



COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Highfield Park Office
Hill End Lane
St Albans
Hertfordshire AL4 0RA
Tel: 01727 825314 Email: clerk@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Colney Heath Village Office
83 High Street
Colney Heath
Hertfordshire AL4 0NS

11th November 2020

**RE: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Colney Heath Parish Council – Chairman Councillor Brazier 19/20 Parish
Council Newsletter**

I am replying to you in response to your email received 2nd November in which you requested information from the Parish Council.

Your request:

As quoted in the village e-news which stated that previous Chairman of Council 2019/20 Councillor Chris Brazier did not write the Chairman Statement in the first edition of the Parish Council newsletter. Who wrote the article and why was it not made clear it was written by someone else?

Our response:

The article written by Councillor Chris Brazier was emailed on 19th May 2020 and received by the Clerk on 20th May 2020. The article received is attached to this response unchanged for transparency.

Any changes made for publication in the Parish newsletter were considered minor 'editorial' ones to correct typos or be factually correct as stated in minutes or for example on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Changes were made by the Proper Officer as the delegated Council editor.

Yours sincerely,

**Lisa Chaplin LCGI PSLCC CPFA CiLCA
Clerk to the Council
For and on behalf of
Colney Heath Parish Council**



COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Highfield Park Office
Hill End Lane
St Albans
Hertfordshire AL4 0RA
Tel: 01727 825314

Colney Heath Village Office
83 High Street
Colney Heath
Hertfordshire AL4 0NS
Email: clerk@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – FOI Councillor Brazier emailed newsletter report received 20th May 2020

Cllr Chris Brazier Chairman's Report 2019/20

The 2019 election saw me elected to the Parish Council after an absence of some years, I was elected Chairman which is always an honour. But my tenure did not get off to a promising start as within 3 months 3 Cllrs had resigned. That left us short of Cllrs but as the year has gone by we have welcomed three new Cllrs, I know their input to the PC will be most welcome

We had the usual Parish business at our monthly meetings, payments, County/District Cllr Reports, Bus Shelter repairs, we also had some big issues. The PC still opposes the Quarry Site on Ellenbrook, we want the Country Park as promised when the houses were built on the old airfield. The Boundary Commission are suggesting significant changes to the Parish boundary, Highfield would join Ashley Ward for District Elections, but remain in Colney Heath Parish for local issues. The one meeting that caused us the most displeasure and myself the most difficult to control was regarding the Roestock/Scout Hut. We had been trying for some time to regulate the relationship of the Parish Council with the Scouts. Things came to a head at one of our monthly meetings, Scouts was on the Agenda and the room was packed with the public for that item. I did find it difficult to Chair my fellow Cllrs supported me and we got through the item. I'm pleased to say we now have an understanding with the Scouts and we are working together.

We are currently compiling the Parish Neighbourhood Plan which Project Manager Mike Rawlins is in charge of. The plan will reflect how we want the Parish to evolve over the next few years. The work on the Plan has been complicated by St Albans District Council's Over Arching Plan being rejected by the Inspectorate. In the Parish we are deciding where we want housing, what type do we want, 2,3,4 or 5-bedroom dwellings, do we want more affordable housing. Do we want to build on the brownfield sites before we build on Green Belt? We need to keep the uniqueness of the Parish; Smallford, Sleapsyde, Tyttenhanger, Colney Heath Village and Highfield should be protected from coalescence. Now we have the new complication of the rejection of the STADC Plan, this may slow us down. As you are aware the PC had replied to the St Albans District Council consultation document on the new District Plan prior to its publication. We had asked for better public transport, infrastructure before development, a share of housing across the District not just in the South. We felt it was important we get more secondary school places for our children, Parishes are being penalised for being outside the City. If you have any issues with transport, schooling or anything else you can contact the St Albans District Council Offices. The Parish Council response to the Draft Strategic Plan consultation is on the web site if you wish to read it. We feel our work on our Plan will continue into Winter 2020 or early 2021. Any member of the Parish is welcome to attend the meetings. The Parish office can advise on the dates/times.

Smallford Residents continue with their work on Smallford Station which continues to be brought back to life. It is the last station on the old Alban Line, funding has been secured through membership fees. If we can bring the station fully back into existence this will be a piece of history that our children can see and learn from. The Platform is now cleared, gates



COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Highfield Park Office
Hill End Lane
St Albans
Hertfordshire AL4 0RA

Colney Heath Village Office
83 High Street
Colney Heath
Hertfordshire AL4 0NS

Tel: 01727 825314 Email: clerk@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

have been installed, a goods wagon has been obtained, it could be used as an Internet Café, a resting place for people using the Alban Way.

Tree works in Highfield caused many residents to contact the PC and their local Cllrs. The trees were not being Pollard as they should have been. We contacted the relevant authorities and the work was rectified to the resident's satisfaction. Auctioning off some land in Puddingstone Drive also needed to be monitored. It could have led to speculative planning applications, that is now resolved. We are not the Planning Authority and have no vote on the Planning Committee but we have a strong voice and will continue to listen to your concerns.

For all of us 2020 is not going to be a year to forget the Pandemic COVID-19 is preventing families meeting, friends dining, charity raising functions. All future Parish Meetings from May 2020 have to be done via new technology, until we get (As my Grandfather said "The All Clear"). But we are all managing to communicate well and carrying on with Parish business. The Clerk is having to do a lot of extra administration and the rest of the staff are all having to adapt to new working practices. As a Parish Council we have had to change the way we work in the Parish. The Clerk worked with other like-minded folk to setup a Community Support Group to help our residents. They have collected prescriptions, groceries, contacted Social Services for the vulnerable amongst us and The PC has made funds available for those needing urgent monetary aid. We are also looking at the ways we can help local businesses when we come out of lockdown as there will still be social distancing. Our local pubs have been shut, local restaurant and some local shops. One thing that has made us all grateful is our local shops, Colney Heath Post Office, the Spar, the takeaways. They have kept us going and I hope like me you will all continue to support them.

Two things before I end this report. As you are aware the Highways have started the work on clearing the A414 and installing the new traffic lights to control exiting and entering the long-about, final installation was planned for September 2020. This outbreak has possibly delayed that, but we will keep you informed.

Finally, we had the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May via the new technology. The public were in attendance but they were via Zoom, so we could see & hear them & questions could be heard and answered. The main point of business was to elect a new Chairman for 2020/21, Cllr Solts proposed Cllr Cook for Chairman and Cllr Slaughter as Vice Chair they were elected unanimously.

The last item in this Report I would like to address is my thanks to the Clerk, her backup team, my fellow Cllrs, Peter Cook, Russell Solts, Kate Slaughter, Kevin Barnes, Judy Mulroney, Natalie West, Hilary Brazier (Wife) & Louise Jones