



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

22nd April 2021

RE: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Further information requested from Colney Heath Parish Council regarding Fidelity Claim

I am replying to you in response to your email dated 26th February 2021 which was stated to be treated as a further Freedom of Information request. I was unable to reply in more detail until the release of the Public Interest Report which was issued 19th April 2021.

I am now in position to answer your questions on behalf of the Council as follows:

Your request:

If the forensic Auditor didn't supply some form of written report to Zurich Insurance on, what basis were they able to consider the Fidelity claim.?

Our response:

The claim was investigated over several years and information was requested via spreadsheet by the forensic investigator all information was researched, located, and sent over a 2-year period from February 2018 to February 2020.

Your request:

Your reply seems to say that having been through the Parish Council accounts, spanning a number of years, the auditor organised a Zoom call with the insurers and as a result they agreed to pay £46000 without any documented evidence.?

Our response:

The evidence was sent over two years and during this time the Clerk worked closely with the investigator. The investigator also did his own research and researched information with other agencies, Parish Councils as a result of information sent.

This later resulted in two Zoom calls and a telephone call after some negotiation an offer of was made and led to the payment of £45,900.

Your request:

My understanding of dealings with insurance companies is their aim is to mitigate the outcome. This would normally indicate that the paid claim would be less than the loss incurred.

Our response:

This is the understanding of the Council.



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

Your request:

Having inspected the accounts for 2014/2015 on the 21st of December 2015 I sent an e-mail to the acting Clerk and chair of the Parish Council, Margaret Nash saying "In my opinion that the Police may need to be involved at some stage as there appear to be irregularities." My itemised report was sent by e-mail to the acting Clerk and Chair on the 30th of December 2015. I assume that someone went through my report and checked my comments and looked at other entries I may have missed. This same process must have happened on the accounts for previous years which I did not have access to. Without information of this type how would the Parish Council, or the Insurers, know what the claim was.? Can I see the reports, whoever they were produced by, for the other years involving the claim.?

Our response:

There are no other reports on years checked. The matters were dealt with in sections as requested by the investigator. Sections for evidence included the following:

1. Risk Information
2. Former Clerk personal information and documents
3. Former Deputy Clerk personal information and documents
4. Evidence of Activities
5. Police
6. Recovery

Your request:

The point I made in the second paragraph of my original e-mail regarding "the invoice submitted to carry out the work" by the auditor seems to have been missed.

Our response:

There is no invoice for work carried out by the forensic investigator he was appointed by the Parish Council insurance company.

I apologise again for the delay in response, and I hope this successfully answers your questions.

Yours sincerely,

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