

**PLEASE BRING TO MEETING
ON 14 APRIL 1999.**

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 10 March 1999 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllr. D. Crump (Chairman)
" C. Brazier
" Mrs. S. Defoe (from 8 p.m.)
" F. S. Ellis
" R. Fitch
" Miss A. Thomas

IN ATTENDANCE

D. Becker - 95 High Street
M. Hughes 66 Oaklands Lane
Mrs. L. Laundry - 46 Admirals Close
Mrs. P. Melvin - 38 Admirals Close
Mrs. G. Moody - Greenleas, Roestock Lane
Mrs. A. Nash 26 Oaklands Lane
D. Rodway 13 Tyttenhanger Green

Mrs. C. Pluck - Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mrs. H. Mascoll - unwell
" Mrs. J. Jeffrey - holiday

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 1999 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

Page 1 - Speed Limits

Received a copy of a letter from Cty. Cllr. Mrs. Sanderson to the HCC, regarding the Parish Council's concerns raised over speeding and crossing points along Hill End Lane.

Page 1 - Chairman's Announcements

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Review newspaper again to ask for a copy of the article referring to Colney Heath as a Business Area.
The copy had still not arrived.

Page 2 - Parish Council Accounts

Received a further letter from Kerry Pollard MP confirming that he had referred the Council's concerns over increased Audit fees to Hilary Armstrong.

2. MATTERS ARISING (CONT.)

Page 2 - Millennium Projects

The Clerk reported that Alan Littlechild's painting of a scene on the Common was not suitable for direct printing onto the proposed Millennium mugs. A transfer print could be produced but the minimum order would be 1,000 with a unit cost of £2.44 + VAT.

RESOLVED to ask Mr. Littlechild to produce an alternative design for direct printing onto the mugs.

Page 2 - Senior Citizens Annual Party

Received a letter of thanks from the Colney Heath WI for the Parish Council's donation towards this year's annual party.

Page 5 - Smallford Trail

Cllr. Miss Thomas reported on her attendance at the steering group meeting held on 13/2/99. It had been agreed to review the barriers across the trail to make them more "cycle friendly" with access for bikes with baby seats, tandems etc. but still be inaccessible for motorcycles.

A further meeting would be arranged to consider the proposals once formulated.

Received a copy letter from the CDC to Nicholas Breakspear School asking for litter accumulating on the trail beneath Colney Heath Lane Bridge, to be removed.

The Clerk reported that the CDC had confirmed that the Old Station House was a Listed Building and that they would inform the Parish Council of the current owners.

Page 5 - Footpaths & Bridleways

Cllr. Brazier reported his attendance at a meeting with Sandridge Parish Council to discuss the creation of a cycleway from Sandridge to Smallford.

Full details of the proposal would be presented to the Parish Council.

Page 6 - Charles Morris Hall

The Clerk reported that she had not received any further quotes for the work to resurface the footpath at the hall.

The Management Cttee. had been seeking quotes for the same works and would forward any quotes to the Clerk.

Page 7 - Urgent Business

Received a letter from English Nature stating that the CDC would be responsible for taking action to have the area in Fredricks Wood, Coursers Road, cleared of dumped vehicles.

The Clerk reported that the CDC Enforcement Officer had confirmed he would look into the matter.

RESOLVED to forward copies of the English Nature letter to the two District Councillors for Colney Heath.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Annual Parish Meeting on 24/3/99

The Chairman reported on the APM which would be held at the Christian Centre from 7.30 p.m.

The Clerk asked Cllrs. to attend from 6.30 p.m. to help with setting out the furniture and refreshments.

b) Community Government Forum

The Chairman reported that the next meeting would be held at St. Stephens P.C. on 30/3/99.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Mrs. Defoe attend on behalf of Colney Heath.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

c) Environmental Day at CDC

The Chairman reported on his attendance at the recent Environmental Day hosted by the CDC.

4. SPECIAL BUSINESS

a) Peter's Green to South Mimms Gas Pipeline

Received a letter from RSK Environmental regarding the tree work recommended adjacent to the pipeline works on the Common.

RESOLVED to ask that all tree work be undertaken before the nesting season and before the trees begin to bud.

Cllrs. suggested that Transco be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 24/3/99 and the Common Projects meeting in the Village Hall on 1/5/99.

RESOLVED to invite Transco to both meetings.

b) Twinning Association - Parish Council Gift

Cllrs. discussed the purchase of an appropriate gift for presentation to the Twinning Association members from Boissy who would be visiting Colney Heath during May.

RESOLVED to allocate the sum of £100 and that Cllr. Brazier asks the Association for ideas on a suitable gift.

c) 1999 Best Kept Village Competition

Received an invitation to enter this year's competition.

RESOLVED to enter all four communities into the competition.

5. FINANCE

a) Parish Council Accounts

Received copies of all emergency accounts and current 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.

Cllrs. were concerned about the amount of money being spent on repairing bus shelters and playground equipment due to vandalism.

RESOLVED to write to the local police, informing them of the rise in vandalism in the parish since the loss of a community police officer, which had resulted in expensive repair costs for the Council.

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 comments collated by the Planning Applications Officer as circulated since the last meeting.

5/99/0075 Conservatory at rear of 47 Russet Drive

OBJECTION:

This is not modest, being two sections across the rear of the building.

If just behind the house as an extension to the lounge it would be more in keeping.

It would also impact on the siting of the plots and sets a precedent on Highfield.

6. PLANNING (CONT.)

5/99/0216 Single storey side and rear extension without compliance with condition 5 of planning permission 5/97/2315 dated 3/3/98 at Village Hall, High Street, Colney Heath.

NO OBJECTIONS:

The extension is to provide a small meeting room and parish office, the latter of which will be staffed during the day by the Parish Clerk with no noise or nuisance generated. The small meeting room will be used for Parish Council meetings and other local groups and the removal of condition 5 would in no way jeopardise the amenity of the neighbours.

The adjacent car park functions well and the Parish Council car park next to the school is used for overflow parking.

The Parish Council considers it reasonable to remove condition 5.

5/99/02223 Erection of 11 dwellings with associated roads, footpaths and landscaping at 395 Winches Farm for McLean Homes.

OBJECTIONS:

1. The Parish Council is unhappy with the layout for the extra 11 houses on the Parasitology site. The layout has been given little thought spacing the houses around the outside of the existing road. The driveways actually overlay or abut the visitor car parking bays.
2. Plot 78 seems cramped and tight for a quality 4-bed house right against the footpath. A 3 bed Richmond in plot 71 would have a better quality setting.
3. Plot 73 along the wall by the footpath wall needs to be recessed to produce an area of focused landscaping which will break up the monotony of the long length of fencing and wall.
4. Plot 69 also has a peculiar layout for a quality large 4-bed house. The front garden has an enhanced quality of environment, which to a certain degree mitigates for this.
5. Where is the additional visitor car parking for these extra 11 houses?

5/99/0228 Garden shed at 7 St. Barts Close.

NO OBJECTIONS

5/99/0236 Two rear dormers at 56 Oaklands Lane.

NO OBJECTIONS

b) Appeals and Enforcement Notices

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

5/98/0119 Application by Glinwell PLC for change of use of part of an existing packhouse. to provide accommodation for seasonal employees at Smallford Nurseries, Hatfield Road. APPEAL UPHELD

c) Planning Decisions

The Clerk reported on the following planning decisions received since the last meeting.

5/98/2286 Conservatory at 10 St. Bart's Close.

APPROVED

5/98/2305 Two storey side extension at 123 Colney Heath Lane.

REJECTED

5/98/2260 Change of use from car servicing, repairs and sales showroom to electrical showroom, workshop and office and external alterations at 8 Acrewood Way.

APPROVED

6. PLANNING (CONT.)

- 5/98/2344 Renewal of planning permission 5/96/0650 for residential development (outline) for Class 3 use at Salway Land adjacent 330 Camp Road.
APPROVED
- 5/99/0011 Conservatory at 14 Princess Diana Drive.
APPROVED
- 5/99/0075 Conservatory at rear of 47 Russet Drive
APPROVED
- 5/99/0086 Conservatory at 126 Hill End Lane.
APPROVED

Planning - Training for Town & Parish Councils

Received details of a Planning training session to be held on 22/6/99 at the CDC.

d) BAE Masterplan - Stage 2

Received details of the commencement of Stage 2 of the Masterplan exercise for the BAE site.

7. OPEN SPACES

a) Colney Heath Common

i) Common Ranger's Report

Received the Common Ranger's report for February.

RESOLVED to ask the Common Ranger if the CDC Trees & Woodlands Officer needed to inspect the fallen tree to the rear of the Village Hall to advise on its removal.

Discussed the 1999 Common Clearance to be held on Saturday 10 April from 10 a.m.

The Clerk undertook to post notices on the Council boards and ask the CDC to provide a refuse vehicle at 11.30 a.m.

RESOLVED to invite Transco to attend to clear up the rubbish along the pipeline route on the Common.

Received a letter from a local resident suggesting the creation of a duck pond on the Common.

RESOLVED to thank the resident for her suggestion but inform her that due to the LNR status of the Common the Council was required to consult with other organisations on any proposals for the Common. A duck pond would not be in keeping with the current management plan.

Received details of the valuation of the land to the west of Church Lane proposed for a Millennium Green project.

Cllr. Mrs. Defoe reported that the Council would be reimbursed with 50% of the valuation fee. She would be meeting Shell UK and the Countryside Commission before proceeding.

b) Recreational Areas

Discussed the need to arrange regular inspections of playground equipment by RoSPA.

RESOLVED to ask Kompan UK Ltd. for details of the EU regulations on play equipment.

Received a letter from the Solicitor acting for the owner of Boissy Park, informing the Council that the annual rent would rise from £175 to £1,000 w.e.f. 1/4/99.

RESOLVED i) to ask the CDC for their views on a reasonable rent for the recreation area.

ii) to acknowledge the letter and ask the Solicitor whether the Council would receive any extra benefits to justify the increase in rent.

Cllr. Mrs. Defoe undertook to obtain three quotations for the work required to the entrance gates at Roestock Park.

7. OPEN SPACES (CONT.)

c) High Street Recreation Ground

Received information on the recent insurance claim at the Pavilion following an attempted break-in during August 1998.

The Clerk reported that the insurance policy had now been increased to include theft damage at an additional premium of £54.36.

The Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should cover the cost of the damage caused during the break-in in September.

RESOLVED to invoice the Football Club for the 1998/99 insurance premium, plus the additional sum less the cost of the damage repairs.

Received advice from the CDC on the worming of football pitches.

RESOLVED to copy the letter to the Football Club and confirm that the Council agrees with the advice against worming the football pitches.

The Clerk reported on a recent telephone call from Lafarge Redlands who were concerned about the Football Club's plans for the HSRG which involved Parish Council land and property.

RESOLVED to write to Lafarge Redlands, asking that any proposed work on Parish Council land or property be agreed in writing with the Parish Council before commencement.

Cllr. Brazier reported his attendance at a recent meeting of the Football Club Cttee. where there was discussion over the Schedule of Dilapidation works. The Club felt it was impractical to commence the required works due to the planned extension of the changing rooms.

RESOLVED to inform the Club that the Parish Council requests the Football Club to proceed with the works as specified in the Schedule of Dilapidation report despite plans for extending the changing rooms.

e) Parish Warden's Report for February

Received the Parish Warden's report.

RESOLVED to provide the Warden with a checklist including each recreational area and items of equipment to be checked, ticked and dated with comments on condition and necessary action.

The Recreational Areas Working Party would be looking into Risk Assessment.

f) Community Park

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

g) Highfield Trust

Received details of tree safety work to be carried out at Winchfield Wood, Highfield Park Drive to ensure safer use of the woodland by the public.

Received a report from Cllr. Ellis on recent meetings of the Trust.

Cllrs. discussed the play equipment installed at Russet Drive which they felt was too small and ill equipped for the area.

RESOLVED to write to Aldwyck Housing Association to state the Parish Council's disappointment with the play equipment in Russet Drive.

8. HIGHWAYS

a) Public Transport & Highways

Received copies of correspondence between North Mymms Parish Council and St. Albans CDC regarding the installation of traffic calming measures along Tollgate Road which had been sited on the North Mymms side of the boundary.

8. HIGHWAYS (CONT.)

b) Smallford Trail

There was no further information relating to the Smallford Trail

c) Footpaths & Bridleways

Cllr. Brazier reported on footpaths and bridleways in the parish.

Received information from HCC on further work on Smallford Pit, which would necessitate the temporary closure of footpaths on the site.

9. COUNCIL OWNED (OR TRUSTEE) BUILDINGS

a) Village Hall

Received an update on progress with tenders for the large extension at the hall.

Copies of the working drawings for the extension were to be sent out to four contractors with a request for quotations to be returned by 6 April 1999.

RESOLVED that the tenders would be opened at the Parish Council meeting on 14 April 1999 and the Parish Council would recommend to the Village Hall Council who it felt should be awarded the contract.

b) Charles Morris Hall

Received a letter from the secretary of the Hall Management Cttee. asking if the Parish Council would be prepared to continue to provide indirect financial assistance by reclaiming VAT on works carried out at the hall.

RESOLVED to contact the CDC Solicitor for advice on whether the Parish Council could reclaim VAT on works carried out at the Charles Morris Hall.

10. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

a) Beacon Millennium

Received information from the Millennium Commission regarding the lighting of beacons on 31/12/99.

RESOLVED to report the information to local organisations at the APM on 24/3/99.

b) CBTA

Newsletter for February 1999

c) CDA

Hertfordshire Hedgehog - winter 1998/99

d) CPRE

The Hertfordshire Society - February 1999

Voice magazine - spring 1999

Invitation to attend a conference on Successful Urban Communities

e) Community Health Council

Agenda for Children Network Meeting on 17/3/99.

f) HALC

Parish Information Sheet - February 1999

g) Hertfordshire Police Authority

Launch of Hertfordshire's Policing Plan 1999/00 On 29/3/99 at 10.30 a.m. at the Fielder Centre,

h) London Green Belt Council

Agenda for meeting on 3/3/99

Notes - issue 113

i) Open Spaces Society

Open Space magazine - spring 1999

j) St. Albans City & District Council

Luton Airport Noises etc.

National Spring Clean week - 1 - 30 April 1999

12. STAFF

Received a letter of resignation from Mr. Fowler, Groundsman for Tyttenhanger & Sleapshyde Playgrounds, giving one-month notice with effect from 1 March 1999.

One application for the post had already been received.

The Clerk circulated copies of the existing job description for the post.

RESOLVED that Cllrs. Crump and Ellis meet with the Clerk to revise the job description before advertising the post on the Council's noticeboards.

The Clerk mentioned that the present Groundsman had been unable to dispose of the hedge cuttings at Tyttenhanger. Mr. Paxton had confirmed he could remove the cuttings for £40.

RESOLVED to ask Mr. Paxton to remove the cuttings for £40.

13. ST. ALBANS CITY & DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEES

2/2/99 Road Safety Advisory Cttee.

16/2/99 St. Albans Festival Cttee.

22/2/99 Planning Sub-Cttee. South

24/2/99 Full Council

25/2/99 Planning & Heritage Cttee.

4/3/99 District Plan Second Review Steering Group

14. URGENT BUSINESS

a) Policing of the Parish

Cllrs. were concerned to receive reports of serious behaviour problems on Council land.

It was felt that the problems were increasing due to the lack of a Community Police Officer.

RESOLVED to write to the superintendent at St. Albans Police Station, informing him/her of the problems and asking for urgent attention to be given to the behaviour problems in Roestock Park.

To ask if the Superintendent or a colleague could attend the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the matters with Cllrs.

To ask Cllr. Mrs. Mascoll to raise the matters at the next Police Liaison Cttee. meeting.

b) Smallford Playing Field

Councillors discussed the notes from the Smallford Residents Association dated 10/2/99 and the motion of "no confidence" in the Parish Council and its Chairman.

RESOLVED

- i) to reply to the Residents Association stressing that the Parish Council does value the views of the Smallford Residents Association relating to the future use of the Smallford Playing Field. It has however decided not to change its view from that submitted to the County Council on 20 January 1999.

To inform the Association that representatives from the Parish Council attended meetings with County Council Officers when the issue of access to the site for dogs was first queried and possible sites for a children's play area were discussed.

As the site is owned by the County Council and the pitches leased to the Rugby and Football Clubs, the Parish Council appreciated that it did not have the same status as a recreational area which could be used by anyone from the local community.

The Council noted that the lessees had already tried to prevent access to the site by erecting signs. When the Parish Council suggested the installation of dog bins, this idea was refused as County felt this would encourage more dog owners to use the site to exercise their pets.

With these considerations in mind, the Parish Council was pleased to receive the plans from County, which included a site for a children's play area and a designated area for dogs.

When the Residents Association voiced their concerns over the proposed dog walking area because it could attract dog owners from outside the locality, the Council agreed to support

14. URGENT BUSINESS (CONT.)

an informal dog walking area which would provide seating, trees and dog bins but no dog play equipment.

The Councillors felt that the revised scheme would provide an enhanced site for residents, their children and dog owners to enjoy. There would be greater benefit than the present arrangements as there would be a landscaped area for walking dogs and a separate children's play area.

The Parish Council has written to the County Council requesting a revised plan to provide seating, trees and dog bins.

- ii) To copy the letter to Cty. Cllr. Mrs. Sanderson
- iii) To urge the County Council to produce a revised plan for the site as soon as possible.

c) Redhall

Cllr. Mrs. Defoe reported on a planning application for Redhall.

She undertook to circulate copies of the plans and application to all Cllrs. for their comments.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN.....*R. Connors*.....

DATE.....*14/4/99*.....

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**March**

ITEM	BUDGET ALLOCATION	MONTHLY EXPENSE	PREDICTED EXPENSE TO DATE	ACTUAL EXPENSE TO DATE	UNDERSPEND OVERSPEND(-)
ADMIN					
Salaries	17588	1428	16177	15784	393
Wages	13607	1284	12474	14413	-1939
Office Accommodation	630	53	578	582	-4
Copying	1020	39	935	731	204
Telephone	800	0	734	785	-51
Mileage	2115	124	1936	1507	429
Subs. & Dons.	651	18	300	221	79
Courses	105	0	99	0	99
Petty Cash	1080	0	990	900	90
Office Equipment	800	0	737	0	737
	38396	2946	34960	34923	37
N SPACES					
Grass Cutting	8240	0	8240	4960	3280
Common	412	239	343	1112	-769
Boissy Park	1087	0	1087	275	812
Roestock Park	1212	0	1212	484	728
Community Park	412	0	412	500	-88
Gloucester Playground	412	0	412	0	412
High Street	1521	1036	1496	2964	-1468
Sleapshyde Pgd. & Pond	1212	0	1112	141	971
Tyttenhanger Pgd.	412	0	412	69	343
St. Marks Church	206	0	98	0	98
Dog Bins	700	53	642	609	33
	15826	1328	15466	11114	4352
BUILDINGS					
Village Hall	350	0	350	1475	-1125
Charles Morris Hall	400	0	400	3426	-3026
Building Fund	10000	0	0	0	0
Park Shelters	1200	909	1200	1348	-148
Noice Boards	400	0	300	368	-68
Pavilion	500	0	500	500	0
	12850	909	2750	7117	-4367
MISCELLANEOUS					
Chronicle	2266	535	2266	2489	-223
Miscellaneous	7523	654	5173	4866	307
Contingency	1000	0	0	0	0
	10789	1189	7439	7355	84
TOTAL	77861	6372	60615	60509	106
INCOME	11521	230	29441		
BALANCE 1997/98	36052.66	(GENERAL ACC. OF £73852.66			
PLUS UNDERSPEND	106	LESS BUILDING FUND £30000 AND COMMON FUND £7800)			
BALANCE 1998/99	36158.66				

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 10 MARCH 1999

fmar99ACC

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

A) EMERGENCY PAYMENTS

£

C.H. WI - donation to Senior Citizen Party	100.00 ✓
G. Stayton - shelters and signs	1101.21
SDK Kilsyth - dog bins to 5/2/99	52.64
R. Paxton - verge clearance for CDC	300.00
Wages Account - February	950.00
C. Pluck - February salary & allowances	1206.92
	3,710.77

B) CURRENT ACCOUNTS

£

Inland Revenue - February	731.30
CPRE - annual subs.	17.50
Turner & Debenhams - purchase of land at HSRG	981.75 ✓
Zurich Municipal - additional premium for theft damage	54.36
Regional Employers Org. - half distribution service	60.51
Kall Kwik Printing - copying for February	39.37
Albanian Press - printing of Chronicle - spring 1999	535.00
MS - clearance of fly tipping on Common	239.23
	2,659.02

BALANCES AT 8.3.99

£

Current Account	9,617.42
Business Reserve	15,596.86
Capital Reserve	84,448.93
Wages Account	159.42
Map - current account	84.50
Map - business reserve	672.83

Included in Capital Reserve Account:

£

Common Trust	25,800.00
Building Fund	40,000.00

MONIES RECEIVED AND BANKED SINCE 10.2.99

£

Colney Heath Football Club - March rental	217.67
S. Lloyd - January tennis	12.00
	229.67

CHARITY FOR CHARLES MORRIS FOR ALLOTMENTS ACCOUNT AT TYTTENHANGER GREEN

BALANCES AT 8.3.99

£

Current Account	5.00
Business Reserve	6.08
Capital Reserve	4,041.69

Stamp