

PLEASE BRING TO MEETING  
ON 12 APRIL 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 8 March 2000 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllr. C. Brazier  
" D. Crump (from 8 p.m.)  
" I. J. Day  
" F. S. Ellis  
" Mrs. H. Falk  
" Mrs. J. Jeffrey

IN ATTENDANCE

D. Becker - 95 High Street  
Mrs. G. Moody - Greenleas, Roestock Lane  
Mrs. C. Leggatt - 423 Hatfield Road  
  
Mrs. C. Pluck - Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mrs. Defoe (family commitment)  
Cllr. Miss A. Thomas (work commitment)

**1. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2000 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a true record.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

Page 1 - Colney Heath Common

Received a letter from the Solicitor acting for the owner of the piece of land adjacent to the Common in Coursers Road. The Solicitor confirmed that rubbish had been removed from the site and that his client still wished to apply for a vehicular access although he felt the strip of land in question was not part of the Common.

RESOLVED to pass the matter on to the Council's Solicitor to negotiate on its behalf.

Page 2 - Recreational Areas

Received a letter from the Highfield Park Trust asking the Council for information on the number of recreational areas requiring annual play equipment inspections. It was hoped that an arrangement could be made for the Trust's and the Council's equipment to be inspected at the same time for a discounted inspection fee.

Page 2 - High Street Recreation Ground

The Clerk confirmed that she had now received the sum of £500 from the Football Club as their contribution towards the repainting of the exterior of the Pavilion.

## **2. MATTERS ARISING (CONT.)**

### Page 2 - Village Hall

Received an application form from the CDC Millennium Project Organiser to apply for funding towards a commemorative plaque for the Village Hall extension.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Mrs. Jeffrey apply on behalf of the Village Hall.

### Page 2 - Matters arising from meeting on 26/1/00

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Mrs. Defoe had met a representative of Kompan at Smallford Playing Field to discuss play equipment requirements for the site.

RESOLVED to defer the item until Cllr. Mrs. Defoe was in attendance to report on the meeting.

### Page 3 - Planning Applications

Received a letter from the CDC Planning Dept. explaining that the format of weekly planning application lists was due to a new computer system, which would hopefully improve in the near future.

### Page 5 - High Street Recreation Ground

Received a revised quotation from Nedburn to include the removal of old kerbs and the supply and installation of new kerbs at the HSRG car park.

RESOLVED to accept the additional costs and ask that the work commence as soon as possible.

## **3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that he had agreed that the existing Clerk be paid for working her remaining holiday entitlement of three days for 00/01 and two days for 01/02 to cover for the new Clerk's prior holiday arrangements at the end of April.

## **4. SPECIAL BUSINESS**

### a) Peter's Green to South Mimms Gas Pipeline

Received a letter from Mr. Handford at Rumball Sedgwick, advising the Council to accept the figure of £5000 from Transco BG in full and final settlement for the works on the Common.

RESOLVED to thank Mr. Handford for his advice and inform him that the Council agree to accept the figure of £5000 as full and final settlement for the gas pipeline work across part of Colney Heath Common.

Cllrs. discussed the wooden fencing along the pipeline route on the Common and agreed that it could now be removed.

RESOLVED to contact Janet Swan at RSK Environmental and ask her to arrange for removal of the fence and filling of remaining post holes as soon as possible.

### b) Review of the City & District of St. Albans

Received details of the review of parishes in the City & District of St. Albans with a request for representations by 30/6/00.

RESOLVED to keep the item on the agenda for discussion at future Council meetings.

### c) Village of the Year 2000 Competition

Received entry forms for the new competition with a deadline of 8/5/00.

The Council considered whether to enter the four communities in the parish for the competition.

RESOLVED to enter all four communities for this year's competition.

## 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.

### c) 1999/2000 Audit Arrangements

Received a letter from the Audit Commission informing the Council that, as part of a pilot study, an external Auditor had been appointed to carry out the Council's audit for 99/00 and 00/01.

RESOLVED to enquire whether the new auditing arrangements would incur more costs for the Council and to inform the Auditor of the appointment of a new Parish Clerk.

## 6. PLANNING

### a) Planning Applications

Received weekly lists of planning applications from St. Albans City & District Council.

Cllrs. to consider comments collated by the Planning Applications Officer as circulated since the last meeting.

5/00/0120 Two-storey rear and single storey side extension at 106 Hill End Lane.

NO OBJECTIONS

5/00/0131LB Display of externally illuminated signs and relocation of burglar alarm at the Three Horseshoes Public House, Hatfield Road.

NO OBJECTIONS

5/00/0138 Residential development (outline) at former Highways Depot, Wynchlands Crescent for HCC.

OBJECTIONS:

1. This is a large site, an intrusion into the setting of the Oaklands College parkland area, as such a prime Green Belt Location. Whereas the matrix of the area is residential in nature, there is no justification for a development of the indicative form shown in this application.
2. Where there might be a case for some sort of modest residential development an equitable density, well related to the overall size and character of this area (both the existing houses and the projected development approved on Wynches Farm) the outline permission as applied for does not address this. The proposed block of flats is far too large, severe, overbearing and out of character with the surrounding locality.  
The third floor is unacceptable in terms of height.
3. Outline permission, in principle, is acceptable for housing on this site, but outline does not give an indication of the type of building and its location on the site. In this instant, the Parish Council finds the proposed building totally unacceptable.
4. The Acorns is a small block of flats, which relates well to the street scene and the other residential properties. This however does not create a presumption that flats in this area are all acceptable.
5. The Parish Council would prefer to see two blocks of flats, only two storeys, less hardstanding and a more sympathetic treatment of landscaping. In this unusual setting with the Green Belt backdrop there should be an opportunity to enhance the landscape character rather than negate it.

## 6. PLANNING (CONT.)

6. The Parish Council recommends refusal of this proposed application but has no objections to the principle of housing on this site. The Parish Council looks forward to seeing a more equitable alternative application for this site.

5/00/0175 Twenty portable homes for homeless people (renewal of planning consent 5/99/1368DC) at nos. 1 - 20 Hill End Lane, St. Albans.

NO OBJECTIONS

5/00/0217 Temporary film set at Hatfield Aerodrome, Hatfield Road.

NO OBJECTIONS

5/00/0326 Rear conservatory at 49 Russet Drive, St. Albans

NO OBJECTIONS

5/00/0327LB Internal alterations at Woodrake Cottage, Barley Mow Lane.

NO OBJECTIONS

5/00/0395 Single and two storey side and rear extension and vehicular crossover at 358 Camp Road.

NO OBJECTIONS

### b) Appeals and Enforcement Notices

Appeal by Mr. S. McCarthy concerning the CDC refusal to grant planning permission for a garden shed at 22 Stanmore Chase, St. Albans.

### c) Planning Decisions

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

5/99/2266 Erection of two dormer windows and alterations to existing front dormer at Oakholme. 542 Hatfield Road.

APPROVED

5/99/2330 Erection of storage building at CMS Building, Hixberry Lane.

APPROVED

5/99/2362a Display of flagpole signs at Monarflex, Lyon Way.

APPROVED

5/99/2399 Conservatory at 10 Stanmore Chase.

APPROVED

5/99/2404 Conservatory at 3 Stanmore Chase.

APPROVED

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

APPROVED

## 7. OPEN SPACES

### a) Colney Heath Common

#### i) Common Ranger's Report

Received the Common Ranger's report for February.

Cllrs. were concerned to read the Ranger's comments regarding the Warren Farm Track.

RESOLVED to contact Groundwork Hertfordshire to ask when they would be responding to the Council's request for commencement of the project on the Common to remove the concrete slab and enhance the coal post opposite the Cock PH. To also inform Groundwork that the Council would like to proceed with the project to narrow the Warren Farm Track but to ask that Groundwork inform the Council if they were no longer interested in carrying out the work.

To ask the CDC for names and addresses of other contractors who may be interested in carrying out the work on the Common.

## **7. OPEN SPACES (CONT.)**

Cllrs. discussed this year's Common Clearance to be held on 8 April 2000 meeting at 10 a.m. at the Warren Farm Track.

RESOLVED to contact the CDC to order refuse bags and arrange for a collection vehicle to remove any rubbish collected during the Clearance.

Received copies of the CMS/HBRC Common Management Plan Review.

RESOLVED to thank CMS/HBRC for the review and ask them to proceed with the clearance work on the Common. To ask CMS to apply for a HELP grant for £5,000 which the Council would match with funding from the Common Trust.

### b) Recreational Areas

Received a letter from the Council's Solicitor regarding the rental of Boissy Park.

RESOLVED to inform the Solicitor that the Council currently paid £100 per annum for a comparable recreational area elsewhere in the parish and still felt that the sum suggested of £350 was generous for the annual rental of Boissy Park.

### c) High Street Recreation Ground

Received a letter from Smith-Woolley Solicitors asking the Council for details of their involvement with the land adjacent to the fishing lakes.

RESOLVED to inform the Solicitors that the Council owned the land next to that surrounding the fishing lakes but had no involvement in the fishing lake site itself.

It was reported that there was a broken litterbin at the entrance to the car park.

RESOLVED to inform the CDC that one of their litterbins had been damaged and needed replacement.

### d) Parish Warden's Report for February

Received the Parish Warden's report.

RESOLVED that the Clerk arrange for a key to the new gate lock at Tyttenhanger and inspect the broken bin at Roestock Park.

### e) Community Park

There were no items to report on the Community Park.

### f) Highfield

There was no report on the Highfield Trust.

## **8. HIGHWAYS**

### a) Public Transport & Highways

Received a letter from P.C. Carson (St. Albans Traffic Unit) regarding the Council's concerns over traffic calming.

RESOLVED to ask P.C. Carson to pursue the request for traffic calming in Wilkins Green Lane with the installation of sleeping policemen and a traffic mirror at the junction with Springfield Road. To ask that P.C. Sears pursue the traffic problems noted in Tollgate Road and Hall Gardens.

### b) Smallford Trail

No information was received relating to the Smallford Trail.

### c) Footpaths & Bridleways

Cllr. Brazier reported on a meeting with Julian Thornton to discuss reclassification of footpaths 51 and 51a.

## **8. HIGHWAYS (CONT.)**

Received information that all rights of way matters would now be dealt with by the Environment Department at HCC as Julian Thornton's post as the CDC Highways & Rights of Way Officer had been abolished.

RESOLVED to write to the Director of Technical Services at the CDC expressing the Council's concern that rights of way issues would not be dealt with so efficiently from a remote office at County Hall. To ask for an explanation for the decision to abolish the post and clarification of the new arrangements for future rights of way issues in the parish.

## **9. COUNCIL OWNED (OR TRUSTEE) BUILDINGS**

### **a) Village Hall**

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

Received a request from the WI/VHC for a donation towards the Senior Citizens annual party to be held at the Village Hall on 1/4/00.

RESOLVED to donate the sum of £100 towards the party.

Received a letter and photographs from a resident of the High Street, regarding her concerns over the impact of the extension to the Village Hall on nearby residents.

RESOLVED to reply to the resident that the Council still considered her complaints unreasonable in view of the fact that work was still in process at the site but that the Council would reconsider when the work had been completed.

The Council approved the draft press release, wording for the plaque and invitations to the opening ceremony.

### **b) Charles Morris Hall**

Received a report on the Hall.

## **10. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

### **a) CBTA**

Cllr. Brazier reported on the recent Cttee. meeting.

RESOLVED to donate £40 towards a gift for the people of Boissy & St. Yon to be presented by the Association during their visit.

### **b) CPRE**

Voice magazine - spring 2000

Hertfordshire Society newsletter - February 2000

### **c) HALC**

Parish information sheet.

### **d) HCC**

Central Herts. Transport Proposals

Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan - consultation.

Agenda for Joint Community Government Forum on 6/3/00.

### **e) St. Albans Community Forest Association**

Forthcoming Events Spring/Summer 2000.

Forest Murmurs - newsletter.

*CM*

**11. STAFF**

The Chairman reported on the interviews for Clerk to the Council held on 1/3/00. Cllrs. Brazier, Mrs. Jeffrey and Miss Thomas had interviewed three candidates and an offer made to Mrs. Charlotte Leggatt, subject to satisfactory references being obtained. Mrs. Leggatt had accepted the offer on LC2 Spine Point 24 (rising to the top of the scale in six monthly intervals subject to satisfactory accomplishment) for 20 hours per week plus outer fringe allowance, staff plussage and essential car users allowance. Mrs. Leggatt would commence employment with the Council on 3 April 2000.

Received details of changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme regulations concerning ill-health retirement with a request for the Council to indicate which procedure it would be following.

RESOLVED to ask the LGPS officers which procedure was recommended for Parish Councils.

The Clerk reported that ITnet had advised her that the Common Ranger could pay retrospective contributions into the LGPS in a lump sum along with the appropriate amount from the Council as the employer's contribution. These sums would need to be paid before 31/3/00.

RESOLVED to calculate the employee and employer sums required and arrange payments before 31/3/00.

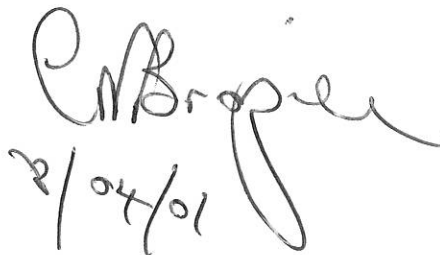
**13. ST. ALBANS CITY & DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

- 18/1/00 Parish Liaison Joint Cttee.
- 14/2/00 Planning S/C South
- 16/2/00 Planning Cttee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

DATE



*C. Brazier*  
2/04/01