 FEB 2008

MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH- FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD at the VILLAGE HALL on THURSDAY-7TH FEBRUARY 2008-7.30.pm

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

Clerk; Mr J E Dean

Public Attendance- Mr D Becker 95 High Street- Colney Heath
Mrs L Myland Old Barley Mow PH
Mr M Myland Old Barley Mow PH
Mrs G Moody Roestock Lane
Mrs N Taffs Church Close

1. APOLOGIES -ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATIONS

Apologies were sent via the Clerk on the day from Cllr Henchley who is in Hospital. There were no declarations on the matters contained in agenda. Cllr Henchley is not at risk of disqualification as he is undergoing continued medical and hospital treatment- (LGA1972-sect 85(1)). He requested that it be known he was hopeful to be better soon and will do his best to attend the next council meeting on 6th March 2008.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council on 10th January 2008

Proposed by Cllr Brazier

Seconded by Cllr Cloke

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

2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Clerk noted the typo error to be changed on the date on then underline heading that should be Thursday 10th January 2008. (Not-2007-as printed) Also to ensure that all members had received the correct version headed up as 10 JAN 2008 (R1) Having read through the other pages no further corrections or alterations were put forward by those members present. The Chair signed the minutes as correct.

3 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN MAY BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Clerk informed the Chair that two particular issues were to come up in 3.1 and 3.4 and items 3.2 & 3.3 referred to Part II for difficult legal matters. The Chair said Cllr Brazier had informed that at this stage he was only able to confide in members only which he will be starting at 9.30pm. The important matters surrounding Part II have come about since the events over a public meeting on 30th January 2008.

Reverend *6 March 08*

The inspector's decision (Copied to all members) is considered perverse over judgement of use land at Nuckies Farm in a flood plain and publicity generated indicated a strong public condemnation of allowing permission for 5 years.

The Chair had a number of urgent matters to bring to members attention

Ditches in Barley Mow Lane

The litter and rubbish he had noted in this area is getting worse it leads to flooding; - the Clerk to inform the HHWP by e-mail addressed to manager Mr Kevin Williams.

Allotments availability

Residents were said Cllr Reeves asking if there was any land to cultivate. The Clerk added that before this current council's time redundant allotments had been sold. This was confirmed by a member of the public whose family was leasing the land for grazing, it was common knowledge. The Chair said we need to find some land, the Clerk agreed to put a note in Chronicle. Perhaps set aside land or other may come up.

3.1 CHPC offer on land at Gloucester Playing Fields

The Chair informed members the offer we had made to ATISREAL had failed and the result is we have lost the play area to an unknown purchaser. The Secretary of State office for the Health Authority did make a local press statement about accepting an obvious higher offer on best value option and excusing the loss of a play area. The Clerk said he had requested legal opinion from Ottaways regarding our options over continuing to use the land under the terms of the lease (Ottaways letter-22/01/08)

3.2. Council owned Building-Pavilion

On the advice of the Clerk the Chair agreed to defer this to Part II

3.3 Planning Inquiry

Cllr Brazier had information to give to members to which the Chair agreed is more appropriate to deliver in Part II.

3.4 Chronicle Magazine and Web Site upgrade for CHPC

The Chair invited Mr Rodway to address the meeting to explain how the new web site was going to work visually. Armed with a practical demonstration presentation via the parish wireless facility available in the hall Mr Rodway went through the sequence and links that will be created. Including the availability of some parish papers, agenda & minutes plus the latest Chronicle. All members seemed quite pleased with the results, it was agreed that progress should continue. A suggestion that we "officially unveil" the site to the parish at the APM on Thursday 10th April. Members and Mr Rodway all agreed to try and reach this target. Meanwhile the format can be viewed linked off the holding page at Colney Heath . org.uk/layout.

3.5 Colney Heath Parish Council 60th Year.

An enquiry had been made to the office about a Village Day; the Clerk noted this was a past celebration arranged by CHFC and not the parish council. He had mentioned to the enquirer that we are arranging another "Larks in the Park" at Roestock and would this help a decision to combine? That was not seen as entirely acceptable as the past bar facility was popular. Roestock event has no bar although everyone can bring own food and drinks. The action now leaves the person to come forward if they wish to

arrange. The members voiced agreement subject to seeing more detail into looking sympathetically to consider a small grant. Cllr Horner enquired what a village day consisted of, Cllr Brazier responded details of simple recreational games and a more competitive structure for prizes sponsored by local traders.

3.6 Commons Grazing Group Herts and Furze Field

The Clerk reported that he had met with the grazing group at Chorleywood PC offices on Thursday 31st January, when the results of the consultation were considered. CMS have suggested that a new map of the fencing on Furze Field is considered, the details will be sent to all members with the minutes post out. It considers changing the fence line to follow the boundary of Furze Field, some of which is already in place. As the proposed fencing strip had by misrepresentation became unpopular with horse riders and other users (see by-laws) Bridle gates will allow access points at each corner and the fencing specified to give more safety at the Coursers Road boundary will also be beneficial to all. Bridle gates could be completely removed when animals are not in grazing. Thus preventing any illegal or short term pony incursion or nuisance by the traveller's community.

3.7 Smallford Station Preservation Orders

Again at the suggestion of the Clerk this was deferred.

3.8 Matters of Anti-Social Behaviour

The incidents of criminal damage have reduced recently which may be as a result of a on a particular individual according to a members comment. The damage to a bus shelter in Tyttenhanger Green in December, two persons apprehended and charged, we are keen to prosecute, Clerk has filed a statement to police and has incident ref's.

3.9 New safety Fence for Treasure Tots

Now installed, Leader is delighted with a job well done and additional security for the children, also much more pleasant to look at than old worn out chain link fencing.

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 all members for the February 2008 parish expenditure at £12,677.23 Inc VAT element is £798.22-questions on finance were answered by the Clerk; the payments were approved by the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Brazier

Seconded by Cllr Day

4.2 Audit 2006-7

Completed as past reported-

4.3 Other Financial Matters & Audit for 2007-8

Clerk advised members the Auditor will be here on 4th March to review all books and financial papers. It's a very busy time for the Clerk this month with year end, Audit and Payroll final review for HMCR-he is undertaking some quiet working from home.

4.4 Progress of VAT

Clerk is progressing this as there is a return to claim.

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

Debate to be deferred to Part II

4.6 Precept 2008-9 & Other Financial Matters

Members have agreed the Precept;-£141,500 equivalent to D Band of £57.07

4.7 Treasury Reserve & Investments

Clerk had placed £60,000 on Treasury Reserve re-invested-one month-7th March 2008 at 4.7% yielding £224.05 in the period. The Clerk reported to February- 2007 we have made over £5000 so far this year on this investment and more than last year to date.

5 PLANNING

Planning Applications

The following applications received since last meeting 10 January 2008 were debated in detail;-

General Comments

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

Major Development

Planning Application 5/07/02230 Former Oaklands College Site Highfield Lane Tyttenhanger St Albans-Highfield Farm Campus –Erection of 38 Residential Dwellings, & Associated Parking, access, open space and Landscaping.

No further information at this stage-letter sent earlier outlining council opinions-awaiting further responses from SCADC regarding comments made by CHPC.

5-1 Planning Application

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 4TH February 2008;-

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

Number	Address	Application	Decision/Recommendation
5/07/2858	6 Church Croft	Single storey rear, two storey side extension and front canopy	No objections
5/07/2888	23 Station Road	Demolition of garage and erection of two bedroom dwelling	Objection- There is no special circumstances to justify construction. It will set an unwelcome precedent of infill in this GB settlement. Strong objections have been received from local resident Assc for opposition.
5/07/2882	Playing fields Highfield Lane	Extension of vehicular crossover	No objections
5/07/2926	28 Sovereign park	Single storey side and rear extensions	No objections

5/07/2908	Unit 1 Alban Park Hatfield Road	Temp change of use from Class B1 & B2	No objections- Educational use would benefit the further education of the children of Colney Heath and St Albans District
5/07/2867	The Three Horseshoes PH	Pergola at entrance to beer garden	Opposed- This site is in the Green Belt named as a Green belt settlement the site is in a prominent location and not in keeping with the area. The Beer garden is on view and the proposed building will cause visual harm
5/07/2817	145 Colney Heath Lane	Single storey side extension	No objections
5/07/2910	1 Liberty Walk	Front porch	No objections
5/07/2797	19-21 Tyttenhanger Green	Single storey rear extension	No objections
5/07/3043	43 Russet Drive	Conversion of garage into habitable room	No objections
5/07/2608	601 Hatfield Road	Single storey rear extension to Veterinary building	No objections
5/008/0031	56 Russet Drive	Conversion of garage to habitable room and alterations to openings	No objections
5/07/2985	1 Station Road	Demolition of single storey front and side extension and erection of single storey side extension	Opposed. Objections as stated on previous application
5/07/2439	Land rear of Little Rose Cottage Sleepshyde	Change of use of land from agricultural use to residential	Opposes. Any Green Belt land turned to residential will be opposed because it could each to housing development, we do however support the land being given amenity permission with a condition preventing housing.
5/07/3074	Colney Heath Service Station High Street, Colney Heath	Change of use from garage/service station to hire/storage fro vehicle mounted hydraulic platforms	No objections
5/07/3004	52 Princess Diana Drive	Rear conservatory	No objections
5/07/0104	5 Sleepsyde Lane	Two storey and single storey rear extension	Same objections as stated in our first submission
5/08/0101	44 Tollgate Road	Rear conservatory	No objections

Note items with Listed Building Status are noted with suffix LB after the plan no- e.g. 5/07/000LB
SCADC General Applications List (District) Circulated to all members.

5-2 Planning Approvals

As listed since last meeting

Number	Address	Application	SCADC Decision
5/07/2676	Land at Hill End Lane	Temp use of land as contractors compound	Planning Permission
5/07/2635	43 Russet drive	New side windows	Planning Permission
5/07/2651	Oaklands College Campus	Single storey extension to form dining hall	Planning Permission

5/07/2720	The Hyde Bungalow Sleapsyde	Replacement bungalow and detached garage	Planning Permission
5/07/2721CA	The Hyde Bungalow	Demolition of existing bungalow	Conservation area consent
5/07/2797	19-21 Tyttenhanger Green	Single storey rear extension	Planning Permission
5/07/2815	Land at 34 Roestock La	Change of use from Class A1 barbers to class C3 residential	Planning Permission

See Attached Sheet for Planning Approvals- Appendix

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

5.3 Refusals

5/07/2663	3 Smallford Lane	Two storey side extension	Planning Refusal
5/07/2779	104 Roestock Lane	First floor side and rear 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
SCADC General Applications List (District) Circulated to all members.

See Attached Sheet for Planning Approvals- Appendix

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

		None Reported this time	
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5.3 Appeals

Appeal-5/06/2278 CE site Fairholme Cottage Roestock Lane SCADC

Appeal-5/07/0646 Forest Town Church-Refusal to change use with unsustainable development and loss of employment in a development area-Dist Local Plan Review.

Appeal-5/06/1655 Appeal lodged by BT PLC & Telereal Services Ltd for Development of Trial Site-Cllr Brazier has past written for PC objecting.

Appeal-5/07/1457-A Hillier & M Hardman 38 Starlight Way St Albans-Extension of premises with size and GB issues as stated objections.

Appeal-5/07/1305 -30 Sleapcross Gardens extension of dwelling in GB, also issues of comparison to other allowed development in same area.

Appeal-5/07/0892 Popefield Farm Hatfield Road St Albans

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

Helioslough-Rail Freight Terminal- Cllr Brazier may wish to inform members

Cllr Brazier said the Planning Inspectors report expected October 2008.

OTHER TOPICAL ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

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

Go East

Documents received circulated and noted to members or available in office.

New Consultation regarding Regional Gypsy Sites with responses by March 18th

Every authority has to provide more pitches by 2011-more in Hertfordshire planned.

5-5 Residents Associations

No matters to report or debate this time. To date the office has not received a petition on closure idea for Barley Mow Lane that was promised.

5-6 Planning Monitoring

Air Quality

Landfill & Quarry

Minerals & Waste

Licences

Local Delivery Framework Policy

Carbon calculator-new category;-see Energy Efficiency Advice Centre-

Noted but no debate on these issues.

Affordable Housing

Occupied now by new residents in Sleapshyde.

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 and various village tasks the removal of three dead elm trees at St Marks Churchyard-responsibility of PC by Mr Paxton as a contractor for £280. Also some further minor tree work on common following resident's complaint to parish office of dangerous branches. Mr Paxton quoted £178- works to go ahead.

6-2 Parish Commons Ranger Report

Report circulated to all members noting the seasonal; changes and wildlife matters. Other issues noted are the widening and back-filling of the track assumed by the plant hire firm that whilst smoothes out the pot holes it tempts traffic to go faster. Clerk to look into this report with a visual inspection. The ranger's report suggests obstacles to prevent the vehicles making speed. This may revolve around the question of track ownership and who has the power to impose any restrictions also it is a right of way.

6-3 Parish Gardner and Tennis Courts Attendant Reports

Report to be circulated to all members at the meeting;-mostly winter maintenance.

6-4 Church & Graveyard Keepers work/time sheet

Nothing that is exceptional to report this time. The Clerk enquired why the parish receives money mostly each year at this time from St Marks PCC for varying sums. It appears after the deceased bequests given for graveyard cleaning and maintenance

6-5 CHPC Grass Cutting Contract

The season is now finished until March 2008 when the contract is renewed.

6-6 Commons-Grazing & Stewardship

Clerk has reported earlier-re Commons Grazing Committee item 3.6. This year the 4th year coppicing and felling will be undertaken by usual contractors-J Skidmore Agriculture over next weeks. The works to are to a small section of the s/west corner near water station, additional light is required to dry out the ground and make less

boggy in winter. Some costs will be via CMS grant, who have specified the works at a total cost of £1630.00 + vat. Remainder from Rural Payments funds received earlier.

6.7 Recreation Areas

Gloucester Park

Previously dealt with in item 3.1

Roestock Park/Sleapshyde Park

The issue requires grant funding; Clerk is to examine options after budget review.

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

Footpath 44 and 23

Works have now been completed by Sentry Farms with CMS grant. Some slight problem with surface that may need a re rolling, Sentry Farms aware of this fault.

7 HIGHWAYS-TRANSPORT-FOOTPATHS AND VERGES

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

The Clerk is keeping the two previous month's written format as it is important to maintain the pressure of three key issues. The item discretionary fund allocation following does need some action as it affects the school safety matter that was dealt with earlier in the year by Cllr Brazier. This money is not now to come from a special rural fund it appears to have slipped. Three issues being carried over;-

- Smallford Bridge traffic lights proposal
- Agreed £70k spend on safer school crossing
- High Street resurfacing

Less specific for HHWP but still live and unresolved at 6th February 2008

1. Road patching on bend near Long-about-corrugated surface apparently on HHWP plan and waiting closure order
2. Opposite the Grange two area of surface patching-HHWP to assess

Meeting 22nd January 2008-Allocation of HCC Discretionary Funding

Cllr Brazier was trying to get funding to start works on School Crossing. A meeting was held at 10am on 22nd January 2008 with CDA & HHWP + Cllr Brazier in an effort to move this on. Since the meeting we have been notified the Schools crossing patrols safety partnership have decided to go ahead to up-grade the signage and road markings at the JMI during February. No allocation at this time exists for any further Rural Funding for road schemes according to e-mail from Martin Sears HHWP. Jacqui Grant of CDA had been requested to become involved for the rural funding. See meeting report and copy e-mails circulated to all councillors during January.

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

Smallford Bridge and Peggys Path are reported to be in a poor state of repair, parish office have on the list and have e-mailed HHWP for fixing a meeting with manager Kevin Williams to get works done. Cllr Henchley had mentioned this in his call to the Clerk earlier in the day, about the condition of the Peggy's Path and litter in ditches.

7.3 Tollgate Road-Camera issue

Safety cameras or VA cameras at Tollgate Lane-still with HHWP for action-or any further news.

7-4 Transport and Friday Shopping Bus

Cllr Horner gave details of the bus, all is running satisfactory, one minor incident of failure to start with regular bus. The use of the other vehicle at London Colney is not to be considered at this time but remains a good alternative if required at any time.

7-5 Long –About A414

There are no further matters to report other than we hear the overall priority position realistic plans for improvements is forthcoming.

7.6 M25 Widening starting summer 2008

Cllr Crump mentioned the rat runners will increase traffic through the village once work starts on this section; the road widening is to five lanes.

7.7 Highway Warning Signs

HHWP have been asked about the need to upgrade the signage at the entrance to the village, especially to capture the attention of lorry drivers taking sat-nav directions into the village. The Clerk said we had repeatedly advised HHWP and police but as no highways meeting had taken place we have missed the opportunity to remind in person. The Slow down VA signs A414 had been cleaned and were now working, although Cllr Reeves felt one was not functioning correctly. A new scam of County wide thefts of highway chevron warning signs being removed for the aluminium scrap value is becoming a major situation.

8 PUBLIC QUESTIONS-8.30

Mr Myland asked if HHWP can be advised of the massive growth of ivy strangulating the oak trees on the A414, if not attended to they will die.

The Chair reminded all present that he was going into a Part II at about 9.15 and so if there was any questions on any issues then please speak now.

There was an enquiry after the health of Cllr Hinchley- Cllr Brazier and Cllr Horner gave a response that he was comfortable and accepted passing good wishes on to him.

9 COUNCIL BUILDINGS-ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTEE MATTERS

9-1 High Street Recreation Area Pavilion and CHFC

The first meeting was held on Monday 21st January 2008 with Cllr Rump giving members of the working party an overview of the extensive research work he had done to create a cohesive and more financially sound use of the facility. Using education as the main theme, however the plan needs to be left to the part II debate to follow this meeting for reasons of confidentiality. The Clerk added that he has not yet triggered the legal side of the lease pending the outcome of the meeting with CHFC.

9-2 Treasure Tots Pre-School.

Cllr Crump read out the Leader's report available to members. Some staff matters were reported to members by the Clerk.

9-3 Village Hall Committee

The Clerk had offered the VHC to combine the building insurance with ours, this year again, this has since been agreed. We normally split 90/10 to allow for office risk. The Clerk reported he had spoken to Andrew at Rare Productions offering an apology about staff inscriptions in the hall book about blame and misunderstood complaints. Hopefully this had healed a rift and quashed further invalid remarks. The Clerk has also advised the VHM Committee Chair about his conversation to Andrew.

9-4 Charles Morris Hall

Running a moth spotting evening on 7th June under the social committee, all welcome, bar and BBQ available. The Clerk had received a call from Peter Scott regarding the fence on the boundary, horses were still getting through. The Clerk recommends the installation of a barbed wire fence, two rows on chestnut posts as a reasonable cost measure. Cllr Reeves said he did not see why the parish should pay; the persons who lease the field should do this. The Clerk said it does define boundaries if we do it. He will measure the boundary some time soon and ask Emerald Landscapes for a quote then members can decide. Pedestrians can have a squeeze gap left for access and dog walking so that easy incursion of illegal grazing horses should stop with barbed wire.

9-5 Highfield Community Park & Trustees

Cllr Reeves mentioned trustees meeting and Cllr Rump his meeting to find out about grant aid to increase sporting activity, more details for working party. Cllr Rump said about the retirement of Jon Early in June, something should be done? He also spoke of a special commemorative seat to the work he had done and would the council give a contribution. The response was positive to do so, by letting the Clerk have details.

9-6 Other local Organisations-Guides Scouts-Harvesters

No reports.

9-7 Youth Organisations Locally & Youth Council

No reports-Cllr Brazier said the YMCA had taken this over now at Highfield

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

No Reports.

10-1 Fly Tipping Reports & Raised Humps-adjacent to Mr Sturbridge's Land

Copies of list given to members-noting 17 instances;-several fresh instances are again re-occurring at the usual places. The raised humps issue at the corner of Highfield Lane & farm gate, and Cllr Rump asked this is not forgotten, Cllr Reeves had offered to speak at appropriate opportunity with the farmer, and he added that this may need to be sorted out on a personal visit.

10-2 Police and Community Matters-Police Ward Meeting & ASB List

The recent meeting of the Police Ward Meeting on 23rd January 2008 looked at the issues of fly tipping-the Barley Mow site-motorbikes and Tollgate Road within the general traffic issues. Further mention of the rat running and daily congestion in the approach to the long-about. Not forgetting the urgent highway management required at the JMI School-under review, past reported. The office received an e-mail that "In the Loop Bulletin" can be found on the about us section of the constabulary site

The usual Anti social list was put out to members at this time on red paper. Indications from several members show police and the courts had acted recently with certain known individuals who had been taken out of public circulation. Hopefully this was good news for the remaining law abiding citizens in the village. Since the last meeting 23rd January minutes arrived, all councillors have a copy in post-out.

10-3 Vital Villages

The report of the meeting held on 21st January 2008 circulated to members indicates the "mothballing" decision made on the executive as there is no longer any need to sit.

10-4 Twinning

Recent newsletter sent to members, this year is the visit to France and this takes place in May, the usual arrangements for grant and transport.

10-5 Reports from Members attending other meetings

No reports this time

11 Members Questions

No questions put forward this time.

11-1 News Releases

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

11-2 Matters received since publishing the agenda

No reports

11.3 Dog Waste Bins

Assistant Clerk looking to put an extra bin at Roestock Lane-will give additional costs- quotes being obtained.

12 OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Clerk has submitted a claim for two items on HATPC grants. Bus shelter needs OPP

12-1 Staff and Office Matters

New pay scales for 2007-8 have been paid to all employees and all back pay sent with explanation letter in January pay, increase of 2.9% across the board.

12-2 Clerk Report on future matters needing attention

No reports this time matter deferred

12-3 Notice Boards and Signs & Bus Shelters

As past reported the vandalism to Tyttenhanger Green Shelter reported last meeting, Cllr Reeves alerted Clerk, youths seen at about 5.30pm wrecking the shelter on 7TH December 2007. Mr Stayton was called out to do emergency repairs and clear debris and make safe. Clerk interviewed by Police on 10th December 2007 and has made a statement also has stated council wish to press charges for criminal damage and restitution of costs. The Clerk to write to Mr Stayton for an estimate to get repaired.

12-4 Commons Licences & Wayleaves

A repeat of previous minutes.

12-5 Flooding and Encams

Meeting arranged by Kim Parker-Mead for 17th January 2008 went ahead; there is a great deal of concern within the village about flooding. The Minutes of the meeting have been circulated to all councillors and those attending. The EA went off with a clear message that Colney Heath wants flood defences installed. To date we have not received any further reports from the EA and is perhaps worth a reminder e-mail. Residents asked the Authority to accept their responsibilities and build a flood scheme that will protect the properties. This is supported nationally by the statement from MP Hilary Benn. Several reports have been issued from his department that can be downloaded from the web-site. The Parish office has a small stock of sandbags and will arrange for sand to be delivered to a central point. Cllr Reeves was concerned about the sand pile on Lafarge land near gravel washer. Subject for Lafarge Liaison group next meeting. Cllr Horner added EA need to do more work further down river.

12-7 Capital Purchases

New purchases to go with HATPC Grant for software and new laptop.

12.8 Tyttenhanger Sign

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

LATE MATTERS

Police Seminar

HATPC have invited all councils to a police seminar at the HQ @ WGC- 22 & 29 April 2008 (all day) any member wishing to attend please contact the parish office.

Village of the Year 2008

Hertfordshire Village of the Year 2008 Jo Simpson sending invitations to Parish Councils to participate-members did not feel inclined to organise this time.

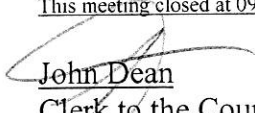
Strategic Housing Land Availability

See letter dated 4th February 2008 SCADC regarding the above subject, Clerk asks any member wishing to respond either write in their own capacity or notify the parish office sating their information on land sites know to them individually.

HCC Waste Development Framework

Consultation-office has this large document;-consultation by 10th March-subject for next agenda 6/03/08

This meeting closed at 09.42 pm


John Dean
Clerk to the Council

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Next meeting Thursday 6th March 2008-advise office of any items you may wish to add to the agenda by 9am on Friday 29th February

Colney Heath Parish Council



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07 FEB 2008

07 FEB 2008-Part II-(BLUE PAPER)

COLNEY HEATH PARSH COUNCIL **MINUTES OF THE PART II FINANCE MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE** **HALL ON THURSDAY 7th February 2008-9.15.-10.06pm**

Present; - Cllr P Reeves-Chair Cllr Cloke-Cllr C Brazier-Cllr D Crump
Cllr G Rump-Cllr J Day-Cllr D Horner.

Clerk; Mr J E Dean

(Published 13th February 2008 © Jed/full-CHPC)

1. APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATION

There were apologies given for Cllr Henchley regarding prolonged hospitalisation

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising the Chair signed the previous minutes of January 10th
The Clerk noted one mistake-date on the agenda should read 7th February not 10th

3 THE BUSINESS OF THE PART II

The preamble of a previous minute

APP/B1930/A/07/2035098-Nuckies Farm, Coursers Road Colney Heath.

Cllr Brazier announced to the meeting that he had been told today of the decision of the appeal by Mr Robb to return to the land on Coursers Road. The Inspector at the Appeal has granted a period of 5 years to allow two caravans to stay on the site and no commercial activity on grounds of continuing ill health and lack of additional local site provision in the St Albans District. Cllr Brazier attended the earlier inquiry. Cllr Brazier said it was not considered good news in terms of the fact that the district had the most provision of sites for gypsies in Hertfordshire. SCADC has already spent £60,000 including £21,500 from CHPC in various legal issues with the appellant. It was an issue for the residents who had equal rights to see a limit on the number of sites even private ones. (Copies of the judgement and other judicial notes from web sites passed to all members)

PPS 25 IS THE PLANNING STATUTE;- OF ALLOWING/NOT ALLOWING **BUILDING OR DEVELOPMENT IN A FLOOD PLAIN**

P2-01 Public Meeting 30th January-Legal Action & Funding

Cllr Brazier gave members an overview of the issues raised which in his opinion gave a clear indication of the pressure on this very unpopular decision. Several legal points had been made after consultation with Ottaways and it was important to get further advice on two key matters. The matters are known to members but not written into the minutes at this stage for reasons of legal clarity so important to remain "in camera".

A fighting fund has been set up and Cllr Brazier and Cllr Day are intending to bank this with Lloyds Bank as a separate fund. They hoped the council will underwrite more funds in case it is required. If we are to appeal against the ruling a deadline of the 20th February has been indicated by the advice. Prior to the submissions to get Ottaways to sound out counsel or barrister advice the Clerk has provided Cllr Brazier with over 40 key papers from the file going back to at least year 2000 to pass on.

Parish underwriting of legal action

The debate continued about the size of the requirement. Members agreed to allow an emergency fund of £6000.00. This is to be reviewed at the next meeting. The Clerk is to write to Ottaways to acknowledge the parish accepts the action to this limit. Again the Clerk is not writing the total debate minutes for reasons of legal confidentiality within part II. Matters of publicity were also discussed and it was important this gave indications and credit to CHPC. Appeal will go under Section 228 Town & Country Planning Act 1972. Resolution "That this council goes ahead with a legal challenge"

Proposed Cllr Brazier

Seconded Cllr Reeves

The Chambers Legal firm chosen by Ottaways (Mrinalini Rajaratnam) is Jeremy Pike of Francis Taylor Clerk for the Statutory Appeal-Nuckies Farm.

The Clerk is receiving the sequence of legal papers from Cllr Brazier for the record but not circulating this time however members are able to read them in the office if they wish to do so.

Trespass Damages Costs and Legal Charge on Land

Other legal advice had been obtained after the Clerk wrote to Ottaways regarding the claim for charges on the issues surrounding trespass and other expenditure between May 2005 and January 2007 of costs unnecessarily incurred by the parish council.

The response letter dated 6th February 2008 from Ms K Carroll was circulated to all members with the Clerk and Chair suggesting this be deferred until March meeting.

P2-02 Lease of Pavilion

The matters and issues surrounding the Finance Committee Meeting of 21st January were reviewed by the members. Cllr Rump had produced a document setting out the proposals we need to examine with the club. Members reviewed the document and in the debate agreed that the working party set up in January be given the authority to go ahead and meet with representatives CHFC & Social Club. This will also extend to the negotiations regarding a new lease based on community and education facilities for all within the site. The proposals will require external funding which so far we have been assured are available within Sport England, Herts FA and Lottery Grants. The issue is also centred around a complete new tenancy agreement requiring a competitive rent in order to remove the burden of continued expense to the parish council, the landlord.

The Clerk added that sooner or later the council will have to serve a Section 25 or 26 notice if they wish to make changes, it was best to get CHFC clearly understanding. The purpose of a meeting was to sit down and explain our plans and take the new ideas forward. This was a last chance situation and be examined very carefully.

Resolution that this council gives the working party authority to begin the format of a new revised lease for a suitable Tenant to Pavilion Building and attached grounds

Proposed by Cllr Brazier

Seconded by Cllr Reeves

P2-03 Grant Aid review and Section 137 Payments

It was agreed at the Budget review meeting in December and again in January 2008 with the setting of precept the amount of grant aid is capped at a maximum of £2000 per application, unless there were specific or exceptional reasons. Treasure Tots is excepted as this is for payroll support and government grant shortfall. The decision was made to grant all requests except the CHFC which is deferred to a later meeting and when the issues of lease and other matters are resolved with the Working Party.

Proposed by Cllr Day

Seconded by Cllr Horner

The remaining business of the agenda was also deferred as the Chair considered the time to close this meeting had been almost reached.

P2-04 Treasure Tots Pre Scholl Accounts

Presentation deferred to a future meeting

P2-05 Staff Contracts including Treasure Tots

Presentation deferred to a future meeting

P2-06 Recreation & Play Area Funding

Presentation deferred to a future meeting

This part two meeting closed at 10.06 pm


John Dean
Clerk to the Council

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