

Colney Heath Parish Council



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06 DEC 2007

**MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH- FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD at the VILLAGE HALL on THURSDAY-6TH DECEMBER 2007-7.30.pm**

Present; - Cllr P Reeves Chair.-Cllr Brazier Vice Chair-Cllr Horner -Cllr Day
Cllr D Crump-Cllr Cloke (& 1 Vacancy)

Clerk; Mr J E Dean

Public Attendance- Mr D Becker 95 High Street- Colney Heath
PCSO Donbavand
PCSO Carter
Mr Norbert McCabe HCC

1. APOLOGIES -ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATIONS

Apologies from Cllr Rump, also Cllr Henchley who was in Hospital. There were no declarations on the matters contained in agenda. Cllr Brazier requested the Clerk to note Cllr Henchley was not penalised for past absence under the non attendance rule. The Clerk said that due to illness/hospitalisation it is a "special reason of ill health circumstances" absence was approved by the council. He would not be at risk of any disqualification. (LGA1972-sect 85(1)).

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council on 1st November 2007 and Special Finance meeting 26th November with a resolution on purchase of land-Gloucester Field was approved

Proposed by Cllr Brazier

Seconded by Cllr Cloke

Both sets of minutes were signed by the Chairman Cllr Reeves as being correct.

2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Having read through the pages no corrections or alterations were put forward.

3 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN MAY BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Chair announced that he will guillotine the meeting promptly at 9pm to allow and make time for the Part II and a special budget preliminary review by the Clerk.

The Chair stated that he would deal with the matters as they were shown in the order of the agenda up to 9pm. He welcomed PCSO Donbavand and PCSO Carter also the HCC Gypsy Officer Norbert McCabe to the meeting. Who he hoped were attending to offer opinions on the matter in Agenda item 3.4

*Blair
10th January 2008*

3.1 CHPC offer on land at Gloucester Playing Fields

The Clerk said that he had carried out the instructions of the council to proceed with the offer of £30,000.00 for the land purchase of the above. Ottaways had dealt with the legal issues of the application. To date we had not received any response.

3.2. Council owned Building Essential Electrical Works

The Clerk mentioned having received a call from the CHFC Secretary over the trip device constantly switching out. The Clerk said it was worth checking the appliances in line as the circuit had been signed off as safe and working and a fault more likely to be appliances. He mentioned that the dishwasher had been repaired recently and was it possible this or another was responsible. At the same time a call was made to Paul Jones at Instalec who also thought an appliance most probably at fault. However he would be prepared to attend on Monday next if required. The solution satisfied the club who later found the dish washer was blocked. Clearly not our responsibility.

3.3 Planning Application-Two additional pitches at Barley Mow Gypsy Site

Cllr Brazier confirmed that the application had been withdrawn and the Clerk will delete from the agenda. Cllr Brazier also added whilst on the subject Mr Robb had returned to Roestock Lane just on our boundary with three caravans. SCADC are aware and magistrate action is in progress. He will be moved on. There was an appeal to be heard on 11th December for his site at Coursers Road, he will inform council.

3.4 Matters of Anti-Social Behaviour and Police Ward Meeting 24th October

There has been a great deal of correspondence on repeated occurrences of criminal damage to property and vehicles over the past two months all around the area. Cllr Brazier said it involved a suspected high powered catapult being fired from a vehicle possibly whilst in motion and several witness had seen this, but could not confirm sufficient detail to him or the police. PCSO Donbavand was able to tell the council about the investigation, suspect profile and other detail the Clerk suggested to the meeting he will not enter this in the minutes in order not to compromise the police ongoing operation of apprehension. Damage amounting to several thousand pounds was probable, with some residents in Tyttenhanger according to Cllr Day very fearful of their safety. He had e-mailed Mr McCabe several times about this. The Chair then invited Mr McCabe to speak. He said about problems with individuals on the BML site but there was also others getting blamed. Police had gone in and interviewed a couple of people but with insufficient proof no one had admitted or been arrested. However things were being keenly watched and he was desperate to help, he was now on a working group assisting police to work in the gypsy community. The work was reliant on tip-offs from anonymous sources and he invited any person to come to him with information so it could be checked out. Any information will be treated strictly confidential and he will pass it on. The police had images on CCTV and were looking at footage. He added that on one of the sites some younger persons were trying to act like the untouchables he knows their names and sooner or later they are going to get caught in the act. Cllr Day had also seen the "trotters" out at the weekend abusing the neighbourhood and said that some local residents are threatening to take matters into their own hands, also want BML blocked off as a dead end. PCSO Donbavand said police might support that idea, but it was up to a higher authority than his remit. The Chair thanked them for attending. Councillor Brazier said that residents are building up the perception that the police do not have the resource; Cllr Horner suggested they were not prepared to go on the site. PCSO Donbavand did not agree that was the case.

Mr McCabe has been invited to attend the Police meeting here on 23rd January 2008. The Clerk has put a note in Chronicle requesting any person with descriptions, facts or any knowledge come forward to those mentioned above in anonymity so the facts can be built up to help the police. The Clerk was requested to write to HHWP about what is involved to begin the stopping off the Lane one end, adding council may wish to support this idea, but it could be unpopular as some residents regularly use the lane. Taking a straw poll the Chair asked members by a show of hands what their opinion would be in closing off BML, the result was about 50/50. Clerk to write to HHWP.

3.4 Chronicle Magazine and Web Site upgrade for CHPC

In accordance with the members vote and instructions, the Clerk has forwarded a deposit of £1000 with a letter to Cloud Nine Solutions to allow all the essential and preliminary technical work on the new parish web site. It is planned that Mr Rodway can report progress to the council at the February 2008 meeting.

3.5 Colney Heath Parish Council 60th Year

Cllr Horner said everything was in place for the over 60's lunch on 14th December transport was laid on for those who do not wish to drive. Mrs Jean Horner is doing the catering, lunch with wine is promised for about 80 people. CH-JMI is to sing carols. The pantomime is arranged, the Clerk advised it takes place Saturday 5th January 2008 for the children as part of our 60th year a limit of three tickets per household Mrs Kim Parker-Mead is organising/administering the event and around 90 tickets have so far been claimed, we have limited the issue to 130 max in hall. Treasure Tots staff is arranging to do a fund raising effort to sell drinks and sweets on the day. Cllr Crump said we ought to have a council get together in the new-year in our 60th year with a "Dutch treat" at one of the local pubs, he will organise for new-year, everyone agreed.

3.6 Commons Grazing Group Herts and Furze Field

The Clerk reported of a request from CMS to have an open informal meeting on the 11th December at 7.30 here in this room with a councillor present to deal with issues from objectors to fencing and closures. Cllr Brazier volunteered to attend, the Chair said he could not, the Clerk said he did not have many details, he thought the issue was the effect on horse riders but it was important to hear their opinions. The Chair and members present agreed to the hire of the room and the Clerk said he would set it up on the night and attend. Rachel Keen was also to attend and said it was informal having come about by misrepresentations of the grazing facts in the press recently.

3.7 Smallford Station Preservation Orders

The Clerk explained that his efforts to photo the buildings had not gone to plan, he was possibly not in the right place, and all that he observed was the derelict platform. Both Cllr Crump and Cllr Reeves were keen to get a preservation issue going and have offered to take the Clerk, in fact suggested that all members go to the site and see the "Nicky line" buildings signal box and ticket office at a suitable opportunity. The Clerk is to contact the buildings preservation officer at SCADC about listings.

3.8 Smallford Station Preservation Orders

The Clerk has obtained the planning forms regarding this issue. Cllr Brazier said he had confirmed the listing status, it was grade II listing. The Clerk will now ask the SCADC Development Control to have this in writing. Cllr Reeves is keen to have the station under an order to ensure its future as part of local history.

3.9 Fence for Treasure Tots

The Clerk asked if members would grant £800 towards a new wooden fence as the chain link was deteriorating and becoming dangerous to children with bits of broken wire and loose fitting. It was possible the damage caused by unknown persons sitting on it in the summer, and straining the wires. Council approved the grant and Treasure Tots will pay £530 for a total of £1330.00. The new fence to be installed by January. The pre-school leaders report was read out by Cllr Crump, the pleas from the school were over the changes to the front door made by the VHC in the choice of ordinary push bars instead of other devices that still complied. We had requested a high style push bar but a standard bar was fitted. Unfortunately this was not done we had also offered full details of alternative safe devices via our safety catalogues, even to pay. The risk to the children could open easily and get out, a stair gate had been purchased but this had other problems of HSWA. The parents had complained about the safety and we had a letter from one parent. The door really requires a deadlock but it is against fire regulations. Going outside to lock the door is not the answer. Members advised the Clerk to send a letter off to Mr Walsh VHC asking it must be made secure by the start of new term, 7th January 2008. Cllr Brazier was very concerned. Cllr Crump moved on to advise members of the continued success of the attendance in the spring term that we were virtually full. Kim Parker-Mead and Karen Chittenden were looking at the prospect of increasing via OFSTED numbers up to 35 children. Proposed Cllr Horner
Seconded Cllr Crump

4. FINANCE

The Clerk gave information on the following financial matters which was supported by the relevant information and data reports to each member;-

4.1 MONTHLY EXPENDITURE & ACCOUNTS

The Clerk gave information to all members for the December parish expenditure at £12,654.41 inc VAT element is £543.60 -questions on finance were answered by the Clerk; the payments were approved by the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Day

Seconded by Cllr Crump

4.2 Audit 2006-7

The members were informed the Audit had been returned just to-day and approved by Lubbock Fine. Statutory notices to be put out-Public inspection for the accounts if any wish to see at the parish office but by appointment to the Clerk.

4.3 Treasury Reserve & Investments

The Assistant Clerk had placed £90,000 on Treasury Reserve also re-invested-one months fixed until 5th January 2008 yielding £449.00 in that period.

4.4 Progress of VAT

Clerk is progressing this as there is a return to claim.

4.5 Budgeted Grant Aid (Section 19 LGA Act-1976-Misc Provisions)

To be dealt with in part II

4.6 Other Financial Matters

The Clerk answered members questions including section 137 payments on biscuits that were available for members to distribute to over 60's during Christmas.

5 PLANNING

Planning Applications

The following applications were debated in detail;-

General Comments

Members offered views on the current applications and refusals, the prepared agenda notes covered several details and comments

Major Development

Planning Application 5/07/02230 Former Oaklands College Site Highfield Lane Tyttenhanger St Albans-Highfield Farm Campus –Erection of 38 Residential Dwellings, & Associated Parking, access, open space and Landscaping.

Matter debated last meeting, we have sent our views in writing the application is now with the District Council for a decision expected in the new-year.

5-1 Planning Applications

5/07/2676-Land at Hill End Lane Cllr Reeves wanted to know more about this application, Cllr Brazier added that it was a temporary site for a works compound.

As listed below and received up to the date of this agenda publication-**bold= topical**;-

As listed and received to the date of agenda publication 30th November 2007;-

The Clerk drew member's particular attention to the items in bold type

5.1 Planning Applications

Number	Address	Application	Decision/Recommendation
5/07/2519	47 Puddingstone Drive	Rear conservatory	No objections
5/072376	23 Drakes Drive	Two storey front, side and rear ext widening of exist vehicular crossover	No objections
5/07/2576	29 Church Croft	Conversion of garage to habitable room and single st/ side and rear extension	No objections. – Please consider parking when deciding this application
5/07/2330	Former Oaklands College Site Highfield Lane	Demolition of all existing buildings and erection of thirty eight dwellings including thirteen affordable units, sixty six parking spaces, open space and landscaping	Letter sent
5/07/2663	3 Smallford Lane	Two storey side extension	No objections
5/07/2651	Oaklands College	S/storey ext to form dining hall	No objections
5/07/2572	Alban Point Alban Park	Change of use from Class B8 to Use Class B1 or Use Class B2	No objections
5/07/2635	43 Russett Drive	New side windows	No objections
5/07/2720	The Hyde Bungalow, Sleapsyde	Replacement bungalow and detached garage	Opposed. - The site is in a unique conservation area, is listed and therefore not be demolished. It is in character with Methodist church gives area a unique feel of history
5/07/2676	Land at Hill End Lane	Temp use of land as	Concerns regarding work times the

		contractors compound	compound is used, not to be used Sundays. A time limit must be placed for the compound to be removed, a limit on the number of vehicles using the compound for safety & Highways concerns.
5/07/2779	104 Roestock Lane	First floor side and rear si/storey rear extension	With Cllr Brazier 29/11/2007

Note items with Listed Building Status are noted with suffix LB after the plan no- e.g. 5/07/000LB

SCADC General Applications List (District) Circulated to all members.

Week ending and up to 31st October

5-2 Planning Approvals

Number	Address	Application	SCADC Decision
5/07/2147	The Chalkdrawers Arms PH	Erection of Pergola	Planning Permission
5/07/2417	100 Hill End Lane	Front Porch	Planning Permission
5/07/2152	14 Sovereign Park	Rear conservatory	Planning Permission
5/07/2278	14 Grafton Close	Conversion of garage into habitable room	Planning Permission

See Attached Sheet for Planning Approvals- Appendix

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

Note items with Listed Building Status are noted with suffix LB after the plan no- e.g 5/07/000LB

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

There is an appeal lodged by BT PLC & Telereal Services Ltd for Development of Trial Site-Application number 5/06/1655.

Appeal-5/06/2278 CE site Fairholme Cottage Roestock Lane SCADC

Appeal-5/07/0646 Forest Town Church-Refusal to change use with unsustainable development and loss of employment in a development area-Dist Local Plan Review.

Appeal-5/06/1655 lodged by BT PLC & Telereal Services Ltd for Development of Trial Site-Cllr Brazier has written for PC objecting.

Appeal-5/07/1457 A Hillier & M Hardman 38 Starlight Way St Albans-Extension of premises with size and GB issues as stated objections.

Appeal-5/07/1305 at 30 Sleapcross Gardens extension of dwelling in GB, also issues of comparison to other allowed development in same area.

Appeal-5/07/0892 Popefield Farm Hatfield Road St Albans

SCADC Notification-Official Postal Address;- 1,2,3,4 Redhall End Roestock Lane

5-4 Strategic or Planning issues or referred to ODPM/Secretary of State-SEERA

Helioslough-Rail Freight Terminal- Cllr Brazier informed members the inquiry is to finish on 18th December and the inspector will publish the report next year.

SCADC-Core Strategy Consultation Paper

Parish response sent 12th September, consultation period extended to 24th September.

Bulk Waste-Lorry Parking

No further response, ongoing and being watched.

London Luton Airport

Members noted the information regarding Visual Reference Points VRP's

Go East

Noted

Welwyn & Hatfield LDF & Core Strategy

Noted

5-5 Residents Associations

Cllr Brazier had looked into the complaint from a nearby resident of heavy Lorries using a new exit at Glinwells, there was an explanation and it was not in regular use.

5-6 Planning Monitoring

Air Quality

Landfill & Quarry

Minerals & Waste

Licences

Local Delivery Framework Policy

Carbon calculator-new category after receiving e-mail from Energy Efficiency Advice Centre-

Noted but no debate on these issues.

Affordable Housing

Details of new affordable homes for local residents see Chronicle in December

6 COMMONS OPEN SPACES & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The written reports were considered of;-

Draft Green Spaces Strategy

Matter in abeyance with SCADC at the moment.

6-1 Parish Warden Report

Members were circulated with a copy of the reports with usual general tasks removal of litter and FC pitch marking and various village tasks.

Clerk has asked AVDV if they have any surplus or spare rubbish bins we can have to save costs these are needed at the Common and Sleafshyde Park. Prices are quite high for the product and ground anchor system.

6-2 Parish Commons Ranger Report

Report circulated to all members noting the seasonal; changes and wildlife matters.

6-3 Parish Gardner and Tennis Courts Attendant Reports

Report to be circulated to all members after the meeting.

6-4 Church & Graveyard Keepers work/time sheet

Nothing to report this time-Strimmer away for service, Clerk dealing with this.

6-5 CHPC Grass Cutting Contract

The season is now finished until March 2008 when the contract is to be renewed.

6-6 Commons-Grazing & Stewardship

Clerk has reported earlier-re Commons Grazing Committee item 3.6.

6.7 Recreation Areas

Gloucester Park

Previously dealt with in item 3.1

Roestock Park/Sleapshyde Park

The issue requires grant funding; Clerk is to examine options after budget review.

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

Footpath 44 and 23

We have received a grant for £3515.00 for works to the above path into Roestock Park from the lane. The works are going on at this moment with contractor Sentry Farms, and expected to finish 14th December. Specification drawn up by Rights of Way Officer at HCC & CMS. CHPC contribution is two kissing gates and a post.

Footpath 21

Mr J Thornton reported at the meeting 27th September that a partial resolve has been reached on this one.

7 HIGHWAYS-TRANSPORT-FOOTPATHS AND VERGES

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

The Chair wished to be brief at this time with the budget review to deal with in part two, in writing the minutes the Clerk has kept the previous month's written format as it is important to maintain the pressure of three key issues. The item discretionary fund allocation following does need some action as it affects the school safety matter that was dealt with earlier in the year by Cllr Brazier. This money may now come from a special rural fund but it needs pushing. Three issues being carried over;-

- Smallford Bridge traffic lights proposal
- Agreed £70k spend on safer school crossing
- High Street resurfacing

Less specific for HHWP but still live and unresolved at 6th December 2007

1. Road patching on bend near Long-about-corrugated surface apparently on HHWP plan and waiting closure order
2. Opposite the Grange two area of surface patching-HHWP to assess

Allocation of HCC Discretionary Funding

At the last meeting on 30th October which Cllr Brazier joined, other subjects were mentioned, one important issue requiring attention is the discretionary budget that raised by Cllr Clements at District Council level at the recent district partnership panel meeting. Members were advised by the Clerk that we should make approaches to a rural budget that may provide funding for the safety works in the High Street outside the school in 2008/9. The Clerk will contact Cllr B Lee to see if we can move this on as advised by HHWP at the meeting. (*AGENDA AGAIN IN JAN 08*)

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

Highfield Park reported road to pavilion broken pathway

Stanmore Chase-Drain Covers

This has now been done

7.3 Tollgate Road-Camera issue

Safety cameras or VA cameras at Tollgate Lane-still with HHWP for action.

7-4 Transport and Friday Shopping Bus

No reports other than Cllr Horner plea for more volunteer drivers with an advert going in Chronicle. Earlier Cllr Horner had alerted the Clerk to a new initiative to regulate passenger transport provided by voluntary groups. No time at this meeting to consider but defer to January 2008.

7-5 Long –About A414

There are no further matters to report other than we hear the overall priority position has moved down to a lower figure of 108 from around 124 on the Herts County major and trunk road improvement listings. Estimating that it is about five years before any realistic plans for improvements is forthcoming. The Clerk added that this is a major trunk route carrying traffic west/east-east/west to M10/25/A1M links, with volumes of traffic that surely must reveal the need for a significant reduction on the listing.

7.6 M25 Widening

No comments this time

7.7 Warning Signs

Cllr Crump asked if the HHWP had taken note of the need to upgrade the signage at the entrance to the village, the Clerk said we had advised them but as no meeting had taken place to remind. Slow VA signs A414 had been sorted and were now working

8 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions this time

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At this point the Chair guillotined remaining agenda items to begin the Part II Details given herewith remain static from 1st November minutes. If we have received updated or further information has come in –Clerk has noted for next meeting.

9 COUNCIL BUILDINGS-ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTEE MATTERS

9-1 High Street Recreation Area Pavilion and CHFC

No reports matters addressed on 31st October in abeyance.

9-2 Treasure Tots Pre-School.

Previously dealt with

9-3 Village Hall Committee

The Clerk had offered the VHC to combine the building insurance with ours, this year again, this has since been agreed. We normally split 90/10 to allow for office risk.

9-4 Charles Morris Hall

No reports

9-5 Highfield Community Park & Trustees

No reports

9-6 Other local Organisations-Guides Scouts-Harvesters

No reports.

9-7 Youth Organisations Locally & Youth Council

No reports.

10 COMMUNITY REPORTS-Members reports Outside Bodies and reports from Committees and other Organisations

No Reports.

10-1 Fly Tipping Reports

Copies of latest list given to members.

10-2 Police Ward and Community Matters

No reports

10-3 Code of Conduct-Revised Standard-Statutory Instrument

Members need to sign document for January meeting

10-4 Vital Villages

No further reports.

10-5 Twinning

No reports.

10-6 Reports from Members attending other meetings

No reports this time

11 Members Questions

No questions

11-1 News Releases

SCADC are seeking a village tree warden, advert placed in Chronicle according to Cllr Brazier they are seeking to list all trees! Amongst other conservation matters.

11-2 Matters received since publishing the agenda

No reports

11.3 Dog Waste Bins

Assistant Clerk looking to put an extra bin at Roestock Lane

12 OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Clerk reported he has submitted a claim items on HATPC grants

12-1 Staff and Office Matters

New pay scales for 2007-8 have been sent by HATPC/NALC following delays in the annual pay round. Clerk will have more on back pay in December Budget review.

12-2 Clerk Report on future matters needing attention

No reports this time.

12-3 Notice Boards and Signs & Bus Shelters

No Reports

12-4 Commons Licences & Wayleaves

A repeat of previous minutes.

12-5 Publicity & Chronicle

Chair speech done

12-6 Flooding and Encams

Meeting to be arranged by Kim Parker-Mead for 15th January 2008 also notification of meeting on Thursday 17th January 2008 at 5.30pm Environment Agency HQ in Hatfield-Can Cllr Brazier attend.

12-7 Capital Purchases

No purchases but see report on HATPC Grant for software and new laptop.

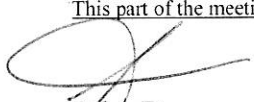
12.8 Tyttenhanger Sign

Dedication plate still required Clerk and Chair Cllr Reeves to get together on this

Late Matters

The Clerk is still waiting for Mr Jenkins to get in touch about his footpath work and proposals for next year. Clerk also needs sign review on all parish paths.

This part of the meeting closed at 9.12 pm



John Dean

Clerk to the Council

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Note

The next meeting after and first in 2008 is on Thursday January 10th to set the precept for 2008-9

DECLARATION FORM

The Clerk is sending out declaration forms for members to complete and bring to the next meeting (10th January 2008) please complete your declarations if any-but do not sign as it has to be signed and dated in presence of the Clerk.

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The Chair stated that he would deal with the matters as they were shown in the order of the agenda up to 9pm. He welcomed PCSO Donbavand and PCSO Carter also the HCC Gypsy Officer Norbert McCabe to the meeting. Who he hoped were attending to offer opinions on the matter in Agenda item 3.4

Reeves
10th January 2008

The Main Business

This was to look at the preliminary figures for the proposals in the forthcoming year 2008-9 and consider any additional items that should be included or deleted from the past details. The Clerk gave a further presentation showing the individual cost centre categories and the headings that make up the main operating costs. Figures for two previous year's plus the year 07/08 were shown in comparison on an excel tablet for both payments and receipts to give the members a full and complete overview of the finances. Comparisons on the previous precept figures were presented to members.

Previous three years precept and current figures were shown on screen;-

2005/6 -£121,635	2006/7-£128,933	2007/8-£135,250
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We are normally required to advise SCADC our precept requirements by about the third/fourth week in January-week commencing 21st or 28th January 2008 latest. Questions from members were answered by the Clerk on the details laid out in tablet.

Grant Aid & Section 137 Payments (Internal and External)

We have received four claims indicating a provisional total of £7200 excluding the £9000 for Treasure Tots (*see separate statement*) which the Clerk wishes to include as a separate budget category. The Clerk suggested to members that this year we will need to look at external grant funding ourselves to deliver a brand new play area for Sleafshyde. A typical cost expectation near to the estimate suggestion from Safe & Sound showing that a small scale plan could cost around £35,000-£40,000 overall. Christmas biscuits come into the section 137 category and we usually budget £1200.

Funding options

These schemes could not be funded without an external grant additionally the recent issue of the possible purchase of Gloucester Fields was an unexpected demand on the funds. Some discussion prevailed on provision of funds, reserves, and the possibility of a loan from the Public Works Loan Board. This option is regulated via HATPC.

Treasure Tots Payroll Funding

The issue of employee status may encourage members to now review the provision of grant aid or include this as a cost centre. The Clerk has now received the full audit for 2006/7 on the pre-school. Support of the payroll is the main financial requirement to compensate for low numbers of attending children. Past years have seen figures of 75 sessions per week, against the full numbers this past term of 126 sessions per week in the closing Autumn Term. The Clerk explained with the aid of the screen how weekly Sessions affect the turnover and where CHPC needs to step in to support. A typical is the capacity figure of 26 children and 5 sessions per week= 130 apportioned at the fee figure of £7 per session and £ 8.30 Government funded. Last term we sold the fullest number of sessions so far 126 per week, but this is totally birth rate dependant. Also any pre-school is usually patronised by local children and usually parents in the immediate area mainly support the school, our farthest child is from London Colney. The Clerk suggests that we underwrite £9,000 into the payroll either a by a term grant of a third or as and when required. The school year is three 11-13 week terms (39).

Charity Status Treasure Tots

Now in the third successful year the Clerk is keen to obtain this in the third year and with established and audited accounts this should not be too difficult to achieve.

Staff Payroll-General Increase

The Clerk asked members about the new NALC staff pay agreements that had been nationally accepted for 2.9%. This was to be back dated to April 2007 and the Clerk requested this be formally voted on the final figure. Cllr Crump was keen to retain the figure of 2.9% as the final award, whilst noting the Clerk had budgeted & provisioned higher in expectation of the agreement reaching up to 4%. Members agreed the 2.9%. The Clerk said he would back date all employees in the next salary payment January.

Proposed-Cllr Crump

Seconded-Cllr Day

Staff Scale Points Adjustments

The Clerk advised the Assistant Clerk needs have one more scale point in the next pay year to bring in line with the ratio for the position. Other staff will remain on current scale points although the limitations prevent our overall scales reaching comparison.

Lease of Pavilion

This issue is being currently looked at by the Clerk and members, also for the longer term external funding opportunities by Cllr Rump, with the intention to bring a more sustainable revenue stream from sports funding available within county. Such as FA, Sports Community Funding from HCC and other outsourced grants. All members agreed that any changes will need to bring a wider public involvement in the facility. With any new lease encompassing new regulations and a greater revenue stream that provides a balance to the maintenance costs liability currently borne by CHPC.

Cllr Brazier has past suggested a plan of external management but firms to deal with this type of lease have proven difficult to find or easily sourced in the market so far.

Conclusions

In the final summary the Clerk said that with the need to look at our funding in the round and review our past commitment with the suggestion that any external grant funding from this council is capped at £2000 per grant. This forthcoming year the money (banking crisis) will be tight and have to go further. Continuation of regular grants may not be sustainable in the longer term and an opportunity to break away to encourage better financial regulation from grant reliant associations. With the limited powers we have to grant the funding should be used to do something additional and not support income or payments. (Auditor issues of getting grants accepted) We in turn need to fund play area improvements on a progressive basis- seen as urgent. This year the precept was £135,250.00 the Clerk explained that if we felt politically the financial climate was right and the people were seeing that we are getting things done then a prediction next year was to try and get to between 4-5% on the 2008-9 precept to maintain the parish budget. (Minimum £140.000) The Clerk added that with interest rates at nearly 6% and possibly levelling out at 5% in 2008 this was a fact to guard against inflation and keep our costs in line.

Further details to be examined on January 10th 2008.

This part II meeting closed at 10.05pm-members note this is a blue paper minute

John Dean

Clerk to the Council

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