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MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT CHARLES MORRIS HALL TYTTENHANGER GREEN AL4 0RN ON THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2014 at 7.45pm

Present:-Cllr K Barnes Chair M Nash-Vice Chair-Cllr D Crump-Cllr D Horner-*Cllr C Brazier
Cllr R Solts**Dist members also) note-Currently Council have two member Vacancies.*

County Councillor-Cllr Dreda Gordon

Clerk: Mr J E Dean-Present at meeting

Deputy Clerk- Mrs K Parker-Mead-Present at meeting

Project Manager-Neighbourhood Plan-Jeff Lewis

Public Officers-Mr I Hollinrake and Mr S Dibben Herts Highways (HCC)

Public Attendance: Mr D Becker-Mr P Reeves-Reverend Gaz Tracey-St Marks -Mr P Cook
Mr C Musk-Mr Mrs Falk

1455 APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr K Barnes Chair opened the September meeting welcoming all back after the summer recess, he added that he intended to begin the Part II soon after 9.15pm Apologies were received and accepted from *Cllr J Day. Cllr Barnes introduced the two HCC highways officers Mr I Hollinrake and Mr S Dibben who were to talk and report on item 1459 which we will move on to shortly There were no other announcements other than to thank the CMH management for use of the hall for this evenings meeting.

1456 DECLARATIONS

No declarations were made but with an opportunity to members during the meeting.

1457 APPROVAL MINUTES FULL COUNCIL MEETING 3rd JULY 2014

Minutes were read by page and were accepted, the document was subsequently approved as correct and **resolved**.

Proposed; - Cllr D Crump

Seconded; - Cllr M Nash

1458 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Members had no changes to make for any minor corrections

1459 HIGHWAYS-HIGHFIELD CROSSING SURVEY & GENERAL REPORT

Highways Officer Steve Dibben gave a brief presentation on the recent survey carried out after Cllr Gordon had made the funds available for the survey from her budget allocation.

The feasibility report concludes that a "Toucan" signalised crossing is required on this position to allow pedestrian safety along Highfield Lane. The presented HCC plan was produced with traffic factors and pedestrian movements taken into account. Mr Dibben suggested the overall cost of the project is likely to be in the region of £70-90k the next stages are to work out a joint funding stream, which will require the officer to search for suitable allocations. A three way split was put forward to include some parish council contributions. There will be a decision made in 4-8 weeks and delivery in summer 2015. In response to a question, the land issue (small plot of possible unregistered land) had been resolved so this will not hamper the delivery. Cllr Horner wanted to point out about the past-lost S106 monies asking where this had gone! Cllr Barnes said we had a new plan before us and that we should look to this as a very positive step forward, having the full support of County Cllr Gordon and Highways Officers. We must give our full parish encouragement. Cllr Brazier wanted to raise the delays announced about the longabout with it being put back, Cllr Gordon read a statement from Herts Highways that it is delayed until March 2015 a copy of which was passed to the Clerk who will copy out to all members. The debate then concluded with a proposal we write to HCC setting out our disappointment at the delays. A request for a speed reduction of 40mph to 30mph was received by the office; members were not able to comment as this is normally dealt with by a request to the Police Service. Ditch works in Oaklands Lane were also put forward but the subject of earlier meetings with Cllr Nash and Cllr Gordon. Also on the list from past Highways meeting 30th January 2014. Before departing Mr Hollinrake reminded the council to think about the proposals or projects for the HLB (Highways Locality Budget-Cllr Gordon £90k) for next year from April 2015. The Chair thanked Mr Hollinrake, Mr Dibben for their attending and giving the presentation.

1460 THE PARISH WEB SITE

Members had nothing to add, any updates were being dealt with by the office as required. July minutes will now go on the council page.

1461 CENTENARY OF GREAT WAR-1914-2014

The Clerk distributed a copy to each member and Cllr Gordon of Graham Clark publication on the fallen of Colney Heath and surrounding villages we had commissioned at a print cost of about £8.each-x 20- He further requested council to suggest other organisations who should receive a complimentary copy. The book was well received, and the Chair requested a vote of thanks be noted to Graham Clark for allowing us to print. The Clerk said he would open it up the public if sufficient demand was there, say for a minimum print 20 copies.

FINANCE

1462 APPROVAL OF CHEQUES AND PAYMENTS SEPTEMBER 2014

The Clerk presented a report to all members and explained the details to the meeting. It was resolved that payments as listed accepted and agreed for September to £15738.60 inc-vat.

Proposed by; - Cllr R Solts

Seconded by Cllr Horner

1463 AUDIT REPORT 2013-14

The Clerk reported the external auditors had called for two separate additional enquires whilst moving to assess our submission. The Clerk had spent some time providing the correct papers to satisfy their requirements. Availability of papers for inspection by the public was advertised and the period now closed.

1464 OTHER FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Clerk briefly explained the Natural England retro payment for the works to the common; in effect, it should be neutral to the parish finances.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

1465 GENERAL PLANNING REPORT

Cllr Nash as lead member wanted to spend more time on two particular applications and proposed that a committee meeting be convened to debate. It was agreed that takes place on Monday 15th September at 7.30pm in the community room.

1466 PLANNING LISTS APPLICATIONS-RECOMMENDATIONS & REFUSALS

The members were provided with a list of all applications and the status going back to 1/07/2014 to 3/09/2014 from the new software. Two applications, which members wished, to debate separately in committee were 5/2013/2589 for Oaklands College-Comprehensive redevelopment to provide new and refurbished buildings and 348 Dwellings car parking and roadways plus associated development and demolishing existing buildings.

The second controversial application for residents of the Ryecroft area off Hatfield Road was the new application-5/2014/2490 for an Electrical Generating Plant. Cllr Brazier said he had been inundated with calls from residents who are totally opposed to this near their homes, the proposal is a 24/7/365 operation with chimneys and noise potential clearly unsuitable for closeness to dwellings. The Roestock Pumping Station Development for 41 homes was given public consultation with an open evening on 28th August arranged by Brazier Freeth the developers. At this point, there is no planning application for this site, simply a proposal. Cllr Brazier said there was a great deal of opposition to the number of dwellings and three storey homes overlooking other properties is controversial. Council have made no comment

1467 CURRENT PINS APPEALS & PUBLIC INQUIRY LISTED

No reports.

1468 MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS TO NOTE IN THE AREA OR NEAR THE PARISH

New Barnfield planners threatening seeking appeal brings fresh challenges.

1469 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A progress report was presented by Jeff Lewis Project Manager, outlining the current task of producing a Parish Perspective for the plan. The task of gathering vital information is now well underway with the plan to produce a 1st draft by the AGM in April 2015. Jeff spoke of a suggesting a working title for this community project-“Planning for a Parish to be Proud of” A visit was arranged to the BRE with about 15 people attending including members from Sandridge Parish, the staff at BRE connected with integrating sustainable design into master planning this project was known as BREEAM (Integrating sustainable design principles) Aimed at encouraging developers/town planners to work together on sustainable solutions. The progress report gave statistics from the survey 1 a total of 440 responses were returned from 2214 homes and represents an average 20%. The Highfield area was particularly poor with just 6% response and just 47 homes replying. For the largest density of homes 750, this represents a very poor result. Ways of improving for the next survey 2 are essential and to encourage participation on a subject that affects everyone’s future throughout the parish. A note of thanks was put for Mike Rawlins member of Colney Heath group who has done an excellent job in crunching the numbers to provide the statistics in the report, both the Chair council acknowledge his work with thanks hoping that not too much midnight oil was burned.

1470 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

In public questions, Mrs Falk sought to gain interest on a volunteer scheme for a local car service, offering a similar model in another part of the country. This is more the remit of volunteer groups rather than parish councils. The Chair took note and suggested it be put to any volunteer groups to see if interest could be found.

1471 PARISH REPORTS AVAILABLE

Copies of the parish Gardner reports at meeting Parish Warden and Ranger. Some dumping on the Warren Track included a safe and some of the contents. It is on parish property the removal might be costly and difficult, Police have been advised.

ENVIRONMENT

1472 OPEN SPACES & ENVIRONMENT ALLOTMENTS and BUILDINGS

Not fully debated the Clerk will be asking for a small budget to clear bramble and cultivate unused or vacant plots in the winter.

1473 COMMON LAND & PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Having approved Falcon Forestry at the July meeting works started on 4th September and they are progressing well. The contractor is following guidance maps from Natural England and CMS have produced earlier. The Clerk advised members he was confident the job would be executed to a good standard and completed on time. It was reported the hay might not be able to cut and lift this year due to contractor issues. Winter work will be organised for the removal trees subject to Ash dieback, some 60 trees are affected on the common.

The Environment Agency has announced some of the Government monies (£30k) after the row over floods in Somerset are to find their way here to the river Colne. We have now been officially notified of this meeting after needing to remind EA we are the riparian owners and owners of the common. Misunderstandings are rectified from the EA with an apology, and assurances any future meetings will be set and originated from and with the parish office.

Essential ditching works was not debated but early plans are being made for winter work, some tree scrub will need removal in Church Lane (top) before works can take place.

An enquiry for a dedicated seat on the common has been received, the office will follow up.

After meeting up with Affinity Water, a second borehole is to be drilled in Community Park all necessary safety and soil disposal has been agreed. There should be little inconvenience to the public or residents; the works will take about two weeks at a future date to be defined.

Winter work in Community Park is also required to address overgrown trees and scrub, we have given assurances to Lambert Smith, HCC land agents this is down for attention.

1474 HIGHFIELD PARK TRUST

Cllr Barnes said the trust had a successful "Park Fete" on 12th July, other than that nothing further to report.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

1475 COMMUNITY BUS

Cllr Horner reported briefly that volunteer drivers using their private cars, as the bus had not yet been returned after bodywork repairs.

1476 HERTFORDSHIRE CONSULTATION FUNDING FOR BUS SERVICES

Poor service locally and debate on the issues the council decided to send a letter to outline the problems that will affect those reliant on a proper public service for journeys. Apparently there is an on line petition, members requested was it possible to put a link on our site.

1477 VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Horner gave news the women's toilet was now finished and after a small snag list they had signed off the job. Better layout, cleaner and facilities and more suitable for the pre-school children, and benefit to all the other users of the hall.

1478 TREASURE TOTS

Cllr Horner gave his report; pointing out the intake is increasing steadily after a slow start we are getting the numbers we require. One member of staff is currently on maternity leave from

September and a new post of Team Leader created to fill the deputy position. Cllr Horner also spoke about looking at new rates from January to have a slight increase in the session fee, our competition is generally dearer.

ADMINISTRATION-INFORMATION-CORRESPONDENCE-& REPORTING

1479 INFORMATION & PARISH REPORTS AVAILABLE IN APPENDIX 2

Members had noted the reports, none of which has any further issues.

1480 MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL

No reports from members

1481 CORRESPONDENCE

Members were notified in the agenda list, there was no further debate or reports.

1482 VACANCIES FOR TWO PARISH COUNCILLORS

Notices out for co-option of two new members

1483 PARISH MATTERS OFFICE AND CHRONICLE

The Clerk advised members the Chronicle will be about 10 days late due to production difficulties. It was unfortunate for those events, which missed publicity on their events. The parish office was back to normal opening times after the summer recess.

1484 MEMBERS QUESTIONS OR LATE MATTERS

Cllr Brazier spoke about his meeting the EA over flooding and £30k being produced for tree and clearance work. The matter is reported in 1473.

The HCC Loose Horses meeting is booked to take place in London Colney on 4th November- more details to follow once agenda is known. Local Vicar Gaz Tracey looked in late on the meeting to advise another 19 names will be added to the War Memorial. He was reminded of a small WW1 budget should he wish to apply to the council.

1485 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full council meeting takes place at 7.45pm Thursday 2nd October at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at-21.30hrs-where a Part II followed.

John Dean

Clerk to the Council

Note-Planning listing is not included in the minutes-please refer to the appendix list

Disclaimer-The Minutes are in draft- format until agreed and accepted at the next full council meeting. No facts or expression matters here in any way so noted considered final until the Chair signs the document. Our publication of the minutes are in good faith for public information and should not be taken as a full statement of fact unless properly supported by evidence or documentation-No copies can be taken without the written permission of Chair or Clerk. No electronic scanning or transmission allowed other than by the office or produced on our web site. **NOTE**-Appendices that were already part of the agenda (are not repeated here) -Planning Appendix 1 In addition, Papers for member's attention Appendix 2 available on request to the office