

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

✉ Address: Highfield Park Visitor Centre, Hill End Lane AL4 0RA
 ☎ Telephone: (01727) 825 314
 💻 Website: <https://colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk>
 ✉ E-mail: clerk@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk



2024-25 Item 108

MINUTES OF COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT COLNEY HEATH JMI SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2025, 7.30pm

Members in attendance	
Cllr H Brazier (Colney Heath Ward) Cllr T Burns (Colney Heath Ward) Cllr S Parish (Tyttenhanger Ward) Cllr N Pettit (Colney Heath Ward)	Cllr G Shaw (Colney Heath Ward) Cllr C Tallents (Colney Heath Ward) (Chair) Clerk of the Council, Mrs L Peters
Other attendees	
Six members of the public, CHPC Finance Officer.	
24/25-93	APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS The Chair once again made a plea for volunteers to come forward to assist in the drafting and preparation work required for the Neighbourhood Plan, any volunteers please contact the Clerk via the Parish Office. Apologies from County Cllr Hale who has sent a report which will be circulated. He hopes to attend the March meeting. It was noted that one councillor and a member of the public were audio recording the meeting.
24/25-94	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST a) Councillor Parish declared a potential conflict of interest in 24/25 Item 100b. b) No written requests for dispensations were received. c) No dispensations received in advance.
24/25-95	QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC <i>7.31pm Standing Orders were suspended so members of the public could have the opportunity to ask questions/make statements to the Council.</i> There were none. <i>7.31pm Standing Orders were resumed.</i>
24/25-96	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL The minutes of the meeting held 23 rd January 2025 were noted as published and taken as read. The Chair of the meeting asked for any amendments to the accuracy of the minutes. There was a numbering amendment made by hand reference to 88e, subject to the change made by hand the minutes were duly proposed, seconded, and unanimously RESOLVED by a show of hands to be a true and accurate record of the meeting. Motion carried. The minutes were signed by the Chair of Council for the record and would be marked as signed on the website.
	<u>FINANCE, AUDIT & GOVERNANCE</u>
24/25-97	FINANCE Approval for payments February 2025 The confirmed payment sheet with month eleven payments numbered 110-115 in the combined amount of £662.43 was noted as circulated. Payments will be made before end of February 2025. There were questions on the following: • Were the playground inspections now quarterly? It was confirmed the quarterly inspections had commenced. Ideally the play areas would be checked more regularly but funds and resources would not allow this currently. • Signage was a ROSPA requirement and new signage would be ordered with Parish Council contact details on subject to funds.

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	It was duly proposed, seconded, and unanimously RESOLVED by a show of hands that the January payments be approved. Motion carried.
24/25-98	DEVOLUTION The information paper was noted as circulated. Confirmation that County Council elections in Hertfordshire therefore go ahead as planned in May 2025. There is a Parish Conference 18th March 2025 where more details from SADC might be shared.
24/25-99	PLANNING APPLICATIONS, APPEALS & CONSULATIONS Council reviewed the planning applications presented to them commented as a consultee as follows: a) 5/2024/2133 43 & 43A Meadway, Colney Heath AL4 0PS Councillors noted that they had previously objected to this application and yet the works had already been completed, and people were living in the property long before planning was requested. Councillors considered this a lack of regard for the rules and wished to object in the strongest terms. It was duly proposed, seconded, and unanimously RESOLVED by a show of hands to object and the Cler was delegated to submit this response. Motion carried b) 5/2025/0175 68 Tollgate Road, Colney Heath, AL4 0PY It was duly proposed, seconded, and unanimously RESOLVED by a show of hands to neither support or object to the planning application Motion carried c) 5/2025/0178 12 Lawrence Close, Smallford AL4 0JB It was duly proposed, seconded, and unanimously RESOLVED by a show of hands to neither support or object to the planning application Motion carried d) 5/2025/0068 Land at Colney Spring Villa, Colney Heath It was noted that the objection to this application was sent under delegated authority and was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate today.
24/25-100	LEGAL AND LANDOWNER MATTERS a) Future of Horseshoe Field The options report was noted as circulated. History of the site was given by the Chair of Council Cllr Tallents. After debate it was duly proposed, seconded, and unanimously RESOLVED by a show of hands to work on options 2 and 4 which were for community or mixed use, this would involve a report covering contact with Oaklands College and information on costs, access, and ongoing maintenance. Motion carried b) Charles Morris Hall Lease The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council were in a position to draft the lease from the agreed Heads of Terms, the Charles Morris Hall Committee had indicated they were looking forward to receipt of the lease so the recommendation is to proceed with drafting the lease. It was duly proposed,

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	seconded, and RESOLVED by a majority show of hands that the Clerk move the lease forward by instructing a lawyer to draft the new lease. Motion carried c) High Street Recreation Ground Pavilion Lease A verbal update was given by the Chair who had met with the Football Club and the Clerk at a page turn of the lease document, some minor amendments were agreed, the lease would now return to the lawyers to be prepared for Council approval and signing off. It was hoped this would be ready for the March or April meeting.
24/25-101	PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES a) Communications Cllr Pettit provided a verbal update and confirmed that the Spring edition was being prepared for going out in March/April. b) Community Organisations Nothing to report but there was some discussion over the VE remembrance event in May. It was thought an article or advert in the Kite asking for suggestions would be the best idea and to approach the school to see what they were organising. c) Planning Cllr Burns delivered a verbal report, White Barn comment submitted, Bellway document comment prepared and submitted and then the objection on Colne Spring Villa was drafted and submitted. An issue on flooding appears to be gathering momentum with evidence coming in. This is an ongoing issue of the development in Bullens Green. The Neighbourhood Plan Project Officer who was not in attendance this evening has drawn up a lengthy list of tasks to do for the Neighbourhood Plan which runs to six pages currently. d) Charles Morris Hall Update offered at 100b e) Roestock Hut No expressions of interest had been received to date. Cllr Shaw confirmed that an expression of interest was on its way. f) Environment working party Cllr Pettit provided a verbal report, the Environment Agency were now involved with the meeting regarding the river Colne and we were awaiting dates. There was some concern over silting at the gravel pits which was concerning.
	<u>PARISH ADMINISTRATION & EVENTS</u>
24/25-102	a) Co-option vacancy Currently running to fill vacancy at the March Council meeting however if no applications are received it will become a rolling vacancy and any applicants that come forward will be placed on the next available Council agenda. It will remain an empty vacancy until filled by co-option or until the election in May 2027, b) Beating of the Bounds A sizeable number of Councils are conducting their Beating of the Bounds on 5th May 2025 indeed SADC are carrying theirs out on 11th May 2025. After debate and comparing of diaries Beating of the Bounds was set for 1st June 2025

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c) Clerk report

A resident had emailed the Chair and Clerk email raising concerns on the following

- **Fly-tipping at Warren Farm Track**

The security of the gate at Warren Farm has been discussed with the owners and landlord. As there are now several businesses operating within Warren Farm, the landlords have requested that the gate remain open while they address certain matters. At this time, the Parish Council is respecting the landlords' request, but this situation may be reviewed in the future.

- **Condition of White Gates on Coursers Road**

The white gates fall under the authority of Hertfordshire County Council's Highways Department, not the Parish Council.

- **Roestock Park Gates**

The future of Roestock Hut is currently under consideration, and decisions regarding the park, including access, parking, and potential vehicle access, are tied to the outcome of this process. Once a decision has been reached, a plan for the park will be published.

- **Dogs in the Children's Play Area at Roestock Park**

There are no byelaws in place regarding dogs in play areas within Colney Heath. If you witness dogs in the play area and have evidence, you can report the incident to the police on 101, as they have the authority to issue community protection orders against the owners. The Parish Council has previously attempted to introduce dog control orders in certain areas, but the level of evidence required was substantial and, at the time, unattainable. Unfortunately, isolated incidents of a couple of dog owners are insufficient to enforce a byelaw.

- Daisy Cooper MP has sent an email to let us know she is received a briefing from Openreach about the progress of the full fibre build, enabling faster broadband speeds in Colney Heath. Openreach tell Daisy Cooper MP that in Colney Heath, more than nine out of every ten homes and businesses can upgrade to ultrafast, ultra-reliable broadband through a provider of their choice. If you have any difficulty accessing any improved broadband services, and have not been able to receive an update from Openreach or your preferred retail supplier of broadband services directly, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the MP who will be happy to make representations to Openreach on your behalf. It would be helpful if you could include your full name, postal address, landline phone number (or account number) and service provider name, and confirmation that you are the current broadband account holder when you get in touch.

- The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 20th March 2025** with papers and agenda being issued **Friday 14th March 2025**. The closing date for motions and items of business will be **Friday 7th March 2025**.

d) Matters arising since issue of agenda

- Planning Application - 5/2025/0122 21 Hall Gardens Colney Heath St Albans AL4 0QF. Single storey front and rear extension, part first floor rear extension following demolition of single storey part rear extension.

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	To be delegated to the planning working party to review and comment if necessary. - Thanks to County Councillor Tallon who allocated £575 for new signage at the Tyttenhanger Play Area from her locality budget. - Play Areas - there has been a quarterly inspection, and a report will come to Council next month as some of the required works are beyond the level of expenditure that the Clerk can approve. Roestock Park remedial work will be approved at £711.28, High Street Recreation Ground will be approved at £514.28. - Meeting with Oaklands College on developments including mixed housing – 19th March potentially in person or by Zoom all councillors invited to attend. It was noted that one councillor does not have Zoom capacity.
24/25-103	REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES a) Ellenbrook Fields Trust No meeting scheduled. b) St Albans District Association of Local Councils Next meeting not confirmed but Parish Conference 18th March 2025 c) Highways Liaison Next meeting has been moved to Tuesday 11th March at 10am at the offices of Sandridge Parish Council. d) Tyttenhanger Quarry Liaison Email sent this week to check for an update on any meeting being planned. Cllr Pettit will now also attend any meetings scheduled.
24/25-104	The Chair announced his decision to open the floor for questions. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC <i>8.37pm Standing Orders were suspended so members of the public could have the opportunity to ask questions/make statements to the Council.</i> There were questions and comments on the following subjects: - A resident asked for a timeline for the Charles Morris Hall Lease – it was confirmed that this would be at least 4-6 weeks. - A resident requested clarification of the total cost paid for Horseshoe Field <i>8.38pm Standing Orders were resumed.</i> The Chair thanked all for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 8.38pm.

L Peters LCGI PSLCC CPFA CiLCA
 Clerk to the Council
 Drafted 24/02/2025



Signed by
 Chair of Council Cllr Tallents
 Approved by Council 20th March 2025



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COLNEY HEATH PAYMENTS LIST – Q4 2024/25

Payments to be approved for February 2025 (Month 11)		
Ref. No	Payment To	£ inc. VAT
110	Highfield Park Trust - Electricity - January 2025	£ 112.79
111	AVA Recreation Inspections Quarterly Play Areas	£ 288.00
112	TBS Hygiene Ltd – Site Clearance 7 dumped bags	£ 114.00
113	Vision ICT – Email Accounts March 2025-Feb 2026	£ 48.00
114	Expenses – Common Ranger Brush cutter Fuel and Blade	£ 37.50
115	Comms365 Phones Final Invoice (Changed provider)	£ 62.14