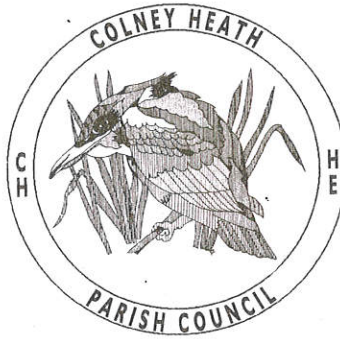


Colney Heath Parish Council



Clerk to The Parish Council
Parish Office
83 High Street
Colney Heath
Herts. AL4 0NS
Tel: 01727 825314
Fax: 01727 825327
Email: colney2heath@btconnect.com

MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2007-7.30.pm

Present; - Cllr P Reeves-now Chair. Cllr Brazier now V.Chair Cllr Clarke
Cllr Crump Cllr Henchley -Cllr Rump Cllr Crump.

Clerk; Mr J E Dean

Editor of Parish Magazine Mr D Rodway

Public Attendance- Mr D Becker

P. Dean
80 MARCH 2007

1. APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATIONS

Resignation of Chair & Vice Chair

The Clerk opened the meeting as both the Chair Cllr Corley and Cllr Hall V.Chair had found it necessary to resign, Cllr Corley due to ill health-continuing sight problems a move from the district. Cllr Hall had since December decided to move from the area. The Clerk added that this was an unusual situation for the Council and both members now left had tendered resignations. Cllr Corley had resigned in the time since the last meeting on January 11th 2007 was cancelled due to absence of members and the risk the council would not be quorate. The Clerk wrote a formal note on the 18th January 2007 to each member suggesting the options. It was agreed that the 8th February 2007 meeting be brought forward to the 1st February, and the issues of electing a new Chair and Vice Chair be dealt with at that meeting. The Clerk had received all the letters of resignation and is to put up notices for a casual vacancy during w/c 5th February 2007. In accordance with the current situation the Clerk explained that the new positions would be effective immediately and that they will last until the ASM 10th May 2007 when a new council period of office takes over after any ward elections in the parish.

The First Business of the Council;-To elect a new Chairman

Nominations were received from Cllr Brazier to elect Cllr Reeves, with there being no other candidates Cllr Reeves was proposed by Cllr Brazier, seconded by Cllr Crump, the members present voted unanimously. At this point the Clerk handed over to the new Chair Cllr Reeves to preside over the meeting and to serve until 10th May 2007, Annual Statutory Meeting arrives. There may even be a new council at that time after the May Elections have taken place and member places declared.

Election of a new Vice Chairman

Proposals were received to elect Cllr Brazier; he was after Cllr Reeves the next to return in the pattern of alternating Chair and Vice Chair according to Cllr Day.

Election of a new Vice Chairman (Cont'd)

The ensuing result was that Cllr Brazier was proposed by Cllr Rump and seconded by Cllr J Day Chair of Finance. Who reiterated and confirmed the sequence of selection.

On taking up the Chairmanship Cllr Reeves thanked the members voting for him and said that we all owe a great deal to Cllr Corley for her work with the Elderly, the open spaces, the Biffa Award for Roestock Park, Community Park refurbishment and grant, the community bus, Church matters, and being Chair of Treasure Tots since the start, of our very successful Pre School and all the other Community matters she organised and gave her service and time. This was in spite of her illness, that of daily caring for her disabled husband and recent loss of sight in her left eye. In all a very caring but hardworking and resourceful member that will be hard act to follow. He also paid compliments to the work of Cllr Hall who as representative on our Village Hall Committee and the CHFC with the expectation of becoming CHPC Chair in 2007-8 if elected, he had spent a great deal of his own time attending preparation courses in readiness. Other members joined in the warm comments and compliments to the two past councillors who had unfortunately left the Parish.

The Clerk added that in essence we now have two separate vacancies within the wards with the council elections coming up in May that might only allow a short period in membership. This was a similar situation in two other parish's according to the electoral officer that the clerk had spoken to that afternoon to inform the situation. Cllr Brazier also made the valid comment of the importance in maintaining the established ward options.

The Clerk advised the Chair and meeting that we had already received an application from a Mr D Horner of Park Corner Colney Heath. Cllr Brazier enquired of the qualification on boundary issues and it was felt certain that the applicant could qualify. The Clerk is to check the legal position with HATPC and write meantime thanking the applicant- along with the notices going out.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations and the fact Cllr Henchley had clarified his resignation as now past President of the CHFC as from January 2007, although still a member.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council on 7th December 2006 were approved and accepted as correct-*Proposed by Cllr Rump*

Seconded by Cllr Clarke

The minutes were signed by the Chairman as correct.

2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Reeves advised the Clerk of an error in the minutes on page 10 item-7.9 that was describing Cllr B Lee as a District Councillor when in fact he is a County Councillor. The Clerk had noted the typo error from cut and paste. Noted no other matters arising.

3 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN MAY BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The new Chair had no specific matters; however there were according to the Clerk five important issues on the agenda to night and due to the cancellation of the last meeting we had considerable issues to debate. He warned that if the matters on the

current agenda had little to report he will move on. That was his style and he was keen to see only matters of importance debated and resolved. Other issues would not be forgotten by included in future when some of the conclusions that were often just general and administrative deserved members debate time and consideration.

3-1 Community Park

Matters were previously agreed and adequately debated in November & December minutes. The Clerk advised that work is continuing, with hedge layering prior to the new-year, contractor paid £1400. The next stage is for tree works by Jeff Skidmore who also does work for us on the common to deal with the tree works.

This involves thinning felling and pruning on trees so identified and marked earlier by CMS. Gates and Fencing and final works to follow, CMS have requested a DDA gate and the Clerk is to meet and discuss this with them (Peter Cooke) later in the month

3.2 Chronicle Magazine and Web Site

The Editor Mr David Rodway gave members details of a plan to enhance the parish magazine with a 4 colour cover and insert. This was to celebrate the 60th anniversary and bring an opportunity for photographs of significant happenings through the year. There were many subjects to publish over the period with other organisations this year celebrating significant anniversaries, the Twining 25th and CHFC & Soc Centenary. The costs comparisons were examined, members unanimously agreed we go ahead. The Chair felt that this was split into two parts and that we should leave the web site until next time, however Mr Rodway felt it was important to pay credit to Mrs Watson who had acted in the best interest of the parish with her work on starting the site in 2003, he agreed the time for an upgrade was right, he had discussed with the Clerk. He had taken the opportunity to take possession of the site and register it in his name for the PC and secured its integrity. Members agreed the move and associated costs will be refunded to him by the parish. A letter of thanks is to be sent to Mrs P Watson.

3.3 Public Meeting

Cllr Brazier gave members an overview of the meeting that took place at the JMI School it had achieved a good turnout of local people concerned about the proposed levels of building new homes to reach the targets set out by regional authority SEERA and other Govt Departments by 2010-2021. Villages in the area are to be affected, such as Smallford and other parts of the area environs that are closest to Hatfield. Cllr Brazier went on to mention as many as 7,000 to 18,000 homes are the new target being set for the rural part of the areas. It was a staggering amount and he will fight any proposals that do not have the adequate infrastructure and services provided.

3.4 Herts Rights of Way and Mr Day re-Footpath 21

A meeting had taken place with Mr Julian Thornton Herts Rights of Way, Mr Bob Fenton Enforcement Officer, Mr J Day, his advisors Ken Peate, Brian Rhees, and the Clerk on 30th January. This was the third meeting to try and find away to alleviate the threat of legal action over land contour changes on Fp 21. At one stage the meeting nearly collapsed, Mr Day, the Clerk made a plea that as the land owner he should not feel his opinion was invalid and the several issues of his land use must be recognised. Many agreed in the village that works Mr Day had carried out was an improvement but RoW did not agree. Many comments passed to the Clerk and from the Parish to Councillor Brazier who felt that it might help alleviate flooding especially as the EA had no intention of building flood prevention bunds to protect about 10 houses in Park

Lane due to lack of cash. The outcome was that Mr Day has agreed to several new conditions to of restorative work be done within a 6 months time scale. After which there may be consideration and scope for redefining the route and width of path. Meeting dates were agreed for 24th April (Site visit) and again in August to review the situation, any member is welcome to join, the final date is with the Clerk. Cllr Crump asked about the works at the Church Lane end, the Clerk said we had to accept that cannot take place until the path route is defined, it had now taken at least three meetings to reach this earlier point above, the passionate view of the landowner and his belief the works were beneficial, not denied by CHPC had been a stall issue. We would probably look at this on the site meeting once the F/p route correct order is completed by HCC Row Officers. Matter is ongoing.

3.5 Election Year May 2007

The Clerk had advised the response from the Electoral Officer for cost expectations to run an election came out at £4250.00 the distribution and start of nomination papers and the process is about mid March and the Clerk will brief all members at the next council meeting on 7th March.

3.6 Colney Heath Parish Council 60th Anniversary-1947-2007

Cllr Rump who is in charge of the working party along with the Clerk and Assistant Clerk gave a detailed resume of how the proceedings will be run alongside the APM on 19th April to be held at Charles Morris Hall. The start at 6.30pm with the formal meeting and then followed by the dedication of the Tyttenhanger Sign at about 7.30 after which invited guests will sit down to a cold buffet supper, or cheese and wine. Plus a traditional a barrel of beer (London Pride)- to cheer on the proceedings. The capacity of 120 guests will be divided to allow 75 parishioners on a first come first served invitation via the Chronicle. A further 40 invitations to Dignitaries the regular attendees and table top display persons from local groups. Cllr Brazier is to request the Mayor of St Albans Cllr Alison Steed be requested to perform the official inauguration of the sign and Rev'd James Spanner to offer a dedication and prayers. It is also proposed that 200 mugs depicting the Colney Heath logo be obtained and given to each child at the JMI School. There will be a Jazz Band and other important local organisations that have a significant anniversary will also be invited. A budget is to be agreed in the Finance section of the meeting. Co-ordination is between the office Cllr Rump and the working party. The next meeting is planned for 1st March. Cllr Rump said that originally this was the called parish of St Peters and probably historically the anniversary is longer than 60 years. However our records show it was formed after the Second World War in 1947. Cllr Brazier promised to display some old photographs in his possession along with other artefacts. Good press coverage is very important and we expect local newspapers to be interested.

3.7 Tyttenhanger Sign

Cllr Reeves said that he hoped the brickwork and plinth building will be done in time for the dedication, two local contractors had been approached, weather was against the construction but once it was less wet the job it be fairly easily completed in days.

3.8 Roestock Park

The Clerk advised members of the completion, the remainder of the BIFFA award was to be claimed and the area was now open to the Children of the area. Although it

came in over budget we could be pleased with the works. Some more equipment can be added in the other places within the play area at some future stage.

3.9 ROSPA Report and Play Area essential maintenance

The Clerk said that Safe & Sound works had been done, we now had all play areas in good condition and we should look towards the future renewals of the Sleepshyde area as a priority once we can obtain some external funds. We had also provisioned a budget sum to put towards any grants that might be available from the district council or other sources. It was essential this area received a priority to give recreation scope for the local children here. Ages from 5-11 in particular need to have the availability of the right equipment and this should be an ideal target for achieving in 2007-8.

3.10 Deprivation in Highfield

This working Meeting was held at the Trestle Theatre on 13th December 2006 as part of a local initiative through the District Council. Examining in particular the issues raised earlier by Cllr Brazier. The lack of facilities to keep local children and young people occupied was the main theme along with some more integration of different cultures that exist alongside one and other in the area. It has a priority status within the District Council and more investigation and attention is to be given to problems that exist. Chair Cllr Corley, The Clerk and Cllr Brazier and the local Police and Community Police were in attendance.

3.11 Over 60's Community Lunch

The reports on this event were very successful and attended by over 80 people; the children from the local school sang carols lead by Music Teacher Helen Falk. In all it was a very classic event, again thanks to all the helpers and organisers, including Cllr Corley, Jean (Kitchen) and Dennis Horner (MC) not forgetting St Marks Church for hosting the event in the community hall. The excellent lunch with Christmas pudding mince pies and of course a generous glass of wine courtesy of CHPC was part of the enjoyment for all those meeting up with old friends and neighbours of the Parish.

4. FINANCE

The Clerk gave members details of the January £41937.06 and February £4313.47 expenditure and income figures of including vat January vat £2821.28 & February 2007 £8.86-the vat sum is recoverable periodically.

Accounts; - The Clerk said that details and statements of the Parish Accounts may be inspected here now if members wished and at the office at other times. The Clerk was able to answer member's questions regarding the finances, several one off payments this month making the expenses period as about an average month.

Income and Expenditure

Noted on a separate sheet for January and February 2007 as seen by the members was approved;-

Proposed by; - Cllr D Crump

Seconded by; - Cllr J Henschley

Investments; -

The Treasury Reserve invested until 19th January 2007 at 4.17%

Grant Aid

It was agreed that whilst the sums presented exceeded the previous year there may have to be some reduction in the levels for this forthcoming year.

4.1 BUDGET 2007-8 PRECEPT APPROVAL

Due to the cancellation of the January 2007 meeting due to storms & adverse weather conditions the Council was not able to set the precept following the Finance & Budget meeting in November 2006. Accordingly this had to be deferred until the re-scheduled meeting of 1st February 2007. The Clerk had presented all members with the details set out clearly with the cost headings in an Excel format. Cllr Crump raised questions regarding the allocated sums he was subsequently satisfied with Clerk explanations. After some debate and discussion it was agreed that the Precept for the above parish year be set at a sum increased on last year of 4.9% and bring forward the requirement for the attention of the District Council allocation as follows:-

Proposal

PRECEPT FOR COLNEY HETAH PARISH year 2007-8 be set at £135,250.00

Proposed by Cllr D Crump

Seconded by Cllr P Reeves

This was unanimously accepted by all members present and agreed the Clerk to write and present required sum to District Council officer's within the accepted time scale.

Payments under the Local Authorities (Funds) (England) Regulations 1992 (no 2428)

The precept sum is made up of:-

Administration Buildings and Other Heads	£ 95,406.00
Leisure, Recreation and other facilities	£ 39,844.00
Total	£135,250.00

The District Council will be setting the Council Tax on Wednesday 28th February 2007 this is a year when Elections will be held and may demand part of this sum.

Note

Since this meeting the demand letter has been sent off on the 8th February 2007

4.2 Audit 2005-6

It was agreed that the auditors report and all essential papers for the audit be sent off to Lubbock Fine as soon as possible now the internal auditor had signed as correct. Essential countersignature of the balance sheet as correct was also duly agreed at the meeting and signed by Chair Finance Cllr Day together with the Clerk in his capacity as Responsible Financial Officer.

Audit 2006-7

The Clerk has an internal auditor interim inspection review booked on 13th March.

4.3 VAT Recovery-2005-6

There is a reclaim to be completed once the petty cash is trawled through to complete.

4.4 Charles Morris Hall Grant

The Clerk advised members this remains static awaiting materials procurement this was agreed in order the VAT element can be saved by the council from the grant.

Data Protection

The Clerk informed members we have renewed our protection under the 1998 Act.

5 PLANNING

5.1 Planning Applications

The following applications were debated in more detail:-

5/06/1610/2212 No 8 High Street Colney Heath

No further comments

Application 5/06/1578 & 5/06/1665 Radio Nurseries St Albans-13 new homes.

The District Council has refused on GB issues-Cllr Brazier said no appeals so far.

Application 5/06/1578-Radio Nurseries Demolition & Redevelopment

The District Council has refused on GB issues. Again no appeals so far.

Application 5/06/2694 53 Firwood Avenue

Cllr Brazier informed member's details of the amendments-some controversy over size of extension and Loft conversion dimensions.

Section 106 Consideration to accept developer land for a Public Open Space

The Clerk is expecting responses from Mr Ian Holland Leisure Services SCADC

General Comments

Cllr Brazier gave some views on the current applications and refusals, from the prepared agenda notes, giving several detail comments on particular applications.

Cllr Henchley gave members his review on the applications and refusal

Cllr Brazier gave clarification on the St Marks application, now approved with some conditions and noted changes. The application supportive letter sent by Cllr Brazier had been circulated to members previously.

5.1 Planning Applications:

As listed below and received up to the date of this agenda publication

Number	Address	Application	Decision/Recommendation
5/06/2694	53 Firwood Avenue	Single storey rear extension	No objections
5/06/2699	CMS	Permanent storage	No objections
5/06/2678	66 Firwood Avenue	Single storey side and rear extension	No objections
5/06/2673	Land between 59 & 65 High Street	Two semi-detached dwellings	Objected
5/06/2658	16 Grafton Close	Replacement of rear window with French door	No objections
5/06/2646	78 Tollgate Road	Two storey side extension	No objections

		and rear conservatory	
5/06/2776	101 High Street	Erection of 1.7m fence	No objections
5/06/2889TA	Notcutts garden centre	Prior Approval- Installation of 15m high slimline monopole and antenna headframe and equipment cabinet	Objected- Letter sent
5/06/2828	6 Russet drive	Rear Conservatory	No objections
5/06/2818	14 Cairns Close	Garage Conversion	No objections

5-2 Planning Approvals

As listed since last meeting

Number	Address	Application	SCADC Decision
5/06/2247	53 Firwood Avenue	Loft conversion with roof alterations and two rear dormer windows, and single storey rear extension	Planning Refusal
5/06/2368	Roestock Cottage	5/06/2368	Roestock Cottage
5/06/2358	18 Grafton Close	Alt to openings	Planning Permission
5/06/2373	26 Newfield Way	Rear conservatory	Planning Permission
5/06/2228	Lambourn Grove	New entrance, reception area and internal alterations	Planning Permission
5/06/2280	6 Sleapcross Gardens	Single storey side and rear extension	Planning Permission
5/06/2160	13 Newfield Way	Single storey rear extension and loft conversion with two rear dormers	Planning Permission
5/06/2466	Focus Alban park	Demolition of existing garden centre and replacement with an extension to the Class A1 retail unit, alterations to opening and variation of condition 6	Planning Permission
5/06/2477	11 St Barts Close	Single storey rear extension	Planning Permission
5/06/2411	1 Liberty Walk	Two storey rear extension and roof alterations	Planning Permission
5/06/2272	48 Oaklands lane	Loft conversion with roof alterations and side dormer window	Planning Permission
5/06/2212	8 High Street	Demolition of existing and erection of replacement dwelling	Planning Refusal
5/06/2378LB	The Mill House	Internal alterations addition of	Listed Building Refusal

		openings single storey rear extension patio and replacement of existing flat roof with pitched roof	
5/06/2471	55 Russet drive	Rear Conservatory and conversion of garage to habitable room	Planning Permission
5/06/2465	The Hyde Bungalow	Single storey rear extension and detached d/gge	Planning Permission

See Attached SCADC Sheet for Planning Approvals- Appendix-

Affordable Housing

Approval has been given to build three terraced houses on land at Sleapshyde Lane Smallford previously application 05/04/1222 dated 04/06/2004. These were agreed for rental by local persons only as first priority at an earlier Parish Council Meeting.

5-3 Planning Appeals-Inquiries-Enforcements-Other issues

Previously reported re Radio Nurseries

Application to refer to Sec of State re BT Trail Site-application no 5/05/0680-5/061655 -Both follow refusal by District Council.

5-3 Planning Appeals-Inquiries-Enforcement notices received

No reports.

5.4 Strategic Planning Applications referred by ODPM-Sec of State-or SEERA

Helioslough Rail Freight at former Radlett Airfield Understood to have been refused public meeting 19 Feb-SCADC. A great deal of local opposition to this plan is noted

London Luton Airport

The master plan has not been published yet

Scott Wilson Report-Sites for Travellers

Previously reported and still awaiting publication, District Cllr Swendell is leading a campaign to get this published. Mid March is indicated as the most likely time. Some District Councils are reserving options by not publishing. Highly controversial matter.

5-5 Residents Associations

No reports.

5.6 Planning Monitoring

No specific reports & matters noted

6 COMMONS OPEN SPACES & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The written reports were considered of:-

6-1 Parish Warden Report

Members will be circulated with the report after the meeting and with these minutes as it was not received in time.

6-2 Parish Commons Ranger Report

Report circulated at the meeting.

6-3 Parish Gardner and Tennis Courts Attendant Reports

Reports connected with the parish gardens-winter season and bulb planting.

6-4 Church & Graveyard Keepers work/time sheet

Similar report to last time-hours worked to dateout of 336 for year to April-
A new rake is required for general leaf clearance Clerk to obtain.

6-5 CHPC Grass Cutting Contract

The Clerk added this part of the season's mowing is suspended until March 07 and only possible if the weather improves.

6-6 Commons Stewardship

Works are due on felling and coppicing as part of 5 year CMS plan for commons as agreed in 2003. The estimate for contractor J Skidmore is..... and the work will have a part grant from Watling Chase or CMS. The Clerk reported attending a meeting of the Joint Commons Grazing with St Stephens and Chorleywood PC. The meeting was attended by Tom Willaims of Sentry Farms who are also involved with the planned and joint road show of livestock in April. The farm animals will be touring round to each of the three parishes' and our showing date is Sunday 15th April 2007 from 11am to 3pm, in any weather conditions. As part of the 60th Anniversary it is hoped that we can make this a family day out, the objective is to show how the DEFRA Plan for the grazing on the common can work. Publicity is to be arranged with the Chronicle and other press supportive publicity is welcome. Cllr Brazier who set this idea in being is to try and get some publicity in the newsletter he distributes around the parish. The Clerk requested that members agree to a small budget for the transportation set up and keeping of the livestock, the herdsman, feed and stock hire. We hope to have some sheep or cattle according to availability. It proposed by Cllr Brazier and agreed by all members present that a sum of £500 be reserved for this out of the Commons Budget to cover the cost of the day which is of benefit to the whole parish supporting the established ecology principle of the Common Stewardship plan.

6.7 Commons Land Title

The Clerk informed members about his discovery on the Land Registry issue of the Common, Cllr Reeves was very concerned and Cllr Brazier shared that too. It was suggested that the Clerk gives priority to the registration and treats it as urgent. The Clerk said that firstly he has to research about 60 documents and old deeds, quite a mammoth task. However he is aware of the urgency and will do his best to complete the task which may involve additional overtime hours. Once this is done several visits to the Land Registry at Stevenage LR Office will be required and possibly some legal advice to finalise the matter.

Recreation Areas

Safe & Sound works is completed and meets with ROSPA safety requirements.

The following open spaces have received this attention:-

- **High Street Recreation Play area.**
- **Charles Morris**
- **Harvesters and Dog Walk**
- **Sleapshyde Recreation area**
- **Roestock Park-**

Works are complete and the Biffa Award repayment will be applied for now the final project is handed over by Safe & Sound children are able to use now.

Multi Sports Sessions in the Park

This is to be reviewed and members wish it to continue if possible

6-8 Footpaths P3 and Rights of Way-Bridleways-BOAT-RUPP

The matter of Footpath 21 has been dealt with in item 3.2 any further communications will be passed on the members as` received.

Footpath 24 is to have new DDA Kissing gates installed once the adjacent land owner is consulted. Gates are in stock and purchased already in December. There is some other work with CMS and Peter Cook pending.

Reports;-Gloucester Park

Cllr Reeves was concerned at land encroachment in Gloucester Park and the dumping of illegal waste and litter. He said that issuing way-leaves for back gates entering on the Parish Council Land might solve the problem. The Clerk is concerned that we do not as yet hold title to the land which might according to rumour be of ex-Area Health Authority surplus. It is believed we have applied under a 12 year rule to acquire this.

7 HIGHWAYS-TRANSPORT-FOOTPATHS AND VERGES

7-1 Highways & Maintenance & Signs local Roads or major route reports

Cllr Henchley gave members an overview of recent issues but he expressed some disappointment that the Highways Meeting with Officers had to be cancelled at short notice. The Clerk had apologised to Cllr Henchley but on the day it was unavoidable.

7-2 Paths and Access-attached or adjacent to Highways

See below

7-3 Verge ditch and litter or weed maintenance

Cllr Reeves said he would like to take Highways matters en-bloc this time as we were running late if members would agree, as many items are ongoing or often repeated subjects. Cllr Henchley in addressing members also added that O'Connor's had been awarded the contract for the verge work adjacent to Highways for a further period. He was still concerned at the lack of the HWP to get on with the ditch work repeatedly promised but not yet executed in the vulnerable highway flooding risk areas of Smallford, Station Road and Peggy's Path and the Post Office and repair garage.

The Clerk said we had seen HWP recently active in clearing the Roestock Lane area and ditches, new HWP employee Kevin Burn was doing a good job with a contractor on site with adequate heavy plant to make it a worthwhile job.

The Clerk said he would speak to HWP about reconvening the postponed meeting in the next weeks.

Cllr Henschley wanted a letter sent off to Andrew Robertson at SCADC and the police be informed again about the persistent fly tip taking place again after a brief respite of frequency, it had now returned to the usual places with a vengeance. The Fly Tip report circulated to all members at this time.

7.4 Transport including Village Council funded Friday shopping bus

Cllr Brazier said that we need a new Chair to look after the transport and community bus project now Cllr Colrley had retired and moved away.

7.5 Long About A 414

Members had a brief discussion about this but no further conclusions as to the ultimate solution therefore it remains a County Highways issue needing pressure to get the safety issue back firmly on the table. The Clerk mentioned a left hand feeder exit Cllr Henschley said this had been aired previously but was opposed by the police.

8 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions that had not been covered earlier.

9 COUNCIL BUILDINGS-ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTEE MATTERS

9-1 High Street Recreation Area Pavilion and CHFC

The Finance Committee met representatives of the CHFC & Social Club on January 8th 2007 to discuss the payment situation especially the missing D/Debits that the Clerk had discovered in November. Cllr Reeves asked Cllr Day to give an overview. He said several representatives attended the meeting which started off in a slightly confrontational manner, however once the club accepted that genuinely the PC did wish to listen and if possible help attitudes changed. It all stems from the action of the past financial controls where monies were not paid to creditors on time. Similarly along with PC several utilities had not been paid and large sums were still owed. Mr P Stevenson had taken over and he was scrutinising the whole system and repaying the creditors where possible, some key members were also helping out with their own cash. We were shown account figures and a balance sheet showing the cash position and a list of past loan donations that had to be repaid. It was clear that things were very difficult for the club. Cllr Brazier sympathised in the fact that it was the 100th year of the foundation of the club and he felt sure all fellow members would not wish to see a failure at this significant time. Cllr Reeves was in agreement but he said that this had similar history on past occasions as the file clearly displayed some previous issues of poor financial situations. What guarantees did the PC have if we assisted with further financial support? The Clerk added that he was under scrutiny with the Auditor who focused on the receipts and payments each time he inspected the parish finances asking critical questions. He was often firm in reminding on those visits the lease is an asset the parish needs as revenue stream along side other income. Members agreed to propose to allow a special concession for the Club's 100th year to reduce the rent to £283- which the Clerk reminded they had done in April 2005 but the standing order had not been changed, (we cannot change bank payments). There would be a special one off Centenary Grant of £3400 to cover the rental so in effect the club get a free rent year, this to be paid in two halves in May and October.

This will also give the club an extension to the lease for one more year outside of the legal renewal as a special concession on the 100th year, in effect a gift from CHPC. The Building Insurance will be absorbed into CHPC yearly payment, the pitch fees £78.75 monthly are still to be paid by the club, but provision of white lining material and the general work done by Mr Paxton each week remain uncharged as is at the moment. However the Council reserve the right to reconsider all conditions at any time. Reports will be expected and a closer liaison on matters of finance ahead of any problems in future. A meeting is to be convened later in the year to review matters. Cllr Crump made some comments that he felt were valid in comparing the two local clubs and how in this comparison there was no demand made to CHPC or grants to that club were made. Similar facilities seemed to be well run and financial control was funded by subscriptions and consistent fund-raising it was a prime example. He wanted the special grant reduced to £1700, 50% of the above. The Chair requested this proposal be voted on as he knew the issue had because the past Chairman concern, he also recognised the Clerk had spent a lot of time on the matter.

Proposed by Cllr Brazier

Seconded by Cllr Reeves

Voting on a show of hands-1 Against-1 abstain-5 for the motion- motion carried.

The Clerk will write a letter confirming this and draw up a special concession and Centenary extension to the lease for just one more year without renewal of the legal document to save costs on both sides. It was agreed that there are issues of renewals and dilapidation that the club need to address and meet the obligations in this year.

9-2 Treasure Tots Pre School.

The Clerk advised members that Chair Cllr Corley had also resigned her position of this community organisation. Cllr Brazier was concerned we should appoint a new Chair to meet our obligations. The Clerk agreed, but added we can within our powers defer the responsibility to the Chair of Finance temporarily, his own position was that of Treasurer and still in place the Assistant Clerk is Secretary so he felt that adequate administration was still in place, and secondly with possible new members in May we can re-appoint at that time. However he will add the matter to the March Agenda.

9-3 Village Hall Committee

It was reported that the village hall had a hearing loop installed now; we had pledged a grant of £400 in next years budget (Payable in May 2007) towards the cost. The Clerk added that installation was on the same day as the cancelled Highways meeting and one of the contributory reasons. There is some safety issues village halls need in general to be looking at, also new regulations came into force in October 2006. Cllr Brazier said we should write to Mrs Pauline Watson and thank her for her work as new Secretary, Cllr Corley had taken over temporarily but now the position was vacant again. The Clerk added that we could offer a fall back but our admin was not looking for extra tasks if there was a volunteer secretary out there it would be better.

Closure of Meeting at 10.17pm

At this point the Chair Cllr Reeves considered that we had dealt with the five key issues on the agenda, we had adequately debated and reached proper conclusions and as such he was taking the decision to close the meeting. We had after all met for nearly three hours and any unfinished business wait until next time or raised when it was topical or decision needed.

The meeting closed at 10.17 pm

John Dean

Clerk to the Council

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Note

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL IS 8th MARCH 2007 AT 7.30pm

AGENDA PUBLISHED 5TH MARCH 2007

IF ANY MEMBER HAS ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE BY THIS DATE-THE LAST MEETING BEFORE THE APM ON 17TH APRIL AT CMH

*Allen
8th MARCH 2007*