

PLEASE BRING TO MEETING
ON 8 MARCH 2000.

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 9 February 2000 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllr. C. Brazier
" D. Crump (until 9.35 p.m.)
" I. J. Day
" Mrs. S. Defoe (until 9.30 p.m.)
" F. S. Ellis
" Mrs. J. Jeffrey
" Miss A. Thomas

IN ATTENDANCE

D. Becker - 95 High Street
F. Graham 58 Tollgate Road
Mrs. G. Graham 58 Tollgate Road
W. Huckle 9 Smallford Lane
Mrs. G. Moody - Greenleas, Roestock Lane

Mrs. C. Pluck - Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mrs. H. Falk (prior engagement)

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2000 and the Special Meeting held on 26 January 2000 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

12/1/00

Page 1 - Millennium Mugs

The Clerk reported that she had now received the refund for the unsupplied Millennium Mugs. She hoped more of the remaining mugs would be sold following an advertisement in the spring Chronicle.

Page 2 - Colney Heath Common

The Clerk reported that no reply had been received from the solicitor acting for the owner of the piece of land adjacent to the Common regarding the intended use of the land and the application for a vehicular wayleave across the Common.

Page 2 - Footpaths & Bridleways

Received a letter from Julian Thornton (CDC Footpaths Officer) regarding the Council's enquiry about applying a temporary closure order on Footpaths 51 and 51a.

RESOLVED that the Council invites a representative from the 4-Wheel Drive organisation to speak at a future meeting to discuss various issues regarding rights of way.

2. MATTERS ARISING (CONT.)

Page 5 - Open Spaces

Received a letter from Shell UK confirming that they had passed the matter of the traveller horses wandering off their land at Church Lane onto their legal department. Shell stated that no permission had been granted for any grazing on the land.

Page 5 - Recreational Areas

Cllr. Mrs. Defoe reported that the Highfield Trust would soon be replying to the Council's enquiry regarding the inspection of playground equipment.

Page 5 - High Street Recreation Ground

The Chairman asked the Clerk if she had received the £500 contribution from the Football Club towards the painting of the Pavilion.

The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any money from the Club.

Page 7 - Village Hall

The Clerk reported that she had not received a reply from the CDC regarding the Council's enquiry about funding towards a Millennium Plaque for the Village Hall.

26/1/00

Page 1 - Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that Kompan had requested a site meeting to discuss the plans for play equipment at Smallford Playing Field.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Mrs. Defoe meet a representative of Kompan to discuss the equipment required.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no items notified to him since the last meeting.

4. SPECIAL BUSINESS

a) Peter's Green to South Mimms Gas Pipeline

Received a letter from a resident of Sleapshyde regarding restoration of the Common, in particular, the replanting of trees along the pipeline route.

RESOLVED to inform the resident that landscaping of the pipeline route was in the process of being carried out. The plan was not to plant more trees but to remove existing ones.

b) 2000/02 Grass Cutting Contract

Received tenders for the 2000/02 Grass Cutting Contract to run from March 2000 to October 2002.

Two of the five requests for tenders had been returned although, after opening at the meeting, only one contractor had submitted a price for the work.

RESOLVED to accept the returned tender from R. Paxton for an annual price of £7194.

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.

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.

5/99/2362A Display of flagpole signs at Monarflex, Lyon Way.
NO OBJECTIONS

5/99/2368 First floor side extension at 1 Sleapcross Gardens.

OBJECTIONS:

Policies 1 and 13 - extensions in the Green Belt.

This is excessive over-development and out of character with the street scene.

The Parish Council recommends refusal.

5/99/2369 Retention of dormer window (resubmission refusal 5/99/0447) at the Lodge, 9 Tyttenhanger Green.

OBJECTIONS:

The Parish Council recommends refusal. This application is a duplicate to the previous and there is no reduction materially in the size or height of the dormer.

5/99/2399 Conservatory at 10 Stanmore Chase.

NO OBJECTIONS

5/99/2404 Conservatory at 3 Stanmore Chase.

NO OBJECTIONS

5/99/2452A Display of externally illuminated wall mounted sign at Gas Assessment Centre, Oaklands Campus.

NO OBJECTIONS

5/00/0062 Conservatory (resubmission 5/99/1934) at 7 Edison Close.

NO OBJECTIONS

5/00/0090

5/00/0091LB Installation of car park lighting at Three Horseshoes PH, 612 Hatfield Road.

NO OBJECTIONS

Cllrs. noted the new format of the weekly planning lists which they felt made it difficult to identify which applications were in their area.

RESOLVED to write to the CDC Planning Dept. to complain about the new format of the lists.

b) Appeals and Enforcement Notices

There had been no notification of any appeals or enforcement notices issued since the last meeting:

c) Planning Decisions

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

5/99/2315 Erection of nine dwellings with access, parking & landscaping (outline) (resubmission following refusal of 5/99/1646) at Coopers Yard, Church Lane, Colney Heath.

REJECTED

6. PLANNING (CONT.)

5/99/2142 Glasshouse and replacement garden centre glasshouse building at Notcutts Garden Centre, 605 Hatfield Road, Smallford.

APPROVED

5/99/2090 Single storey rear extension and replacement garage at 1 Meadway, Colney Heath.

APPROVED

5/99/2238 Conservatory at 47 Princess Diana Drive.

APPROVED

5/99/2288 First floor rear extension at 12 Wistlea Crescent.

REFUSED

5/99/2332 Conservatory at 25 Wynches Farm Drive

APPROVED

7. OPEN SPACES

a) Colney Heath Common

i) Common Ranger's Report

Received the Common Ranger's report for January.

Received notification from CMS on the volunteer task day on Colney Heath Common on 26/1/00.

Cllrs. noted the Ranger's comments regarding the installation of traffic calming gates along Coursers Road. One of the gates completely obstructed the footway making it impossible for pedestrians to pass without walking out into the road.

RESOLVED to contact the CDC to point out that the Council had not been aware from the plans for the construction that the footway would be completely blocked. As it created a safety hazard for pedestrians, to ask that the gate be modified.

Cllrs. discussed the Ranger's comments about the vandalism and build up of rubbish at the Village Hall.

RESOLVED to write to Sgt. Linda Cullin-Moir regarding vandalism in the parish and the continuing problem with traveller horses at Church Lane. To state that the policing of the parish was not up to the standard the Council had hoped for and to ask that she address the issues.

Cllrs. discussed the Management Plan Review 2000 for Colney Heath Common prepared by the CMS and HERC, which was deferred from the last meeting.

RESOLVED to ask HERC and CMS for details of the scrub management scheme for the Common and suggest that the Council meet CMS and HERC during the summer to assess the effectiveness of the new scheme.

b) Recreational Areas

Received a letter from the Scout & Guide Executive urging the Council to install a light in the car park at Roestock Park to deter local youths from vandalising the Scout hut and cars parked outside.

The Clerk reminded Cllrs. that several requests had been made to D. Webster Lighting Ltd. for a quotation for the installation of a light in the car park.

RESOLVED to ask the Scout & Guide Executive to confirm that they definitely wanted to proceed with the installation of a light in the car park as they had previously requested one but not pursued the matter.

7. OPEN SPACES (CONT.)

Received a letter from the CDC, drawing the Council's attention to the decision to demolish the garages at Sleafshyde Lane and asking for suggestions for the future use of the site.

RESOLVED to reply to the CDC that the Parish Council had already expressed an interest in acquiring the site with a view to incorporating it into the adjacent recreational area for use as a hard surface area for skating, cycling etc.

c) High Street Recreation Ground

Cllrs. noted that the painting of the exterior had now been completed and complimented the contractor on his good work.

RESOLVED to remind the Football Club to pay their contribution of £500 towards the painting.

Received an invitation for a representative from the Parish Council to attend a meeting on 29/3/00 at the Football Club to discuss the arrangements for this years Village Day on 15/7/00.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Brazier attend on behalf of the Council.

d) Parish Warden's Report for January

Received the Parish Warden's report.

e) Community Park

There were no matters to report relating to the Community Park.

f) Highfield

The Trust representative reported that a Mediterranean Garden was planned at Highfield Park and that the Trust was keen to involve the Colney Heath Boissy Twinning Association.

8. HIGHWAYS

a) Public Transport & Highways

Received a letter from the Rotary Club of St. Albans asking for the Council's comments or suggestions on their proposed route for the charity cycle ride on 14/5/2000.

Received a letter from the CDC regarding the recent siting of portacabins on the grass area to the front of Wistlea Crescent.

b) Smallford Trail

There was no information relating to the Smallford Trail

c) Footpaths & Bridleways

Cllr. Brazier reported that he would meet Julian Thornton (CDC Footpaths Officer) to discuss problems relating to footpaths 51 and 51a.

9. COUNCIL OWNED (OR TRUSTEE) BUILDINGS

a) Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs. Jeffrey reported on progress with the building of the Village Hall extension.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Jeffrey for guiding the project so smoothly towards its conclusion.

Received a petition from residents of the High Street complaining about the untidy state of the Common during the building work at the Village Hall and requesting that the Parish Council install appropriate landscaping to screen the extension from sight of their homes.

Cllrs. agreed that the residents were unreasonable to complain about the state of the Common before the building work had been completed.

RESOLVED to reply to all residents who had signed the petition that the builders would reinstate the Common and that the grass areas would be reseeded once the work was finished.

9. COUNCIL OWNED (OR TRUSTEE) BUILDINGS (CONT.)

b) Charles Morris Hall

Received a report that the Hall AGM would be held on 17/2/00.

10. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

a) CBTA

Received a letter from the CBTA regarding their recent correspondence to the Council over use of the Village Hall.

Notice of AGM held on 1/2/00

b) CVS

Notice of St. Albans PCG Voluntary Forum on 21/1/00 at St. Albans Civic Centre.

c) Harpenden Town Council

Forum magazine - December 1999.

d) Hertfordshire County Council

Consultation on School Admissions 2001-2002

Green County Strategy Review

e) HALC

Notice of NALC conference in Brighton from 16-18 June 2000.

Regional Senior Managers' Programme

Advisory Bulletin on Employment Relations.

Parish Information - No. 1 January 2000.

Hertfordshire Hedgehog - Winter 1999

f) Herts. & Middx. Wildlife Trust

Wildlife Matters - Spring 2000.

g) London Green Belt Council

Minutes of AGM held on 30/11/99.

Agenda for meeting on 9/2/00.

h) ROSPA

Booklet on children's playground Annual Inspection 2000.

i) St. Albans City & District Council

Joint Community Government Forum - agenda for meeting on 6/3/00.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Brazier attend on behalf of the Council.

Details of Consultation Group Meetings of Equalities Sub-Cttee.

j) Trestle Theatre Company

Information relating to the proposed development of the Hill End Chapel.

11. STAFF

The Chairman reported the resignation of the Clerk to the Council with effect from 31/1/00.

As the Clerk was required to give three months notice she would be terminating her employment with the Council on 30 April 2000.

The Chairman reported that, following the recommendations of the Working Party meeting on 31 January, an advertisement had been placed in the local press for a Clerk and Assistant Clerk with a closing date of 18 February. The Working Party had approved the Clerk to be appointed for 20 hours per week on Scale LC2 and the Assistant Clerk to be appointed for 15 hours per week on Scale LC1.

RESOLVED that Cllrs. Miss Thomas and Brazier interview for the position of Clerk on 1 March 2000 from 7.30 p.m. at the Pavilion.

Applications for the post of Assistant Clerk would be considered once a Clerk had been appointed.

Cllrs. considered the job descriptions for both posts.

RESOLVED to approve the job descriptions and ascertain the holiday entitlement and other conditions of service for both posts with HALC.

11. STAFF (CONT.)

Cllrs. considered the request from the Common Ranger for retrospective superannuation contributions, dating back to 1/1/93, to be paid into the Local Government Superannuation Scheme.

The Clerk reported on discussions with Itnet Pensions Section on the employee and employer contributions for the period 1/1/93 to 31/3/98. The Common Ranger should have been given the opportunity to join the scheme on 1/1/93 when regulations changed to include all part time staff. RESOLVED to contact the local tax office for guidance on tax relief due for the period 1/1/93 to 31/3/98 and to contact Itnet Pensions at County Hall for advice on payment of retrospective contributions.

12. ST. ALBANS CITY & DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- 18/1/00 Parish Liaison Joint Committee
- 19/1/00 St. Albans Festival and Joint Committee
- 24/1/00 Planning Sub-Cttee. South
- 26/1/00 Full Council

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN
DATE

C. N. B. [Signature]
2/3/00

CMJ