

**PLEASE BRING TO MEETING
ON 9 DECEMBER 1998.**

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Colney Heath Parish Council held at the Pavilion, High Street Recreation Ground, Colney Heath on Wednesday 11 November 1998 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllr. D. Crump (Chairman)
" C. Brazier
" R. Fitch

IN ATTENDANCE

D. Becker - 95 High Street
Mrs. H. Falk - 21 Springfield Road
Mrs. J. Jeffrey 18 Roestock Gardens
Mrs. G. Moody - Greenleas, Roestock Lane

D. Rodway - Editor of the Chronicle
Mrs. C. Pluck - Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mrs. Defoe - District Council commitment
" F. S. Ellis - unwell
" Miss A. Thomas - School Inspection
" Mrs. H. Mascoll - work commitment

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 1998 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Page 2 - Footpaths & Bridleways

The Clerk reported that she had arranged a meeting with Jim Bennie & Kevin Holyoake (CDC) at 10 a.m. on Monday 7 December to discuss verges and hedge maintenance in the parish. Cllrs. and Tyttenhanger residents to meet the CDC representatives at the Charles Morris Hall.

Page 3 - Parish Council Accounts

The Editor of the Chronicle explained to Cllrs. that half tones were used in the Chronicle to prepare photographs for printing.

The Cllrs. congratulated the Editor for producing such a professional publication.

Page 9 - Open Spaces

The Clerk reported that she had arranged a meeting with representatives from CMS, Groundwork and the CDC to discuss issues relating to the Common for Tuesday 8 December, meeting at 10 a.m. at the Warren Farm Track.

RESOLVED to ask the Common Ranger to attend the meeting.

Page 9 - Smallford Fishing Lakes

The Clerk reported that no reply had been received from the HCC regarding the discovery of asbestos at Smallford Pit.

2. MATTERS ARISING (CONT.)

Page 10 - Sleapshyde Pond

The Clerk reported that she had received a copy of the lease for Sleapshyde Pond from Redland Aggregates.

RESOLVED to ask the Council's Solicitor to check the lease on behalf of the Council before proceeding with any clearance or maintenance projects.

Page 10 - Public Transport

The Clerk reported that the HCC Passenger Transport Unit had confirmed that monthly Passenger Transport Updates were no longer produced but that a quarterly booklet containing details of all services would be sent to the Parish Council.

Page 11 - Proposed 40-mph speed limit in Colney Heath Lane

Received a letter from the CDC informing the Council that a 30mph-speed restriction was already in place along the section of Hill End Lane which the Council had suggested for an extension of the 40-mph limit.

RESOLVED to inform the CDC that as no end of limit signs were in place the Council had been unaware of the speed restriction in Hill End Lane.

Page 12 - Outside Organisations

Cllrs. discussed the invitation to attend the next meeting of the Joint Community Government Forum on 14 December.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Crump attend in the absence of any other volunteers.

Item from previous Minutes - Trees in the Parish

Received a letter from the CDC Trees & Woodlands Officer confirming that the dead Willow to the rear of 9 Wistlea Crescent should be removed and that weed control should be exercised around the Yew sapling at Smallford Roundabout.

RESOLVED i) to copy the letter to Redland Aggregates asking that they remove the tree which was on their land to the rear of 9 Wistlea Crescent.
ii) to thank the Trees & Woodlands Officer for his recommendations and ask that, as the Yew at Smallford Roundabout was not on Parish Council land, could the CDC take responsibility for the weed control.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Civic Service at St. Albans Abbey on 18 October, which had been very worthwhile.

The Chairman also reported that he, Cllr. Fitch and the Clerk had all attended the Service of Remembrance at St. Mark's Church on 8 November.

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from Mr. Becker of 95 High Street expressing his concerns about a reference to Colney Heath as a "Business Area" in a recent article in the St. Albans Review newspaper.

RESOLVED to write to the CDC to ask for their comments on the article and question any significance to Colney Heath being described as a business area.

4. SPECIAL BUSINESS

a) Peter's Green to South Mimms Gas Pipeline

Received weekly progress reports on the construction of the Peters Green to South Mimms Gas Pipeline.

Cllrs. discussed the proposal by Transco to defer any further works on the Common until spring 1999.

4. SPECIAL BUSINESS (CONT.)

RESOLVED to arrange a meeting with Transco, RSK, Entrepose, Martin Hicks and the Common Ranger to discuss the proposal and any implications for the impact on the Common, safety, access etc.

b) Casual Vacancy

The Clerk reported receipt of three applications for co-option onto the Parish Council, following the recent resignation of Cllr. Mrs. Doyle.

Due to the confidential nature of the discussion:

RESOLVED to defer consideration of the item until Part Two of the meeting.

After discussion on the co-option in Part Two

RESOLVED to defer a decision on the co-option until the next Council meeting on 9 December when more Cllrs. should be present.

a) 1998 Senior Citizen's Christmas Parcel Distribution

Cllrs. considered the arrangements for this year's distribution.

The Clerk reported that a 1-kg tin of biscuits from the Savacentre was currently priced at £2.99. Mr. Stayton and Mr. Pluck had agreed to collect and deliver the biscuits to the distributors as in previous years.

RESOLVED to order 300 tins of biscuits for collection and delivery on Tuesday 8 December.

b) Millennium Projects

Cllrs. considered the Clerk's list of suggested Millennium Projects and agreed to pursue those thought to be suitable at the budget meeting on 25/11/98.

RESOLVED:

- I) Beacons - to inform the St. A.D.A.P.C. that Colney Heath would like to receive more information on the proposal to light beacons around the district on 31/12/99.
- II) Calendars - not to pursue this suggestion due to the high unit cost involved.
- III) Chain of Office - to await a response from Fattorini following completion of the form requiring details of the design.
- IV) Village Signs - to request ideas and quotations for signs with village name and Parish Council logo.
- V) Mugs - to ask Alan Littlechild for a painting of the Common to be printed onto one side of the mugs with the Parish Council logo on the other side. The mugs would be given away to schoolchildren in the parish and any spare would be sold to parishioners.
- VI) Common Sign - to pursue the idea of a large information sign for the Common.
- VII) Tree Planting - not to pursue this suggestion.
- VIII) Tyttenhanger Village Green - to ask residents of Tyttenhanger for ideas on the development of the village green.
- IX) Nature Reserve at Sleafshyde - to consider if Millennium Green bid for land to west of Church Lane is unsuccessful.
- X) Smallford Playing Field - to consider as a separate budget item when the future of the site is confirmed by HCC.

Cllr. Brazier undertook to discuss Millennium projects at the next meeting of the St. A.D.A.P.C.

RESOLVED to write to the CDC to enquire about the availability of any central funding for Millennium celebrations.

5. FINANCE

a) Parish Council Accounts

Received copies of all emergency accounts, having previously been circulated to all Cllrs.

RESOLVED that the Chairman's action in authorising the signing, out of meeting, of all emergency cheques be confirmed and that cheques be drawn to cover all current accounts.

b) Charity of Charles Morris for Allotments Accounts

Caroline Pluck, as Honorary Clerk to the Trustees, presented an up-to-date financial report.

6. PLANNING

a) Planning Applications

Received weekly lists of planning applications from St. Albans City & District Council.

Cllrs. considered the following comments collated by the Planning Applications Officer and circulated since the last meeting.

5/98/1869LB & 5/98/1871 - Conversion of garage & store to living accommodation, rear conservatory and alterations to the roof at The Grove, Roestock Lane, Colney Heath

NO OBJECTIONS

5/98/1929 Conservatory at 56 Tollgate Road, Colney Heath

NO OBJECTIONS

5/98/1939 Ground and first floor extension at 81 Station Road, Smallford

OBJECTIONS

1. While there needs to be provision for both the family and the extended shop and Post Office facilities, the Parish Council feels this application is too much of an over development for this site.
2. The Parish Council supports the extension to the post office, the store and side extension at ground level.
3. The Post Office area will make an area extended to the same depth as the neighbours, however the living room dining area should be reduced in width at the back to only extend behind the kitchen at the same depth. This would not produce such an imposing structure to the boundary.
4. The upstairs extension should be reduced in width to the line of the house as this will maintain the frontage character and appear an imposing structure for the bungalow on Wilkins Green Lane.

The Parish Council recommends refusal for this application on the grounds of overbearing character and over development of the site.

5/98/1877 - Erection of 4 and 64 dwellings with associated roads, footpaths and landscaping at nop.395 Winches Farm Laboratories, Wynchlands Crescent, Hatfield Road.

CONCERNS

i) There are still opportunities for extra verge planting against highways that have blank garden walls. This will break up the hard lines of long lengths of walling. There is also the need to include by description, in the conditions, specific areas that will have a high expectation of extra landscaping than is indicated by the site plan.

The main areas of concern are:

1. Front area and rear area to flats 5-7 and 8-10.
2. Screening for both walls at the pumping station plot 48/49.
3. Plot 21/27 wall to highway; reduce garden to allow verge screen planting.
4. Plot 33 wall length add screening and landscape area adjacent to plot 34/35 (only trees at present).
5. Indicative area of visitor parking (p) to be white lined.

6. PLANNING (CONT.)

- ii) A toddler play area is not allocated although the developers are more than aware of this defined need within policy 70. It must be fully addressed and specifically as a play area, enclosed by wooden fencing at least 20mx10m and to include equipment relevant to the age provision for toddlers, plus a seat for parents to supervise small children and a litter bin. These are the necessary requirements and this application is unacceptable without it. Open space is not the same.
- iii) Although there is screening to the rest of the site the Council feels there should be provision of screening inside the rear fence to plots 59, 60 & 61.
- iv) There needs to be some wide speed cushions in various locations within the internal highway layout and perhaps in the area of the access to the residential part of the site.
- v) It is a pity there is no footpath through the site from the bottom right hand area to what is hoped to be the play area.
- vi) The Parish Council would wish to see all their previous comments considered if applicable and all LDP policies adhered to.

Received a letter from the CDC regarding the Parish Council's recent comments on a planning application at 9 Tyttenhanger Green.

RESOLVED to inform the CDC that the Parish Council is disappointed at another example of the lack of planning enforcement in the parish.

b) Appeals and Enforcement Notices

Received notification of appeals or enforcement notices issued since the last meeting:

APP/B1930/A/98/296993 Appeal by T. Flynn for land at 1 The Paddocks, Colney Heath Lane.

RESOLVED to support the CDC's reasons for refusal.

c) Planning Decisions

The Clerk reported any planning decisions received since the last meeting.

5/98/1548 Conservatory at Plot 3, Highfield Lane Development.

APPROVED

5/98/1579 Single storey rear extension and alterations at 124 Hill End Lane.

APPROVED

5/98/1581 Ground floor rear extension at Little Rose Cottage, Sleapshyde.

APPROVED

5/98/1582LB Ground floor rear extension under existing first floor and internal alterations at Little Rose Cottage, Sleapshyde.

APPROVED

5/98/1602 Single and two storey rear extension at 42 Tyttenhanger Green.

APPROVED

5/98/1612 First floor side extension at 12 Smallford Lane

APPROVED

5/98/1689 Erection of summerhouse at Nicholas House, Highfield.

APPROVED

7. OPEN SPACES

a) Colney Heath Common

i) Common Ranger's Report

Received the Common Ranger's report for October.

The CDC had informed the Clerk that they were no longer prepared to empty litterbins on the Common due to alterations to the refuse collection contract.

RESOLVED to ask the Common Ranger to empty the three litter bins on the Common.

ii) Thistles on the Common

Received a letter from Martin Hicks (HBRC) regarding the Council's concerns over the growth of thistles on the Common.

RESOLVED to copy the letter to the Common Ranger and the Mowing Contractor, asking them to liaise over the cutting of the thistles next season.

Cllr. Crump suggested that problems with the growth of thistles on the Common could be mentioned to CMS for consideration as a future volunteer task.

iii) Land at Church Lane

Cllrs. were concerned about maintenance and mowing of the area of Common land to the west of Church Lane.

RESOLVED to ask the Mowing Contractor for suggestions on appropriate maintenance for the area.

b) Recreational Areas

Received three copy letters from Smallford Residents Association regarding the County Council's proposals for the Smallford Playing Field Site and their concerns over future use of the Paddock in Oaklands Lane.

RESOLVED i) to write to HCC asking for information on the future of the land at Oaklands Lane.

ii) to thank the Chairman of the Residents Association for his copy letters.

c) High Street Recreation Ground

Land Adjacent to HSRG

Received an update from the Council's solicitor on the acquisition from Lafarge Redland Aggregates to the Parish Council of the plot of land adjacent to the recreation ground.

The Cllrs. did not consider the Solicitor's comments to be correct, regarding the land being owned by the Franklin family, and felt that any existing covenants would not apply to the future use of the land.

RESOLVED to query ownership of the piece of land with the Council's Solicitor.

Youth Football Club

Received a letter from the Youth Football Club regarding their concerns and suggestions for the surface in the children's recreational area at the HSRG.

RESOLVED to inform the Club that the Council was considering alternative play surfaces and would contact them again once a decision on appropriate action had been taken.

The Youth Football Club also suggested the Council consider installing an all weather playing surface, with floodlights, at Roestock Park.

Cllrs. agreed that the cost of installation would be too great for the Council to bear.

RESOLVED to suggest that the Youth Football Team and the Cubs Football Team consider applying for funding from the lottery or other organisation awarding grants for community sports facilities. The Parish Council would support the application and confirm their approval for the land to be used for such a purpose.

7. OPEN SPACES (CONT.)

Schedule of Dilapidation

Received one quotation for works required to the Pavilion following the Schedule of Dilapidation report produced by Rumball Sedgwick.

RESOLVED to forward a copy of the quotation to the Football Club, asking for their co-operation in allowing contractors to gain access to the building and querying the progress made with additional quotes sought by the Club.

d) Parish Warden's Report for October.

Received the Park Ranger's report.

Cllrs. considered a report from the Clerk following her recent site inspection of all recreational grounds with the Parish Warden.

RESOLVED

- i) to ask Kompan Ltd. to recommend a suitable piece of play equipment for installation at the HSRG.
- ii) To ask the Football Club to repair the fence, damaged by the bonfire, or pay the Council for the necessary repairs.
- iii) To ask the Charles Morris Hall Management Cttee. to remove the discarded barbecue coals from Tyttenhanger Playing Field.
- iv) To ask Mr. Fowler to cut the tops of hedges at Tyttenhanger and Sleapshyde Playgrounds.
- v) To ask the Parish Warden to assess the amount of playbark needed for Roestock, Sleapshyde & Tyttenhanger.
- vi) To ask the CDC Housing dept. to arrange for removal of the abandoned car in the garage area at Sleapshyde.
- vii) To ask the Parish Warden to remove the roofs from the three playhouses at Sleapshyde, Tyttenhanger & Gloucester and repaint the frames.
- viii) To ask Mr. Paxton to move the goal post at Tyttenhanger to provide a new, unworn goal area.

e) Community Park

There was no report on any matters relating to the Community Park.

f) Highfield Trust

There was no report from the Trust representatives.

8. HIGHWAYS

a) Public Transport

No information had been received on Public Transport.

b) Smallford Trail

It was reported that a conservation order had been placed on the signal box on the Trail.

The plans to remove barriers along the Trail had been dropped.

Cllrs. discussed the section of gas pipeline crossing the Trail.

RESOLVED to write to the CDC to suggest that they ensure proper reinstatement of the pipeline section crossing the Smallford Trail, due to the Council's experiences with pipeline construction works on the Common.

c) Footpaths & Bridleways

Cllr. Brazier reported that Mr. Huckle of Smallford Lane was interested in carrying out the work required to footpaths and bridleways in the parish.

9. COUNCIL OWNED (OR TRUSTEE) BUILDINGS

a) Village Hall

Received Cllr. Brazier's report on the recent meeting of the Village Hall Council.

Extension

Mrs. Jeffrey explained her most recent application for funding towards to the proposed extension to the Village Hall.

RESOLVED that the two District Cllrs. be asked to support the application and that one of them attends a meeting of the Working Party during December, to be arranged by Mrs. Jeffrey.

Sewers

Cllrs. received a copy of Mrs. Jeffrey's report on the recent problems with the sewers at the hall.

RESOLVED to write to the CDC and the Thames Valley Water Co. expressing the Council's dismay that the problems had not been resolved and asking for advice and appropriate action to be taken as soon as possible.

b) Charles Morris Hall

Received a letter from the Chairman of the Management Cttee. regarding the urgent repairs carried out to the hall and the outstanding amount owed to the Council.

RESOLVED to inform the Cttee. that Cllr. Crump would attend the meeting on 17/11/98 as requested but that he would not be able to change the Parish Council's decision to ask the Cttee. for reimbursement of the cost of roof repairs.

11. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

a) CDA

Hertfordshire Hedgehog magazine - Autumn 1998

Training News.

Appointments to Hertfordshire Anti- poverty Panel

b) HALC

Report from representative on NALC regarding NALC Constitution.

c) Hertfordshire County Council

Structure Plan Review - 1991 - 2001

Environment Magazine - October 1998

Community Care Plan for Hertfordshire 1998/99

Travelwise newsletters - Summer & Autumn 1998

d) Hertfordshire Police Authority

St. Albans Police Community Partnership - notes from Public Meeting on 15.9.98 and Minutes of meeting on 6.10.98.

Notice of Public Meeting to be held on 23.11.98 in Bricket Wood.

Connect - Community Newsletter.

e) Hertfordshire Rural Action for the Environment

Rural Action News Bulletin.

f) London Green Belt Council

Notes - Issue 111

g) Open Spaces Society

Open Space Magazine - Autumn 1998

h) Sandridge Parish Council

Neighbourhood News - Autumn 1998

i) St. Albans Community Forest Association

Newsletter 21 - October 1998

Forthcoming Events.

j) St. Albans City & District Council

Environmental Services Annual Report 1997/98.

11. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS (CONT.)

Short Sided Soccer Ltd. - investment in outdoor leisure complexes.

k) Tree Council

Details of National Tree Week from 25/11 to 6/12.

12. STAFF

There were no matters relating to Council staff.

13. ST. ALBANS CITY & DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEES

1.10.98	St. Albans Festival and Millennium Cttee.
19.10.98	Planning S/C (South)
20.10.98	Road Safety Advisory Cttee.
28.10.98	Health Cttee.
3.11.98	Parish Liaison Joint Cttee.
12.11.98	St. Albans & District Business Forum

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

[Signature]

DATE

9/12/98

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

NOVEMBER

ITEM	BUDGET ALLOCATION	MONTHLY EXPENSE	PREDICTED EXPENSE TO DATE	ACTUAL EXPENSE TO DATE	UNDERSPEND OVERSPEND(-)
ADMIN					
Salaries	17588	1428	10283	10072	211
Wages	13607	835	7938	9207	-1269
Office Accommodation	630	53	368	370	-2
Copying	1020	107	595	415	180
Telephone	800	0	467	560	-93
Mileage	2115	133	1232	971	261
Subs. & Dons.	651	25	217	153	64
Courses	105	0	63	0	63
Petty Cash	1080	0	630	700	-70
Office Equipment	800	0	469	0	469
	38396	2581	22262	22448	-186
OPEN SPACES					
Grass Cutting	8240	683	7210	4780	2430
Common	412	68	206	428	-222
Boissy Park	1087	100	881	275	606
Roestock Park	1212	100	1212	455	757
Community Park	412	0	412	500	-88
Gloucester Playground	412	0	206	0	206
High Street	1521	314	1057	1169	-112
Sleapshyde Pgd. & Pond	1212	0	906	141	765
Tyttenhanger Pgd.	412	0	412	69	343
St. Marks Church	206	0	65	0	65
Dog Bins	700	0	410	359	51
	15826	1265	12977	8176	4801
BUILDINGS					
Village Hall	350	0	350	1255	-905
Charles Morris Hall	400	0	400	3426	-3026
Building Fund	10000	0	0	0	0
Bus Shelters	1200	0	600	439	161
Notice Boards	400	0	200	368	-168
Pavilion	500	500	500	500	0
	12850	500	2050	5988	-3938
MISCELLANEOUS					
Chronicle	2266	0	1133	1348	-215
Miscellaneous	7523	501	4173	2345	1828
Contingency	1000	0	0	0	0
	10789	501	5306	3693	1613
TOTAL	77861	4847	42595	40305	2290
INCOME	11521	232	7371		
BALANCE 1997/98	36052.66	(GENERAL ACC. OF £73852.66			
PLUS UNDERSPEND	2290	LESS BUILDING FUND £30000 AND COMMON FUND £7800)			
BALANCE 1998/99	38342.66				

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 11 NOVEMBER 1998

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

A) EMERGENCY PAYMENTS

	£
R. Paxton - labour & materials at HSRG	177.77
Wages Account - October payments	700.00
C.S.Pluck - October salary & allowances	1,216.01
R. Paxton - October grass contract	682.50
	2,776.28

B) CURRENT ACCOUNTS

	£
Inland Revenue - October account	532.20
Kall Kwik - October account	106.97
Eastern Elec. - High Street lighting to 26.10.98/98	11.73
Zurich Municipal - 1998/99 insurance premium	1,001.09
NPFA - 1998/99 subscription	25.00
Morris Gordon Engineering - signs for Roestock & Boissy	199.75
Rigby Taylor - line marking materials	124.21
Kenco - lockable post for Common	67.80
	2,068.75

BALANCES AT 9/11/98

	£
Current Account	7,192.92
Business Reserve	15,447.25
Capital Reserve	83,355.38
Wages Account	220.02
Map - current account	84.50
Map - business reserve	667.60

Included in Capital Reserve Account:

	£
Common Trust	7,800.00
Building Fund	40,000.00

MONIES RECEIVED AND BANKED SINCE 9/9/98

	£
Colney Heath Football Club - November rental	217.67
Lloyd - October tennis takings	15.00
	232.67

CHARITY FOR CHARLES MORRIS FOR ALLOTMENTS ACCOUNT AT TYTTENHANGER GREEN

BALANCES AT 9.11.98

	£
Current Account	5.00
Business Reserve	6.06
Capital Reserve	4,003.31